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## **Local Government Officials, Business, Labor, Transportation Advocates Gather in Fresno to Urge Legislature to Pass Transportation Funding Package**

Raising concern about the California Transportation Commission's (CTCs) mandated cut of \$754 million in transportation funding statewide, local elected officials, business officials, labor leaders and transportation officials gathered on Wednesday morning in Fresno near Highway 180 in Centerville to urge the Legislature and Governor Brown to pass a transportation funding and reform package immediately. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **April 29 Application Deadline Just A Few Weeks Away for Two League Board of Directors Positions**

The League of California Cities® is now accepting nominations from elected officials interested in serving in one of six at-large board positions (two-year term), or as second vice president (one-year term). All nominees for second vice president must currently be serving or have previously served on the board of directors. *For more, see Page 2.*



## **California City Solutions: La Puente's L.E.A.D. Engages Students in Mock City Council Meetings and Community Enhancements**

*This story is part of an ongoing series featuring Helen Putnam Award entries. The 2015 entries are available on the League's website as a resource for cities in a searchable database called [California City Solutions](#). The city of La Puente's Project L.E.A.D. was submitted in 2015 for the Ruth Vreeland Award for Engaging Youth in City Government in city Government award category. For more, see Page 3.*

## 'Transportation' Continued from Page 1...

News conference speakers included:

- San Joaquin Mayor Pro Tem Amarpreet Dhaliwal, chair, Fresno Council of Governments
- Sanger Mayor Pro Tem Raul Cantu, policy board member, Fresno Council of Governments policy
- Tulare City Council Member Craig Vejvoda, board member, League of California Cities
- Fresno City Council Member Esmeralda Soria
- Darius Assemi, vice chair, California Transportation Commission
- Michael Quigley, executive director, California Alliance for Jobs
- Mark Kyle, Operating Engineers Local 3

## Background

Highway 180 serves as the gateway to Kings and Sequoia Canyon National Parks. It also serves as the main corridor for transporting agricultural goods through eastern Fresno County to be shipped around the world. Highway 180 westbound lanes have already been expanded from two lanes to four. Construction of Segment 3, to expand the east bound lanes, was set to start this summer. However, the last piece of the funding puzzle, state funding from the CTC needed to complete the project, may not come. This pulls the rug out from under the project and puts it at risk of delay or possible cancellation.

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## 'Board' Continued from Page 1...

### Board Composition

The board of directors comprises the League's officers — 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 11 functional departments, the mayors or designees (alternates) of the mayors of the 10 largest cities by population, and 12 at-large positions, with one reserved for a representative of a small city (under 12,000 population).

City officials serving on the National League of Cities (NLC) board of directors also serve on the League of California Cities board of directors for the duration of their term on the NLC board (two-year term).

The League board typically meets on a quarterly basis at locations throughout the state. Nominees are expected to make a commitment to attend all meetings. All travel-related expenses to attend League board meetings are reimbursed by the League.

### Nomination Process

The 2016 Board Nominating Committee will meet on June 24, prior to the June 24-25 board meeting, to interview at-large finalists and all applicants for the position of second vice president.

The nominating committee members:

- Bell Mayor Pro Tem Ana Maria Quintana (chair)
- Ceres Vice Mayor Ken Lane
- Apple Valley Mayor Pro Tem Scott Nassif
- Watsonville Mayor Pro Tem Karina Cervantez
- Danville Planning Commissioner Robert Combs
- Placentia Mayor Scott Nelson
- Mountain View Council Member Mike Kasperzak
- Rancho Cordova Mayor David Sander
- San Diego Council Member Mark Kersey
- Pasadena City Attorney/Prosecutor Michele Beal Bagneris
- Fremont Council Member Suzanne Lee Chan

The committee will make recommendations to the board of directors at its June meeting. If the board approves the candidates, the recommended candidates will then be announced during the Opening Session of the League's 2016 Annual Conference in Long Beach, Oct. 5-7, 2016. Following confirmation of the final candidates, the 2016-17 board of directors will be announced at the Closing Session of the Annual Conference on Oct. 7.

