The City of Scotts Valley’s Legislative Platform for 2024 is intended to reflect the City’s position on current and future legislation that positively or negatively affects the City’s ability to operate effectively and meet the needs of the community. The platform also guides the Mayor, Councilmembers, and staff to effectively address legislation to support the City’s interests and maintain local control when necessary. Throughout all priorities, two overarching positions exist – opposing unfunded mandates, and opposing any federal or state legislation which takes away local control.

**Economic Development**

Support legislation that will attract and retain businesses to the City
Support legislation that will provide tools and incentives to support job creation in the City
Support legislation that will assist the City in recovering from economic downturns
Support legislation that ensures cities receive promised repayments from the State related to the dissolution of redevelopment agencies.

**Housing/Affordable Housing and Community Development**

Support legislation that allows local government to make decisions regarding house density levels
Oppose legislation that erodes local decision making authority related to land use and community development
Support legislation that provides federal and state funding and grants to support the production of affordable housing and maintenance of existing affordable housing
Support legislation that gives local municipalities credit and incentives for actions under their direct control, including the approval of housing developments
**Infrastructure & Mobility**

Support new statewide funding opportunities for maintenance and repair of local roads

Support legislation and funding regarding increasing safety for pedestrians and bicycles

Support legislation that generates funding for local wastewater infrastructure and storm drain capacity and maintenance

Support legislation that would allow flexibility for public contracting associated with routine public works projects

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**Climate Resiliency & Natural Resource Protection**

Support legislation that streamlines the CEQA/NEPA process

Support legislation that preserves open space and natural resources

Support legislation related to wildfire prevention and suppression

Support legislation to address affordability of commercial and property insurance for businesses and residents including, but not limited to, wildfire risk

Support legislation that aids local communities in accessing timely reimbursement for disaster response expenses

Support legislation to provide funding for to support local water conservation including recycled water and ground water recharge infrastructure

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**Public Safety & Health**

Support legislation and policies related to accessing resources to provide high quality police services

Support legislation that makes it easier to implement emergency prevention and risk reduction programs for at-risk populations
Public Safety & Health (continued from page 2)

Support legislation that provides funding for disaster preparedness and local emergency operations management

Support legislation that regulates vaping devices and other e-cigarettes and their packaging, advertisement and promotion to youth

Support legislation that supports mutual aid agreements between local governments

Support legislation and funding for regional homelessness programs and to mitigate the impacts of homelessness and substance abuse on the environment and communities

Fiscal Sustainability

Support legislation to reimburse cities for unfunded state-mandates that are owed, as identified by the State Treasurer

Oppose legislation that would limit the City’s ability to collect taxes, fees and other vital revenue sources.

Support continued flexibility for using municipally generated funds, such as Utility Users Tax, Development Impact Fees, etc.

Support legislation or ballot measures that prevent the State from redirecting local governments funds such as local taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, etc.

Oppose legislation that would increase local costs related to public employee retirement benefits

Support legislation intended to stabilize local government financing, to increase funding options for local governments, and to equitably allocate revenues from the State

Support legislation that reduces the electoral threshold for passing bonds and taxes that fund city services, affordable housing and public infrastructure projects

Support legislation that preserves local funding avenues
Government Transparency

Support government transparency, public access to required meetings and records, and legislation that facilitates these principles while still allowing flexibility in government operations

Support legislation that allows and expands on the ability of local governments to use digital communications and archiving technology

Oppose legislation that expands the Public Records Act without funding to carry out the new requirements

Oppose legislation that affects the ability of joint powers authorities to self-regulate

Overarching Positions

Oppose legislation that preempts local authority

Oppose legislation for new program mandates that are unfunded or underfunded