

**March 9, 2015**  
**Issue #22**

***Stockton Record* Columnist Michael Fitzgerald Writes on Lessons from Stockton  
Emergency from Bankruptcy and Future Opportunities**

Stockton's bankruptcy made national news but now that the city on the other side of Chapter 9 proceedings, the city is engaged in moving forward. *The Stockton Record* on Feb. 25 published a thoughtful piece by columnist Michael Fitzgerald outlining how city leaders handled the process and the opportunities that are now possible. *For more, see Page 2.*



**The League's 2015 Legislative Action Day is Wednesday, April 29**  
*Register Today for the Condensed One-Day Program*

It is not too early to register for the League's Annual Legislative Action Day. Scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, the one-day event is free for League members and League Partners. *For more, see Page 2.*

## 'Bankruptcy' Continued from Page 1...

Fitzgerald emphasizes lessons that public officials, municipal employees, city residents and policy makers can take away from Stockton's Chapter 9 Federal bankruptcy process. The most significant, according to Fitzgerald, is to keep politics from policy making. "If I could boil the lessons of Stockton's crash down to one point, it would be this: Don't allow city fiscal policy to be politicized." He stresses that strong fiscal policy cannot be crafted under the pressure of special interests.

From these lessons, Stockton can look to the future, and begin to reimagine its downtown and create new economic development. "... the city is now running on a smart fiscal model, the economy is recovering, and, for that matter, it's spring. Stocktonians are looking at a new beginning."

For more, please read, ["Goodbye, bankruptcy; hello, possibilities."](#)

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## 'Leg Action Day' Continued from Page 1...

The day will start at 10:00 a.m. with a general briefing on current budget issues and a legislative and policy update on a wide range of topics including:

- Efforts to improve and expand economic development tools;
- Transportation and other infrastructure funding;
- Water bond implementation;
- Medical marijuana regulation and other public safety issues;
- Land use issues such as CEQA reform, affordable housing, vacation rental, ADA lawsuit abuse and massage);
- Pension reform implementation;
- Other legislation of critical importance; and
- Updates from legislators.

Following the briefing, which ends at 11:30 a.m., city officials will have time to meet with the legislators in the Capitol. The League's Latino Caucus is co-sponsoring a legislative panel on local economic development and infrastructure funding options from 3:30– 4:30 p.m.

For city officials who are able to extend their day, the League will be hosting a legislative reception from 5:30–6:30 p.m. The [full brochure](#) has additional information.

## Registration

March 27 is the deadline to register for Legislative Action Day. Register online at [www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events).

Please direct questions to [Megan Dunn](#), the League's registrar.

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