### **Submission Process**

If you are interested in submitting your name for nomination to the League board of directors, please provide the information requested on the nomination application, along with a biography and letters of endorsement, to the League's Sacramento headquarters on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

The forms are available on the League website:

- [Second Vice President Nomination Form](#)
- [At-Large Director Nomination Form](#)

Nominations may be sent via email to [msharpe@cacities.org](mailto:msharpe@cacities.org)

Or mail to:

Mimi Sharpe  
Executive Assistant  
League of California Cities  
1400 K Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Board nominations packets can also be faxed to the attention of Mimi Sharpe at (916) 658-8240.

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### **'La Puente' Continued from Page 1...**

Whether it is through voting, volunteering or running for public office, citizens have the opportunity become engaged and informed. Life Experiences About Democracy (L.E.A.D.) is a partnership between the city of La Puente and the Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (HLPUSD) that focuses on student and parent engagement at city council meetings and incorporating them in city events and projects to impact meaningful change in the community. Among other activities, L.E.A.D. includes a mock city council meeting environment so students can learn about making important decisions affecting their community.

Maechelle Brown, at teacher at Workman Elementary School met with then La Puente Mayor Violeta Lewis to brainstorm how to enhance her democracy education. Mrs. Brown envisioned students visiting city hall, engaging with elected officials and city staff and experiencing firsthand the workings of local government. She partnered with colleagues from the HLPUSD, Sparks Middle School and Sunset Elementary. This coincided with the introduction of Common Core Standards in the classroom to prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

Annual city events are the preferred family activities in this community. La Puente's 2014 Independence Day Celebration attracted an estimated 20,000 attendees, which is approximately half of the city's residents. City officials wanted to see the same interest translate over to civic engagement and a healthier community.

In summer 2014, educators from HLPUSD and city officials, including then Mayor Lewis and City Manager David Carmany, met to explore Mrs. Brown's ideas. They discussed the challenge of combining this grassroots movement with the city's strategic plan goals to create a civically-minded community that is engaged, healthy, clean/green and informed. As a solution, the partnership created L.E.A.D. By the end of the summer, the entire school year had been mapped out to align Common Core State Standards with the curriculum taught in the classroom and the city's strategic goals.

L.E.A.D. kicked off the school year by engaging the community at an assembly at each of the schools. These assemblies provided students and parents with the opportunity to meet city

officials, to receive an update on current projects and to learn about the city's departments and their functions. Students and parents asked questions and dialogued with city officials.

L.E.A.D. provided opportunities for community engagement at city hall. Since September 2014, students and parents are regularly attending city council meetings. At these meetings, students lead the flag salute and each school has a student or parent presenter give a report on the activities going on in their schools that are given the opportunity to have a one-on-one discussion with the mayor prior to the start of the meeting.

Through L.E.A.D., students received diet and exercise lessons from HLPUSD's director of Food Services. Students applied their learning by hosting a booth at the city's Health, Wellness and Safety Fair. Students educated the community on the importance of healthy choices. This helped to further the city's strategic goal towards a healthier La Puente.

The city's clean/green strategic goal was met when the city and L.E.A.D. held a Community Clean-up Day and a Community Tree Planting Day. The Clean-Up Day was held at La Puente Park and Community Center where trash was picked up, picnic tables and shelters were repaired, cleaned and painted. The Community Center received a face-lift with freshly painted activity rooms and new plants new flowers. The Tree Planting Day brought more than 60 volunteers to Sunset Elementary school to plant 19 trees at the school and the surrounding neighborhood. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps helped dig holes and plant trees. This event was made possible through a grant from the office of Los Angeles County's First Supervisorial District.

The city and HLPUSD partnered to give L.E.A.D. create a Youth in Government Day. Then Mayor Pro Tem Dan Holloway and HLPUSD Board President Anthony Duarte discussed the important role that they and their families have in creating a stronger city and school district. Students attended workshops presented by the city manager, city attorney and the department leaders. Students continued their learning with a mock city council meeting. This meeting featured a five-member mock city council of L.E.A.D. students who were elected and had to consider the development of a new skate park. Students in the audience prepared and delivered research-based presentations supporting or opposing the skate park. Other students portrayed the role of staff members by giving reports to the mock city council and answering questions.

To measure the impact and effectiveness of L.E.A.D. the team looked to the city's strategic goals along with community feedback, attendance and participation records. The city received hand written letters from the students with positive feedback about school assemblies. In the letters the students thanked the city officials for coming to their school, asked additional questions about the material that was presented and provided input regarding what they would like to see in their city. City officials responded by sending personalized letters to each of the students addressing their individual questions and acknowledging their ideas.

