

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	November 20, 2023
Action Required:	Vote of Approval (by motion, no resolution(s) required)
Presenter:	David Blount - TJPDC
Staff Contacts:	Jacob Stroman, City Attorney
Title:	<b>Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPDC) Proposed Legislative Program for 2024</b>

**Background**

Each year, the localities in the Thomas Jefferson Planning District (TJPD) region adopt legislative priorities and positions on issues of importance and concern to local governments. These positions form the basis for local advocacy efforts during the General Assembly session each winter. The City Attorney's Office works in conjunction with TJPD's legislative liaison during the session to provide advocacy on behalf of the City's interests. Additionally, City Council establishes a statement of legislative positions as a means of communicating to legislators (i) issues of specific concern and interest to Council, and (ii) requests, if any, for legislative action items.

**Discussion**

TJPDC Program—The TJPDC legislative program is crafted based on discussions with and input from the six localities in the region. The recommendations, requests and positions in the program cover a range of issues and topics, which include perennial items of importance; those that are anticipated to become the subject of proposed legislation or state budget items during the upcoming session; and items that may be of concern to the entire region or to individual localities in the region.

**Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan**

The TJPDC's legislative program generally aligns closely with the City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan. However, there are two positions in the legislative program which differ from Council's past positions. First, the legislative program's Environmental and Water Quality section includes a position opposing mandating expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act's coverage area. In addition, the legislative program's General Government section includes a position that the principles of sovereign immunity for local governments and their employees should be maintained. The alternative motion below would address those issues should Council so desire.

**Community Engagement**

N/A

**Budgetary Impact**

N/A

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that City Council, by motion, approve TJPDC's legislative position statements.

***Suggested Motion: "I move to approve the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's 2024 Legislative Program as Presented to Council on December 4, 2023."***

### **Alternatives**

TJPDC needs the buy-in of its members for its legislative agenda; however, Council may note for the record ("reserve") its difference of opinion as to one or more matters within that agenda, and approve the agenda subject to its specific reservations.

**Suggested Alternative Motion: "I move to approve the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission's 2023 Legislative Program as Presented to Council on December 4, 2023 with the exception of its opposition to expansion of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act's coverage area and its opposition to considering revisions to the doctrine of sovereign immunity."**

### **Attachments**

1. 2024 TJPDC Leg Prog DRAFT. October 2023