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## **Senate Health Committee Passes Medical Marijuana Clean-up Bill**

Wednesday marked the next stage in the progress of [AB 21 \(Wood\)](#), the medical marijuana clean-up legislation that would eliminate the March 1, 2016 cultivation deadline, when the Senate Health Committee passed it on a 7-0 vote. The League appreciates all the letters cities have sent to legislators on this important issue. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **Education and Training Starts 2016 for 200 Newly Elected Mayors and Council Members**

*Three-Day League Conference Includes Briefings on Advocacy Tools, Municipal Finance, Ethics and More*

The League launches its extensive educational programming for city officials each January with a conference in Sacramento for the recently group of mayors and council members. This year 200 city officials attended the annual three day event designed to give newly elected city officials the information and skills they need to successfully lead their cities. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **League Urges FAA to Adopt Stronger Drone Registration Regulations**

The League of California Cities® on Jan. 15 issued comments to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding its new regulations requiring registration by drone owner/operators, released in mid-December. The League's [letter cites](#) multiple incidents of the abuse of drones endangering public safety and commercial aviation in calling for stronger FAA registration protocols.

## 'AB 21' Continued from Page 1...

Six committee members joined Committee Chair Sen. Ed Hernandez (D-Azusa), who supported the bill as proposed to be amended, with [amendments](#) negotiated by the League and ACLU, with the California State Association of Counties, California Police Chiefs Association and Drug Policy Alliance also on board.

The Senate Committee's action on Jan. 20 follows the Senate Governance and Finance Committee last week, which also [approved](#) Assembly Member Jim Wood's (D-Healdsburg) legislation. The League is cautiously optimistic that the March 1 deadline that will pre-empt local governments on cultivation ordinances and is on its way to being lifted.

The bill currently has no opposition. Senate Health Committee Member Sen. Jim Nielsen (R-Gerber), who opposed all three bills in the regulatory package last year, abstained from voting. He voiced his philosophical objection to a regulatory structure that he said he believes is still far too loose. Sen. Janet Nguyen (R-Garden Grove) was absent from Wednesday's hearing.

SB 435, which was also amended with the League-ACLU compromise language, but did not contain the removal of the March 1 deadline, was set to be heard in the Assembly Health Committee as a fail-safe. That hearing, however, was cancelled when it became clear that the Senate Health Committee passed AB 21.

The language being struck from [AB 21](#) (bottom of page 5) would have shut down some of the litigation against cities regarding medical marijuana regulation. However, ACLU and the Senate were determined to strike the key final sentence from a Health and Safety Code statute in its entirety, which might have been harmful to cities in that it would have allowed advocates to argue that the Legislature did not intend for local governments to regulate patient and primary caregiver activity.

The amendments taken in the Senate Health Committee reflecting the League-ACLU deal instead remove reference to explicit local authority to regulate and ban and alter the key sentence so that it is now simply a recitation of existing constitutional police power. While the League conceded a clear-cut advantage in future litigation against cities that the Legislature found unpalatable, it did not affirmatively give up any actual land use authority — such as losing the ability to regulate indoor cultivation by patients/primary caregivers, which ACLU initially sought. The language added to AB 21 guarantees that California cities will continue to face litigation in court brought by ACLU and others — but with no clear tactical advantage for either side.

### **Next Steps**

AB 21 will next go to the Senate Floor for a full vote and may be eligible for a vote as early as Monday, Jan. 25. It will then go to the Assembly for consideration.

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## 'New Mayors' Continued from Page 1...

The conference covers a wide range of policy topics and city council procedures as well as the state-required AB 1234 ethics training. Other sessions focused on:

- Land use planning;
- Legal powers and obligations;
- City council/city manager form of city government;
- Effective meeting running techniques;
- Communications and the new media; and
- Local government finance.

League Senior Director of Legislative Affairs Dan Carrigg welcomed the gathered members on Wednesday morning, introducing them to the League's advocacy efforts. "You are the cornerstone of our organization and our success politically relies on your engagement," Carrigg told the audience.

Each of the League's lobbyists provided a brief overview of their areas, emphasizing the key issues the League sees as priorities for 2016.

League Executive Director Chris McKenzie delivered remarks on how city officials can become part of the League and how League services can help them more effectively serve their communities. "Our prime directive is local control so at the end of the day that is the frame through which we look at all issues."

