

2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

# CITY OF PRESCOTT

EVERYBODY'S HOMETOWN

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Mayor Cathey Rusing

Mayor Pro Tem Lois Fruhwirth

Councilmember Ted Gambogi

Councilmember Mary Frederickson

Councilmember Jay Ruby

Councilmember Patrick Grady

Councilmember Jim Garing



# CITY PROFILE

## SINCE 1863

The City of Prescott is a full-service charter city and the seat of Yavapai County. It is the center of Arizona's third-largest metro area, the only assured water provider in the region, Arizona's territorial capitol, and home to world class recreation, education, and tourism.

## 45 SQUARE MILES

### TOTAL LAND AREA

Prescott is located in the mountains with elevations ranging from 5,000 to 6,000 feet above sea level. With challenging, however beautiful, topography and more than 60 miles to the Phoenix metro area, delivery of essential services like water and public safety requires constant innovation and creativity.

## 350,000+

### AIRPORT OPERATIONS

Prescott Regional Airport is consistently one of the nation's 25 busiest airports. Operations include a USFS wildfire air support base serving all of Northern Arizona and extensive pilot and air traffic control training to prepare for military service and address national shortages.



# FUNDING PRIORITIES



A second phase of work on the northeast airport ramp could provide **a hard stand for wildfire-fighting helicopters, a cargo loading area, and the beginnings of an aeronautical innovation center (\$3M)** in partnership with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. **Design of a runway shift and extension (\$4M)** would further expand the airport's ability to support fully-loaded air tankers and other large aircraft operations.

On-ramps between Highways 89 and 89A were previously designed with ADOT funding. **Construction of the 89/89A onramps (\$4M)** will complete this project and improve the movement of goods and people throughout the region.

The new **Phippen Trail low water crossing (\$2.3M bridge, \$8.1M road)** will connect Prescott and Prescott Valley to new development and open new retail opportunities for the area.

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# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Preserve and protect the City's charter and local authority to govern, including maximum local control over funds, land use, policies and programs.

Enhance public safety response times by providing resources for appropriate equipment and facilities, mitigating the impacts of illicit drugs, and limiting low acuity responses.

Promote jobs, housing, and enterprise that enhance quality of life for the people of Prescott. Provide tools, including Tax Increment Financing (TIF), to support infrastructure and redevelopment.

Direct resources to state and local infrastructure projects in the Prescott area, including our regional road network.

Allow local budget flexibility in support of best financial practices.

Provide clarity around recruitment confidentiality to empower Arizona communities to attract the best available talent.

Support legislation and activities that maintain and enhance the City's local authority to manage natural resources including water, open space, and recreational opportunities.

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# RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE



Preserve and protect the City's charter, powers, authorities, duties and prerogatives to enact local legislation concerning local affairs and the timing of local elections.

Support measures that promote fiscal stability, flexibility, and independence. Preserve the City's total revenue base and maximum local control over funds and programs to ensure local capacity to support necessary services.

Seek to make housing affordable for all community members including police officers, firefighters, teachers, healthcare workers, and so on. Prevent hyperinflation of mobile home leases and other residential rental costs.

Preserve the City's rural character, western heritage, and diverse natural resources.

Pursue budget allocations and grants to help cities with construction of public infrastructure including facilities, roads, and utilities.

Allow for the use of tax increment financing for local infrastructure and redevelopment.

As "Everybody's Hometown," the City of Prescott recognizes, welcomes, and supports all residents, businesses, churches, service organizations, and visitors without regard for race, religion, ability, age, tenure in our community, or any other identifying characteristic. Government action should likewise promote equal opportunity and access to services.

Legislation should be considerate of a wide variety of lifestyles, including residents that do not live in or near major metropolitan areas. State and federal policy should exempt or reduce urban-focused regulations for rural areas.

Support legislation and funding for nonprofit and education partners and the services they provide for our community.

Support access to information and expand library resources, services and programs for all members of our community.

Ensure City input on state shared revenues.

# SAFE COMMUNITIES



Support efforts to strengthen, modernize, and provide funding for emergency response and preparedness capacities.

Support legislation and funding to enhance federal and state wildland firefighting capability at Prescott Regional Airport.

Support cellular infrastructure to expand access to 911 services with regional planning and local control.

