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Sandy City's Legislative Priorities for the 2026 Utah State Legislative Session

Maintaining Local Land Use Authority- Local governments should maintain the authority to make zoning and land use decisions for their communities as they are the elected leaders closest to the people and deeply understand their community's character and local needs best. We oppose comprehensive state zoning pre-emptions.

Affordable Housing- The State Legislature continues to explore various bills that they hope would create more opportunities for affordable housing. The City is supportive of creating a wide variety of housing product, including more affordable housing utilizing state incentives, while preserving local government control of land use decision making. We support legislation that encourages housing affordability through the lens of the "total cost" to purchase and live in your home over time.

Little Cottonwood Canyon Transportation- As the state considers public funding options for canyon transportation, Sandy feels strongly that the legislature must prioritize enhanced busing and shuttle services, exclusive of the EIS process.

Wildland Urban Interface Fire Fees - Past legislative action has contemplated charging residents who live within a wildland urban interface area a fee for potential fire suppression costs. Since a significant portion of Sandy City lies within a wildland urban interface area, this fee would impose a financial cost to City residents.

Water Fees and Water Bills- Past legislative action has also contemplated imposing a fee on all water users to create a fund for water capital projects. This fee, in a community that has already borne the cost of creating its own water distribution system, amounts to a tax or subsidy from all existing water users for the benefit of growing areas of the State that have not yet paid for their own water infrastructure system. We are concerned about the imposition of such a fee, particularly when there is no established plan for how those funds will be allocated or used.

Homelessness Funding- Sandy City hosts the MVP transitional housing facility and relies on the State homeless mitigation fund to help pay for the costs created by hosting that facility. If the State decides to create a large homeless campus, it is important that the State also fund all of the services that will be required at that campus, so that the amounts available in the homeless mitigation fund are not reduced.

Municipal Property Taxing Authority – Maintain our existing municipal property taxing authority.

Trail Connections – Partnering with the State to expand regional and statewide trail connections and networks.