



City of San José  
Office of the City Manager  
*Office of Administration, Policy, and  
Intergovernmental Relations*

# Legislative Program

## 2024 Federal Priorities



Approved by City Council on November 28, 2023

# 2024 Federal Priorities

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## Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness, Support Unhoused Residents, and Increase Affordable Housing Supply

- **Support Funding for Homelessness Programs, Affordable Housing Development, and Mental Health Services**

Support additional, flexible homelessness funding for emergency and temporary housing, outreach, and wraparound services. Support legislation to lift the Community Development Block Grant public services cap. Support increased funding and flexibility for key affordable housing programs, including expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and HOME. Support the expansion of the federal Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance Services, Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program to provide an income and health insurance. Advocate for legislation that requires health insurance mental health benefits. Support funding for encampment services including sanitary and environmental remediation. Advocate for federal support to assist people impacted by federal encampment clearance orders prompted by safety and/or environmental remediation concerns.

- **Support Tenant Protections**

Support the allocation of sufficient federal resources for tenant protections and anti-displacement initiatives, including fair housing enforcement and education. Support increased funding for rental vouchers to meet local needs and expand housing choices for residents experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations. Support voucher program rules and allocations that recognize the increased need in high-rent areas. Support efforts to permit race-targeted or race-conscious housing and community development assistance in jurisdictions where there are documented findings of past race-based housing discrimination.



# 2024 Federal Priorities

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## Enhance Community Safety and Promote Vision Zero Initiatives

- **Double Down on Safety and Vision Zero Initiatives**

Support efforts to achieve Vision Zero traffic safety goals to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries. Support proposals that provide funding, support, or local discretion for municipal governments to implement traffic safety programs and initiatives consistent with Vision Zero.

- **Support Local Control of Emerging Mobility Industries**

Support efforts to increase and/or enhance local authority relating to the emergence of Autonomous Vehicles (AVs) and Advanced Aerial Mobility (AAMs) to ensure any implementation of these technology is done equitably, safely, and in concert with local transportation goals. Support coalition efforts such as through the National Association of City Transportation Officials to strengthen oversight over these specific emerging mobility industries. Support efforts to utilize technological innovation to transform transportation infrastructure.

- **Support Disaster Preparedness, Response, Mitigation, and Recovery**

Support dedicated funding for trainings, tools, and facilities to prepare for and respond to an emergency. Support legislation and funding for the development of emergency management staffing, programs, and facilities, including Community Resource Centers. Advocate for resources that support the long-term management of current and future emergencies, including adapting to environmental threats as they evolve. Support local government flexibility in regulations, program implementation, and processes due to pandemics and other future emergencies. Support and advocate for resources and policies to protect the health, safety, and economic viability of residents and businesses in San José, including testing and vaccinations, services to the unhoused, isolation support, reemployment workforce development, small business recovery, food and essential necessities distribution, digital equity, and childcare support for the City's most vulnerable populations during disaster recovery.

- **Enhance Crime Prevention and Prevent Discrimination**

Support federal legislation to prevent and address hate crimes, including improved data collection and reporting. Support efforts to prevent sexual assault, including increased funding and investigative tools for law enforcement and collaboration across agencies. Support federal sentencing guidelines so that intoxication cannot be used to show lack of culpability for committing sexual assault offenses. Support efforts to reduce gun violence, including support for legislation that prevents theft and unauthorized usage, addresses un-serialized firearms, and gun kits, provides active shooter training, restricts concealed carry license issuance, and allows employers, co-workers, and teachers to request a gun violence restraining order. Support policies and legislation that support and fund youth violence prevention and early intervention strategies.

- **Advocate for Public Safety Investments and Public Safety Policy Change**

Support investments in public safety and expediting the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act implementation. Support federal legislation for drug and alcohol early intervention programs and increased mental health resources for first responders. Advocate for federal legislation and funding that furthers 21st Century Policing practices including de-escalation and racial equity. Support federal legislation to support community partnerships and fully fund coordinated police mental health response models. Support resources for domestic violence survivors including full funding for the Violence Against Women Act, Victims of Crime Act, and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. Support federal legislation to curb illegal fentanyl distribution and sales. Support increased funding for substance abuse prevention and treatment. Support federal legislation and regulations prohibiting e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco products.

