

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Adoption of the City Council 2027 Legislative Agenda
Staff Contact(s):	Steven King, Assistant to the City Manager
Presenter:	Steven King, Assistant to the City Manager
Date of Proposed Action:	October 5, 2026

Issue

Establishing a yearly set of legislative priorities provides clear guidance for advocacy efforts, ensures alignment with community needs, and strengthens the city's voice in regional and state-level policymaking.

Background / Rule

Each year, local governments in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District (TJPD) region adopt legislative priorities and positions that guide their advocacy during the General Assembly session. For the City of Charlottesville, this process is intentionally structured and led by City Council's Legislative Committee, which meets regularly throughout the year to plan, review, and discuss potential legislative items. The committee's work is informed in part by recommendations submitted by City departments, advisory commissions and boards, and partner community agencies, ensuring that the resulting priorities reflect both organizational needs and broader community interests.

This annual process enables City Council to develop a comprehensive statement of legislative positions that communicates to state legislators the issues of specific concern to the City and identifies any requests for legislative action. This year, the Legislative Committee adopted a new tiered approach for evaluating and scoring potential legislative items. The purpose of this system was to enable City Council to further clarify the types of support they are seeking from our State elected officials. City Council reviewed recommendations from various sources before scoring each of the requests. After compiling the scores, items were classified as Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, or Do Not Support. Each tier reflects a different form of engagement, from actively carrying a bill (Tier 1), to supporting amendments (Tier 2), to signing onto related legislation (Tier 3), or indicating that the City should not pursue the item. This structure helps ensure that the Committee's intentions are clear and consistently applied across all legislative priorities. Once adopted, these positions serve as a foundation for coordinated advocacy during the General Assembly session. The City Manager's Office and City Attorney's Office collaborate with TJPD's legislative liaison to monitor legislation, provide analysis, and advance the City's interests.

Analysis

Council will consider the adoption of its 2027 Legislative Agenda as an action item. The final draft will be provided to TJPDC and all members of the local delegation for their ongoing work to represent the issues shared by their constituents.

Financial Impact

Recommendation

The recommendation is to approve the 2027 Legislative Agenda as an indication of City Council's interests during the upcoming General Assembly session.

Recommended Motion (if Applicable)

Attachments

None