



## **Mammoth Lakes Town Council**

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# **TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Legislative Platform is to outline the position of the Town of Mammoth Lakes on priority issues and matters that impact the Town's ability to operate effectively, while allowing the consideration of additional legislative and budgetary issues that arise during the legislative session. The priorities throughout the platform are intended to assist the Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff to proactively and appropriately address legislation to support Town interests and preserve local legislative authority if and when necessary.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes Legislative Platform confirms the Town Council's position on current issues with the potential to directly or indirectly impact the Town, thereby establishing guidelines to actively pursue pending legislation through monitoring and communications activities. Below are the Guiding Principles and Policy Statements that will allow Town staff to address legislative and regulatory issues in a timely manner, without precluding the consideration of additional legislative issues that may arise during the legislative session.

The Legislative Platform is developed and maintained using the goals and objectives adopted by the Town Council, a review of legislative priorities from the League of California Cities, current and previous input from Town Council and staff, and research of current law and pending legislation.

For proposed legislation consistent with the Town's Legislative Platform, Town staff shall be authorized to prepare position letters for the Mayor's signature. Likewise, Town staff shall be authorized to prepare letters for the Mayor's signature for proposed legislation that contradict the Policy Statements laid out in this Legislative Platform (i.e. if a proposal is made that that would be in contrast to a Policy Statement that the Town supports, the Town would oppose such a measure). Items not addressed in the Town's Legislative Platform will require further Council direction, and staff will prepare an agenda item for Town Council consideration. If a situation arises where a legislative matter of concern may be consistent with one part of Platform but conflicts with a different part, the matter would be brought before Council for consideration.

Town departments are encouraged to monitor and be knowledgeable of any legislative issues related to their discipline. However, any requests for the Town to take positions on a legislative matter must be directed to the Town Manager's Office for review and approval.

## **PROCESS**

The process for responding to legislative proposals is streamlined as follows:

1. Once a determination is made that a legislative proposal may impact the Town or policy area of concern to the Town, a letter outlining the Town's position (supporting, opposing and/or requesting an amendment on the issue) may be drafted for the Mayor's signature.

2. If the Mayor is unavailable, the Town Manager will sign the position letter.
3. If a legislative issue is not addressed in the Legislative Platform but could potentially impact the Town, staff will place the matter on a Town Council agenda for consideration.
4. The position letter will be sent to the bill's author, the Town's legislative representatives, the League of California Cities, and other stakeholders as deemed appropriate. The letter will be sent by the requested method (mail, electronic, fax, etc.).
5. A copy of the final letter will be distributed to the Town Council.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

***Preserve Local Control*** – Preserve and protect the Town's powers, duties and prerogatives to enact local legislation and policy direction concerning local affairs and oppose legislation that preempts local authority. Local agencies should preserve authority and accountability for revenues raised and services provided.

***Promote Fiscal Stability*** – Support measures that promote fiscal stability, predictability, financial independence, and preserve the Town's revenue base and maximum local control over local government budgeting. Oppose measures that shift local funds to the County, State or Federal Governments and/or make cities more dependent on the County, State or Federal Governments for financial stability, such as unfunded mandates or mandated costs with no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits.

***Protect the Environment*** – Support measures that protect and enhance the amazing natural resources that make the Eastern Sierra so special. Support measures that acknowledge and take action to slow the effects of climate change and promote sustainable recreation

***Support Outdoor Recreation*** – Support measures that support the outdoor recreation industry, on which Mammoth Lakes' economy is reliant.

***Enhance Local Government Efficiency*** – Support measures that give local government the tools, policies, funding, and authority to address local issues in response to community needs and/or unique circumstances.

***Expand Availability and Affordability of Community Housing*** – Support legislation that would increase available funding for a variety of housing types and income levels.

