

A blue-tinted photograph of the Austin skyline, featuring several tall skyscrapers and a bridge over a body of water. The sky is filled with clouds.

City of Austin Legislative Update

89th State Legislature & 119th United States Congress

Joint Subcommittee with Travis County and Austin Independent School District
Friday, December 6, 2024

Rick Ramirez, Intergovernmental Relations Deputy Officer
Intergovernmental Relations Office



Agenda



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Legislative
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Overview &
Process

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DRAFT
State
Legislative
Program

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Federal
Legislative
Program

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Next Steps

Legislative Priorities: Overview



The City's legislative priorities are adopted by Mayor and Council and direct IGRO's efforts

Adopted program provides guide for legislative efforts



Agenda language should allow for flexibility



Leadership and partner departments expertise is essential



Legislative Priorities: **Considerations**

The City's legislative priorities should take into consideration various factors:

Delegation priorities

Needs, wants and nice-to-haves

Environment and current events

The unexpected

Legislative Agendas: **At a Glance**



Legislative program focuses on **primary City priorities**:

- **Preserve Local Authority:** Protect Austin's control over zoning, ordinances, and local regulations.
- **Financial Responsibility:** Oppose unfunded state mandates or legislation that would place undue financial burdens on the City.
- **Community Health & Safety:** Support access to healthcare, public safety funding, improved quality of life and protections for vulnerable populations.
- **Environmental & Infrastructure Resilience:** Protect Austin's natural resources, encourage sustainability, and invest in critical infrastructure.



Substantive Changes: **State Agenda**

- **Public Safety:** Support for forensic science operations, affordable flood insurance and drone use that enhances public safety, security, and quality of life.
- **Homelessness:** Support for accessible housing and legislation to improve data sharing between services providers
- **Equity:** Support for affirming human rights and the LGBTQIA+ community
- **Technology:** Support for responsible use of AI and drone use that enhances public safety, security, and quality of life
- **Transportation:** Support legislation and funding for transportation and technology projects and initiatives dedicated to improving regional mobility, such as Project Connect and Our Future 35.

89th Legislative Session: **Community Priorities**



Super
Preemption

Community
Advocacy

Housing and
Homelessness

Land Use
Preemption

DEI



Substantive Changes: **Federal Agenda**

- **General Legislative Focus:** Support for affirming human rights and the LGBTQIA+ community.
- **Climate Crisis:** Align language with Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)/Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provisions and funding opportunities.
- **Mobility & Infrastructure:** Support legislation and funding for transportation and technology projects and initiatives dedicated to improving aviation, regional mobility, such as Project Connect and Our Future 35.
- **Health**
 - Remove the Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport Model (ET3)
 - Support for EMS reimbursement for care
 - Support for suicide prevention and awareness
- **Family Stabilization Grants:** Support legislation or initiatives to implement a cash-based program for the purposes of supporting residents and families.

119th Congressional Session: **Community Priorities**



Broadband
Access

Community
Advocacy

Housing and
Homelessness

Mental Health

Family
Stabilization
Grants



89th Texas Legislative Session

89th State Legislative Session: Preview



- Prefiling for 89th Legislative Session began November 11, 2024.
 - 1,471 bills were filed on the first day of filing.
 - In the 88th Session, 920 bills were filed on the first day of prefiling and over 1,000 were filed in the first week. Over 8,000 bills and joint resolutions were filed in the 88th Regular Session.
- The 89th Legislative Session will begin January 14, 2025.
 - Committee hearings typically begin in late January or early February.
 - The last day to file bills is March 14, 2025.
- The Legislature will adjourn Sine Die on June 2, 2025.



89th Session:

