

CITY OF ROANOKE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

 2025

89TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



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LEGISLATIVE PHILOSOPHY

The following Legislative Agenda represents the City of Roanoke's initiatives and priorities for the 89th Texas Legislative Session and establishes the City's position on key legislative issues. The City of Roanoke is committed to providing efficient and effective municipal government services to its residents, businesses, visitors, and community stakeholders.

Municipalities represent the level of government that is closest to the people, and local officials are best equipped to determine the unique needs of their communities. The City of Roanoke bears the primary responsibility for providing capital infrastructure, public safety, recreational, cultural activities, and other municipal services in response to the needs and preferences of its residents. Therefore, the City will support legislation that protects home rule authority, advances the principles of local decision-making, and enhances the health, safety, and welfare of its residents in the spirit of self-governance.

Conversely, the City will oppose legislation that preempts or erodes municipal authority on local matters or impedes its ability to allocate resources to locally-determined projects and services.

The City of Roanoke residents desire and expect exceptional municipal services. They want a high quality of life that is delivered through a beautiful and functional parks system, a variety of cultural amenities, exceptional public safety services, well-maintained roads, and outstanding City facilities. The elected and appointed officials who represent the City of Roanoke are committed to preserving the City's ability to provide the public goods and services our residents desire through revenue sources that are approved at the local level and free from state-mandated limitations.

The City of Roanoke's highest priority is to preserve the ability of locally-elected officials to govern and respond effectively and efficiently to the individual and market-driven needs of its residents, businesses, and stakeholders, according to the unique needs of the community.

Throughout this document, it is understood that a position statement supporting a legislative action also establishes opposition to legislative measures that would have the opposite effect.

CITY OF ROANOKE

CITY COUNCIL



**MAYOR
SCOOTER GIERISCH**



**MAYOR PRO TEM
HOLLY GRAY**



HOGAN PAGE



BRYAN DARBY



BRYAN MOYERS



DAVID BRUNDAGE



DAVID THOMPSON

2025 LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE



HOLLY GRAY

CONNIE HODGENS

LG LEONARD

SUSANNA LIONE

NIKKI MARLEY

VICTOR MOLASCHI

BRYAN MOYERS

JOHN PULLEN

DAVID THOMPSON

CASSI WEBB

CODY PETREE, CITY MANAGER

JERIAHME MILLER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- Support legislation that seeks to fund local transportation and infrastructure projects
- Support legislation that provides funding to maintain and rehabilitate existing and aging infrastructure
- Support legislation that promotes innovative financing tools and greater flexibility in the funding of the construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of local transportation and infrastructure projects

LAND DEVELOPMENT

- Support legislation that seeks to repeal, or makes beneficial amendments to, H.B. 2439 from the 86th legislative session (the building materials bill), which excessively prohibits the City from regulating building products, materials, or methods used in the construction of residential and commercial structures
- Support legislation that seeks to limit state intrusion in the land development process by making beneficial amendments to H.B. 3167 from the 86th legislative session regarding subdivision platting procedures (the 30-day shot clock bill)
- Oppose legislation that preempts or would otherwise erode municipal authority related to land use and zoning, local amendments to building codes, local building permit fees, tree preservation, short-term rentals, and eminent domain

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Support legislation that preserves all economic development programs and tools currently available under state law
- Support legislation that promotes new and innovative financing tools that would leverage state funds to create jobs
- Support legislation that would maintain funding for grants and programs that improve workforce training

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Support legislation and measures that strengthen the integrity, effectiveness, and transparency of local law enforcement, and oppose any measures that weaken the same
- Support legislation that preserves qualified immunity for public safety personnel acting within the bounds of departmental policies and procedures in the performance of their official duties
- Support legislation that clarifies the roles of state, county, and municipal governments in emergency management, and their respective authority, powers, and duties during a local state of disaster

FISCAL MANAGEMENT

- Support legislation that would preserve the City's use of certificates of obligation (COs) to fund necessary capital projects, and for the debt from COs to continue to be funded from the City's interest and sinking (I&S) tax rate
- Oppose legislation that would erode the City's ability to control, manage, and collect reasonable compensation for the use of municipal rights-of-way
- Oppose legislation changing statewide assessment of sales tax from origin to destination-based sales tax
- Oppose legislation that imposes additional revenue caps or tax caps of any kind that restrict the City's capacity to generate the revenue needed to provide the high level of municipal services expected by the City of Roanoke residents
- Oppose legislation that would erode local taxing authority, including measures that would restrict the use of existing revenue streams
- Oppose legislation that reduces the ability of municipalities to provide economic and efficient methods of financing local purchases and projects, including limiting the City of Roanoke's ability to control and manage its debt

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PREEMPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Support legislation that preserves local control and the right of Roanoke residents to govern themselves and to work with their municipal government to adopt and enforce ordinances that address the health, safety, and welfare of the community
- Support legislation that preserves local authority for property taxation, budgeting, permitting, and zoning decisions
- Oppose legislation that limits or prohibits the City's current authority to use municipal funds to communicate with legislators or effectively participate in the legislative process on matters of public interest or pay dues to organizations or entities that advocate on the City's behalf
- Oppose legislation that provides for state preemption of municipal authority and/or creates unfunded mandates at the local level

OPEN GOVERNMENT

- Support legislation that simplifies the budget and tax rate notification and adoption process with the goal of improving transparency
- Support legislation that would allow required legal notices to be published on a municipality's website rather than requiring publication in an official newspaper
- Support legislation that promotes increased flexibility to the Texas Open Meetings Act to allow for the expanded use of teleconference and videoconference technology in public meetings

ELECTIONS

- Oppose legislation that eliminates the May or November uniform election dates
- Oppose legislation that requires candidates for a City office to declare party affiliation in order to run for office

WATER RESOURCES

- Support legislation that provides ample funding for developing affordable and reliable water resources across North Texas
- Support legislation that provides funding for the construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of new and aging water utility infrastructure
- Support legislation that accelerates the permitting process for the development of new water resources in North Texas, preserves water storage options, and advances viable projects in the statewide water plan

RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Support amendments to the hotel occupancy tax statute that allows the use of hotel occupancy tax revenue for the construction of improvements in municipal parks and trails that connect parks, lodging establishments, and related public facilities
- Support legislation that directly benefits public library services that support workforce, cultural, and educational programs

BROADBAND ACCESS

- Support legislation that treats broadband service as any other critical utility infrastructure to ensure consistent and sustainable availability and affordability for residents and businesses
- Support legislation to incentivize and recognize the importance of broadband service and the application of technology solutions through grants, awards, and other means
- Support legislation that develops plans and revenue sources needed for greater broadband connectivity to enhance public access to education, healthcare, employment, information, and services

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

- The City of Roanoke values strong collaboration with community partners to ensure residents, businesses, and stakeholders enjoy exceptional amenities, a high quality of life, and a sense of pride in calling Roanoke home.

As such, the City will support the Legislative Agendas and initiatives of the following:

- Metroport Chamber of Commerce
- North Texas Commission
- Texas Fire Chiefs Association
- Texas Police Chiefs Association
- Denton County
- Texas Municipal League
- National League of Cities

BILL DRAFT REQUESTS

- Request legislation allowing the enforcement of commercial motor vehicle safety for municipalities located within certain proximity of major ports (inland, air, cargo, etc) and industrial areas.

CONTACT US



Cody Petree, City Manager
CPetree@roanoketexas.com



(817) 491-2411



500 South Oak Street
Roanoke, TX 76262

