



Vista Legislative Platform 2023

About Vista

The City of Vista is a Charter Law city and was incorporated on January 28, 1963. Located just seven miles inland from the Pacific Ocean in northern San Diego County, the City of Vista has a perfect mild Mediterranean climate. Residents enjoy a wide range of year-round outdoor activities in a setting of gentle rolling hills and pleasant rural surroundings. Vista is approximately 19 square miles with a population of 100,291 (California Dept. of Finance 2021-2022). The City handles sewer utilities and contracts with Vista Irrigation District for its water services. The City operates its own Fire Department and contracts with the San Diego Sheriff's Department for law enforcement services.

Mission:

The City of Vista is dedicated to providing exceptional services, to improving Vista's quality of life, and to enhancing the uniqueness of the Vista community.

City Information:

[City of Vista Interactive Map](#)

[Demographics](#)

[History](#)

[Information for Residents](#)

[Sales Tax Information](#)

[Weather](#)

City Seal, Flower, Bird And Tree:

The City Seal is used on official city documents. Read more here on what the seal represents.

California Lilac was adopted as the official City flower on February 21, 1967 and Anna's Hummingbird was also adopted at that time as the official City bird. On September 8, 1998 the City officially adopted the Kentia Palm as the City tree.

Cultural Arts and Local Attractions:

Cultural arts, local attractions, and public art





Vista City Council

Left to right: Councilmember Dan O'Donnell, Councilmember Katie Melendez, Mayor John B. Franklin, Deputy Mayor Corinna Contreras, and Councilmember Joe Green

2022-2024 City Council Goals

Every two years, the City Council adopts Goals and Objectives to guide the City of Vista. The City Council periodically reviews and updates these goals.

Following a review of previous goals, in March 2022 the City Council adopted the following updated goals for 2022-2024:

1. Homelessness & Housing
2. Public Safety
3. Fiscal Responsibility
4. A Cleaner Vista
5. Climate and Environmental Responsibility
6. Parks & Recreation
7. Economic Development
8. Traffic: Continue to improve the flow of traffic for all forms of travel, reduce congestion, and improve our roads and sidewalks

CITY OF VISTA

2023 Legislative Platform

For the purpose of the Legislative Platform, the term "City" includes the City of Vista, the Vista Community Development Commission, Buena Sanitation District, and the Joint Powers Financing Authority. The City supports efforts that promotes its ability to accomplish the City Council's goals and objectives, and which support the effective provision of City services to residents. The City of Vista opposes efforts which reduce local control or local funding sources and supports efforts which provide greater local control and/or local funding options. Any legislative proposals that would increase taxes or fees, or impose a revenue enhancement upon our citizens, will be placed upon the agenda for City Council consideration prior to any staff action. This platform is a general listing of legislative issues of concern to the City.

CORE POLICY ISSUES

Local Control

- a) Advocate efforts that enhance local control of resources, programs, and tools that allow the City to address the needs and concerns of its residents and oppose any efforts that preempt local authority.
- b) Support efforts that reflect a positive, collective, and cohesive approach to regional solutions, as long as local control is maintained.
- c) Oppose efforts that would negatively impact the infrastructure, public health and safety, community development, equitable community services, cultural integrity and environmental programs and other local city efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of life in Vista.

Local Finance and Revenues

- a) Support legislative and budget measures that protect and enhance its existing funding sources, revenue base and control over local government budgeting.
- b) Oppose efforts to shift local funds to the county, state or federal governments, diminish its revenue base or impose new mandates that are unfunded or inadequately funded.
- c) Oppose any efforts that negatively impact the City's fiscal viability by adding further financial burden through unfunded mandates or other means.
- d) Oppose any efforts to increase reporting requirements related to locally raised revenues.
- e) Oppose any efforts to reduce or redirect the City's current revenues.
- f) Oppose efforts that would reduce local discretion over local revenues, taxes, fees and other funding sources.
- g) Oppose efforts that would reduce the City's ability to use debt financing and traditional government financing instruments for the purchase or construction of public purpose improvements and support the enactment of revenue measures and fees that close the gap between the tax revenue from development and the cost of providing city services.
- h) Support state legislation and funding that preserve and improve the safety, security, cultural resources, infrastructure, and well-being of our residents, workers, businesses, and visitors.
- i) Oppose efforts that either increase the City's liability or decrease outside parties' liability concerning municipal finances.
- j) Support a statutory or constitutional redistribution of property tax revenues that more equitably reflects local government responsibilities.

- k) Support efforts to allow access to Redevelopment Bond Proceeds issued in 2011.
- l) Oppose efforts that negatively impact limiting the City's immunity from tort claims.

SPECIFIC ISSUES

Homelessness & Housing

- a) Support efforts to establish a permanent funding source for the development, rehabilitation, and preservation of affordable housing. Advocate for efforts to review and reduce state- mandated regulations on housing development.
- b) Support efforts that provide flexibility and give the City greater authority in meeting the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements.
- c) Support efforts that provide funding and resources to assure local governments have the ability to address the needs of the homeless in their communities and protects the City's ability to preserve public safety and livability.
- d) Support efforts to develop Federal and State participation and financial support for creative programs to provide adequate, affordable housing (home ownership, rental opportunities, rehabilitation, and homeless assistance) for the elderly, handicapped, public sector employees, and low-income persons throughout the community.
- e) Oppose legislation that penalizes a city if units identified in the Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA) are not constructed.
- f) Support legislation that addresses the complex issues of homelessness from a regional perspective that employ best practice strategies to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness by preventing homelessness of those at risk; providing emergency and supportive housing; expanding affordable permanent housing; and promoting self-empowerment through counseling, job training, and other supportive services.

