



MEMORANDUM

P.O. Box 4100 ♦ FRISCO, COLORADO 80443

TO: MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: STACEY NELL, TOWN CLERK
LESLIE EDWARDS, FINANCE DIRECTOR
RE: 2024 LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENT
DATE: SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Summary and Background: As the 2024 State Legislative Session approaches its start in January of 2024, Town Staff are presenting the attached 2024 Town of Frisco Legislative Policy Statement. This document was worked on throughout 2023 by a Workgroup consisting of the following Town Staff and Councilmembers:

- Tom Fisher, Town Manager
- Leslie Edwards, Finance Director
- Stacey Nell, Town Clerk & Executive Assistant to the Town Manager
- Rick Ihnken, Mayor Pro Tem
- Jessica Burley, Councilmember
- Lisa Holenko, Councilmember

This workgroup proposes that this document be considered for adoption by Town Council to set forth the Town's legislative priorities. This Statement, once approved, would be published publicly on the FriscoGov.com website, sent to legislative representatives, along with hard copies available for public inspection from the Town Clerk's Office.

This document provides guidance for community members, staff, elected officials, and advocacy partners representing the Town, who are interested in the Town's official stances on bills introduced to the legislature at both the Federal and State levels. Each legislative session, over 600 bills can be introduced at the State legislature that can affect the Town's interests. Due to the fast nature of the legislative process, it's important to proactively state, and be able to refer back to, the Town's stated priorities. This document is organized into relevant topics of interest to the community, and those topics are sorted into categories by the same name as Council's Strategic Plan Principles:

- We provide progress-driven **Quality Core Services**
- We support a **Thriving Economy**
- We enhance **Community Inclusivity**
- We provide **Vibrant Culture, Arts and Recreation Opportunities**

This Legislative Policy Statement also maintains an effective response system for receiving, organizing, and sending official Town positions on legislation.

This workgroup researched and read Legislative Policy documents from partnering organizations listed in Appendix A of the document, as well as other Colorado mountain resort/rural communities, to assist in the drafting of this Statement.

Analysis: 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, then proactively and efficiently state what type of legislation we would support pertaining to that topic. These issues may have been addressed in the past at the legislature, or they could be issues that are anticipated in the future. 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.

Council may consider adopting amendments to this document, to address specific bills that have been proposed. Council may revisit the Policy Agenda at any point. This Workgroup recommends that any amendments should be consistent, when applicable, with the criteria listed below:

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

This Workgroup acknowledges that circumstances can arise wherein a Town Council member or Staff may be a lone representative of the Town, 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 Statement also recognizes that Frisco may look at how affiliates 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 legislative policy priorities 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: The enclosed Legislative 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 amend or publish this draft, Staff will present a Resolution to adopt the policy along with a final version of the document to Town Council for review and official action at a future meeting prior to the beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session at the State Capitol.

Reviews and Approvals:

This report has been reviewed and approved by:

- Tom Fisher, Town Manager
- Diane McBride, Assistant Town Manager
- Leslie Edwards, Finance Director

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – 2024 Proposed Legislative Policy Statement