

CITY OF SPARKS

Legislative Platform and Policies

City Council meeting on October 20, 2008

EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2008 – SEPTEMBER 2009



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THE THREE P's of the LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

The Three P's of the Legislative Process Defined

The legislative process involves interaction with our federal, state and local governmental entities and utilizes three P's—Platform, Policy and Program. These three P's may best be defined as follows:

- Platform –The declared policies of the Sparks City Council for the federal, state and local political processes.
- Policy –The plan or course of action the Sparks City Council wants to engage in order to influence and determine decisions at the federal, state and local levels.
- Program –The specific resources the Sparks City Council is willing to commit to accomplish its legislative goals.

PLATFORM

The city's Legislative Platform includes the issues the City Council believes are critical to the future of the city and allow the city to continue its growth and prosperity.

The City of Sparks has identified several key issues:

- Property taxes, sales taxes, state and local fees and other revenue sources.
- More local authority for governance from state legislature.
- Regional governmental delivery of services.
- Master planning, land use development and use of public lands.
- Natural resource management including flood control, wetlands, and recreational opportunities.
- Public works management including water, sewer, storm drainage and water treatment.
- Economic development, education, and public housing.
- Transportation systems, roads and highways and traffic management.
- Energy conservation and management.
- Branding and promotion of the city.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM — DEFINITION OF TERMS

For the purposes of developing, implementing, and managing the city's Legislative Platform, the following terms are defined herein:

“City” means the City of Sparks, Nevada, and all of its political subsets including Boards and Commissions.

“City Management Team” means any City staff designated by the City Manager to review and comment on state or federal legislative issues.

“City Representative” means any person who is elected, appointed, employed or volunteers in any official capacity for the City of Sparks. This includes members of Boards and Commissions.

“Government Affairs Analyst” means the person assigned by the Government Affairs Manager to be responsible for assisting the Manager in the legislative process. This position is also responsible for assisting other departments within the City as required when that department is charged with working with or assisting local, state or federal agencies.

“Government Affairs Manager” means the person assigned by the City Manager of the City of Sparks to be responsible for the city's legislative processes. This position is responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with Legislators, legislative staff members, local government representatives and the public while coordinating all legislative processes, programs and activities.

“Legislation” means any legislative or administrative matter proposed or pending before a legislative body involving granting, denial, revocation, restriction or modification of any bill, resolution, amendment, nomination, appointment, report and any other matter pending or proposed in a legislative committee, state or federal, or is before the Governor for consideration, or on any matter which may be the subject to legislative action.

“Legislative” means the law making process of the United States Congress (federal-Senate or House of Representatives), State of Nevada Legislature (state-Senate or Assembly) and local agency (county, municipality, town or regional governing body).

“Legislative Team” means the Mayor and one other Council member, designated by the City Council, City Manager, Assistant City Manager for Administrative Services, Government Affairs Manager, and the Government Affairs Analyst. When the makeup of the City Council includes members of more than 1 party, we shall endeavor to represent 2 different parties on the legislative team.

“Legislator” means any elected member of a legislative body.

“Lobbying” means appearing in person in an executive or legislative building or any other building in which an executive or legislative body or any of its standing committees hold meetings; and/or communicates directly with a member of the Executive or Legislative Branch

on behalf of someone or himself to influence legislative action whether or not any compensation is received for the communication.

“Lobbyist” means any individual who is elected, employed or contracted by the City of Sparks to engage in lobbying activities which include at least one direct communication with a city, county, state or federal official/representative, either personally or through agents, for the purpose of attempting to influence legislation on behalf of any other person.

