

CITY OF LUFKIN
STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA
90th Texas Legislative Session

Adopted by the Lufkin City Council
XX/XX/XXXX

I. Introduction and Purpose

The purpose of this Legislative Agenda is to communicate the City of Lufkin's positions to state legislators on issues anticipated to arise during the 90th Texas Legislative Session. The Agenda broadly addresses matters that could affect the City's revenues, budget, and regulatory authority, including issues affecting the Lufkin Economic Development Corporation, municipal utilities, public safety, infrastructure, and growth management.

Bills are often placed on hearing schedules with little advance notice, leaving insufficient time to bring individual items before Council for direction once the session is underway. Adopting this Agenda in advance gives staff the authority and background needed to advocate promptly and effectively in Austin on the Council's behalf, including providing testimony, submitting written comments, and communicating with legislators and legislative staff on matters consistent with the positions below.

Upon Council's approval, staff will develop materials reflecting these positions and distribute them to legislators and will track filed legislation throughout the session to identify bills that align with or run counter to this Agenda.

Agenda Implementation Actions

Staff will, on the City's behalf:

- Monitor opportunities for the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, or City Manager's designee to provide testimony to the State Legislature and engage directly with state agencies and the City's state delegation
- Track filed bills, committee hearings, and floor activity throughout the session, and provide regular updates to the Mayor and City Council on high-profile legislation
- Coordinate with Angelina County, Angelina College, Lufkin ISD, and regional partners to align shared legislative priorities
- Participate in and engage with the Texas Municipal League (TML) to ensure Lufkin's priorities are represented at the Capitol
- Pursue state funding opportunities for police, fire, airport, water/wastewater, economic development, and infrastructure consistent with City Council priorities
- Prepare a post-session legislative briefing for City Council summarizing enacted legislation and any required City action

II. Agenda for the Texas 90th Legislative Session

General Legislative Priorities

Uphold Local Control and Authority

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supports or advances the principle of local control, allowing locally elected officials to make decisions that are beneficial to the interests of City residents• Allows the City to communicate with legislators and advocate on behalf of the community through membership in municipal and professional organizations and engagement of legislative advocacy consultants
Oppose legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preempts or erodes the authority of city government or is detrimental to the City's ability to pursue citizen priorities or respond to local concerns• Diminishes the City's ability to govern residents' investment in municipally owned utilities, including the City Council's authority to set rates• Diminishes the City's authority to regulate growth and development to protect health, life, and safety through reasonable land use, zoning, and building code regulations

Protect City Financial Resources

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides local governments with funding for capital improvement projects to support the continued reinvestment in and growth of Lufkin• Protects the City's current and future water supply
Oppose legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negatively affects the City's financial ability to act in the best interest of Lufkin residents, reduces revenue streams that fund services citizens depend on, or impairs the City's ability to maintain a strong credit rating, including: imposing a limitation on city expenditures, a more restrictive revenue cap, a reduced rollback rate, mandatory tax rate ratification elections, or an exclusion of new property from effective tax rate calculations• Lowers the homestead appraisal cap or expands the appraisal cap to non-homestead properties• Restricts the City's ability to issue debt to fund public improvements through General Obligation or Certificates of Obligation bonds• Places the financial burden of state mandates on Lufkin taxpayers or requires the City to collect revenue on the State's behalf

Maximize State Resources

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduces or waives local match requirements for state programs • Improves rural communities' ability to access federal funding for infrastructure needs
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Priorities for the 90th Legislative Session

Critical Infrastructure

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases state funding for transportation projects, specifically the continued development of Interstate 69 • Expands local and state funding sources for road and transit projects serving Lufkin and Angelina County
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Utilities and Water

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects the City's current and future water supply, including support for regional water planning and infrastructure investment • Provides funding for the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of new and aging utility infrastructure
Oppose legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminishes the City's authority to govern its municipally owned utilities, including the City Council's authority to set rates

Growth Management: Annexation and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinstates the City's ability to reasonably annex property within its Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) • Supports the repeal of HB 2439, which preempted cities from regulating building materials
Oppose legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminishes the City's authority to regulate growth and development through reasonable land use, zoning, and building code regulations

Economic Development

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects and strengthens the City's and Lufkin Economic Development Corporation's existing economic development tools, including Type B sales tax (4B) authority and Chapter 380/381 agreements • Expands flexible state tools for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovators, including access to capital and support for business formation and growth
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Oppose legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would erode the City's current economic development tools or expand state preemption of locally tailored economic development strategies
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Workforce and Broadband

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds and supports improved workforce training programs, including partnerships with Angelina College • Increases broadband access, specifically to assist rural communities such as Lufkin in accessing federal funding for last-mile broadband infrastructure construction
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Public Safety and Emergency Response

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases funding for public safety personnel, operations, equipment, and facilities • Supports legislative appropriations for intrastate wildland and all-hazards emergency response, including increased funding for the Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System
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Government Operations and Public Notice

Support legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables the use of electronic notice for all public notices required of municipalities • Further clarifies public meeting notice requirements as amended by recent legislative sessions
Oppose legislation that:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminates the May or November uniform election dates