

Policy Briefing Summary

City Council



Regarding:	Resolution to Adopt 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 19, 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 establish legislative priorities to guide their advocacy during the General Assembly session. For the City of Charlottesville, this work is led by City Council's Legislative Committee, which meets regularly throughout the year to plan, review, and discuss potential legislative items. Recommendations from City departments, advisory commissions and boards, and partner agencies inform the Committee's discussions, ensuring that the City's priorities reflect both organizational needs and broader community interests.

This structured process allows City Council to present a clear statement of legislative positions to state legislators and identify any requests for legislative action. This year, the Legislative Committee introduced a new tiered system for evaluating and scoring potential items to better define the level of support sought from State elected officials. After reviewing recommendations, Council scored each item and assigned it to one of four categories—Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, or Do Not Support—ranging from actively carrying a bill to signing onto related legislation or declining to pursue an item. This framework ensures consistency and transparency in how priorities are set. Once adopted, these positions guide coordinated advocacy throughout the General Assembly session, supported by the City Manager's Office, the City Attorney's Office, and TJPD's legislative liaison, who 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 TJPD 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

1. Resolution Adopting Legislative Priorities
2. Proposed Legislative Priorities Revised