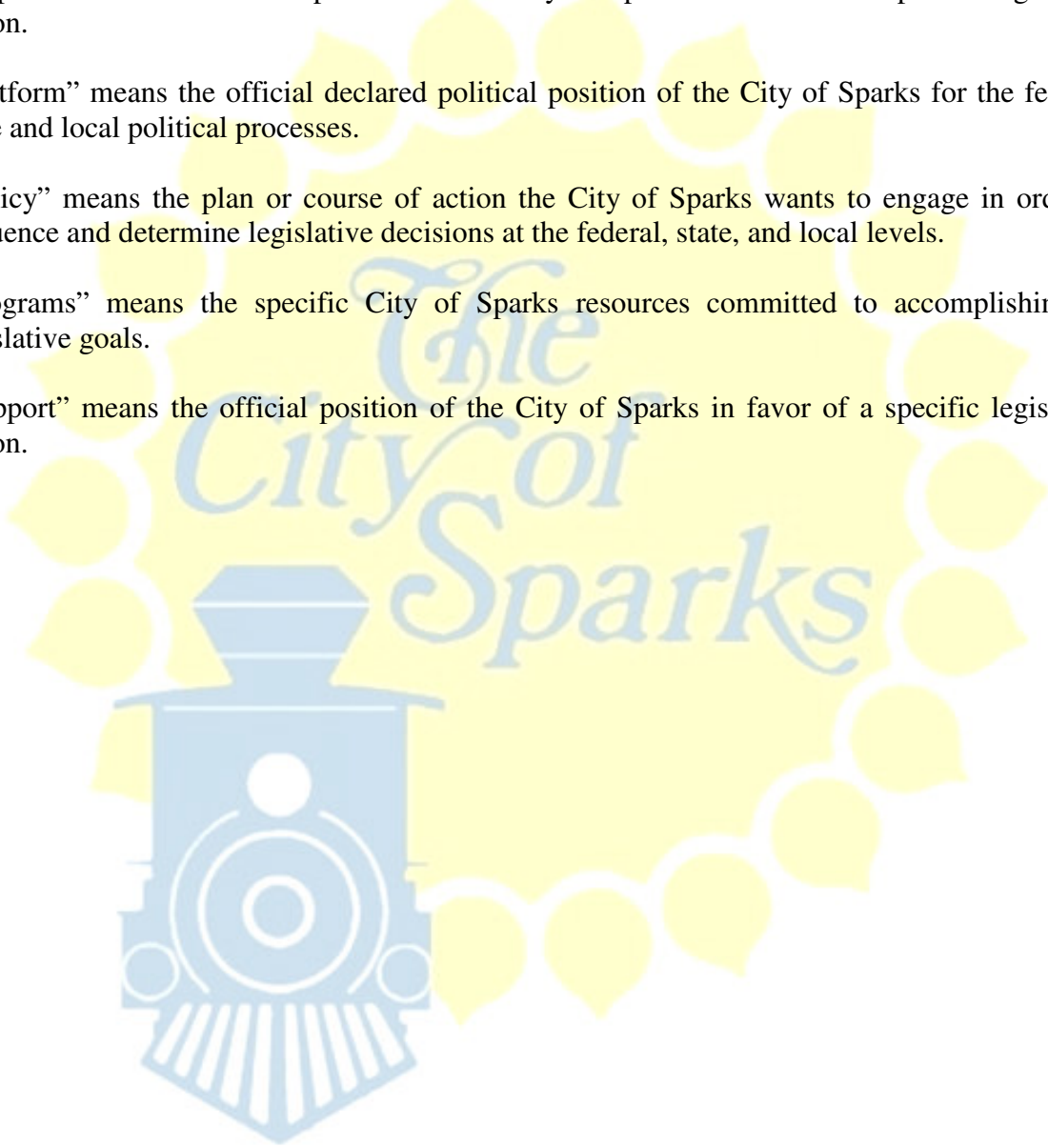
“Oppose” means the official position of the City of Sparks not in favor a specific legislative action.

“Platform” means the official declared political position of the City of Sparks for the federal, state and local political processes.

“Policy” means the plan or course of action the City of Sparks wants to engage in order to influence and determine legislative decisions at the federal, state, and local levels.

“Programs” means the specific City of Sparks resources committed to accomplishing its legislative goals.

“Support” means the official position of the City of Sparks in favor of a specific legislative action.



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – PLATFORM DEVELOPMENT MATRIX

The Legislative Platform is maintained by the Sparks City Council for its legislative program for each Fiscal Year. The Legislative Platform serves as a guidance document regarding the city’s advocacy position which serves to assist the Mayor, Council, City Manager and Government Affairs function in providing prompt and accurate responses to proposed legislation during the legislative process. This is particularly important during the state legislative process where time is often very short between a bill’s drafting and publishing, determining when a position is required by the local entity. Often it is impossible for the Council as a whole to properly meet and deliberate in a public forum to provide direction to the city’s lobbying effort.

The matrix, below, is a prioritized list of platform issues derived from current state and federal legislative discussions, as well as council priorities and citywide strategic goals.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES	
<u>FINANCIAL STABILITY</u>	
1.	<u>General Government:</u>
	a. Oppose state or federal legislation that requires the local entity to provide a service or benefit without appropriate, full funding or the ability to enact a funding source (no unfunded mandates). [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 1 adopted on 8-20-07.]
	b. Support legislation that protects local government revenues from state action. [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 1.]
	c. Oppose legislation that requires regional consolidation of services.
	d. Support public utility regulations that:
	i. Maintain local control over rights-of-way.
	ii. Provide compensation for the use of rights-of-way and overseeing public service standards.
	iii. Ensure public, educational, and governmental access is available and affordable.
	iv. Provide free access for public information services and announcements.
	e. Support measures that provide funding for community park facilities, open space and recreation programs.
	f. Support state and federal funding and legislation for the arts that benefit local communities.
	g. Support legislation that would enhance the efficiency of the Open Meeting Law and the electoral processes.
	h. Oppose legislation that limits the city’s ability to grow services as demanded by the citizens (i.e., voter approved initiatives).
	i. Oppose legislation that rolls back property tax assessment levels resulting in limiting the city’s ability to maintain or grow services as demanded by the citizens (i.e., a Nevada version of California Proposition 13 and the Nevada Tax Restraint Initiative).