City-Related Legislation We Expect to See Again

Super
Preemption

Austin Energy

Community
Advocacy

Housing and
Homelessness

Land Use
Preemption

Debt
Restrictions

DEI

Project Connect

Disannexation &
and ETJs

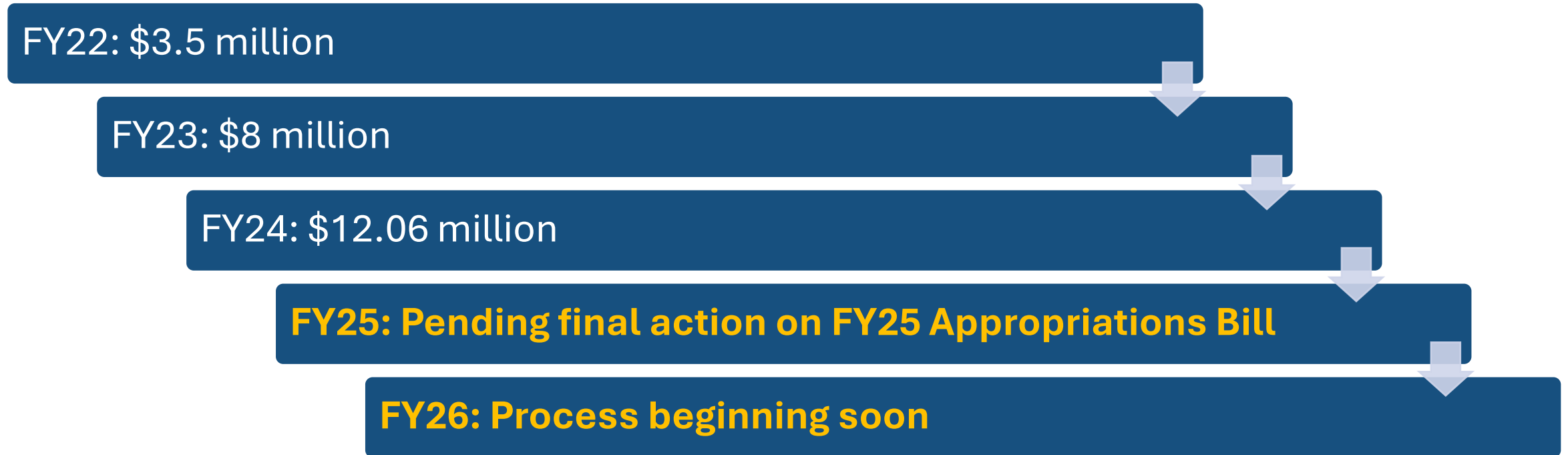


119th United States Congress



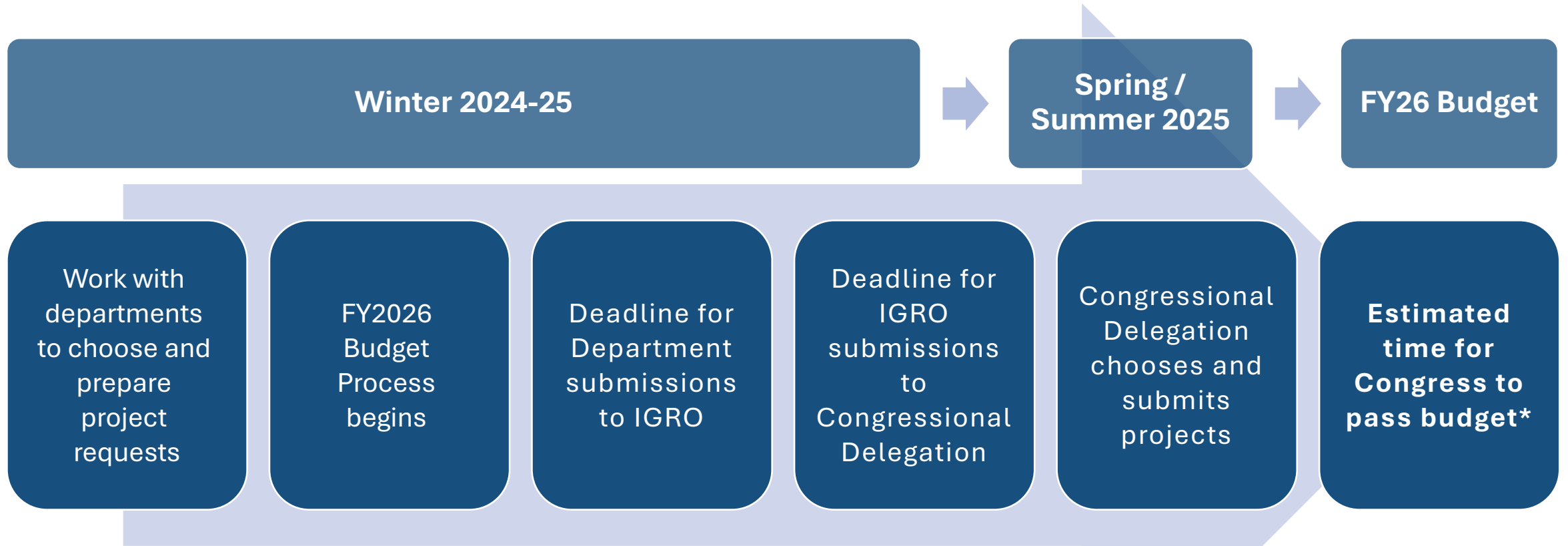
City of Austin Community Funded Projects