# 2024 Federal Priorities

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## Advocate for Educational and Employment Opportunities that Foster Equitable Outcomes for San José Families

- **Invest in Safe and Equitable Employment Opportunities**

Support CHIPS Act implementation in San José and advocate for workforce development pipelines from our community colleges. Support policies and funding opportunities to expand youth workforce development programs, such as AmeriCorp’s State and National grant program. Support legislation to prevent and address sexual harassment and assault in the workplace. Support family friendly workplaces including quality childcare, lactation accommodations, and parental leave. Improve access and reduce barriers to quality childcare including increasing the income eligibility for federal programs.

- **Further Immigrant Rights**

Support federal protections against discrimination based on immigration status for residents who seek government benefits. Support federal expansion of social safety net services for undocumented immigrants. Support policies that protect the rights of all immigrants, regardless of immigration status and provide pathways for citizenship or legal permanent residency. Support legislation that holds employers accountable for withholding passports or other immigration documents from workers and requires employers provide a “Workers Bill of Rights.” Support policies that increase admissions, expand services, and strengthen protections for all humanitarian-based immigration. Oppose policies that separate immigrant or refugee families, require long-term detainment, remove due process rights, undermine the humanity of immigrants and refugees, and weaken data privacy or confidentiality rights. Oppose federal action to withhold public safety funds based on local immigration policies.

- **Elevate Inclusion and Access for All**

Support legislation that protects and strengthens rights for the LGBTQIA+ community, including marriage equality, and transgender individuals’ right to healthcare and gender identity expression. Support affirmative action and other race- and gender-conscious policies to provide equitable opportunities in education, contracting, and employment. Support funding and policy change to increase disability and language access and inclusion. Support legislation that protects and promotes reproductive freedom including access to abortion and reproductive care.



# 2024 Federal Priorities

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- **Voting Rights**

Support the right to vote including the use of absentee ballots and early voting, as well as legislation that increases translated voting materials. Support legislation that furthers free and fair elections including court review of electoral maps to protect against racial and partisan gerrymandering. Oppose legislation that would discourage voter registration, fair voter access and/or discriminate against Black, Latino/a/x, Indigenous and People of Color communities.

- **High Cost of Living Adjustments**

Support regulatory changes to federal funding allocations based on population size and/or local cost of living adjustments, increased income eligibility above current state and federal poverty levels. Update guidelines for childcare and early education, healthcare, nutrition, and workforce development programs.

- **Strengthen Family Safety Net**

Support increased resources for youth in foster care. Support funding and legislation to increase access to food insecurity programs and eradicate hunger.

- **Increase Educational Opportunities**

Advocate for funding to support early education including Head Start, transitional kindergarten and new federal childcare/preschool programs. Support increased grants and scholarships funding for community colleges and wrap around supports for students including affordable housing and food. Support legislation and funding that bolsters transition services for high school students to community colleges and higher education institutions.

- **Financial Relief for Families**

Advocate for equitable access to credit and loans, including regulation to stop predatory lending. Support increased funding for education on the Earned Income Tax Credit. Support adoption of an expanded Child Tax Credit and SALT deductions for low-income households. Support increased funding for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program to assist low-income households. Support increased funding for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program to assist low-income, multilingual families with tax preparation assistance. Oppose regulation that gives low-income individuals higher interest rates than borrowers from higher-income families and communities.

- **Digital Equity**

Support legislation that requires digital books be licensed to libraries as they are licensed to consumers. Support efforts to expand broadband availability, affordability, and competition. Support efforts to expand Affordable Connectivity Program funding, enhance the Universal Services Fund, and bridge the digital divide. Support efforts to modernize the Education Rate program to allow reimbursement for wireless and Wi-Fi enabled devices lent through the library. Oppose legislation that weakens local government's ability to regulate wireless attachments on vertical infrastructure and the deployment of fiber/coax. Oppose legislation and regulations that limit a person's access to information and legal content.

- **Protecting Privacy**

Support federal privacy legislation that defines general requirements for handling personal information that does not preempt states from setting stricter data handling requirements.

- **Emerging Technology**

Support efforts that promote fairness and equity in algorithmic decision-making. Support efforts that require institutions to promote the accuracy, reliability, validity, and replicability of AI-generated outcomes. Oppose efforts that prevent San José from developing emerging technology regulations independent from state and federal statutes.

