

# CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

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MEETING DATE: February 26, 2026

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: STUDY SESSION: 2026 CITY COUNCIL GOAL SETTING

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and provide input on the proposed 2026 City Council Goals.

## **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

On an annual basis, the City Council conducts a Goal Setting Session to review progress on the prior year's adopted goals, consider newly submitted candidate goals from individual Councilmembers, and establish priorities for the upcoming year.

At this year's session, City staff will present the status of each 2025 City Council Goals, including accomplishments and next steps. Individual members of the City Council will then present their proposed candidate goals for 2026. Where feasible, staff will consolidate related proposals into broader categories to reduce duplication and improve alignment. Staff will seek Council feedback on any proposed amendments and, if necessary, facilitate straw polling to determine support for advancing specific goals.

In 2025, the City Council established an Ad Hoc Committee on the 2013 Strategic Plan, comprised of Councilmember Quintanilla and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee. At the request of the Committee, staff has developed a Strategic Plan Task Tracker to provide a dashboard-level status report on implementation efforts. This preliminary dashboard will be presented to the Committee for feedback and further refinement.

Following this session, City staff will return at an upcoming City Council meeting to present a resolution adopting the selected 2026 goals and a preliminary work plan for Council review and feedback.

The order of business for the Goal Setting Session is as follows:

- Call to Order / City Manager Comments
- Update on 2025 City Council Goals
- Councilmember Presentations on 2026 Candidate Goals
- Discussion on 2026 Candidate Goals
- Straw Poll Voting, if needed
- Review of Selected Goals
- Conclude

**Legal Review:**

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no financial impact associated with this Study Session. Costs resulting from adopted goals will be incorporated into the annual budget.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2025 Annual Report on City Council Goals
  2. 2026 Goal Setting Presentation
  3. Candidate Goal Forms and Supporting Documentation
  4. Strategic Plan Task Tracker
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**CONFLICT OF INTEREST AWARENESS CHECKLIST:**

**Site-Specific Property Interest** – Councilmembers should check if they own or lease real property within 1,000 feet of the project site (Gov. Code § 87103(b); FPPC Reg. 18702.2).

**SB 1439 Applicability (Campaign Contributions)** – Applies to licenses, permits, or other entitlements for use, and to contracts or franchise agreements other than competitively bid, labor, or personal employment contracts.

**Applicant(s)/Appellant(s):** Not Applicable

Councilmembers should review any campaign contributions received within the last 12 months from parties or participants to the proceeding and must not accept contributions over \$500 from those parties for 12 months following the final decision (Gov. Code § 84308).

*Note: These indicators are informational and do not constitute a legal determination. Each Councilmember is responsible for identifying and disclosing any disqualifying interests in accordance with the Political Reform Act and FPPC regulations.*