Recognize aging state and local populations and dedicate resources to meet demand for the full range of healthcare services in rural areas, including medical first responders.

Reduce the concentration and impact of sober living homes in Arizona communities. Increase oversight of homes associated with drug rehabilitation businesses.

Support protections for public safety personnel and resources for the tools and appropriate facilities that allow them to protect our communities.

Oppose legislation that would erode due process for individuals, including law enforcement officers and staff, such as requiring premature disclosure.

Oppose legislative proposals that seek to restrict the use of K-9 units, drones, and other public safety personnel, technology or equipment.

Support legislation and other regulation to reduce the prevalence and impact of illicit substances in our community.

Support the capture of data related to drug abuse including diversion, rehabilitation and probation program success rates and the full costs of related neighborhood and community impacts.

# DYNAMIC ECONOMY



Promote jobs, housing, and enterprise.

Support economic development initiatives including the use of state incentive programs to attract business to the City of Prescott.

Preserve and enhance tourism, including eco-tourism, as a significant economic engine for our city, region, and state. Support funding legislation that enhances local events and amenities.

Support the broader use of bed taxes for police, fire, medical, and other impacts of tourism on a community.

Support and expand Prescott Regional Airport as a maturing economic catalyst, bridging university workforce development and research with emerging technologies and aerospace industry expansion.

Re-address short-term rental legislation including tax levels and local control to address housing, neighborhood character, quality of life, local history, and so on.

Support legislation and funding for business incubation, entrepreneurship, and innovation.

Support legislation and funding to facilitate a continuum of housing options and empower local jurisdictions to collaborate, develop, and implement solutions that reduce poverty and homelessness and build capacity for individuals, families, and communities.

Support job creation and worker training that contributes to healthy local ecosystems, emerging industries and local economies.

Support arts funding that enhances the capacity of cultural organizations serving the city.

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# RELIABLE INFRASTRUCTURE



Champion the development of a regional road network including ADOT highways and arterial city streets and roads.

Promote development of the Fain Road-to-Interstate 17 Connector as a catalyst for economic development and improved performance across the entire road network.

Support rural city access to infrastructure funds for local improvements.

Support efforts that assist the City in meeting its waste and recycling mandates while adding flexibility to comply with state regulations.

Support legislation that would encourage "dig once" undergrounding of utilities.

Support efforts to consider electric vehicle impact on municipal roadways and parking infrastructure. Support reasonable and fair measures to ensure all vehicles are contributing to community road and parking infrastructure without invading privacy.

Ensure that annual budget fluctuations do not negatively impact funding for roads, bridges, and related infrastructure.

Protect local ability to set rates of taxes and fees that support needed Infrastructure Improvement Plans and infrastructure-related cost increases.

Support legislation and funding programs that improve access to broadband internet

Support efforts to expand commercial air service and regional wildfire defense through the extension of the runway and acquisition of reasonable protections at and around Prescott Regional Airport.

Pursue financial support to improve access and reduce collisions and pedestrian injuries at key intersections throughout the region, including the interchange of Highways 89 & 89A.

Pursue financial resources that support pedestrian and bicycle safety enhancements on local streets.



# NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



Support all reasonable efforts to mitigate the frequency, scale, and impact of disasters, including programs to support property management and home hardening. Expand capacity for timely disaster relief and recovery cost reimbursement.

Promote long-term plans and actions that contribute to wildfire prevention, manageable fuel loads, and healthy forests

Support actions to ensure property insurance will be available at a reasonable rate for all Prescott homeowners.

Support legislation and funding, including matching grants, for outdoor recreation opportunities, trail connectivity, lake health, open space, ADA access, park facility reinvestment, water-efficiency infrastructure, recreation facilities, and wildlife corridors.

Support wild and scenic river designation for the Upper Verde River.

Support legislation and regulatory actions that protect and maintain water security in Prescott, including the City's status as an assured water supply.

Maintain and protect the Big Chino Water Ranch as a City water source.

Pursue more opportunities for input from rural communities related to groundwater management. Protect rural watersheds and water supplies from being diverted to other areas of the state.

Prevent foreign and out-of-state entities from exhausting natural resources, including water supplies.

Protect the headwaters of the Hassayampa River and the Gila River Drainage from activities that have a negative impact on water quality and flow.

Preserve Arizona's unique ecosystems, wilderness, wildlife, and natural environment



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