RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UKIAH APPROVING AND ADOPTING A 2026 ADVOCACY PLATFORM

WHEREAS; an advocacy platform is a tool that the City Council and staff can utilize to support the goals and objectives of the City; and

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature alone considers thousands of bills during each two- year legislative session, state and federal administrative agencies establish policies and engage in rule-making and many precedent setting decision are heard by the California and federal courts of appeal and the California and United States Supreme Court; and any number of these bills, administrative actions and regulations and court cases can affect cities—through changes in funding, employment law, or water regulation as examples; and

WHEREAS, development of an Advocacy Platform provides the opportunity to identify issues and priorities that may be addressed through legislative and administrative advocacy and amicus briefs to California and federal appellate courts; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to be proactive and involved in the governmental, administrative and judicial decision-making process directly affecting the City of Ukiah and the League of California Cities; and

WHEREAS, the platform will also be used when applicable on other local, regional, state, and federal matters not evaluated by the League; and

WHEREAS, adoption of a 2026 Advocacy Platform enables the City Council and staff to react quickly to most legislative or administrative issues or the filing of amicus briefs as they arise; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Advocacy Platform can be provided to State and Federal representatives so they are made aware of the issues that are important to Ukiah; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to adopt the 2026 Advocacy Platform which provides overall guidance that allows the City Manager and the Mayor, or their designee, to send letters of support or opposition to the League, the local, state and federal legislatures and administrative agencies and to participate in amicus briefs to the state and federal appellate courts in certain instances.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Ukiah hereby adopts a "2026 Advocacy Platform," attached as "Exhibit A" to this Resolution. Further, any activity taken under the legislative platform will be reported to the City Council, and all letters of support/opposition will be documented and forwarded to the City Council and included within the "Petitions and Communications" section of the subsequent council meeting following issuance for public review.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED this 4th day of February, 2026.

AYES: Councilmembers Crane, Rodin, Orozco, Criss and Mayor Sher.
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: None.

Susan Sher, Mayor

ATTEST:

Kristine Lawler, City Clerk/CMC

City of Ukiah

2026 Advocacy Platform

PRIORITIES

The City of Ukiah takes the following positions and the Mayor and the City Manager may send corresponding letters of opposition or support without further City Council action and, whenever filing deadlines preclude prior City Council action, may authorize naming the City as a party to an amicus brief to be filed in state or federal court, provided the City incurs no cost to join the amicus brief.

A. Finance

Protect Local Revenue Sources The City opposes attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate city revenue sources and opposes any efforts at the local, state or federal level to retain additional revenues currently dedicated to local government for state purposes.

Municipal Bond Tax Oppose any effort to eliminate, or cap, the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, one of the few tools left for local governments to finance large capital projects.

Replace Lost Redevelopment Funding Seek, promote, and implement any new or alternative approaches that may replace redevelopment funding mechanisms that deliver positive benefits to Ukiah.

Unfunded Mandates Oppose measures that would impose State and Federal mandated costs for which there is no guarantee of local reimbursement or offsetting benefits (i.e., unfunded mandates).

Control Workers' Compensation and Public Retirement Costs Support legislation and policy that control escalating workers' compensation and public retirement system costs to public agencies and taxpayers.

Improving Government Debt Management Oppose measures that restrict local control over debt issuance and support legislation that provides more flexible tools for managing and refinancing municipal debt.

Cybersecurity for Financial Systems Support initiatives that provide funding and training to enhance the cybersecurity of financial systems, protecting sensitive public financial data.

Support for Transparency and Accountability Standards Advocate for policies and funding to assist local governments in implementing new state and federal reporting standards, particularly those aimed at improving transparency.

B. Utilities

Local Utility Services The City opposes any regulations or legislative actions or court decision that would eliminate or limit the City's ability to provide utility services within the service area.

Low Carbon Energy The City supports initiatives that remove policy barriers or create financial incentives

to advance emerging low and zero-carbon technologies.

Energy Value The City supports any legislative or regulatory action that increases the energy cost for the electric customer and encourages policymaking that recognizes energy affordability.

Cap and Trade Program The City supports the use of California Air Resources Board's (CARB) Cap and Trade program allowances and energy resources that are clean, renewable and cost effective.

Wireless and Telecommunication Facilities Oppose any federal or state legislation or regulatory policy that would further erode the ability of local governments to regulate wireless and other telecommunication facilities.

Local Water Use Support efforts to maintain and strengthen locally informed and regionally coordinated water-use decision-making, while encouraging innovative solutions like water recycling and the many benefits of sustainability to the Ukiah Valley's water supply, conserving the vital resource of potable water, and protecting our diverse water portfolio.

C. Local Control

Sustainable, Reliable Funding The City supports local, state and federal budget plans that provide sustainable, reliable funding for priority local government programs.

Local Control and Streamlining Regulations The City values its ability and authority to exercise local control, enable excellent public services and protect and enhance the quality of life for Ukiah residents and businesses. The City supports efforts to streamline regulations that simplify the job of running the City, allow the City to respond to locally identified risks and recovery needs, and opposes efforts that erode the City's authority to control its own affairs.

Housing and Homelessness The City supports legislation that provides Cities additional funding and tools and preserves local authority to address housing production, affordability, and homelessness challenges.

D. Transportation and Streets

Transportation Infrastructure The City supports increases in transportation funding for local street and road improvements to promote investing in the maintenance and rehabilitation of aging infrastructure.

Alternative Funding Solutions Support legislation that reduces local reliance on local gas tax revenues for roads and streets improvements and proposes new alternative funding solutions with longer-term sustainability

Alternative Transportation The City supports policy and legislation that encourages, and funding that supports, the use of alternative modes of transportation such as bicycling, walking, and public transportation.