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES	
2.	<u>Regional and State-wide Issues:</u>
	a. Support efforts that reinforce local entity governance. [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 1.]
	b. Maintain a leadership position in mandated regional governance boards and commissions. [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 2.]
	c. Support legislative efforts of the Nevada Urban Consortium. [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 2.]
	i. Support efforts to stabilize the state tax environment.
	d. Support and actively participate in associations designed to strengthen the city. [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 3.]
	i. Support National League of Cities and attend their national and Congress of Cities conferences.
	ii. Support the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities by participating in committee activities, attending its annual conference and assisting with legislative efforts.
	iii. Support the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities' Legislative Platform on Transportation Funding Alternatives.
3.	<u>Local Government Finance:</u>
	a. Oppose state or federal legislation that requires the local entity to provide a service or benefit without appropriate, full funding (seek self determination and more local authority). [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 3.]
	b. Support measures that safeguard existing revenue sources from pre-emption by the federal, state or county governments. [City Wide Strategic Goal 2, Objective 3.]
	c. Oppose any change by the federal, state or county governments in revenue allocations (current or future) that would negatively affect local government, including the redistribution of taxes or fees.
	d. Support measures that provide fiscal independence for cities and the retention of all existing local revenue sources.
	e. Support legislation that allows the city to maintain and/or control revenues related to franchises (i.e., gas, water, sewer, garbage, telecommunications, etc.).
	f. Support legislation that makes funds available to support the building, operations and maintenance of public facilities (i.e., facilities, parks, open space, etc.).
	g. Support legislation that provides greater accountability on the part of counties for the distribution of funds back to municipalities including, but not limited to, general fund expenditures for road system maintenance, park infrastructure investment and maintenance, flood control, and storm drain systems. [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 2, Objective 1, 2.]
	h. Support greater local authority for tax exemptions and incentives for purposes of economic development.
	i. Oppose any measure that would limit local entities' ability to issue or use voter-approved proceeds.
	j. Oppose legislation that creates surcharges for federal or state oversight of mandated programs.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES	
	k. Support legislation for local governments to maintain and expand the use of special improvement districts.
	l. Support measures that ensure Washoe County and the city receive their fair share of transportation revenues and allocations.
	m. Advocate measures in state legislation to redistribute consolidated taxes on a more equitable basis.
	n. Support the efforts of Fairness in Reno Sparks Taxes (F.I.R.S.T.), blue ribbon committee and independent fiscal analysis, and advocate regional modification of tax distribution.
	o. Oppose legislation that would further exempt or reduce revenue from fees and taxes of for-profit or non-profit organizations within special improvement districts.
4.	<u>Labor Relations:</u>
	a. Oppose state or federal legislation that requires the local entity to provide a service or benefit without appropriate, full funding (no unfunded mandates).
	b. Support legislation that improves access to, and reduces the cost of, healthcare for public employees.
	c. Oppose any measure that mandates the granting of new employee benefits which pose burdensome costs to the city (without forcing the issue to the bargaining table).
	d. Support any measure granting employee benefits that mandate personal accountability components. Mandated personal accountabilities should include exclusion from the benefit for non-compliance.
	e. Oppose legislation that increases worker's compensation benefits without providing for concurrent cost controls.
	f. Support legislation that limits the ability of employees to receive worker's compensation benefits for occupational injuries and illnesses that result from stress, disciplinary action or performance evaluations or consultations.
	g. Support legislation limiting employer liability if injury occurs due to employee negligence.
	h. Oppose changes to mandatory bargaining laws that negatively impact local government.
	i. Oppose legislation to include subjective complaints of pain in determining partial disability awards.
5.	<u>Tort Reform:</u>
	a. Support measures to reform Nevada's tort system to reduce or limit liability exposure for public agencies and restore ability of public agencies to obtain affordable insurance.
	b. Support legislation that recognizes or broadens immunities for public agencies.
	c. Oppose legislation that attempts to limit or restrict existing immunities for public agencies.
	d. Oppose legislation that limits local entities' ability to properly use eminent domain.
	e. Oppose Peoples Initiative to Stop Taking Our Land (PISTOL) initiative.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES

PUBLIC SAFETY

6. Public Safety:

- a. Support legislation that strengthens local law enforcement. [City Council Priorities, Objective 1, Strategy 1.]
- b. Support measures that provide a greater share of seized assets to localities and increased latitude for local spending.
- c. Support legislation that allows local agencies to recover costs from guilty parties for public property and services in accidents involving driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
- d. Support legislation granting immunity to governmental entities and their employees for purposes of liability for those entities and employees who provide emergency medical instructions or treatment as a part of their public safety job duties.
- e. Support legislation that provides the delivery of local emergency medical service to its citizens if no other regional delivery system is available.
- f. Support state and federal homeland security legislation that assists in safeguarding the homeland as well as provides direct funding to cities and high-threat regions with populations over 100,000.
- g. Oppose any broadening of access to law enforcement records.
- h. Support legislation that requires parents or legal guardians of minors to pay the cost incurred by offenses of those minors.
- i. Oppose legislation that directly or indirectly prohibits a fire department from providing additional services to the public.
- j. Support enabling legislation that provides expanded utilization of non-sworn officers to issue nuisance citations.
- k. Support enabling legislation that provides local authority to impose mandatory court assessments to defray administrative cost of municipal courts.

REDEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

7. Redevelopment:

- a. Support legislation that maintains and enhances redevelopment efforts.
- b. Oppose legislation that prohibits or limits the establishment of new redevelopment project areas or expansion of existing project areas.
- c. Oppose legislation that limits or reduces the power of local entities to properly use eminent domain.
- d. Support legislation that enhances redevelopment agency authority and financing capabilities. [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 4, Objective 1.]
- e. Support changes in redevelopment legislation that provides greater flexibility to redevelopment agencies to finance and participate in redevelopment projects.
- f. Oppose legislation that diverts future revenues from redevelopment agencies to other public entities.

8. Economic Development:

- a. Support legislation that enhances local government's ability to control the

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES	
	community it is elected to lead. [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 4, Objective 2.]
b.	Support legislation that facilitates economic development efforts and encourages businesses to locate or remain in Sparks. [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 4, Objective 3.]
c.	Support legislation that facilitates expansion of Free Trade Zones (FTZs) in Sparks.
d.	Oppose efforts to limit tax incentives that benefit the City and the State.
e.	Support legislation that assists in diversifying the economy of Sparks. [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 4, Objective 4.]
f.	Support legislation that reinforces regional efforts to recruit and establish new businesses and industries in Sparks. [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 4, Objective 5.]
g.	Support regional legislation that aids efforts by local and state tourism agencies to expand the opportunities for activities by visitors. [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 4, Objective 1.]
h.	Explore legislation that provides for international economic efforts. [City Council Priorities, Objective 3.]
i.	Explore legislative opportunities to bring technology to assist the city in economic recruitment (i.e., WiFi, DSL, fiber optics, broadband cable, voice over IP, etc.). [City Wide Strategic Plan Goal 4, Objective 7.]
j.	Support efforts to create a regional approach to providing for the cost of relocating existing Sparks' rail yards and for dealing with intermodal facilities.
k.	Support legislation that provides for retention of room tax revenue for local utilization in promotion and capital improvements
9. <u>Housing and Community Development:</u>	
a.	Support legislation that provides incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans, credits for affordable units) to local agencies, private developers and non-profit groups in order to rehabilitate residential units and commercial properties without using existing local government resources. (2007 interim staff study on Mortgage Lending and Housing Programs.)
b.	Support the streamlining of state and federal reporting.
c.	Support efforts to develop federal and state participation, financial support and incentives (tax benefits, grants, loans) for programs that provide adequate, affordable housing (home ownership or rental opportunities for first-time home buyers assistance) for all economic segments of the community including the elderly, handicapped and low-income persons.
d.	Support legislation that provides additional funding for rental subsidy assistance programs (such as Section 8) via more vouchers or certificates.
e.	Support legislation that allows entitlement cities to use Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for new construction of housing units.
f.	Support legislation that consolidates and streamlines the administration and reporting requirements for the CDBG program.
g.	Support federal and state participation in funding innovative housing solutions for low-income, elderly and handicapped individuals.
h.	Support legislation that provides incentives for maintaining cultural resources,

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES	
	including historic housing stock. [City Council Priorities Goal 4, Objective 3.]
i.	Support streamlined procedures for annexation of land within a city's sphere of influence.
j.	Support legislation that maintains city's control over the construction of facilities and/or structures within its sphere of influence (i.e., cellular towers, well heads, maintenance yards, etc.).
k.	Support legislation that encourages energy conservation (green building) design standards that do not overburden state and local governments with tax waiver incentives.
l.	Explore more effective methods for funding regional planning that does not take away from existing local government resources.
m.	Explore alternative models for regional planning implementation.
<u>INFRASTRUCTURE and HIGHWAYS</u>	
10.	<u>Transportation:</u>
a.	Support measures that increase the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation facilities and infrastructure.
b.	Support measures to finance local and regional transportation facilities and improvements, including alternative modes of transportation and traffic management systems.
c.	Support legislation that provides for effective and efficient transportation alternatives.
d.	Support legislation that provides for long-term planning and acquisition of rights-of-way (i.e., interchanges, connectors, frontage roads, etc.).
e.	Support legislation that encourages emerging employment centers with the end goal of reducing commute miles. [City Wide Strategic Goal 5, Objective 1.]
f.	Support legislation that provides funding sources for highway and transportation projects.
	i. Support redirection of federal highway funds for state and regional projects.
	ii. Support legislation that provides feasible alternative funding sources for highway and transportation projects.
	iii. Support Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities' legislative platform on transportation funding alternatives.
g.	Support measures that safeguard our community and transportation networks from hazardous and toxic materials.
11.	<u>Public Works:</u>
a.	Support legislation that provides greater flexibility regarding public works projects and funding sources. (i.e. new funding mechanisms utilizing existing state and federal revenues as well as new sources).
b.	Support legislation that provides for well-planned, cost-effective infrastructure.
c.	Support legislation that maintains city control over its rights-of-way.
<u>FLOOD CONTROL</u>	

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ISSUES

12. Water Management:

- a. Support legislation that retains control over local supply, distribution, and reclamation.
- b. Support legislation for flood control management to mitigate loss of property and life.
- c. Support legislation that maintains local control through policies governed by the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Governing Board (TMRPGB).
- d. Maintain a strong working relationship with the Pyramid Lake Indian Tribe and the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA).
- e. Advocate federal, state, and local sources of on-going revenue to fund completion of the Truckee River Flood Management Project.



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM — PROGRAM POLICIES

The legislative platform, as defined by the Sparks City Council, is the basis for the operational policies, procedures, and processes for the effective management of the city’s government affairs program at the federal, state, and local levels.

The operational policies, procedures, and processes suggested to be reviewed and edited by the Council are as follows:

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OPERATIONAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES	
1.	<u>Platform Development</u>
	a. The Legislative Platform is to be developed by the City of Sparks Council through consensus.
	b. The state legislative portion of the Legislative Platform is to be reviewed, edited and in place no later than September of the year prior to a state legislative session.
1.2.	<u>Platform and Program Message</u>
	a. The approved Platform will be the guide in conducting discussions of legislative issues with Legislators.
	b. The approved Platform message will be coordinated through the Government Affairs Manager as directed by the City Manager.
	c. No dissenting opinion on the approved Platform will be presented.
	d. City representatives, in either their elected or appointed capacity, will not lobby or testify on matters related to the city’s Legislative Platform, policies and/or operations without first advising and/or coordinating the testimony with the Government Affairs team.
	i. Any city representative who lobbies or testifies without coordinating with the Government Affairs team may be disciplined, including censure.
	ii. Any city representative who speaks against any majority position of the council may be disciplined, including censure.
	e. The Government Affairs Manager will be responsible to assist in determining the need for legislative testimony and will coordinate the proper city resources.
	i. City elected officials may be utilized to introduce Platform-driven legislative issues and emphasize their importance to the city.
	ii. Staff and/or contract lobbyists will be responsible to present the technical aspects of Platform issues to Legislators.
	f. The Government Affairs Manager will be responsible to coordinate briefing schedules to communicate city issues and positions on legislative matters.- [Strategic Plan Goal 1, Objective 5.]
	i. Local government elected boards and staff.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OPERATIONAL POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROCESSES

- ii. State Legislators and staff (both Sparks and northern Nevada representatives).
- iii. State Legislature Leadership.
- iv. Federal Congressional members and staff.



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM — COMMUNICATION PROGRAM

The Legislative Platform also defines the Council's expectations on "to whom" and "how" the city will communicate with state and federal legislators and other local entities. The current process can be broken down into three (3) categories:

1. Federal

The Government Affairs team currently coordinates regular communication with the city's elected officials and the federal delegation and has engaged a federal contract representative to assist in coordination with activities in Washington, D.C. City elected officials and staff communicate with the federal delegation and their staff regularly. The Government Affairs team updates the Northern Nevada delegation staff at least quarterly on the status of projects and federal appropriation requests. The Mayor and Council speak to the federal legislators frequently at public events. The Mayor, Council, City Manager, and selected staff visit Washington, D.C., at least once during the year in conjunction with the National League of Cities and Municipalities or other events and activities.

The federal contract representative, through direction from the Government Affairs team, meets on a regular basis with congressional staff and federal department personnel regarding the city's appropriation requests, and related issues. Our federal legislative contract representatives' presence allows the city to stay current on national issues. Information is published on specific topics as it is received or via a weekly multi-topic newsletter from our lobbyist.

2. State

The Government Affairs team holds regular meetings with the Nevada legislators who represent Sparks. The topics of conversation range from concerns or issues raised by the Legislators to pending or proposed bill requests.

During state legislative sessions, the Government Affairs team coordinates input from city staff and the legislative team to the contract legislative representative and staff in Carson City on business of the day.

Between legislative sessions, the city's contract legislative representative and the Government Affairs team meet regularly with Sparks' legislators and the legislative leadership to enhance the city's position on certain legislation and to provide additional, timely information on key issues.

3. Local

The Government Affairs team engages in a multitude of local entity correspondence and communications. These include, but are not limited to, individual Council/Commission meetings and retreats; joint Council/Commission meetings and retreats; boards and commissions; public meetings; local, regional, state and federal associations; and local, regional, state and federal task forces and working committees.

4. Local

The Government Affairs team helps coordinate ongoing relationships between Sparks and our sister cities of Garibaldi Oregon and Longford Ireland. These efforts can include visits between the cities by elected officials as well as employees and Sparks citizenry. These efforts are helpful in promoting city planning, economic development, traffic planning, cultural exchange, and governmental relations.

The Government Affairs team engages in communications with other local entities through the Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities and its legislative subcommittees; the National League of Cities; the American Planning Association; the Truckee Meadows Fiscal Working Group; the Nevada Urban Consortium; the Truckee Meadows Intergovernmental Affairs Committee; the Innovations Group; the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) lobbying group; and the International City/County Managers Association (ICMA). The Government Affairs team communicates the results of these meetings with the Council via agenda items that are policy related.

The legislative team determines legislative policy based on the Legislative Platform and determines the message, lobbying effort and presenter(s) of testimony to the appropriate legislative committee. If a bill is outside the defined Legislative Platform, the legislative team engages the Mayor and Council as a whole, in the proper public forum, to determine specific policy direction. The legislative team meets on an as-needed basis, and at least quarterly, to determine direction on legislative issues.

The Legislative Platform should include an outline of communication policy and processes defined by the Council. The current communication policies, procedures, and processes are as follows:

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMUNICATIONS	
1.	<u>FEDERAL</u>
a.	Mayor, Council member(s), City Manager, Government Affairs Manager and federal contract representative to meet with the federal delegation annually in conjunction with the National League of Cities Congressional Conference.
b.	Government Affairs team to meet with the federal delegation’s local staff quarterly to discuss city issues and federal appropriation requests.
c.	Government Affairs team to meet with the federal delegation’s local staff prior to submitting the annual appropriations requests to Washington, D.C.
d.	Mayor, Council member(s), City Manager, Government Affairs team and/or federal contract representative to update the federal delegation’s local and/or national office when a federal project has a project change including, but not limited to, scope and timeline changes.
e.	Federal contract representative to confer and update federal delegation’s national staff on a frequent basis and report back to the Mayor, Council, City Manager via the Government Affairs team at least monthly.
f.	Federal contract representative to confer and update national executive

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMUNICATIONS

department staff on a frequent basis and report back to the Mayor, Council, City Manager via the Government Affairs team at least monthly.

2. STATE

- a. Mayor, Council member(s), City Manager, Government Affairs team, and contract representative(s) to define meeting frequency and topics for discussion with Sparks’ legislators.
- b. City Manager, Government Affairs team, and contract representative(s) to schedule and conduct periodic meetings as defined by the Mayor and Council to address issues relevant to bill draft requests before the legislative session begins.
- c. Government Affairs team to schedule and conduct periodic meetings between the Mayor and Council members with legislators as defined by the partnering program.
- d. Mayor, City Council, and state legislators to appoint members to the Sparks Charter Committee by January of every even numbered year so they may properly convene and discuss Charter issues.
- e. During the legislative session and interim, the Government Affairs team and/or contract representative(s) will report at least monthly on the status of the legislative session, interim studies, and issues of importance to the Mayor, Council and City Manager.
- f. The Government Affairs team will attend briefings conducted by the Nevada Urban Consortium and Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities Legislative Subcommittee and report back the Mayor, Council and City Manager.
- g. The City Manager, Government Affairs team, contract representative and Finance Director will attend and actively participate in the interim Taxation Committee meetings.
- h. The Government Affairs team, along with the contract representative, will monitor the interim session’s committee meetings and studies and keep the legislative team and Council informed of any impact to the city’s policies or legislative processes.

3. LOCAL

- a. The Mayor, Council, City Manager, and Government Affairs team will attend and actively participate in regional and local meetings and retreats to engage in political activities as they develop.
- b. The Mayor, Council, and City Manager will direct the Government Affairs team on policies and procedures in relations to community involvement and political activity.
- c. The Mayor, Council, City Manager, and Government Affairs team will attend and report back on meetings attended with other agencies that involve political and/or legislative issues.
- d. The Government Affairs team will actively participate with the other legislative functions in the region and report back to the Mayor, Council, and City Manager.

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM COMMUNICATIONS

- e. The Government Affairs team will monitor and/or attend the public meetings and retreats of the other local entities in the region and report back to the Mayor, Council, and City Manager.

4. INTERGOVERNMENTAL

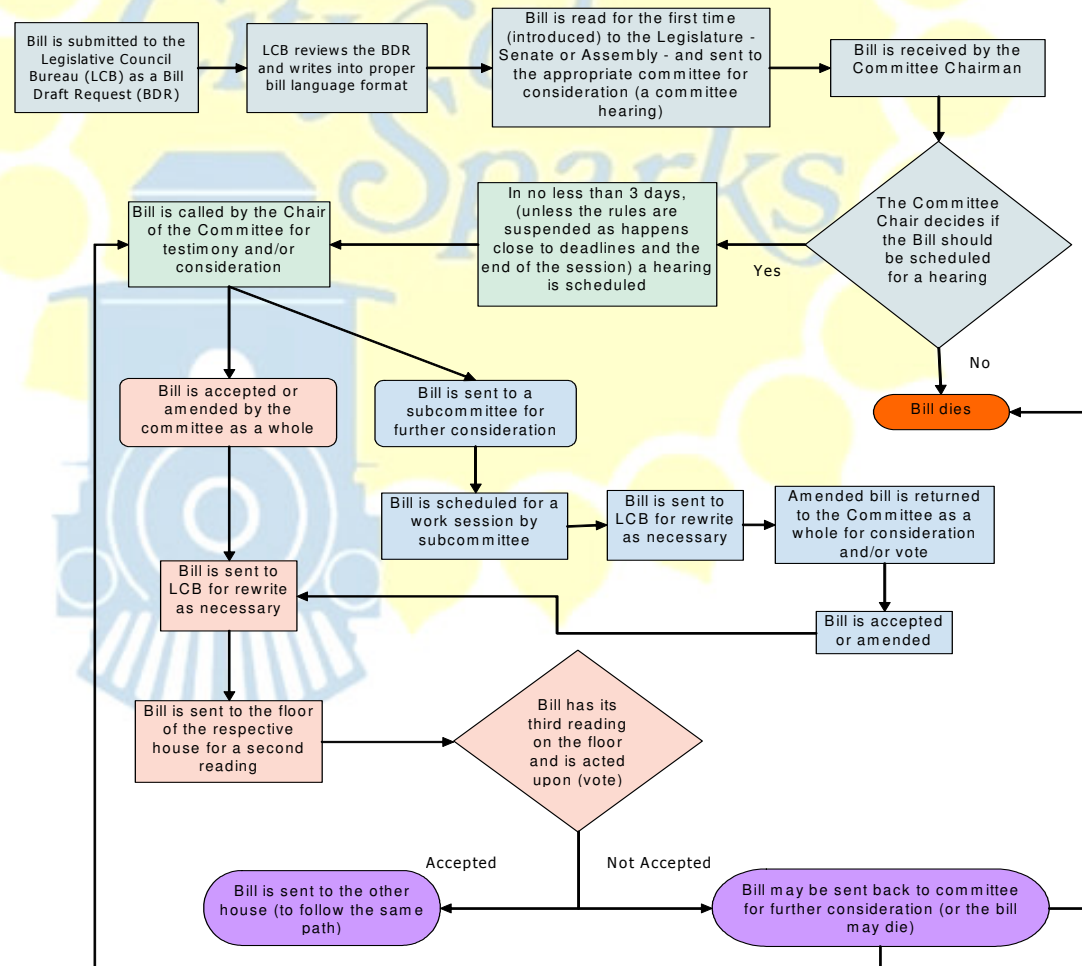
- a. The Government Affairs Division will act as the liaison between Sparks and the sister cities of Garibaldi Oregon and Longford Ireland.



