

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM 17-37**

DATE: September 25, 2017
TO: Honorable Mayor Joyce Downing and City Council Members
FROM: James A. Hayes, AICP, City Manager 
SUBJECT: CR-98 – Legislative Policy Statement

PURPOSE

The City Council is considering a resolution to adopt a Legislative Policy Statement for 2018.

BACKGROUND

After the end of the legislative session in May and over the last several weeks, the Legislative Committee has met to outline the approach to legislative issues for the City in 2018. Mr. Geoff Wilson was been retained as the lobbyist for the City on November 1, 2016 with a one year contract. The Committee recommends another one year contract with Mr. Wilson which will be executed at a later time. The Legislative Committee developed the formal legislative policy statement for consideration by the entire City Council.

The annual legislative dinner has been scheduled for October 30, 2017 and it is important to have a formal policy adopted in advance of the event. Last year, the policy statement was formatted as an 8 ½" by 5 ½" booklet suitable for distribution in hard copy or electronically. Staff intends to have the policy statement available for the legislators at the dinner, but will wait until after the municipal election for City Council before completing the printing of the booklet for larger distribution.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Mr. Wilson's contract for the first year was \$3,000 per month for a total of \$36,000. The Legislative Committee agreed to a modest increase for the second year which will be negotiated in the near future.

SCHEDULE/TIME IMPLICATIONS

In addition, to the legislative dinner, the Colorado State Legislature will open the 2018 session in early January, 2018. It is important that the legislative policy statement is approved within the next 30 days so it may distributed to State Legislators.

NEXT STEPS / CITY COUNCIL OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve CR-98, adopting the City of Northglenn Legislative Policy Statement for 2018; or
- 2) Direct staff to make additional revisions to the City of Northglenn Legislative Policy Statement and reschedule for October 9, 2017 for formal adoption.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of CR-98, approving the City of Northglenn Legislative Policy Statement for 2018.

ATTACHMENTS

2018 Legislative Policy Statement

STAFF REFERENCE

James A. Hayes, AICP, City Manager
Corey Y. Hoffmann, City Attorney

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SPONSORED BY: MAYOR DOWNING

COUNCILMAN'S RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO.

No. CR-98
Series of 2017

Series of 2017

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN 2018 LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Northglenn has an interest in the legislative activity of the Colorado General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, state legislation may impact the residents of the City of Northglenn, and may also impact or influence municipal operations of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has an interest in providing input on proposed legislation, and the Legislative Policy Committee has developed a Legislative Policy Statement, which identifies the City's position on legislative issues; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Policy Statement will be utilized as guiding policies when reviewing and responding to proposed legislation of interest to the City of Northglenn.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHGLENN, COLORADO, THAT:

Section 1. The 2018 Legislative Policy Statement, attached hereto as Exhibit 1, is hereby adopted by the City Council.

DATED, at Northglenn, Colorado, this _____ day of _____, 2017.

JOYCE DOWNING
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

JOHANNA SMALL, CMC
City Clerk

COREY Y. HOFFMANN
City Attorney



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LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT

The City Council has identified several legislative issues for 2018 and developed a formal policy statement. The city of Northglenn was founded in a location that was once the “edge” of the Denver metro region. Times have changed and the city now finds itself encompassed by further suburban growth but competitively positioned along the Interstate 25 corridor, nearly in the center of the Denver metro region. This advantageous position provides easy access to most destinations, including downtown Denver, Boulder and Denver International Airport, as well as a variety of employment centers in all directions. Its competitive location will strategically position Northglenn for both future residential and business relocations.

City of Northglenn Fast Facts:

- Population: 38,650
- Median Household Income:
 - Northglenn: \$53,747
 - Region: \$58,039
 - State: \$55,212
- Sales Tax Rates:
 - Northglenn: 4.00%
 - Adams County: 0.75%
 - Colorado 4.10%
- Property Tax Rate
 - 7.597 mills / General purposes
 - 4.000 mills / Capital construction – expires December 31, 2019
- Number of Households: 14,000
- Household Size: 2.6
- Median Age:
 - Northglenn: 33.5
 - Region: 35.6
 - State 35.7
- Public Schools: Adams 12 Five Star School District

The City Council has identified six main goals for the community which guide the legislative policy statement.

1. Fiscally Responsible Government
2. Upgraded City Infrastructure and Facilities
3. Strong and Competitive Businesses
4. Community Governance with Civic Partnerships
5. Clean and Beautiful City
6. Liveable Neighborhoods and Homes

As is the case with most communities, the city must respond to a changing regional economy that is influenced more and more by a global economy. Integrated in these larger systems is the specific economy of the city of Northglenn and the tax structure that provides the community with the resources and services deemed necessary. Northglenn's current operating budget is largely dependent on retail sales tax dollars that often fluctuate with national and regional economic trends. This tax structure and the necessity to attract retail sales tax dollars will have a large impact on strategies that attempt to reinvent land uses in the future.