E. Economic Development

Economic Development Opportunities The City embraces efforts to obtain funding for economic development and environmental initiatives, including planning and implementation of regional transportation and traffic congestion relief projects and job creation and retention programs, such as those funded through the Community Development Block Grant program, Economic Development Administration, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Small Business program. The City also supports legislation that eliminates barriers to economic development in rural areas and opposes legislation that may unduly create new barriers to economic development.

F. Environmental and Health and Safety

Clean Environment The City supports policy that advocates for a clean environment and policy to improve environmental standards, promote renewable and carbon-free energy policies, and increase the City's climate resiliency and adaptation capabilities

Public Health & Safety The City supports efforts that reduce exposure to public health risks, preserve the quality of the environment, and ensure the general well-being of the community.

G. Public Safety

Public Safety Resources The City supports legislation and policies that enable local officials to access resources to provide quality police, fire, emergency management, emergency medical services, community paramedicine, youth violence prevention initiatives, the integration of emergency medical services (EMS) and fire response systems to improve resource efficiency and service delivery, and to engage the community in its own safety.

First Responder Health and Safety Support legislation and funding that protect the health and safety of first responders and emergency personnel, including occupational, environmental, and mental health risks.

Street Outreach Teams Support new funding from the county, state, and federal government for expanded Street Outreach Teams in collaboration with law enforcement, emergency medical services, community paramedics, and the County's health and mental health departments for those affected by homelessness and mental health issues.

Funding to Remove and Clean Homeless Encampments Support new funding from county, state, and federal sources for the legal removal and storage of homeless belongings and cleanup of areas impacted by illegal camping, including the abatement of abandoned vehicles.

Supportive Programs and Solutions Support legislation that assists in preventing and reducing crime, such as intervention and prevention programs, mental health initiatives, enhanced protective equipment, and solutions for at-risk individuals.

Support De-escalation Training Support police reform legislation that provides de-escalation training and the funding for such training, and that reduces unnecessary and excessive use of force.

Graffiti Abatement Support legislation that would strengthen state graffiti law and provide local government revenue and resources for graffiti abatement.

Speed Limits Support legislation that would allow local jurisdictions to set speed limits based upon safety findings and/or provide provisions for cost recovery of traffic enforcement.

Advanced Technologies Support funding and legislation for advanced technologies to enhance disaster response, resource allocation, wildfire risk assessment, training, and operations efficiency.

Transparency Support funding for public safety technologies like body cameras, data analytics, and surveillance tools to improve transparency and efficiency.

H. Parks, Open Space, and Community

Sustainable Quality of Life The City values a sustainable quality of life and supports parks and open space, recreation facilities, environmental and climate protection, resource conservation, libraries, arts and culture and legislation and policies that emphasize sustainable development.

Park Infrastructure Support legislation that provides funding for rehabilitation, development, and capital improvements of local parks, open space, and community facilities.

Public Art Support legislation that provides funding to support public art, both performing and visual.

Funding for Youth and Seniors Support legislation that provides local funding for youth and senior recreational and enrichment programming.

Great Redwood Trail Support funding and legislation for the Great Redwood Trail, assuring funding for maintenance staff and including streamlining the build-out of future segments and amenities and supporting railbanking, which preserves the opportunity for future transportation, utility, and other public infrastructure-related uses.

I. Emergency Management

Disaster Management The City supports policy that helps improve disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and climate resiliency.

Funding for Emergency Management Support legislation, strategies, and initiatives that provide increased local, state, and federal funding for emergency and disaster preparedness, planning, response, and recovery.

Fire Prevention Support legislation and funding for wildfire risk reduction efforts, including hazardous fuels reduction, vegetation management, controlled burns, and public education on fire prevention in high-risk areas.

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J. Public Workforce

Sustainable Pension and Retirement Health Benefits The City supports policy that promotes the sustainability of public pension and retirement health benefits.

Competitive and Valuable Employment Advocate for legislation that supports the City's ability to provide competitive and valuable employment opportunities.

K. Planning and Land Use

Projects in the Sphere of Influence Oppose project entitlements in areas outside the City limits, but within the City's adopted Sphere of Influence that do not conform to the development standards of the City and its 2040 General Plan or the Ukiah Valley Area Plan.

Changes of Organization Oppose requests for changes of organization (primarily, annexation) from other entities and agencies if those requests are done without prior collaboration with the City and are proposed within the City's Sphere of Influence.

Regional Planning Support regional planning initiatives, especially those that preserve and enhance agricultural resources and increase the supply of housing and employment opportunities for residents.

Long-Term Planning Support legislation and funding initiatives for long-term planning efforts related to affordable housing, agricultural and open-space preservation, economic development, and climate change adaptation and resiliency.

Housing Pursue housing legislation to encourage expanding the housing supply in our area, including more flexibility for local jurisdictions to work together to provide housing that counts toward Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements and the needs of the community.

L. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Equitable Access Support legislation and funding that helps the City of Ukiah provide residents with equitable access to City employment, programs and services, including emergency preparedness, response, and recovery services.

Eliminating Barriers Support legislation and funding that will allow the City and its community partners to provide all residents with the tools necessary to grow and thrive.

Community Engagement Support legislation and funding for the City and its community partners to proactively engage with residents on issues of prejudice, discrimination, and social justice to promote education, understanding, expanded opportunity, value, and acceptance of the diverse groups within our community, creating an environment where all feel welcome and safe in Ukiah.

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M. General Governance

Consistency with Adopted Plans **Support funding and legislation that supports implementation of goals and initiatives within the 2040 General Plan, the City Council's Strategic Plan, and the Climate Initiatives associated with Resolution 2022-44.**

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