



Development of 2027 State and Federal Legislative Priorities

Mayor and City Council | May 26, 2026

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Overview

The Mayor and City Council adopt state and federal priorities in advance of each legislative session.

Government Relations develops a work plan to engage departments and stakeholders in advance of City Council adoption of priorities.

Timeline



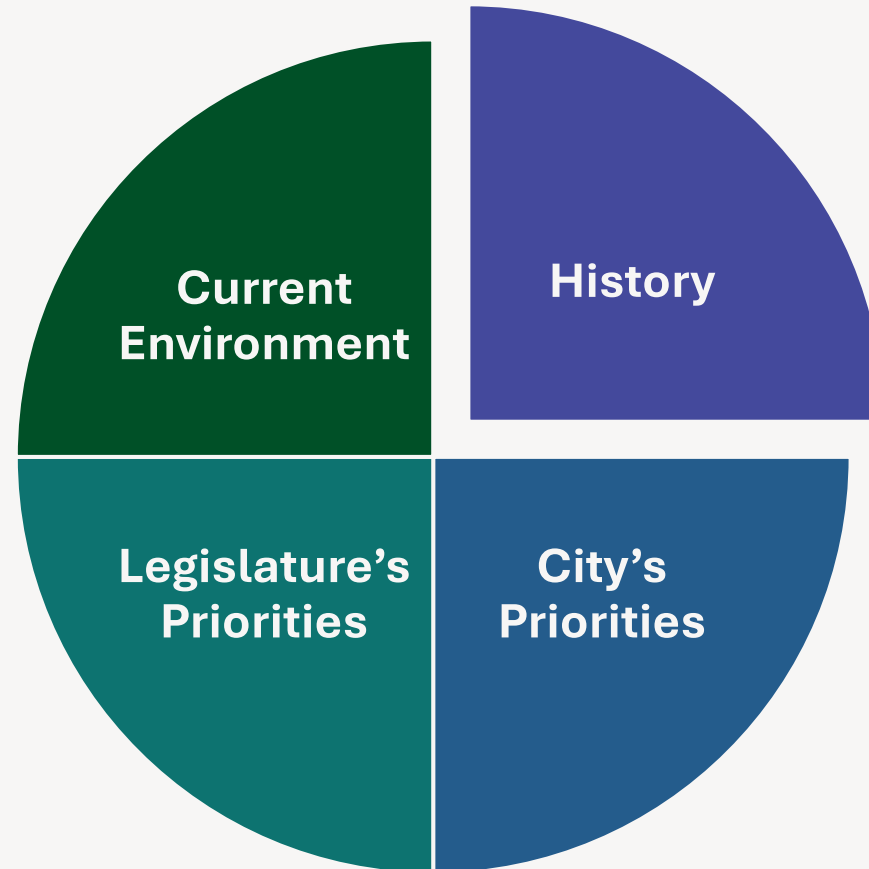
Call for Priorities: Stakeholders



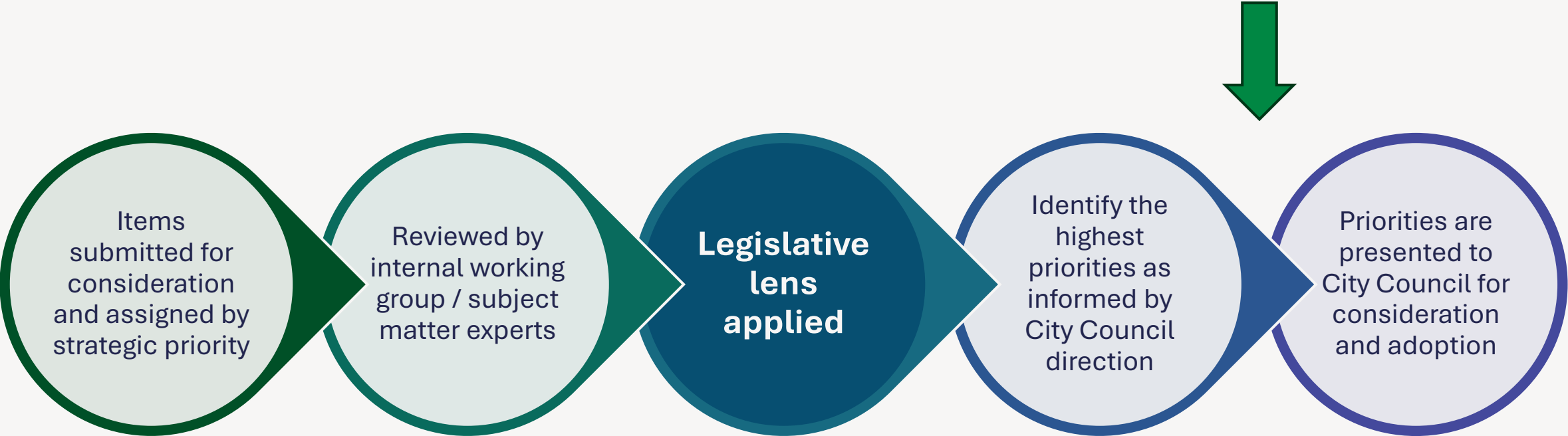
Identifying 2027 Legislative Priorities



Applying a Legislative Lens



Identifying 2027 Legislative Priorities



2027 Potential Legislative Priorities

90th State Legislative Session: What to Expect



Many recurring issues

- Local control, including efforts to reduce city funding & limit use of debt
- Land use and housing
- Water future
- Public safety, homelessness & mental health
- The unexpected

New issues

- Data centers

Potential State Legislative Priorities



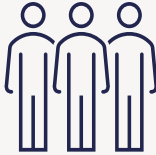
Responsible Use of Taxpayer Dollars & Efficiency

Maintain local authority to employ cost-saving financing tools.
Support science-backed addition of covered line-of-duty illnesses



Housing Access & Affordability

Preserve local authority to promote good land use and incentivize affordable housing development in Austin.



Mental Health, Homelessness & Public Safety

Strengthen support for mental-health crisis interventions and continuity-of-care systems that address homelessness and public safety challenges.



Workforce & Economic Development

Preserve & support local government tools to foster economic development & support career pathway opportunities.



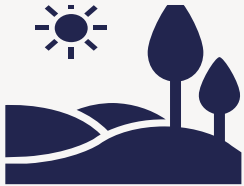
Public Infrastructure

Support mobility and transportation initiatives, the safe and responsible growth of emerging technologies, and other critical infrastructures impacting our community



Emergency Preparedness & Natural Resources

Prioritize the safety and resilience of our community in the face of immediate dangers and disasters as well as long-term challenges and access to resources.



Public Health & Quality of Life