# 2024 Federal Priorities

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## Catalyze Downtown Revitalization and Cultivate Equitable Investment in our Neighborhoods

- **Support Urban Greening and Investment in Green Spaces with a Focus on Environmental Justice**

Support funding for equity-focused urban projects that promote green streets, green infrastructure for stormwater management, parks, and streets-related infrastructure for climate adaptation.

- **Support for Water Management**

Support funding for stormwater infrastructure and waterways to address pollutants of concern that will help improve water quality. Support legislation in wastewater, recycled water, nutrient, contaminants of emerging concerns (CEC), microplastics, PFAS/PFOA, air emissions, renewable energy resources (biogas), recycled water, and biosolids, that are based on science and data. Secure funding for wastewater treatment plant infrastructure, recycled water, sanitary sewer, and direct/indirect potable water reuse.

- **Invest in Small Businesses and Communities**

Support federal funding to equip local businesses to meet the needs of people of all abilities and maintain ADA compliance. Support protecting the Community Reinvestment Act and advocate to ensure that financial institutions adequately serve the range of needs in San José for mortgage lending, multifamily financing, and small business financing. Support legislation that provides access to traditional banking services for licensed cannabis businesses and protects the City's ability to tax cannabis sales. Support legislation permitting FDIC banks to lend to cannabis businesses.

- **Funding for Space Activation, Placemaking, and Art**

Support integration of placemaking, pedestrian space activation, and public art as eligible elements and expenses for federal grant programs in addition to increased funding for the arts through the National Endowment for the Arts.



# 2024 Federal Priorities

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## Pursue Funding for Equitable, Sustainable, and Resilient Infrastructure and Advance San José's Climate Smart Goals

- **Support NEPA Reform**

Support legislative and administrative efforts that streamline the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and facilitate efficient land use and housing regulation by cities, reduce barriers to expediently deliver multi-modal transportation plans, and enhance project delivery and grant coordination.

- **Support Federal Efforts that Aid and Advance San José's Climate Smart Goals**

Support funding and policies that will accelerate San José's Climate Smart goals.

- **Advocate for Opportunities to Make San José More Resilient**

Support efforts that make the City more resilient to climate change, natural disasters, and pandemics. This includes but is not limited to assessment of climate hazards and vulnerabilities, wildfire mitigation efforts such as infrastructure hardening, utility undergrounding, vegetation management, earthquake mitigation efforts on soft story seismic retrofits, extreme heat mitigation efforts, and flood and sea-rise impacts.

- **Promote Climate Equity and Inclusion**

Support policies that provide financial and technical assistance to low-income residents and communities of color to prevent and reduce disproportionate impacts of climate change. Support investment and innovative technology in environmental justice communities to address the disproportionate burden of pollution and heat island effects.

- **Advocate for Energy Efficiency and Electrification Incentives**

Advocate for greater access to clean and zero-carbon electric generation, including tax credits, financial incentives, and grants to enhance local economic development related to clean energy procurement and reduced ratepayer costs. Support energy efficiency and electrification incentives for households and families to access clean energy that is reliable, sustainable, and affordable. Support funding of capital improvements of City-owned facilities that will increase energy efficiencies and full building electrification. Support policies and seek funding to enhance energy efficiency, electrification, and decarbonization in existing buildings, particularly for small business owners, disadvantaged communities, and affordable housing and in all-electric buildings. Support policies that encourage adaptive reuse of existing structures and provide financial incentives for zero-net-carbon buildings. Support Distributed Energy Resource projects in public and private sector development and promote green building and retro-commissioning practices that reduce toxins and indoor air contaminants.

- **Support Continued and Sustained Investment in Transportation and Zero Emission Mobility**

Support growth in the use of zero-emission vehicles, other clean mobility choices, and low carbon fuels. Support sufficient and dedicated electric vehicle rebate funding and other relevant clean mobility program funding, especially for low-income communities. Support funding for cities and municipalities to transition fleet vehicles to zero-emission or the lowest-emissions practical for the job use. Support transportation funding that helps maintain, improve and expand transportation systems and mobility in San José, including bikes, e-bikes, etc. Support legislation and funding at the federal level that promotes transit supportive commercial uses, employment uses, affordable housing adjacent to transit, and anti-displacement measures.



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