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**TO:** The Honorable Detroit City Council

**FROM:** David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

**DATE:** October 22, 2024

**RE: RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution recognizing the City Council's legislative agenda Detroit.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

**BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

- WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Council has engaged in an extensive and diligent process to create a legislative agenda; and
- WHEREAS,** The purpose of the legislative agenda is to identify the top legislative priorities among all of the Council members, thereby highlighting issues where the Council may pursue strategic and unified strategies to address those priorities across all City districts; and
- WHEREAS,** During the development process, each Council office meticulously identified the various issues that were most pressing and important to their individual constituents and to the City as a whole; and
- WHEREAS,** The legislative agenda resulting from the development process identified 5 top priorities: Affordable Housing, Water Infrastructure, Equitable Development, Tax Assessments/Property Taxes, and Public Safety; and
- WHEREAS,** In addition to utilizing these 5 priorities help to identify legislative actions where there is likely to be a consensus of support among Council members, the priorities also encompass broad topics that often intersect with other priorities, which may promote legislative actions that address multiple priorities simultaneously whenever possible; and
- WHEREAS,** While the legislative agenda will continue to be a living document to respond to the City's most pressing issues into the future, this legislative agenda represents a general roadmap for the City Council going forward; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council hereby adopts the legislative agenda.

# CITY OF DETROIT

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# LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FRAMEWORK

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# Introduction

The City of Detroit's Legislative Agenda serves as a resource for residents, legislative leaders and their staff, and other key stakeholders to understand the priorities that guide Detroit's legislative actions.

To develop the legislative agenda, each Council office meticulously identified priorities, that were important to their constituents, with a focus on defining their 'Top 5' priorities.

The 'Top 5' priorities are being used to create a “legislative framework” for integrating all of the priorities and related actions with a goal of taking a collective city-wide approach to addressing key community issues to make a positive impact on the lives of residents.



# Top 5 Priorities

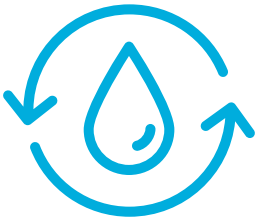
## Council's Top 5 Priority Areas: Focused Initiatives for City Development



### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Ensuring access to affordable housing is key for thriving communities, fostering overall stability and opportunity for all within the City of Detroit.

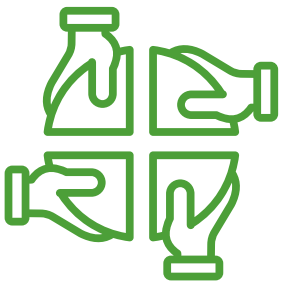
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### WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Investing in and supporting water infrastructure in Detroit is crucial for protecting public health, boosting economic development, and addressing climate change.

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### EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting economic development in Detroit is vital in order to boost job creation and enhance quality of life for individuals who reside in the city.

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### TAX ASSESSMENTS/ PROPERTY TAXES

Tax assessments and property taxes impact Detroit residents' finances, city revenue, and economic health. Fair and transparent policies are essential for equitable taxation and sustainable development.

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### PUBLIC SAFETY

Promoting public safety in a sustainable and community oriented fashion will enable long lasting, sustained change across Detroit.

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# Top 5 Priorities

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- Create and promote policies that help residents remain in homes that they currently own.
  - Support legislation and funding to address the root causes of people experiencing homelessness and provide pathways to permanent residence.
  - Ensure that seniors and people with disabilities have access to affordable housing.
  - Explore all avenues to promote the development of affordable housing units across all Districts while being mindful of potential gentrification.
  - Continue to support the rights of tenants and to minimize evictions by ensuring tenants facing eviction have access to legal representation.
  - Incentivize the building of family housing (3 or more bedrooms) in high density developments as well as in-fill housing.
  - Incentivize and invest in in-fill housing on unused or underutilized property, including the utilization of unspent ARPA funds.
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## WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

- Continue to update and repair aging water and sewer infrastructure.
  - Promote investment in green infrastructure and all available methods to alleviate combined sewer overflow.
  - Support sustainable infrastructure funding to advance the City's climate resiliency efforts and prioritize protection of the Great Lakes from pollution.
  - Protect Detroit residents from the effects of periodic erosion and flooding.
  - Create and implement a Disaster Recovery Plan effectively and efficiently utilizing CDBG-DR funds and others funding mechanisms to repair past flood damage and mitigate future impacts of global warming.
  - Continue community engagement to educate residents about storm water management.
- 

## EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure that development projects will provide jobs, community benefits, and economic opportunities for Detroit residents.
  - Provide broad public outreach to potential local developers to make sure that they are aware of programs and opportunities that are available to assist them.
  - Support programs that provide training, mentorships, and access to potential funding sources for historically disadvantaged residents who want to participate in development.
  - Adopt forward-minded, community-engaged zoning ordinances and Master Plan that clearly incorporates best-practices and sustainable development.
  - Ensure that the development process is community-led, allowing residents to contribute by sharing their thoughts, opinions, and ideas with developers.
  - Promote, and possibly require, co-development opportunities for projects that are above a certain budget threshold and that receive certain tax incentives.
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# Top 5 Priorities Continued

## TAX ASSESSMENTS/ PROPERTY TAXES

- Explore ways to reduce the tax burden of Detroit homeowners while maintaining adequate funding for necessary public services.
  - Continue to monitor annual property tax assessments to verify their accuracy.
  - Make every effort to ensure that residents are aware of programs that may reduce their tax burden and to inform them of their right to appeal to the Board of Review.
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## PUBLIC SAFETY

- Continue working to ensure that the City's public spaces and new developments are safe and accessible for all residents, including seniors and people with disabilities.
  - Protect Detroit residents from environmental hazards including, but not limited to, air quality, blighted and dangerous structures, and harmful byproducts from historical and current industrial facilities.
  - Support the planning and design of shared spaces that foster community interaction, trust, and cohesion.
  - Explore ways to increase access to nutritional food sources and to provide opportunities for healthy recreational activities.
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# Appendix

## Legislative Framework: Top Priorities Integration

CITY COUNCIL TOP 5 PRIORITY AREAS												
	Accountability	Transparency	Economic Development	Environmental Impact of Industry on Residents	Environmental Justice	Generational Wealth	Guaranteed Income	Gun Reform	Gun Violence Prevention	Marijuana Reform	Reparations	Sustainability
Affordable Housing	X	X	X			X						X
Water Infrastructure	X	X			X							X
Equitable Development	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Tax Assessments/ Property Taxes			X			X						
Public Safety	X	X		X				X	X			X
*Seniors	X	X	X	X	X	X						X

\*Note: In the original process, seniors were initially intended to be included among the top 6 priorities. However, internal discussions led to the decision that seniors, as a demographic, are integrated throughout each section of the finalized top 5 priorities for each council member. This integration allows council members to address senior-related concerns in ways that most effectively impact their constituents.