



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: TOM FISHER, TOWN MANAGER
LESLIE EDWARDS, FINANCE DIRECTOR
RE: LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT
DATE: DECEMBER 13, 2022

Summary and Background: As the 2023 State Legislative Session approaches, Staff is proposing a document to aid Town Council and Staff in taking official Town positions on bills that are introduced in the State Legislature. Each year, over 600 bills are typically introduced that may affect the Town's interests, either in a positive or negative manner. Due to the fast-paced nature of the State Legislative process and the everchanging language of numerous bills of substance, it is critical that the Town of Frisco maintains an effective and responsive system for taking and communicating official Town positions on relevant legislation. Staff conducted research of Legislative Policies of the Colorado Municipal League, CC4CA, and I-70 Coalition along with the cities of Aspen, Boulder, Centennial, Fort Collins, and others. The goal of the proposed Town of Frisco Legislative Policy Statement is to identify general legislative issues that impact the Town of Frisco, along with the Town's policy principles on these issues. These issues may have been addressed in the past at the legislature, or they could be issues that are anticipated in the future. This proposed Legislative Policy Statement is intended to be consistent with Town Council's Strategic Plan priorities. Adopting a Legislative Policy Statement is a best practice that will allow Staff and Council to move quickly when legislation is introduced at the Capitol. The ability to act in a timely manner increases the Town's overall effectiveness when it comes to influencing legislation that affects municipalities. Staff's goal for this proposed document is to be broad, yet as inclusive as possible to capture important issues to the Town. The 2023 Legislative Session convenes on Monday, January 9, 2023 and adjourns on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

Analysis: If Council is supportive of the direction to pursue a 2023 Legislative Policy Statement and adopts it by resolution, there will be several benefits. This Policy Statement will provide direction on the front end of the State Legislative Session, thereby giving the Town the ability to take more responsive action to specific pieces of legislation. In addition, the Legislative Policy Statement will allow both Town Council and Staff to communicate with State Legislators and the public in a more effective manner regarding the Town's positions on important policy issues. As State legislation can have a significant impact on the Town of Frisco community, this proposed statement would support all five of Town Council's Strategic Plan priorities.

The Town offers this Legislative Policy Statement as a guideline to policy leaders for reference when considering decisions impacting the Town of Frisco. With the coordination of the Town Manager, it will be used by individual Town Council members and Town Staff to inform positions taken on specific bills once the upcoming legislative session begins. The document would also be shared with the public on the Town's website and shared with the Town's legislative delegation. At that point, Council may consider adopting amendments to the Policy Agenda to address specific bills that have been proposed. Council may revisit the Policy Agenda at any point. Modifications to this Policy Agenda should be consistent, when applicable, with the criteria listed below:

1. Uniformity with current Town council goals, community expectations, and the Frisco Community Plan;
2. Impact on our community's general health, safety, and welfare;
3. Expected relevance in the upcoming or present state or federal legislative sessions;
4. Uniqueness of issue or impact to the Town of Frisco and/or to our regional partners;
5. Viability or likelihood of achieving goal weighed with importance of beginning to highlight critical issues;
6. Opportunity for providing funding for Town of Frisco or its community partners; and,

This policy agenda recognizes that circumstances will arise wherein a Town Council member or Staff may be a lone representative of an organization and must address and/or vote on a policy position on the spot. Departures from these criteria are made in unique circumstances as determined by Council, such as when adoption of a Town position is important to support its regional partners, even while the policy in question is otherwise of limited consequences to the Town. This policy agenda further recognizes that Frisco may look at how affiliations and like-minded organizations may take a position on certain pieces of legislation. Frisco will strive to take a position with the recognition that it is unique, and although guidance from interest groups and the Colorado Municipal League may be sought, there are times where our position may not be consistent or aligned.

Financial Impact: This is not expected to have a related financial expense for the Town of Frisco. If anything, providing clear direction in the area of legislative policy may result in additional grant funding to the Town, through support of policy that provides such grant opportunities to entities throughout the State of Colorado.

Alignment with Strategic Plan: This policy statement has been prepared with Council's Strategic Plan and Goals at the forefront of decision-making.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends Town Council support adopting a Legislative Policy Statement, and provide recommended changes, as appropriate. If directed to proceed, Staff will present a Resolution to adopt the policy along with a final proposed form of the document to Town Council for review and official action at the January 10 meeting.

Reviews and Approvals: This report has been reviewed and approved by:
Tom Fisher, Town Manager
Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager