

Borough of State College
Legislative Priorities Guidance Document
2016-17

The State College Borough Council develops and endorses a set of legislative priorities to guide Council's efforts to protect the Borough's interests, seek state and federal funding to support local investments and programs, and to work with the Pennsylvania legislature and the United States Congress to focus attention on the needs and priorities of the Borough. The Borough's Legislative Priorities document is adopted biennially in the year following the municipal elections with an annual review by Council to address issues and legislation that has been introduced or proposed that is not otherwise addressed by the Legislative Priorities document. The Legislative Priorities document sets the Borough's legislative agenda, and helps to guide advocacy efforts in Harrisburg and Washington, DC.

The Legislative Priorities document is not intended to be a specific proposal or endorsement of individual legislation except where a specific bill number is identified. Rather, the document is intended to be a general guidance document to provide authority and assist Council Members, the Mayor and Borough staff to work with local representatives in support of the broad goals identified in the document. An overarching guiding principle for the Legislative Priorities guidance document is the strong support for local authority to decide matters that are of importance to the Borough of State College and its residents. Borough Council recognizes the importance of having local authority for fiscal, operation and management to support local services in the best interest of the community. In supporting this strong local authority, Borough Council also recognizes two important principles:

1. Not all sources of revenue and other grants of authority work equally in all municipalities of the Commonwealth. Thus, Council strongly supports that ability of municipalities to identify those matters that are most important for the individual municipalities across the Commonwealth.
2. There are some matters that are not purely local. Matters such as clean air and water must be addressed at a level of government that protects the interests of all communities and their residents. Clean air and water are but two examples. In each case where there are external impacts, a broader determination must be made.

Finally, it is not the purpose of the document, nor should it be inferred in any way, that Council intends to enact local fiscal, operational or management policy to the fullest extent identified by the document. Rather the express purpose of this document is to assist elected and appointed officials in working to greater local control of matters that specially address local issues in the best interest of the community and its residents.