Support funding & policies in support of public health functions and other quality of life / public health functions, including parks, libraries, access to food & animal care.

Potential Federal Legislative Priorities



Responsible Use of Taxpayer Dollars & Efficiency

Protect key federal financing tools, including tax-exempt municipal bonds and advance refunding, while ensuring full funding of core federal programs.



Housing Access & Affordability

Modernize federal housing programs and reduce regulatory barriers to accelerate production and expand flexibility in HUD programs like HOME-ARP.



Mental Health, Homelessness & Public Safety

Strengthen federal support for crisis response and continuity-of-care systems that address mental health, homelessness and public-safety challenges.



Workforce & Economic Development

Support career pathways, apprenticeships, and local economic-development tools that build Austin's skilled workforce and attract business investment.



Public Infrastructure

Increase local control of federal transportation funds, invest multimodal safety & mobility projects & establish frameworks for responsible use of emerging technologies.



Emergency Preparedness & Natural Resources

Expand federal investments in disaster resilience, water infrastructure, & climate data while maintaining strong protections for environment.



Public Health & Quality of Life

Fund core public health functions, parks, trails, libraries, and regional food systems that strengthen community wellbeing.

2027 Legislative Outreach

How We Do It



Sprint and hold breath for 140+ days.

Two-way communication with stakeholders

Review bills

Notify authors and Committee Members of City position, bill improvements if applicable

Submit cards of support or opposition

Testimony, fact sheets and one-pagers

Do not oppose a bill without first communicating with bill author

Weekly updates to City Council, delegation, key stakeholders

Sine Die.

Implement.

Prepare for next session.

**** Department Collaboration:** AGR works closely with City department experts leading up to and throughout the legislative process**

Timeline



Next Steps

- Incorporate City Council feedback
- City Council adoption – July 23, 2026
- Stakeholder outreach continues

Questions