THE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM — ELECTED OFFICIALS, LEGISLATIVE TEAM and CITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

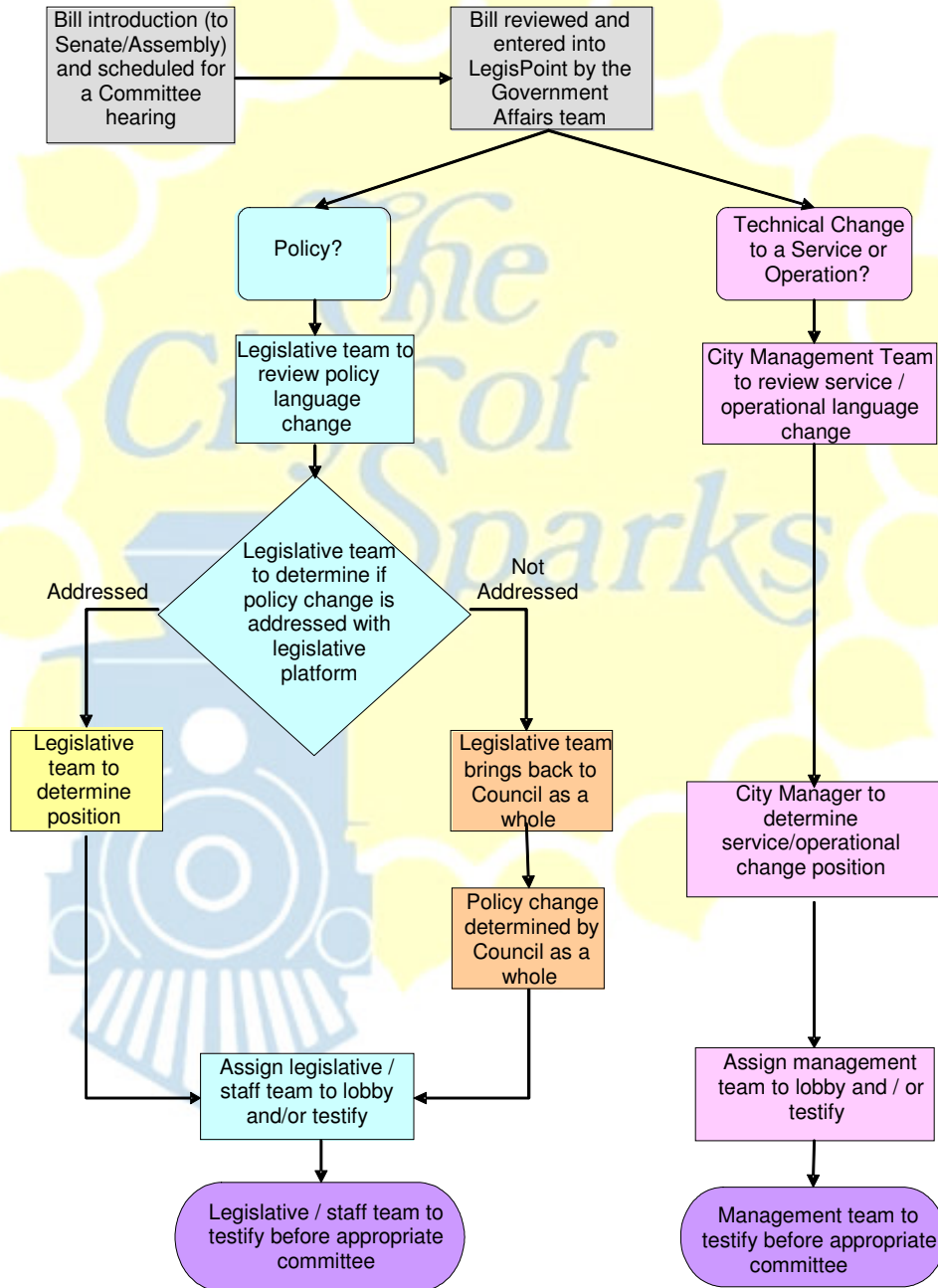
Lobbying is defined by what influence you have produced before an issue is in front of a legislative decision maker. The daily flow of the Legislature does not allow for a true lobbying process to take place as the entire process is unpredictable. The actual legislation language is not normally available to the local jurisdictions until it is introduced. The local entities normally have less than a week to review the bill language; determine its effects and impacts on city services; develop a lobbying strategy; communicate with legislators; and draft testimony on behalf of the city. This process is nearly impossible as the sixty-eighth (68th) day of the session approaches and hundreds of bills are introduced and heard to meet the “Committee Passage (First House)” deadline. The ability for the Council to meet under the Nevada Open Meeting Law and openly discuss hundreds of bills is neither practicable nor feasible.

"Simplistic" View of the flow a Bill takes as it progresses through the Nevada State Legislature's 120 day session



During the past legislative session, the Government Affairs team utilized a 3 pronged approach to keeping abreast of the quickly changing legislative session. The Government Affairs Manager and state contract representatives from Carrara Nevada were at the legislature on a daily basis. The Government Affairs Analyst entered all bill data into the Sparks intranet LegisPoint system from Sparks. The Government Affairs team utilizes interns from local higher education institutions, which provide research and committee monitoring backup. Utilizing the team approach developed prior to the 2007 state legislative session, the “simplistic” bill flow chart, above, is modified as shown below.