L.E.A.D. also used technology as a tool to gauge participation. An online survey solicited feedback about the city and the program . The use of technology was applied in the classrooms when L.E.A.D. teachers asked students and parents to download the city's GORquest app. This free application allowed students to submit service requests. Students received a confirmation email and status updates on the progress of their request. Analytics show that a verifiable increase from zero to approximately 100 students and parents in attendance and involvement at city council meetings and events has occurred through L.E.A.D., creating a greener environment with the Clean-up and Tree Planting Day.

Before L.E.A.D., La Puente's youth did not actively participate in city government. Students now present information twice a month, while learning about city issues and getting to know their city leaders. L.E.A.D. gives students an opportunity to see themselves at city hall as decision makers. In addition, these young leaders have spread positive energy throughout the community, infused new life inside the council chambers and have revitalized city employees and officials.

## **U.S. Communities Launches New Contract to Help Government Agencies with Interpretation and Translation Services**

*Informational Webinars Scheduled for April 5 and 7*

U.S. Communities, the League sponsored government purchasing alliance, has awarded Language Select a multi-year award to provide interpretation and translation services and related services and solutions.

Through this contract, public agencies will have access to a unique business solution provided by an elite group of language professionals that help agencies:

- Facilitate clear communication eliminating any language or cultural barriers;
- Access high-quality interpretation and translation services at competitive rates;
- Assist with communication in a life threatening emergency; and
- Complete a business transaction without translation difficulties.

Language Select provides on-demand telephone interpreting services with access to over 200 languages, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In addition, Language Select offers video remote interpreting services, on-site interpreting services, written translation services, and ancillary services.

### **Informational Webinars**

To introduce public agencies to Language Select's services and solutions, U.S. Communities is offering two complimentary one hour webinars. Register today through the following links:

- [Tuesday, April 5, 2016, 8:00 a.m. PDT/11:00 a.m. EDT](#)
- [Thursday, April 7, 2016, 11:00 a.m. PDT/2:00 p.m. EDT](#)

### **About U.S. Communities**

The U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, a strategic partner of the League of California Cities, 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, and nonprofits. State and local governments have access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with best in class national suppliers.

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### **Session Proposals for 2016 Municipal Finance Institute due April 8**

The League of California Cities<sup>®</sup> is seeking session ideas for the Municipal Finance Institute, which will be held Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Monterey. This is the premiere educational event for finance officers, city treasurers, city managers and staff.

#### **Submission Guidelines**

- Submissions, non-commercial in nature, from any individual, group, business or organization, on any topic are welcome.
- The Executive Forum Program Planning Committee will consider the educational value of each proposal and the extent to which it presents new and/or significant information.
- Sessions may not include sales, commercialism or product promotion of any kind.
- Proposals must be [submitted online](#) on or before Friday, April 8.

For additional information please contact [Brian Sanders](#).

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## **Considering a Sales Tax Increase, Do it Right**

A local add-on sales tax is legally a “transactions and use tax” (TrUT) and must be adopted in conformance with state law. The state Board of Equalization (BOE) is responsible for administering these taxes, which the BOE also calls “district taxes.” The BOE offers an invaluable publication, [“Tax Information for City and County Officials: Local Sales and Use Tax, Transactions \(Sales\) and Use Tax.”](#) (Publication 28).

The booklet is an invaluable resource for local agencies considering putting a TrUT increase on the ballot, as well as for cities wanting to understand and ensure proper allocation of all sales tax revenues. The publication covers the unique differences between sales and use taxes and TrUT and provides essential resources and contacts to ensure your taxes are adopted legally.

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## **Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service is Fast Approaching**

Mayors from across the United States are invited to participate in the third annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service, scheduled for April 7. The event is led by the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National League of Cities, and Cities of Service.

This year’s event will highlight the impact of AmeriCorps and Senior Corps. Participating in the event is a way for mayors to hold public events and use traditional and social media to highlight the value and impact of national service to the nation’s cities. Last year, 1,760 mayors representing more than 110 million citizens participated in the second-annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service.

[Register online](#) to participate.

CNCS has put together a comprehensive toolkit for the event that includes FAQs, key messages, sample news release, sample proclamation and more.

For questions, please contact [Laurie Cannady](#) of the CNCS CA State Office at (310) 235-7421.

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