## ***Communications, Broadband, and Technology***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislative initiatives and funding which ensure a stable and modern telecommunications and broadband infrastructure in the region. Support policies, legislation, and funding to deliver secure technology which leverages the use of data to create efficiencies, promote economic development, enhance public safety, and improve transportation, distance learning and telemedicine.
2. Legislation and regulations that ensure emergency communication capabilities and interoperability for information technology and public safety departments and agencies.
3. Legislation that promotes and provides capacity for increased ability to manage technology, assistance in adhering to regulatory compliance requirements and reducing the risk of cyber-attacks.
4. Legislation, regulations, and funding which further stabilizes the communications and power grid in order to deliver effective services.

### **OPPOSE:**

5. Legislation or regulatory policy that would negatively impact security practices and privacy considerations, further erode the ability of Local governments to regulate or maintain local control over telecommunications infrastructure (including the siting of cellular communications towers or transmission sites), or otherwise diminish service delivery to customers via technology.
6. Legislation that would require public agencies to share information in public settings that could be used by groups or individuals with malicious intent to compromise the systems, services or private information of public employees or citizens.
7. Legislation that would restrict procurement practices or impact vendor interaction that limits effective purchase and integration of technology.

## ***Disaster Preparation, Mitigation, and Response***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislation that streamlines the process to allow local, regional, State, and Federal agencies to prepare for and mitigate the potential for natural or man-made disasters impacts on local governments and property owners.
2. Legislation that provides funding and/or other resources for forest thinning efforts including the use of mixed-material biomass facilities and the integration of improved recreational facilities to provide added value in resource protection.
3. Forest management practices that have been recognized as being effective at reducing the impacts of wildfires on local communities and improvement of environmental planning processes that allows simplified implementation.
4. Legislation that addresses the impact of significant snowfall that limits the provision of local public services.
5. Legislation that would allow heavy snowfall and accumulation to be treated in the same manner as heavy rains, floodwaters, and associated impacts for the purpose of access to State and FEMA resources and reimbursement.

### **OPPOSE:**

6. Efforts by Federal and State government to increase fees for and reduce and/or eliminate fire protection services on public lands.

## ***Economic Development***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislation that supports the Town's efforts to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.
2. Legislation that provides tangible and productive tools and incentives to support job creation and retention.
3. Efforts to provide funding mechanisms for economic development tools including infrastructure investment and the development of workforce housing.
4. Policies and programs that encourage working with other cities, counties, and government agencies to jointly leverage resources and assets to create and strengthen economic clusters within the region.
5. Promotion of tourism as the primary economic engine for the State and rural areas such as Mammoth Lakes and the Eastern Sierra.
6. The film industry in our area as well as state efforts to promote film-making in rural areas.
7. Policies and programs that enhance and specifically acknowledge and help to overcome the unique challenges facing rural businesses and entrepreneurs.

### **OPPOSE:**

8. Proposals or policies that negatively impact and burden small businesses and/or inhibit local government.

## ***Education***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Measures that support, encourage, and/or fund Career Technical and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) educational opportunities.
2. Continued funding for home to school transportation.
3. Enhanced funding for the Community College system.
4. Long-distance learning opportunities such as online learning in our schools and community colleges.

## ***Employee and Labor Relations***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislation that streamlines the Workers' Compensation system and makes it easier for employers, employees, and health care providers to navigate.
2. Reform measures that provide sustainable and secure public pensions and other post-retirement benefits to ensure responsive and affordable public services.

### **OPPOSE:**

3. Measures that impose mandated employee benefits upon local government that are more properly decided at the local level.
4. Efforts to legislate changes in how the California Public Employee Pension System invests its assets if the proposed changes will result in a loss of funds.
5. Legislation that limits local control over how services are to be provided to community, through employees, contracts, or other means to provide efficient, effective, and responsive public services.