Congressional delegation has secured nearly \$24 million for the City of Austin since earmarks were renewed in FY22



FY26 Community Project Funding Requests

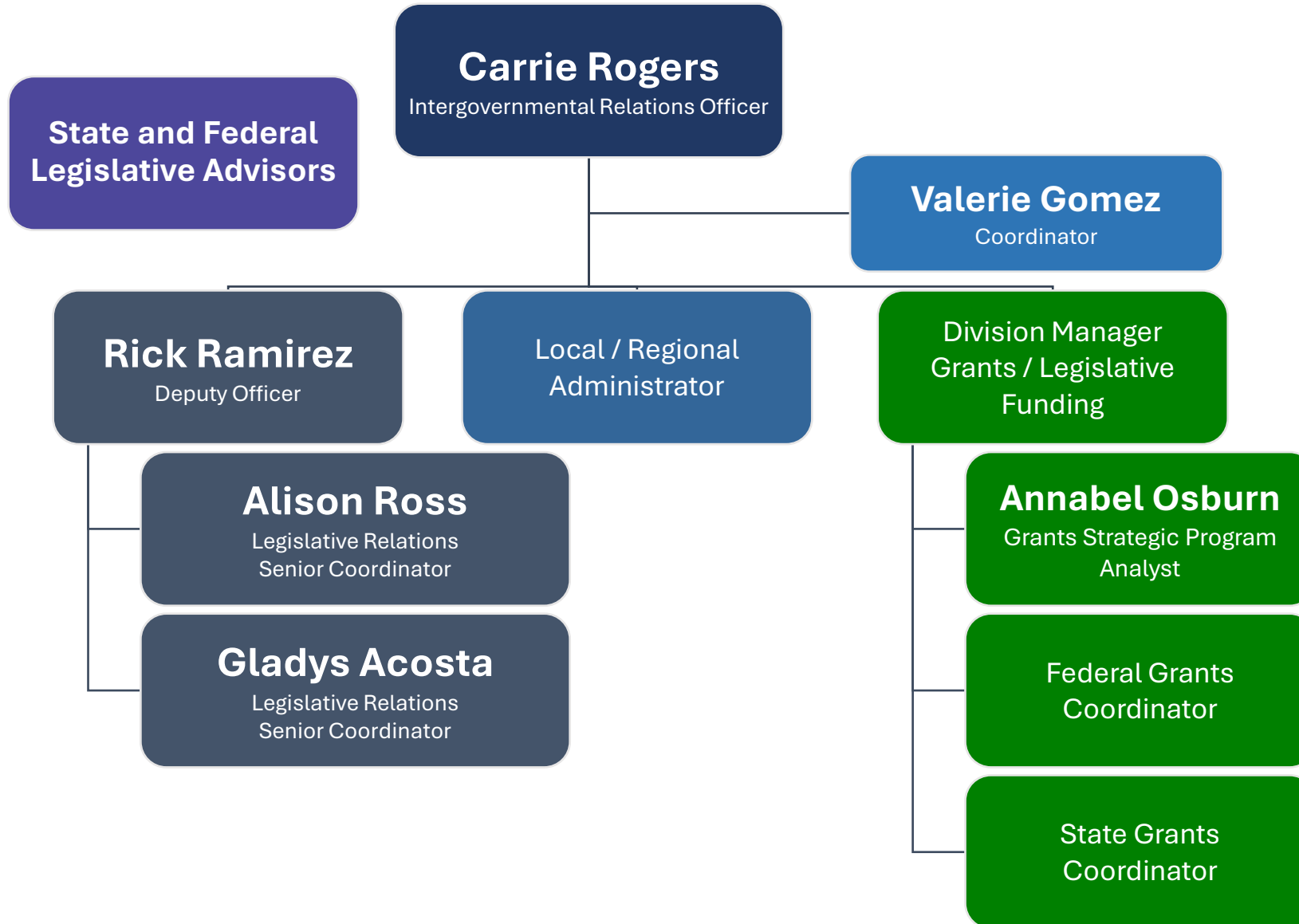
General Timeline Based on Previous Budget Cycles



***Please note that these timelines are based on previous deadlines.**

IGRO will update as necessary once a formal earmark process announcement is made by Congress.

City of Austin Legislative Team



New centralized grants division to pursue legislative dollars

Next Steps



- Receive Committee feedback
- Mayor and City Council consideration on Thursday, Dec. 12
- Communication of adopted programs to legislative delegations and stakeholders; posted on IGR web page
- Outreach meetings continue with legislative delegations and stakeholders throughout session
- Weekly legislative updates to City leadership

Questions?



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