

TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

Title: Approve the resolution adopting Town of Mammoth Lakes Legislative Platform.

Meeting Date: April 5, 2023

Prepared by: Pam Kobylarz, Assistant to the Town Manager
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RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the resolution adopting the Town of Mammoth Lakes Legislative Platform.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:

State and Federal legislators are constantly proposing new legislation that has the potential to impact the Town and its operations, both positively and negatively. In June 2019, the Town adopted the 2019-20 Legislative Platform, which was reaffirmed by the Council in March 2021. This has allowed staff the ability to act quickly when new legislation is proposed by preparing position letters and taking other action as needed, without bringing each individual item to the Council for discussion and approval. Items will still be brought to Council if there are questions on proposed positions or items requested by Council members. Previously, the Town had taken action by sending position letters on various legislative matters on a case-by-case basis.

The attached Legislative Platform incorporates the following Guiding Principles:

- Preserve Local Control
- Promote Fiscal Stability
- Protect the Environment
- Support Outdoor Recreation
- Enhance Local Government Efficiency
- Expand Availability and Affordability of Community Housing

These Guiding Principles are supported by 13 policy areas, which each include a number of specific items that the Town either supports or opposes:

- Communications, Broadband, and Technology
- Disaster Preparation, Mitigation, and Response
- Economic Development
- Education
- Employee and Labor Relations
- Environment and Resources

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Government Administration
- Housing
- Planning and Land Use
- Recreation and Community Services
- Solid Waste
- Transportation and Infrastructure

As the Town's priorities in regard to the Guiding Principles and subsequent subject areas have not changed significantly in the past two years, the draft Legislative Platform is the same as the one adopted in 2021, with the exception of four items related to climate change and resiliency that were added to the Platform (#6-9 on page 8).

The proposed Legislative Platform does not have dates associated with it, so it can be utilized until such time that the Council desires to amend it. It is intentionally broad, in order to allow for flexibility when applying it to various proposed legislation.

The proposed Legislative Platform does still allow for the Town to take action on items that are not specifically identified in the document by bringing these items to the Council, as staff has done previously. Over the past four years, having an adopted Legislative Platform has streamlined the process for both staff and Council, while still allowing the Town to participate in the legislative process.

OPTIONS ANALYSIS

Option 1: Approve the resolution adopting the Town of Mammoth Lakes Legislative Platform as proposed or with amendments.

Option 2: Do not approve the updated Legislative Platform. In this case, the existing Legislative Platform would still be valid and could be utilized to respond to proposed legislation, as needed.

Attachments:

- Resolution
- Legislative Platform