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Issue #77

Session Ends with Possibilities Still Open on Transportation

Progress Made for Cities and Local Control

Early Thursday morning the Legislature wrapped up its 2015-16 regular session concluding two years dominated by major issues such as minimum wage, climate change, health insurance organization taxes and more. For cities, engagement focused on transportation funding, medical marijuana regulation, economic development, housing affordability and homelessness. Much work was accomplished, but at the close of the session two significant issues affecting cities remain outstanding — transportation and affordable housing funding. With the continuance of the special session on transportation, conversations and negotiations will go on with possible action later in the year or early in the 2017 session. Housing affordability is also expected to remain a major issue next year. Progress was made on other issues for cities on local control.

For more, see Page 2.



End of Session Signature/Veto Webinar Helps Cities Take Action on Measures on Governor's Desk

Now that the Legislature has adjourned the 2015-16 session, the focus shifts solely to legislation that made it to Gov. Jerry Brown's desk. The Governor has until Friday, Sept. 30 to sign or veto the hundreds of bills awaiting his review. Bills he signs will largely go into effect on Jan. 1, 2017. Cities are invited to participate in the League's Sept. 7 end of session webinar where the organization's legislative advocacy team will brief members on the priority bills for cities.

For more, see Page 3.



League-Sponsored Bond Agency Issues \$12.7 Million in Tax-Exempt Bonds for The Culinary Institute of America in St. Helena and Napa

Some of the most significant benefits of League membership for cities since 1988 have flowed from the League's co-sponsorship of the [California Statewide Communities Development Authority](#) (CSCDA). *For more, see Page 3.*

Transportation

Sen. Jim Beall (D-San Jose) and Assembly Member Jim Frazier (D-Oakley) [last week introduced two bills](#) into the Special Session on Transportation that would generate \$7.4 billion annually for the state's transportation network. This total includes \$2.5 billion for local streets and roads. Supported by the League, [SBx1 1 \(Beall\)](#) and [ABx1 26 \(Frazier\)](#) mirror each other and offer a carefully balanced approach to funding road maintenance and repair with significant reforms.

While the Legislature adjourned the 2015-16 regular session, the special session continues until Nov. 30 giving legislators an opportunity to return to the Capitol to work on transportation funding in what would be known as a "lame duck" session. The Assembly took an important procedural step on Tuesday night to facilitate that work after the Nov. 8 election when Speaker Anthony Rendon (D-Lakewood) officially became Speaker of the special session. This was an important signal of interest by Speaker Rendon, because former Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) had been listed as special session speaker since convened in 2015. Speaker Rendon will now have the ability to make committee member assignments and assign bills, which will be important between now and Nov. 30.

While there is still further to go, significant progress has been made in getting the challenges faced by local streets and roads onto the agenda of legislative leadership and the Gov. Jerry Brown; all that is needed now is the tenacity and discipline to finish the race.

Cities should remain engaged on transportation and watch for updates from the League. [The Fix Our Roads Coalition](#), of which the League is a founding member, remains focused on working with legislators and stakeholders on passing a workable and sustainable transportation funding package.

Housing

Housing affordability dominated a great deal of the 2016 session. Important progress to assist the homeless was made with the [No Place Like Home](#) initiative, which the Governor signed into law on July 1. The \$2 billion program takes a constructive approach by helping the homeless through housing with supportive services. The measure will create an-estimated 10,000-plus housing units throughout the state, with funding coming from Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act.

Several bills affecting housing planning and approvals were advanced to the Governor, and in most cases the League was successful in obtaining necessary amendments; however, efforts to secure affordable housing funding regrettably stalled.

An effort by Assembly Democrats, supported by the League, to secure \$1.3 billion in excess state General Fund dollars for affordable housing was stymied during the budget negotiations when the funds were instead placed in the state's Rainy Day reserve fund. Disputes later ensued over the [Governor's by right housing proposal](#), which [sought to expedite certain housing development via the elimination of opportunities for public input and project-level environmental analysis. This proposal was strongly opposed by labor and environmental organizations, as well as the League.](#)

A late-session effort to place housing and park bonds on the 2018 ballot also faded.

Progress Made on Other Issues

While work goes forward on transportation and affordable housing funding, progress was made in other areas: the League was successful in getting numerous bills helpful to cities to the Governor's desk. Most bills harmful to city interests were either stopped or amended to resolve city concerns.

The League thanks city officials for their continued assistance on the many legislative issues pending during the 2016 session.

'Sign/Veto' Continued from Page 1...

The League on Tuesday, Sept. 6 will issue a list of all priority bills on the Governor's desk. This list will serve as the foundation of the Sept. 7 webinar. In addition, sign and veto sample letters will be available for cities to use on the League's website at www.cacities.org/billsearch by plugging the bill number into the search function.

Webinar Details

- Sept. 7, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.
- Free for League members and partners. Others will be charged \$100
- Two connections per city
- [Register](#) by Sept. 2

'CSCDA-CIA' Continued from Page 1...

This program provides a variety of public agencies and developers access to low-cost, tax-exempt financing and economic development tools. CSCDA recently issued \$12,725,000 in tax-exempt bonds for The Culinary Institute of America located in the cities of St. Helena and Napa.

About The Culinary Institute of America

The Culinary Institute of America (CIA) is the world's premier culinary college, with an industry-wide reputation for excellence and more than 48,000 alumni serving their professions as a living testament to the quality of a CIA education.

Responding to a growing need for food and wine professional development on the West Coast, the college opened The Culinary Institute of America at Greystone, a branch campus located in the heart of California's Napa Valley. The campus is situated in and around the Greystone Cellars building formally owned by Christian Brothers. First offering continuing education programs for foodservice professionals, the California campus grew to include associate degree programs and food enthusiast classes.

Expanding the college's California campus and its presence in wine country, the CIA recently acquired the property that was Copia, the former center for food, wine, and the arts in downtown Napa. The Culinary Institute of America at Copia will offer food and wine education programs, as well as industry leadership conferences and initiatives. Visitors can anticipate new programs focused on food and wine, new dining facilities, an expanded calendar of special events, a public museum, and other consumer-focused experiences. The Food Business School will also be headquartered there.

CSCDA partnered with J.P. Morgan to underwrite the \$12,725,000 in tax-exempt bonds for the CIA. The bonds will be used to renovate the Greystone campus in the city of St. Helena, and the Copia facilities in the city of Napa.

Background

CSCDA is a joint powers authority created in 1988 and is sponsored by the League of California Cities® and the California State Association of Counties. It was created by cities and counties for cities and counties. More than 500 cities, counties and special districts are program participants in CSCDA, which serves as their conduit issuer and provides access to efficiently finance locally-approved projects. CSCDA has issued more than \$50 billion in tax exempt bonds for projects that provide a public benefit by creating jobs, affordable housing, healthcare, infrastructure, schools and other fundamental services. Visit [CSCDA's website](#) for additional information on the ways in which CSCDA can help your city.