Although the City has not adopted a formal policy statement in the areas of water quality and quantity, education, and health services, these are all important statewide issues that may affect Northglenn. The City may take formal positions on these issues individually or as part of regional coalitions that have interests common to the City of Northglenn.

(insert location map as part of booklet)

Local Control and Municipal Home Rule

Colorado has a tradition of local control and decentralized governmental authority that is reflected in the home rule provisions of the State constitution and in substantial grants of power to Colorado municipalities in State statutes. These provisions reflect a belief that local issues and local needs are generally best addressed locally. The City of Northglenn strongly shares this belief. Therefore, the City:

- Supports State legislation that enables and facilitates the resolution of local issues locally.
- Opposes State legislation that would preempt or otherwise limit municipal authority, including legislation that aims to diminish or intrude upon the authority of home rule municipalities.

Sales and Use Taxes

Like most Colorado municipalities, Northglenn is highly dependent on sales and use tax revenues, providing 65% of the City's tax revenues annually. An effective sales tax has enabled Colorado municipalities to generally avoid reliance on the far less popular property tax, which funds most municipal operations nationwide. Under Colorado's constitution, Northglenn and other home rule municipalities are entitled to locally collect and administer this tax. Therefore, the City

- Supports efforts that would simplify the tax system for those remitting tax, provided that such measures would not materially jeopardize the revenue raising capacity of the tax system or its legal basis.
- Supports efforts to facilitate "main street tax equity" by requiring collection of tax on remote sales by Internet or mail-order vendors within the City.
- Opposes legislation that would jeopardize the City's home rule authority over sales and use tax matters, through resultant litigation, or otherwise.

Urban Renewal / Downtown Development Authority

The City's urban renewal authority is an extremely useful and proven tool for remedying urban blight in economically depressed areas. Urban renewal often involves use of the increase in tax revenue due to the urban renewal project (called the "tax increment") to first pay off costs associated with the development, before beginning distribution to this tax increment to the various governments that levy a tax on the improved property. In recent years, the General Assembly has addressed a variety of bills on this subject, some of which have been enacted. The City:

- Opposes further watering down of municipal urban renewal authority and/or downtown development authority by the General Assembly.

Affordable Housing/Construction Defects

The City is committed to an environment that offers a variety of housing options for City residents, including residents on fixed incomes or of limited financial means. The City recently adopted a model ordinance supporting a balanced approach to resolving construction defect concerns between builders and homeowners. The City is supportive of multi-family residential development in the City that balances the need for certainty with private developers and the need for resolution of construction-related issues by homeowners. The General Assembly has enacted laws that have attempted to include remedies for homeowners with construction defects, but are also widely regarded as having caused a dramatic decline in the construction of multi-family, owner occupied housing (condominiums) in Colorado. Therefore, the City:

- Supports a balanced approach to resolving construction defects concerns between builders and homeowners, as exemplified by the City's adoption of a model ordinance on the topic.

Marijuana Regulation

With the legalization of recreational use of marijuana, municipalities across Colorado, including the City of Northglenn, have confronted questions about the meaning on the restrictions on “open and public” consumption. Therefore, the City supports:

- Legislation providing a definition of what is meant by “open and public” recreational consumption of marijuana.

Unfunded Mandates

Programs and regulations mandated by the State or federal government upon local governments without adequate funding, force local governments to divert scarce local funding away from pressing local needs. Therefore, the City:

- Supports protection of statutory and constitutional provisions that protect local governments from being obliged to comply with unfunded mandates.
- Opposes unfunded State or federal mandates.

Public Safety

Public safety is a primary responsibility of the City. Therefore, the City:

- Supports State legislation that resolves the issue of medical expenses for individuals in custody with an equitable solution for all parties.
- Opposes State legislation that would jeopardize or impair the reliability of the E-911 system.

Transportation Finance

With its position astride the metro area’s major north-south transportation corridor, the City naturally has a strong interest in State transportation planning and financing. Therefore, the City:

- Supports development of a stable, long-term source of funding for construction and maintenance of multi-modal transportation infrastructure for Colorado.

City Council *(Photo to be inserted)*
(Update names after 2017 election)

Mayor Joyce Downing

Mayor Pro Tem Carol Dodge

Council Member Jordan Sauers

Council Member Becky Brown

Council Member Joe Brown

Council Member Kyle Mullica

Council Member Marci Whitman

Council Member Antonio Esquibel

Council Member Kim Snetzinger

City Manager James A. Hayes, AICP

Corey Y. Hoffmann, Hoffmann, Parker, Wilson & Carberry, PC

Geoff Wilson, Murray, Dahl, Kuechenmeister, and Renaud