

Mayors and Council Members Department
Policy Committee Reports
January 17-18, 2013, Sacramento, CA

Administrative Services Policy Committee

Nancy Renne Tragarz, Council Member, Walnut

JUDGMENT INTEREST REFORM

The Committee discussed reform (lowering) its judgment interest rate (currently set at 10% for private sector and 7% for public sector) in lawsuits against public entities to protect tax payer money and free up dwindling resources to pay for necessary social services or hire needed workers. They are looking for specific examples of cities' faced with having to pay this large interest, particularly the prejudgment interest.

2013 LEAGUE STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Building Lasting Partnerships
2. Expanding Community and Economic Development Tools and Funding Options for City Services.
3. Continue Pension and Other Post-Employment Benefits Reform
4. Implement an Effective League Branding Strategy.

Other items discussed:

GOAL 1: SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE AND SECURE PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS.

- The Committee will actively monitor and provide input as appropriate on proposed legislative and regulatory reforms as well as proposed ballot measures related to this goal.

GOAL 2: PROMOTE LOCAL CONTROL FOR CITIES.

- The Committee will actively monitor and provide input on legislation, regulatory reforms, and ballot measures as appropriate.

GOAL 3: BUILD STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR A STRONGER GOLDEN STATE.

- The Committee will support building partnerships by inviting public and private groups and leaders to speak to the committee about issues related to this goal.
- Invite League staff and members of other policy committees to update the committee on any efforts to move this League goal forward.

In addition to supporting the League's Strategic Goals the committee will also do the following:

1. **Monitor and take action on LEGISLATION as appropriate**

The committee will review pending legislation, regulatory actions, and relevant initiatives and make recommendations to the League Board of Directors when appropriate.

2. Stay informed on issues related to ELECTION LAW and VOTER EDUCATION and take action as appropriate

The Committee will work with the City Clerks Assn. of California (CCAC) regarding bills of interest to city clerks on elections and on issues as they relate to voter education.

3. Stay informed on issues related to GOVERNANCE REFORM and take action as appropriate

The committee will invite relevant speakers to discuss developments in this area and take action when appropriate.

Community Services Policy Committee

Michael Ponce, Mayor Pro Tem, Avalon

- Presentation from Craig Watson, Director California Arts Council on Economic Development and the Arts and how Cities are using the Arts as a competitive tool.
- Charlotte Dickson, MSW, Director, HEAL Cities Campaign & CA Center for Public Advocacy, Shelia James, Public Health Advisor, Dept. of Health and Human Services, Region IX, Discussion on successful strategies on implementing the HEAL Cities Campaign. Follow up on the Let's Move program.

Public Safety Policy Committee

Phil Dupper, Council Member, Loma Linda

The following were the big topics and discussion items at the Public Safety Policy Committee...

1. AB109

Chief Rod Jones of the Fontana Police Department and Chief Dave Brown of the Hemet Police Department gave a joint presentation on the effects of AB109. Both talked about the noticeable increase in crime and other issues related to the release of "non violent offenders." First they explained, "non violent" has been a misnomer and in fact many violent criminals have been released back into our cities. They also explained with the new change to the three strikes law, in San Bernardino alone, we have about 180 extremely violent life sentence criminals who will be released back into our communities. Although this is not an AB109 issue; it compounds our current AB109 problems... Jones is a big proponent of adding AB109 funding to local cities along with county government. He believes local police departments and cities should have money streams to combat crime related increases from AB109. At the end of the discussion, a vote was taken to support legislative efforts to increase and secure AB109 funding for local governments... It passed unanimously.

2. Sex Offender Management Board Update

Max Bosel of the Mountain View Police Department is a member of the Sex Offender Management Board. He gave a general update on issues the board is dealing with such as sex offender tracking. A few of our board members indicated their desire to see more technology and information sharing become a priority in all public safety issues including sex offender tracking and AB109.

3. Mayors Against Illegal Guns

There was a discussion about supporting the Mayors Against Illegal Guns movement that is now going on nationwide. In some heated discussion, we looked at the initiative and took a vote on if we were going to support it. We decided that the initiative is fairly vague and not necessarily applicable to our state and/or cities. This initiative seems to be focused on larger cities with bigger gun violence problems such as Chicago. Based on the language, our vote was in favor of NOT supporting it as currently written... The vote was not indicating we didn't support the theory and principals, just not the specific language or definitions currently being used. We also want to make sure we are not, for the sake of politics, jumping on the hot topic bandwagon...

Employee Relations Policy Committee

Micheal O'Leary, Council Member, Culver City

One thing made quite clear by Karon Green, was that any attempt by new members of the Assembly to affect pension reform would be unlikely to even make it out of subcommittee and in the unlikely event it managed to get support it would be vetoed by the Governor. The CalPERS update by Danny Brown and Anthony Suine was sobering to say the least. Cities who used downsizing "Golden Handshakes" will now have fewer employees funding, and therefore rates will go up. On a whole, at least from the perspective of some of the newer members of the committee, there was the perception that their questions were not being addressed.