Public Safety

Fire Safety

- a) Support efforts that promote national fire code development using an open, consensus-based process.
- b) Support efforts to create a funding mechanism for a regional fire department in San Diego County that does not diminish the ability of cities to provide essential services and mechanisms that increase reimbursement funding for Medicare and Medi-Cal programs.
- c) Oppose any negative impacts resulting from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, specifically supporting efforts to minimize financial impact on Emergency Medical Services.
- d) Support efforts that increase state and federal funding for local law enforcement, fire suppression, wildfire prevention, hazardous materials mitigation, and Emergency Medical Services.
- e) Support innovative health and safety efforts that improve access to primary and preventive care and decrease use of emergency departments.
- f) Support legislation that provides funding support for disaster preparedness, including earthquake preparedness, fire prevention and response, Homeland Security, hazardous material response, and other local disaster relief activities.
- g) Oppose any efforts that take away the ability of local agencies to choose their emergency

response providers, increase EMS costs, or increase EMS reporting requirements. Support innovative efforts and pilot programs that enable emergency providers to control costs.

- h) Support state and regional efforts to improve interoperability of voice and data communications equipment.
- i) Support measures that provide funding to local agencies for training, effective disaster preparedness, homeland security, and emergency planning.

Law Enforcement

- a) Oppose efforts that would impede local law enforcement from addressing crime problems and recovering costs resulting from a crime committed by a guilty party.
- b) Support efforts that strengthen local law enforcement, including: prevention of driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol; effective abatement of illegal land uses and illegal businesses; the sharing of criminal history information between states; registration of sex offenders; the provision of a greater share of seized assets to localities; cost recovery from the guilty party when alcohol or drugs are present; increased sentences for criminals involved in activities such as violence, gangs, narcotics, and human trafficking or repeated offenses.
- c) Support legislation that would provide increased funding to public safety agencies to enhance training.

Fiscal Responsibility

- a) Actively seek grants for various projects that are consistent with the council goals and needs of the community.
- b) Support the protection of existing local funding sources and the authorities that provide funding to the City of Vista.
- c) Oppose statewide attempts to preempt local budgetary control or remove the ability of a local government Fiscal Responsibility.
- d) Support full cost reimbursement to the City for all Federal, State or County mandated programs.
- e) Advocate and support strategies for managing debt and optimizing funds by judiciously spending, earning, and generating funds without placing undue hardship on its residents.

A Cleaner Vista/Climate and Environmental Responsibility

- a) Support measures to increase the water supply or improve water quality within the region and that encourage voluntary water conservation.
- b) Support measures that serve to protect and enhance the City's natural resources, air quality, open space and parklands, and clean water, and attainment of resource efficiencies such as energy conservation.
- c) Support federal resources that will afford greater ability to adopt energy efficient technologies and implement conservation strategies through grants and other funding mechanisms.
- d) Support legislation that retains and/or provides local flexibility in determining how best to meet state sustainability and energy efficiency standards.
- e) Parks & Recreation
- f) Support legislation and funding that serves to foster and promote an engaged and

connected community.

- g) Support legislation that provides adequate and consistent funding to support the acquisition, development, and operation and maintenance requirements of recreation, parks and community services agencies at the local, State, and Federal levels.
- h) Support legislation that provides funding to support public art, both performing and visual.
- i) Support legislation that provides funding or otherwise promotes programs to address and increase the level of physical activity among our community's residents.

Economic Development

- a) Support efforts that provide tangible and productive tools to encourage job creation, and economic growth.
- b) Support efforts that promote planning, programing, and projects to create infrastructure development.
- c) Support legislation that protects procurement autonomy and public procurement best practices, ratepayer affordability, reliability, decarbonization and social equity initiatives of the community.

Traffic/Transportation: Continue to improve the flow of traffic for all forms of travel, reduce congestion, and improve our roads and sidewalks

- a) Support legislative measures and funding that serve towards the completion of a network of integrated trails, bikeways, roads, and highways to ensure mobility and access.
- b) Support a long-term transportation authorization bill that provides dedicated and continuous appropriations of new monies directly to cities to help them plan for the preservation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and development of local infrastructure.
- c) Oppose transportation proposals that would adversely affect the quality of life in North San Diego County by causing traffic congestion, safety concerns, air pollution, and/or negatively impact equity, social, or environmental justice.

Labor Relations

- a) Oppose efforts that would increase the City's liability for unemployment compensation and retirement pensions including reforms that redefine independent contractors.
- b) Oppose efforts that would increase employee Workers' Compensation benefits without system reforms to offset increased employer costs.
- c) Support efforts to modify the federal Fair Labor Standards Act to permit adjustable work schedules to meet the needs of management and labor and to eliminate prospective and retroactive overtime payments.
- d) Support efforts that provide more flexibility for all aspects of Employer-Employee relations.
- e) Support measures that promote recruitment efforts and educational practices to advance and retain workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion.