League of California Cities
The Leading Voice for California Cities

Founded in 1898, the League of California Cities® advocates to defend and expand local control in the Legislature, at the ballot box and in the courts and through strategic outreach to the public, policymakers and opinion leaders. In recent years the League protected hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for cities and challenged legislative threats to local control.
Board of Directors

The League Board of Directors comprises the president, first vice president, second vice president, immediate past president and executive director, a representative from each of the League’s 16 divisions, and a representative from each of the League’s 10 municipal departments. Also seated on the League Board of Directors are the mayors or designees of the 10 largest cities by population and an additional 12 selected at-large members with one position reserved for a representative of a city with a population under 12,000. The League Board of Directors includes California city officials serving on the National League of Cities Board of Directors. To learn more visit www.cacities.org/board.

Policy Committees

The League’s policy-making process engages city officials to shape statewide policies that affect local government. Approximately 50 city officials serve on each of the League’s seven policy committees, which are:

- Community Services;
- Environmental Quality;
- Governance, Transparency and Labor Relations;
- Housing, Community and Economic Development;
- Public Safety;
- Revenue and Taxation; and
- Transportation, Communication and Public Works.

The committees meet up to four times annually. Policy committee recommendations are forwarded to the League Board of Directors for final review and approval. To learn more visit www.cacities.org/polcomm.
**Resolutions**
Annual Conference resolutions approved by the General Assembly provide another vehicle for League policy development. Cities attending the League’s Annual Conference & Expo designate a delegate who votes on resolutions on behalf of their city. Resolutions can either highlight a major issue of statewide importance or address a municipal issue that has not been considered through the League’s other policy-making processes. To learn more visit [www.cacities.org/resolutions](http://www.cacities.org/resolutions).

**Professional Departments**
Functioning as professional societies with educational and networking opportunities, the League’s 10 municipal departments play an essential role in League policy and program development. Departments are represented on the League Board of Directors and on each policy committee. To learn more visit [www.cacities.org/departments](http://www.cacities.org/departments).

The departments are:
- City Attorneys;
- City Clerks;
- City Managers;
- Fire Chiefs;
- Fiscal Officers;
- Mayors and Council Members;
- Personnel and Employee Relations;
- Planning and Community Development;
- Police Chiefs; and
- Public Works Officers.
Legislative Advocacy

Legislative advocacy is a primary function of the League. An experienced Sacramento-based lobbying team works in conjunction with regional field staff to advocate on behalf of cities on a wide spectrum of issues. The League drafts, sponsors and supports legislation that assists cities. It also opposes or seeks amendments on legislation that would undercut local authority or revenue. The League often forms coalitions with other local government associations and stakeholders to advocate for common goals. League lobbyists take positions on hundreds of bills annually, focusing heavily on priority measures that affect city interests.

Legislative positions are governed by the League’s policy and guiding principles that reflect positions developed by the League’s policy committees. Final authority for determining the organization’s positions on controversial legislation not covered by the platform rests with the League Board of Directors. To learn more visit www.cacities.org/advocacy.

Legislative Advocacy Webinars and Events

Throughout the year, several legislatively-focused meetings provide League members with information on breaking developments in the Capitol as well as tips for advocating on behalf of cities. These events include timely webinars conducted by League lobbyists, several legislative receptions, Legislative Action Day (which focuses on pending issues) in the spring, and the fall Legislative Briefing, (which covers recently enacted legislation).

Regional Divisions and Public Affairs Managers

The League’s 16 regional divisions cover every corner of California and play an essential role in the League’s advocacy efforts. City officials in each division work closely with a regional public affairs manager to implement grassroots activities in conjunction with specific legislative, regulatory or ballot measure goals and develop local informational programs. Division members also help raise private funds for CitiPAC, the League’s political action committee, which supports the League’s ballot advocacy efforts. Each division appoints representatives to the League Board of Directors, resolutions and policy committees. Find contact information for your regional public affairs manager at www.cacities.org/publicaffairs.
Legal Advocacy

The League also advocates in support of cities before the appellate courts through the Legal Advocacy Program because laws affecting cities are made in the courts as well as in the Legislature. The organization weighs in on legal issues where its participation is likely to help advance the legal interests of all California cities. Guidance on its amicus curiae or “friend-of-the-court” efforts comes from the Legal Advocacy Committee. This committee comprises city attorneys from throughout the state. To more effectively use limited resources, whenever possible the League joins forces with other local agency associations to help achieve legal advocacy goals. To learn more visit www.cacities.org/legaladvocacy.

League Litigation

Protecting local control authority reserved to cities by the California Constitution is an important priority for the League. When legislative actions weaken the constitutional safeguards provided to cities, the League is prepared to support cities that challenge these legislative efforts in the courts and, when appropriate, bring lawsuits directly in the League’s name.

California Civic Leadership Institute®

Established in 2005, the League Partner-sponsored California Civic Leadership Institute® serves as an exclusive educational program for local government elected officials interested in running for the Legislature. To learn more visit www.cacities.org/CCLI.

Ballot Measure Advocacy

California has a robust initiative process where voters help shape major statewide policies. Because of this, the League is positioned to engage in ballot measure campaigns where local government interests are at stake to defend local control and revenues. Since 2004, the League has successfully fought to protect local control through the initiative process, passing and defeating key ballot measures such as Proposition 1A (2004), Proposition 22 (2010), No on 90 (2006) and No on 98/Yes on 99 (2008). The League has also supported measures that would expand or protect funds for transportation, infrastructure and affordable housing. In 2018, the League will review and take positions on other ballot measures based upon city impacts.

CitiPAC

The League’s successes at the ballot box are possible only through the support of CitiPAC, its political action committee that focuses solely on initiatives affecting cities. Fundraising through CitiPAC helps ensure that the League has the necessary resources to advocate for city interests on ballot measures and defend against threats to local democracy. To learn more visit www.citipac.org.
Conferences

League conferences are designed for city officials to learn about new developments in their field, exchange ideas on solutions to common challenges and how to better serve their cities, as well as network. City officials are encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise with their colleagues throughout the state by speaking at League conferences and educational programs. To view a calendar of upcoming conferences, visit www.cacities.org/events.

Annual Conference & Expo

The Annual Conference & Expo is the League’s largest and most comprehensive educational event. General sessions feature premiere keynote speakers, while breakout sessions allow city staff and elected officials to explore topics that fit their specific city needs. This conference also includes a variety of division and department meetings, League Partner events and an exposition. It provides many opportunities for attendees to network, exchange ideas, tend to annual business items and discover new concepts to immediately implement in their city.

Professional Department Conferences

Many of the League’s professional departments hold conferences that focus on policy issues and the skill development needed to address challenges faced in their city position. These conferences provide opportunities to stay current on the latest issues and contribute to career development and advancement.

Regular department conferences include the:

- New Mayors and Council Members Academy;
- City Managers Department Meeting;
- Planning Commissioners Academy;
- Public Works Officers Institute & Expo;
- City Attorneys’ Spring Conference;
- Mayors and Council Members Executive Forum and Advanced Leadership Workshops;
- City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar;
- Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar; and
- Municipal Finance Institute.
Educational Webinars
The League’s education team provides educational webinars including recent offerings on current legislation and priority policy issues such as housing, pensions, transportation, cannabis, as well as legal education and workplace wellness programs. Announcements, registration and related materials are available at www.cacities.org/events.

Information Exchange Listservs
The League maintains a number of Listservs that allow city officials with common policy or other programs to share ideas and exchange information. Using the League’s Listservs, city officials survey their colleagues on best practices and policies. To sign up for a League Listserv, visit www.cacities.org/listserv.

Diversity Caucuses
The League has five recognized diversity caucuses that offer city officials another chance to connect and network, which are:

• African-American Caucus;
• Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus;
• Gay-Lezbian-Bisexual-Transgender Local Officials Caucus (GLBTLO);
• Latino Caucus; and
• Women’s Caucus.
To learn more visit www.cacities.org/caucuses.

League Partners
The League Partner program provides a gateway to local elected officials and the local government decision-making process in California. The program connects California’s businesses, nonprofit associations, labor communities and other organizations with local government leaders statewide. League Partners are uniquely positioned to work with city officials on challenges facing California’s communities. To learn more visit www.cacities.org/partners.
Communications, Resources and Information

League Website
The League’s website, www.cacities.org, serves as the center for news, information and resources for League members, policy-makers, the media and the public. Visitors will find tools to help advocate for their cities, participate in the League’s policy-making process and attend educational programs.

Communication Channels
City officials can sign up to receive news and information relevant to city issues and positions, such as legislative developments, legal updates and upcoming educational events, through a variety of communication methods. Consider choosing more than one method of delivery to ensure you receive the most current updates.

