



January 26, 2021

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President pro Tempore
State Capitol Building, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Shannon Grove
Senate Republican Leader
State Capitol Building, Room 305
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
Speaker, California State Assembly
State Capitol Building, Room 219
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Marie Waldron
Assembly Republican Leader
State Capitol Building, Room 3104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Proposed 2021-22 State Budget and Investment in State-Local Partnership

Dear President pro Tempore Atkins, Speaker Rendon, Republican Leader Grove, and Republican Leader Waldron:

On behalf of the League of California Cities (Cal Cities), and the 477 cities we represent, thank you for your leadership and tireless efforts to protect and support Californians during this time of crisis. There is more work to be done to fight this pandemic and position our state for a strong recovery, and we look forward to partnering with you to achieve those goals.

For nearly a year, California cities have been on the front lines taking action to protect their residents and their communities and to maintain the delivery of essential city services despite the substantial unplanned expenses and revenue shortfalls caused by COVID-19. Although we are grateful for the funding the state provided to cities under the CARES Act in the 2020-21 State Budget, cities have yet to receive enough of the available state dollars to protect public health and maintain the essential services and the workforce on which our mutual constituencies rely. Without that support, cities have been forced to cut budgets, services and jobs. Sadly, across the state, nearly 165,500 local government jobs have already been lost during this pandemic.

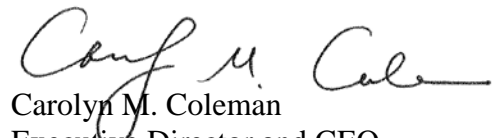
The Governor's proposed 2021-22 State Budget provides new funding to assist individuals experiencing homelessness and to strengthen wildfire resistance and emergency response, which we support. We also appreciate the emergency assistance to individuals, families, and small businesses, which are all critical to helping our state and local economies recover from this pandemic. As the economic engines of our state, that are being called upon to lead in the on-going response efforts and our state's recovery, cities were left without assistance in the Governor's proposal.

To ensure resiliency through this pandemic and a strong recovery, an urgent priority for cities in the 2021-22 State Budget is direct and flexible funding for every city in California. As the process moves forward, we urge you to make assistance available to our cities to support COVID-19 response and recovery by allocating funding that is commensurate with the fiscal

impact cities have experienced during this pandemic from the budget windfall of at least \$15.5 billion, as projected by the Legislative Analyst's Office. This assistance would allow cities to preserve critical jobs and services that help our families, small businesses, and communities recover from this pandemic.

Your support is a crucial step to helping our cities continue to play a strong role in our state's response and recovery. We respectfully urge you to support funding for cities in the 2021-22 State Budget, and know that we stand ready to put these vital resources to work to begin the long road to a brighter future for all Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolyn M. Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carolyn" being the most prominent.

Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director and CEO
League of California Cities