

**Nov. 4, 2011  
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**COALITION FILES BALLOT MEASURE TO PROTECT REALIGNMENT FUNDS**

Californians to Protect Public Safety and Local Services announced on Nov.1 that it had filed a constitutional amendment ballot measure to constitutionally protect realignment funds. The coalition comprises the California State Association of Counties, the California State Sheriffs' Association and Chief Probation Officers. More specifically, the measure seeks to prohibit the state from taking or redirecting currently protected state funds for the realignment of public safety, senior and children's services. It would also prohibit the state from shifting additional responsibilities to local governments without providing necessary funding. *For more, see Page 2.*



**PREPARE FOR BIG CHANGES TO ENTERPRISE ZONES IN 2012**

Last year, Gov. Jerry Brown sought to eliminate California's Enterprise Zone Program, which provides tax incentives to help attract business to the state, retain and expand business and industry, and create job opportunities for Californians. This proposal was ultimately unsuccessful, partially due to the two-thirds vote requirement, but it's likely that the Enterprise Zone drama will re-emerge in 2012. *For more, see Page 2.*



**REGISTER NOW FOR LEAGUE'S LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS**

*Scheduled Nov. 15 and 16*

The League will hold its annual Legislative Briefings on Nov. 15 via webinar and Nov. 16 in Irvine, both at a reduced cost from 2010 rates. The live webinar allows attendees to stay informed while limiting travel costs, which makes training multiple staff members affordable for cities. *For more, see Page 2.*

**'Ballot Measure' Continued from Page 1...**

Slated for the November 2012 statewide ballot, the coalition will determine if it will proceed with signature gathering once the Attorney General issues Title & Summary for the measure in late December.

During the League's Annual Conference last September, the League's membership approved a resolution calling upon Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature to fully fund and constitutionally protect realignment funding, including funding for city police departments. The League requested that such funding priorities be reflected in the ballot measure, but the sponsors declined to do so or to provide for the return of \$130 million in Vehicle License Fee funds to cities, most of which is dedicated to public safety. League staff continues to work with CSAC staff on shared realignment priorities and has not yet taken a position on the Californians to Protect Public Safety and Local Services' proposed ballot measure.

A copy of the measure filed on Nov. 1 is available online

<http://www.protectlocalservices2012.com/doc/Local-Taxpayers-Public-Safety-and-Local-Services-Protection-Act-of-2012.pdf>.

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**'Enterprise Zones' Continued from Page 1...**

The California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) indicated on Nov. 2 that it will be seeking changes to the Enterprise Zone process. HCD expressed its intent to make changes through rulemaking (when possible) and legislatively (if necessary). Because it isn't clear how the program may change, HCD has also indicated that the two Enterprise Zones that will be expiring in 2012 (Antelope Valley and Watsonville) will not be re-designated until reforms are implemented.

Topics for potential rulemaking changes include, but are not limited to:

- Better collection of data;
- A review and update of audit procedures;
- Limitations on retroactive vouchering;
- Increasing the discretion of HCD to grant expansion requests; and
- Updating criteria HCD uses to award designations.

Legislative reforms include any of the topics mentioned above that cannot be accomplished through rulemaking, limiting availability of credits to employers that create new jobs in California (not just for hiring new employees) and reviewing existing legislative efforts.

HCD has signaled that the process to reform Enterprise Zones will be open and transparent and that the topics for reform are open for discussion. As the process unfolds it will be important for cities to communicate how these proposals will affect various Enterprise Zones so that any changes will improve the current program and not handicap the ability for this program to be successful.

The League will continue to monitor this process closely to protect Enterprise Zones and assist cities with economic development.

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**'Leg Briefings' Continued from Page 1...**

The Legislative Briefings provide an overview of legislative issues and information regarding new laws for 2012 that will affect cities. The briefings are designed to help city officials stay up to date and in compliance with the law.

Briefings Topics:

- Untangling the State Budget Mess
- What's Happening With Redevelopment
- The SB 89 VLF Sweep

- Realignment and the Three Judge Panel
- Medical Marijuana
- Fate of the “Bell Bills”
- Legislation on Land Use and the Environment
- Other Legislation from the 2011 Session
- Issues for 2012

## **Webinar**

Tuesday, Nov. 15 from 10 – 11:30 a.m.

### **Southern California Briefing**

Wednesday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Irvine City Hall, Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Plaza

The time frame for the Irvine meeting is expanded to allow League lobbyists to discuss the complexity of this year’s legislative issues in more depth than the webinar. Additional value for the meeting is provided by the opportunity to hear the perspective of two state legislators. Confirmed for this event are both Assembly Member Don Wagner (R-Irvine) and Sen. Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) who will give presentations and share their view from “inside the building.” City officials are encouraged to register early for the in-person meeting in Irvine as space is limited.

Registration for either session is \$25 for member cities and League partners and \$100 for non-member cities. Register online at [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events) by Wednesday, Nov. 9.

## **Hotel and Registration Deadline Nov. 8 for 2011 City Clerk’s New Law & Elections Seminar**

*After Nov. 8 Please Register On-Site*

The hotel and registration deadline for the New Law & Elections Seminar, being held Nov. 30 – Dec. 2 in Long Beach, is just around the corner. This is the League’s main conference for city clerks who will learn about the new laws and policies that will affect city clerk responsibilities and have the opportunity to attend informative sessions and networking events.