CA Cities Advocate
This e-newsletter features breaking legislative developments, city policy-related news and information on events of interest to California cities. Subscribe at www.cacities.org/cacitiesadvocate.

Western City
Mailed to over 10,000 subscribers, the League’s award-winning magazine publishes articles on subjects of importance to cities statewide, including economic development, the environment and energy, legal issues, municipal finance, public safety, community development, ethics and more. Articles, online exclusives and job opportunities are also available at www.westerncity.com.
Social Media
The League actively uses social media to keep members informed about legislative developments, court decisions affecting cities, member events and other city-related news. Social media resources and a social media list by city are available at www.cacities.org/socialmediaresources.

Facebook
Like or follow www.facebook.com/leagueofcacities for League news, press releases, policy committee updates, professional department updates, League photos, and other items. Also like www.facebook.com/westerncity for issue updates, job opportunities and information.

Twitter
Follow @CaCities for breaking news, @CaCitiesLearn for conference and event updates, @WesternCityMag for in-depth articles and job opportunities.

YouTube
Subscribe to www.youtube.com/leagueofcacities for videos advancing the League’s strategic priorities, legislative positions and more.

Publications
The League produces a number of publications helpful to cities, such as the Open & Public V: A Guide to the Ralph M. Brown Act, City Hall Directory, Municipal Revenue Sources Handbook, and Rosenberg’s Rules of Order: Parliamentary Procedure for the 21st A full listing is available at www.cacities.org/publications.
CaliforniaCityFinance.com

A wealth of city financial information is available on www.californiacityfinance.com, a League-sponsored website maintained by the League’s fiscal policy advisor. This resource contains a collection of data, statistics and analyses of comprehensive fiscal policy issues, local ballot measure results and more.

Institute for Local Government

The Institute for Local Government (ILG) is a partnership of the League, the California State Association of Counties and the California Special Districts Association. Its mission is to promote good government at the local level with practical, impartial and easy-to-use resources for California’s local officials and staff who serves them. ILG offers technical assistance, trainings, webinars and online and printed resources on a variety of topics including: public service ethics and transparency, collaboration and partnerships, public engagement and sustainable communities, as well as governance and leadership. To learn more visit www.ca-ilg.org.

Celebrating Local Leadership in Sustainability

Recognizing City Innovation and Best Practices:
Helen Putnam Award for Excellence

The annual Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, sponsored by the League Partner program, recognizes outstanding achievements by California’s cities. Winning cities have made unique contributions to their communities that resulted in lower costs and/or more effective delivery of services. These distinguished programs are highlighted during the League’s Annual Conference & Expo and throughout the year in Western City magazine. Submit your city’s innovative programs for consideration at www.HelenPutnam.org.
Financing Solutions for Cities

League-sponsored financial solutions offer savings and service to cities in areas of pooled investments, tax-exempt financing and joint purchasing for cities.

**U.S. Communities™**

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance (U.S. Communities) is a government purchasing cooperative that reduces the cost of goods and services by aggregating the purchasing power of public agencies nationwide. U.S. Communities provides world-class procurement resources and solutions to local and state government agencies, school districts (K-12), higher education institutions and nonprofits. State and local governments have access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with top-notch national suppliers. The League provides cities with access to the lowest cost for the purchase of certain goods through the U.S. Communities. To learn more visit [www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org).

**California Communities®**

The California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) is a joint powers authority co-sponsored by the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties. Created in 1988, CSCDA enables local government and eligible private entities access to low-cost, tax-exempt financing for projects that provide a tangible public benefit, contribute to social and economic growth and improve the overall quality of life in local communities throughout California. CSCDA has issued more than $50 billion through 1,300+ financings and consistently ranks in the top 10 of more than 3,000 nationwide public issuers of tax-exempt debt, as measured by annual issuance amount. To learn more visit [www.cscda.org](http://www.cscda.org).

**CalTRUST**

CalTRUST is a Joint Powers Authority co-sponsored by the League of California Cities® that provides a convenient method for public agencies to pool their assets for investment purposes, governed by a Board of Trustees made up of experienced local agency treasurers and investment officers. CalTRUST offers four account options – Government Fund, Money Market Fund, Short-Term Fund and Medium-Term Fund. Participants can select account options that match their investment time horizon and cash flow needs. All CalTRUST accounts comply with the limits and restrictions placed on agency investments by the California Government Code; no leverage is permitted in any of the CalTRUST accounts. To learn more visit [www.caltrust.org](http://www.caltrust.org).