## ***Environment and Resources***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislation that allows for continued and increased motorized and non-motorized recreation on public lands and the provision of funding necessary to manage these uses.
2. Legislation that streamlines the CEQA/NEPA process.
3. Federal legislation that fully funds federal resource agency planning, programming, and law enforcement capabilities to enable management of natural resources.
4. Efforts that allow local governments to develop practical, local solutions to reduce and manage locally generated greenhouse gas emissions.
5. State legislation and regulatory initiatives that enhance local government's ability to set local policies relating to environmental "sustainability," including, but not limited to building standards, land use planning, solid waste, and multi-modal transportation.
6. Investments in and efforts to support the infrastructure needed in rural areas to reduce carbon emissions, including strengthening federal, state, and local capacity for carbon analysis and accounting, and emissions reduction strategies to support climate resilient planning and decision making.
7. Legislation and funding that would help the Town meet the goals of the Resilient Mammoth Lakes project.
8. Efforts and funding for climate resiliency and adaptation efforts at the agency and regional level.
9. Resources and funding for local evaluation and mitigation of hazards and risks associated with climate change (e.g., fire, extreme weather events).

### **OPPOSE:**

10. Statewide or federal greenhouse gas emission estimating, monitoring, and reporting mandates affecting Town utilities, unless there is a clear need that provides demonstrated benefits to the environment.
11. Legislation that eliminates or diminishes the requirement for Federal and State land use agencies to coordinate with local government on decisions affecting its plans and policies.
12. Legislation that could negatively impact outdoor recreation.



## ***Fiscal Responsibility***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Federal legislation that will fully fund Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act.
2. Legislation that requires that a secure and dedicated funding stream be identified prior to the adoption of any legislation placing additional mandates on local government, and to provide full cost reimbursement for mandated programs.
3. Legislation to stabilize local government financing, to increase funding options for local government, and to allocate new State-wide revenues to local agencies in an equitable manner.

### **OPPOSE:**

4. Any amendment to the redistribution of sales and use taxes that will negatively affect the Town and its ability to provide services, and thereby cause a negative fiscal impact.
5. Legislation that would make local agencies more dependent on the State for financial stability and policy direction.
6. Legislation that would impose State mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits, including actions that require local government to impose higher fees and charges to local residents to meet State mandates.
7. Efforts by the State and Federal governments to reduce funding of programs or other traditional State and Federal funding streams to local government.

## **Government Administration**

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Pension reform measures designed to control or decrease employer liability or increase transparency in reporting without imposing undue hardships or administrative burdens on local government.
2. Enhanced local government action and authority, rather than the imposition of state, federal, or regional mandates upon local governments.
3. Legislation that facilitates the ability of local government to share resources to increase efficiencies and decrease costs in providing services.
4. Legislation that provides small to mid-sized cities to have at-large elections instead of divisive districts.
5. Legislation that realigns governmental services in such a manner as to improve the delivery of services and make government more accountable to the people of California (greater local control).
6. Legislation that recognizes the inherent disadvantage rural communities have as it applies to using a population-based criteria (per capita) for allocating State and Federal funds and minimizes and/or eliminates the reliance on this funding criteria.
7. Legislation that reduces State and Federal regulations that impede or increase the cost of the delivery of services by local governments.

### **OPPOSE:**

8. Efforts that erode the Town's authority to control its own affairs (loss of local control).

## **Housing**

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislation that supports increased financing, subsidy options, and tax incentives to support development of new, affordable housing units in rural communities.
2. Legislation and programs that assist in providing affordable housing for extremely-low and very-low income households within mixed-income residential developments and supportive services necessary for households to sustain their housing.
3. Full and expanded Federal funding for Housing and Economic Development programs, such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program, Section 8 voucher program, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Programs, and the creation of a minimum four percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credit floor.
4. Housing measures that promote the development and enhancement of safe and attainable housing for all economic segments of the population.
5. Legislation that would increase available funding for affordable housing without the loss of local control, increased state wide taxes, or otherwise limiting local government resources.
6. Legislation that will enhance local government ability to regulate the loss of available long-term housing units to the short-term rental industry.

### **OPPOSE:**

7. Legislation that would take away local control over enforcing local zoning requirements for housing projects, including items such as automatic density bonuses and decreased parking requirements.

