



City Council Working Priorities

February 2025

Mission

The mission of Richmond City Council is to represent citizens in creating and amending local laws, providing government policy and oversight, and approving the city budget.

Vision

Richmond City Council is committed to creating a vibrant community that is a great place to live, work, learn, play, visit, and raise a family.

In collaboration with the Mayor as well as local & regional partners; City Council's focus is to serve and represent the nine voter districts of the city. This document serves as an introduction to the priorities shared across the nine voter districts and a starting point for building increased collaboration.

The City Council has developed five overarching areas used to frame their approach to legislation, budgeting, and building relationships & partnerships with regional partners, the state, and local stakeholders:

- 1. Responsive, Accountable and Innovative Government*
- 2. Safe and Clean Neighborhoods*
- 3. Strong Futures for Children, Families, and Adults*
- 4. Planned Growth, Economic Justice, and Affordable Housing*
- 5. Strategic Infrastructure Investment*

These principles serve as a guide for the development of Council legislation and budget priorities to be delivered in collaboration with the Mayor and Administration. These shared principles shall serve as Council's broad vision for the city.

The following lists are by no means exhaustive but are a compilation of submitted Councilmember requests and priorities, as well as emerging focus areas identified by Council staff from Standing Committee meetings and work sessions.



Responsive, Accountable and Innovative Government

Emerging Areas of Focus

- Preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters (earthquakes, snowstorms, hurricanes, pandemics, etc.)
- Making it easy to pay bills and fees
- Engaging with and proactive outreach to the community
- Making it easy for residents to report issues and make service requests
- Expanding constituent response capacity across all city agencies & Council organization
- Commitment to and expansion of resident-led Richmond People's Budget process
- Improving customer service and proactive outreach for seniors, immigrants, and refugees



Safe and Clean Neighborhoods

Emerging Areas of Focus

- Responding to community's public safety concerns (i.e., investment in Fire & EMS, Police, 911)
- Reducing traffic accidents and congestion
- Preventing fires through public education and safety inspections
- Increasing capacity within Code Enforcement
- Giving residents the information they need about recycling in their neighborhoods or business
- Accessibility and mobility improvements to access city services
- Parks improvements (playground equipment, trees, community gardens)
- Safe Streets/multimodal Investments (walking biking, riding the bus, driving)
- Expanding resources for combatting addiction, mental health support/care, and gun violence prevention
- Street light installation and repair citywide
- ADA accessibility across entire City Park System



Strong Futures for Children, Families, and Adults

Emerging Areas of Focus

- Supporting development of workforce housing
- Providing youth skill development opportunities
- Offering quality recreational opportunities
- Fostering an environment that embraces diversity and encourages inclusion
- Offering quality opportunities to celebrate, connect with and contribute to Richmond's creative and cultural ecosystem
- Sustainability and climate change resilience projects
- Childcare access expansion
- Housing and Food deserts eliminated
- Affordable health care access
- Relief from high taxes on homeowners
- Cost of Living Adjustment for RRS families
- Community Center and Libraries: Full equipment refresh, including computers, lighting, office equipment
- Community-based services and essential resources for children, parents, and seniors



Planned Growth, Economic Justice, and Affordable Housing

Emerging Areas of Focus

- Providing affordable housing options
- Providing job opportunities and workforce development
- Supporting small business and/or recruiting new businesses
- Exploring options to fund development that provides multiple priorities such as affordable housing, homelessness prevention, etc.
- Supporting inclusion of affordable housing in residential developments of private developers
- Increase shelter capacity and wraparound services for homeless and housing insecure
- Reopen closed storefronts and revitalize commercial corridors
- Increase diversity of housing options
- Tax and rent relief so families can afford to stay in Richmond
- Increase economic development in the Central Business District
 - Demolition of Coliseum
 - Building of hotel
 - GRTC hub
 - Housing and downtown grocery store
- Increase jobs, and public services.
- Rethink the existing economic development plan
- Realign property assessment with the budget year
- Increase investment in Family Crisis Fund, Eviction Diversion Program, and Right to Counsel for Evictions
- Dedicated source of affordable housing funding identified
- Implement a robust and responsive Rental Inspection Program
- Teachers and Healthcare worker housing incubator for parents -- housing for parents who are training to become teacher aides/health workers.



Strategic Infrastructure Investment

Emerging Areas of Focus

- Providing a connected, safe, and reliable bus and transit system
- Offering quality sidewalks
- Providing well-maintained utility infrastructure (water, sewer, stormwater, electric/gas)
- Supporting actions that reduce energy bills, reduce energy consumption and support renewable energy use throughout the community
- Providing high quality spaces in which people live, work, and relax on a day-to-day basis
- Investment in Priority Growth Nodes identified in Richmond 300
- Stormwater Infrastructure on Southside and other priority areas in RVAgreen 2050
- Public transit infrastructure and operating investment to keep zero fare without reducing frequency
- A coordinated strategy for linking city investments to local economic development goals
- Strategic parking infrastructure to support commercial corridors without interrupting multimodal and public transit investment
- Safe infrastructure to support all affordable housing development
- Investment in annexed communities
- Full funding for the Combined Sewer Overflow project
- Improved stormwater management in annexed areas of City