Topics include:

- New Law & Elections Seminar
- Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) Update
- The Clerks Role ... Mission Critical
- Digital Delivery, Social Networking, and Public Records
- Continuity of Local Government in Crisis – Disaster Management
- The Future of Leadership through Influence and Collaboration

Update: Secretary of State Debra Bowen will be speaking at the Wednesday luncheon. The Thursday lunch will be an interactive “Listserv Live.” Join your colleagues in a “live-ly,” interactive and open discussion. Share your questions, vent your frustrations and hear how others have solved similar problems or suffered similar dilemmas.

To view the announcement and register online, visit the League’s website at [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events).

## **Register Now for the 2012 City Manager’s Department Meeting in Indian Wells**

Registration for the 2012 City Manager’s Department Meeting in Indian Wells is now open. This is a great opportunity for city managers, city administrators, assistant city managers, administrative

or management analysts, and county chief administrative officers to connect with the League, learn about a variety of topics related to city management and network with colleagues.

Sessions at this year's conference include:

- League and Economic Update
- Strategies for Leading Your Council through Difficult Budget Decisions
- Building Relationships Between Immigrants and Longer Term Residents
- Managing Scandals, Hoaxes and Other Unexpected Crises
- What Does it Take for a City Manager to Get a Development Deal Done Now?
- An Investor's Perspective on Municipal Credits
- Pension Reform: Where Do We Stand and Where Are We Going?
- Steps to Surviving the Economic Downturn for Small Cities

The event announcement and online registration is available at [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events).

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## **Prepare for the Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test**

On November 9, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern time, televisions and radios across the nation will broadcast a series of beeps followed by the message, "This is a test." While local and state components of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) are tested on a weekly and monthly basis, respectively, this will mark the first time that the federal government conducts a nationwide, "top-to-bottom" test.

EAS serves as the nation's public warning system.

The test will last for approximately 30 seconds on all over-the-air broadcasts, cable television systems, wireless cable systems, satellite digital audio radio service (SDARS) providers and direct broadcast satellite (DBS) providers.

While state and local authorities typically utilize EAS for weather-related emergencies and public notices, such as child abduction alerts, it also serves as the primary means for the President to relay critical information to citizens during an emergency.

The test will consist of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) triggering the EAS "cascade" by transmitting the EAS code used for national-level emergencies to the first level of broadcast stations in the EAS, which in turn will rebroadcast the alert to the general public, as well as to the next level of EAS participants monitoring them.

This should continue through all levels of the system until the alert has been distributed throughout the entire country.

EAS participants are required to report back on the results of this test; FEMA, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and other agencies will analyze the results, assess problems and remedy those problems they confront.

The nationwide test is the beginning of a longer process aimed at improving national emergency alert capabilities. While the federal government understands the tests can be disruptive, it recognizes the need to ensure the system works and establish a baseline from which it can be improved.

"Early warnings save lives," explained FCC Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau Chief James A. Barnett, Jr. in a recent release. "This was demonstrated recently and dramatically during the major earthquake and tsunami that devastated eastern Japan. Except for Japan's early warning systems, loss of life would have been much higher. Here at the FCC, we have a series of initiatives to ensure that similarly effective alerting systems are available here in the U.S."

**Details:** For more information on the test, please visit [www.fcc.gov/nationwideeastest](http://www.fcc.gov/nationwideeastest). NLC has also posted additional resources for local governments in the box to the right of this article.

Note: This story was provided by NLC and can be found on the NLC website at [www.nlc.org/news-center/nations-cities-weekly/articles/2011/october/prepare-for-the-nationwide-emergency-alert-system-test](http://www.nlc.org/news-center/nations-cities-weekly/articles/2011/october/prepare-for-the-nationwide-emergency-alert-system-test)

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## The Hit List from WesternCity.com

*Western City* magazine has compiled its most popular stories into a “Hit List” showing the top five articles on [WesternCity.com](http://www.westerncity.com) during the past month. This list reflects the topics of greatest interest to California city officials during the month of October.

The results are in, and these articles are “Hits!”

1. “Health and Safety Receiverships: An Effective Code Enforcement Remedy in Tough Times” – October 2011 (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/October-2011/Health-and-Safety-Receiverships-An-Effective-Code-Enforcement-Remedy-in-Tough-Times/>)
2. “The Ethics of Public Language” – October 2011 (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/October-2011/The-Ethics-of-Public-Language/>)
3. “Disaster Mitigation Planning Builds Sustainable Communities” – October 2011 (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/October-2011/Disaster-Mitigation-Planning-Builds-Sustainable-Communities/>)
4. “Protecting Consumers and Enhancing Public Safety” – October 2011 (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/October-2011/Protecting-Consumers-and-Enhancing-Public-Safety/>)
5. “Maintaining Our Momentum” – October 2011 (<http://www.westerncity.com/Western-City/October-2011/Maintaining-Our-Momentum/>)

Job opportunity pages are not counted in the Hit List, but *Western City*’s job board consistently ranks as our most popular resource each month.

Did your clicks make the list? Check back next month for the latest “Hit List.”

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