City of Sparks' Bill flow through the legislative process and team review process



THE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM — MAYOR AND COUNCIL LEGISLATOR PARTNERING

The partnering of city elected officials with state legislators allows the Mayor and Council to identify specific legislative members to develop or enhance relationships prior to and during the 2009 session.

To best serve this Council communication program, the Government Affairs team provides electronic updates to the Mayor and Council members utilizing regular briefings, email reports, and LegisPoint.

The goal of this partnering program is to have each elected official select several of the Legislators from Sparks and overall legislative leadership lists. For example, a Council member may be interested in Taxation, Transportation, or Education and select partners who are on those particular legislative committees. The Mayor and Council finalize the partnering selections and, with the Government Affairs team, develop the message(s) and begin meeting with their chosen legislative partners.

The current legislative leadership (as of 2007) and membership breaks down as follows:

LEGISLATOR	DISTRICT	Current Term Expires	Date Final Term Expires	LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PAIRING PARTNER
Legislators Who Represent Sparks as Part of Their District					
Bernice Mathews (D)	Senate District 1 Washoe	Nov 2010	Nov 2010	Assistant Minority Leader	Geno Martini John Mayer
Maurice Washington (R)	Senate District 2 Washoe, parts of Lyon and Storey	Nov 2010	Nov 2010	Human Resources & Education, Chair Judiciary, Vice-Chair	Ron Smith
Debbie Smith (D)	Assembly District 30 Washoe	Nov 2008	Nov 2014	Asst. Majority Whip Education, Vice-Chair	John Mayer Ron Schmitt
Bernie Anderson (D)	Assembly District 31 Washoe	Nov 2008	Nov 2010	Speaker Pro Tem Judiciary, Chair Corrections, Parole & Probation, Vice-Chair	John Mayer
John Marvel (R) * Mr. Marvel lost his bid for re-election in the primary.	Assembly District 32 parts of Humboldt, Lander and Washoe	Nov 2008	Nov 2010		

LEGISLATOR	DISTRICT	Current Term Expires	Date Final Term Expires	LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PAIRING PARTNER
Pete Goicoechea (R)	Assembly District 35 Eureka, Pershing & White Pine and parts of Humboldt, Churchill, Lander and Washoe	Nov 2008	Nov 2014	Minority Whip	Geno Martini
Legislators With Leadership Positions or Washoe County Representation					
Brian Krolicki (R)	Lieutenant Governor	Nov 2010		Senate - President	
Mark Amodei (R)	Senate Capital District, parts of Carson City, Douglas, Lyon and Storey	Nov 2010	Nov 2010	President Pro Tempore Judiciary, Chair	Geno Martini
William Raggio (R)	Senate District 3 Washoe	Nov 2008	Nov 2012	Majority Leader Finance, Chair Legislative Operations & Elections, Vice-Chair	Geno Martini Phil Salerno
Randolph J. Townsend (R)	Senate District 4 Washoe and Carson City	Nov 2010	Nov 2010	Commerce and Labor, Chair Taxation, Vice-Chair	Geno Martini Phil Salerno
Dennis Nolan (R)	Senate District 9 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2014	Assistant Majority Leader Transportation & Homeland Security, Chair	John Mayer Mike Carrigan

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Dean Rhoads (R)	Senate Rural District Northern Nevada District Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Pershing & White Pine and part of Nye	Nov 2008	Nov 2012	Majority Whip Natural Resources, Chair	Ron Schmitt
Joseph J. Heck (R)	Senate District 5 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2016	Assistant Majority Whip Transportation & Homeland Security, Vice-Chair	Mike Carrigan
Steven Horsford (D)	Senate District 4 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2016	Minority Leader	John Mayer Ron Smith M (who?)
Valerie Wiener (D)	Senate District 3 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2012	Minority Whip	Mike Carrigan
Bob Beers (R)	Senate District 9 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2016	Finance, Vice-Chair Government Affairs, Vice-Chair	Mike Carrigan
Barbara Buckley (D)	Assembly District 8 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2010	Speaker	Geno Martini Phil Salerno
John Ocegueda (D)	Assembly District 16 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2012	Majority Leader Commerce and Labor, Chair	John Mayer
Marcus L. Conklin (D)	Assembly District 37 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2014	Assistant Majority Leader Commerce and Labor, Vice-Chair	Ron Smith
Sheila Leslie (D)	Assembly District 27 Washoe	Nov 2008	Nov 2010	Majority Whip Health and Human Services, Chair Ways and Means, Vice-Chair	John Mayer

LEGISLATOR	DISTRICT	Current Term Expires	Date Final Term Expires	LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP POSITION	LEGISLATIVE PAIRING PARTNER
William Horne (D)	Assembly District 12 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2014	Assistant Majority Whip Judiciary, Vice-Chair	Phil Salerno
Heidi Gansert (R)	Assembly District 25 Washoe	Nov 2008	Nov 2016	Minority Leader	Ron Smith
(R) (Vacant)	Assembly District	Nov 2008		Assistant Minority Leader	
Valerie Weber (R)	Assembly District 5 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2014	Minority Whip	Mike Carrigan
Joe Hardy (R)	Assembly District 20 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2014	Minority Whip	Mike Carrigan
Bonnie Parnell (D)	Assembly District 40 Washoe and Carson City	Nov 2008	Nov 2012	Education, Chair	Ron Smith
Kathy McClain (D)	Assembly District 15 Clark	Nov 2008	Nov 2010	Taxation, Chair	Phil Salerno