The newly elected mayors and council members also learned about the California Road Charge Pilot Program from former League President Jim Madaffer who chairs the California Transportation Commission's [Road Charge Technical Advisory Committee](#), which is studying a road usage charge as an alternative to the gas tax. He laid out how the current revenues that fund California's aging transportation system are inadequate and [urged the audience to volunteer](#) for the pilot program that will help the state determine if a road user charge would work in California.

Thursday's mock city council skit is always popular with attendees. Expert city attorneys hold a session called City of Dysfunction Junction — How to Conduct an Effective and Respectful City Council Meeting.

League President and Rancho Cucamonga Mayor Dennis Michael addressed the mayors and council members Friday morning. He spoke about his own experience becoming engaged in the League and encouraged the attendees to get involved. "I commend you for your commitment to your city, your attendance at this important training program and your strong support for local control and the values that make our League strong."

The conference closed Friday with AB 1234 ethics training. Newly elected and appointed city officials are required to receive this training within a year of being elected and then they must go through it every two years following.

### **League Policy Committees Hold First Meetings of 2016**

Also this week in Sacramento, the League's [eight standing policy committees](#) held their first meetings of the year. League policy committees meet at least three times annually, with some committees meeting during Annual Conference to review proposed resolutions for the General Assembly.

League President Dennis Michael started each day's joint legislative briefings held before the individual committees took up their business. Welcoming the committee members, President Michael thanked them for their contributions to the League. "The work you do here and the expertise you bring to bear in helping shape policy is deeply valued by me and the other members of the League board of directors."

The briefings also included a legislative and state budget update by Senior Director of Legislative Affairs Dan Carrigg and Michael Coleman, the League's fiscal advisor.

Actions taken by policy committees this week will next go to the League board of directors for review and action. Agendas are available on the [League website](#).

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### **Save Your Spot for the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute and Expo in March** *Register by Feb. 16*

The League of California Cities® recently announced its keynote speakers for the 2016 Public Works Officers Institute and Expo scheduled for March 9-11 at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento. This conference is for professionals of all career levels and offers education on the latest developments in public works, leadership, managing transportation, infrastructure, water, waste programs and more.

Keynote speakers for this event are:

### **Wednesday Opening Keynote: Journalist Dan Walters**

Start the conference off with Dan Walters as he discusses the State of California: Past, Present and Future, with a spin towards the daily dealings of those in the public works profession. Mr. Walters has been a journalist for more than half a century, spending all but a few of those years working for California newspapers. He is certain to bring some new insights to the challenges your jurisdictions face.

### **Friday Closing Keynote Speaker: American Physician and Retired NASA Astronaut, Story Musgrave**

Experience the evolution of Story Musgrave's personal and professional life in terms of unpredicted opportunities and challenges. How does throwing hay bales and fixing farm equipment as a farm kid lead to a full college scholarship, fixing aircraft and tanks as a Marine mechanic in Korea, to fixing broken people as a trauma surgeon, to being the chief mechanic on the Hubble Space Telescope? One little step at a time. It is about preparing for the unknown, acquiring the tools and skills for when the unknown happens and doors open, you can jump into the appropriate opportunities, meet their challenges and obtain your goals. It is about growing such a diverse set of cross disciplinary skills that you not only respond to the future but you are able to create the future for yourself using forward looking forensics.

View the [announcement and full agenda](#) for more information about the Public Works Officers Institute. If you have any questions, please contact [Brian Sanders](#) at (916) 658-8238.

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### **Registration for Feb. 5 Municipal Law Symposium Remains Open**

*Ensuring Integrity in 21st Century California: Water & Public Works in Our Arid State*

Scheduled for Feb. 5 in Sacramento, the 2016 Municipal Law Symposium will focus on the challenging issues public agency attorneys face in the areas of water and public works.

Panels will focus on: water rights, drought, and enforcement; water issues related to CEQA and land use; alternative water supplies, including storm water, groundwater, and recycled water; water and public works finance issues including those related to Proposition 218; and conflicts of interest, including an update on the new FPPC Regulations and conflict of interest issues relevant to public works projects.

Titled "Ensuring Integrity in 21st Century California: Water & Public Works in Our Arid State," the symposium will be held on Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. The cost to participate is \$175.

[Register online.](#)

This annual event is co-sponsored by the Municipal Law Institute of the League of California Cities®, McGeorge School of Law, the County Counsels' Association and the State Bar of California Public Law Section.

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