## ***Planning and Land Use***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Native American tribal governments, affected landowners, and members of the public to actively participate in the renewable energy and utility corridor planning processes.
2. Legislation that streamlines State requirements regarding General Plans and their updates.
3. Legislation that maintains the Town's ability to protect and enhance its land use authority to determine the highest and best use of its natural resources.
4. Legislation that protects and/or reinstates the payment of geothermal royalties to local jurisdictions.
5. Legislation that strengthens local governments' regulatory authority and control over the siting of marijuana industries.

### **OPPOSE:**

6. Legislation that reduces the ability of a local agency to establish its own local parking standards in all areas of a community.
7. Legislation that erodes the ability of cities to condition and deny projects that could negatively impact the community.
8. Legislation that minimizes and/or eliminates local control over land use decisions.

## ***Recreation and Community Services***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislation and new measures that will increase the Town's grant competitiveness for creating, expanding existing, or renovating existing parks, trails, or recreation infrastructure and amenities.
2. Legislation to broaden liability protection and enhance recreational opportunities for community programming and special events.
3. Full funding of State parks, recreation, bike trails, and open space; including, but not limited to, the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
4. Legislation that will help maintain and enhance the Town's performance arts venues, and funding for arts development.
5. Legislation that acknowledges and supports the economic value of recreation to local and/or urban communities.

### **OPPOSE:**

6. Any reductions and/or eliminations of potential funding for the creation, expansion of, or renovation of existing parks, trails, or recreation infrastructure and amenities.
7. Any reductions and/or eliminations of arts and library programming or funding.

## **Solid Waste**

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Efforts to enact a comprehensive statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law that allocates end-of-life disposal costs with the producer of the product.
2. Recycling market development by the State and Federal government for recyclables, green waste, food waste, sewage sludge and other organics.
3. Efforts to streamline the permitting, construction, and funding of facilities that allow the Town to transform usable waste into energy/beneficial byproducts; and efforts to provide State and Federal funding for any potential Town projects for waste-to- energy and other value added product production.
4. Legislation to overhaul CalRecycle and expand the use of transformation technologies, new market incentives and encourage local agencies to implement systems to reduce the amount of solid waste produced, landfilled and greenhouse gas generated.
5. Legislation that will enhance State and Federal funding, permitting and support the use of new technology to help comply with Solid Waste mandates for recycling and organics recovery/processing.
6. Measures that maintain and enhance local authority and economic flexibility to regulate solid waste and recyclables and to fully fund facilities, alternatives and technologies to meet State mandates.

### **OPPOSE:**

7. Measures that invalidate AB 939 (California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989) indemnification and prevent cities from negotiating indemnification clauses with waste haulers as well as support measures that would mandate State agencies to comply with AB 939 in the same manner as required of cities and counties.
8. Efforts to increase recycling diversion rates if determined not to be cost-effective relative to the benefits that could be achieved.
9. Mandated material disposal bans or restrictions in circumstances where there is an insufficient capacity in a Town without the private recycling market to handle these materials in a cost effective and beneficial way besides landfilling.
10. Efforts to increase Statewide tipping fees where there is no clear benefit to ratepayers.

## ***Transportation and Infrastructure***

### **SUPPORT:**

1. Legislation that would protect and/or increase funding from current revenue sources for local transportation projects including road resurfacing projects, local transit projects, adding bicycle lanes, sidewalks and trails where appropriate, programs that facilitate development-oriented transit and transit-oriented development, and enhancing pedestrian safety.
2. Protection of dedicated transportation-related tax revenues that enhance the ability of local agencies to finance local transportation programs and facilities.
3. Measures to finance local and regional transportation programs and improvements, including alternative modes of transportation and transportation demand management systems.
4. Continuous appropriations of new monies directly to cities for the preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of local street and road systems.
5. Transportation funding legislation that reaffirms and continues State responsibility for highway financing.
6. State and Federal legislation efforts that benefit Mammoth Yosemite airport.
7. Legislation that recognizes the inherent disadvantage rural counties and communities have as it applies to using a population based criteria (per capita) for allocating State and Federal transportation funds and minimizes and/or eliminates the reliance on this funding criteria.

### **OPPOSE:**

8. Legislation that links funding for transportation to other State goals, such as housing.