



*Annual Conference
Resolutions Packet*

2020 Annual Conference Resolutions



October 7 – 9, 2020

KEY TO ACTIONS TAKEN ON RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions have been grouped by policy committees to which they have been assigned.

Number Key Word Index Reviewing Body Action

		1	2	3
		1 - Policy Committee Recommendation to General Resolutions Committee 2 - General Resolutions Committee 3 - General Assembly		

GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY & LABOR RELATIONS POLICY COMMITTEE

		1	2	3
1	Amendment to Section 230 of The Communications Decency Act of 1996	A	A	

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE

		1	2	3
1	Amendment to Section 230 of The Communications Decency Act of 1996	A	A	

KEY TO ACTIONS TAKEN ON RESOLUTIONS *(Continued)*

Resolutions have been grouped by policy committees to which they have been assigned.

KEY TO REVIEWING BODIES

1. Policy Committee
2. General Resolutions Committee
3. General Assembly

KEY TO ACTIONS TAKEN

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | Approve |
| D | Disapprove |
| N | No Action |
| R | Refer to appropriate policy committee for study |

ACTION FOOTNOTES

* Subject matter covered in another resolution

** Existing League policy

*** Local authority presently exists

- | | |
|-----|---|
| a | Amend+ |
| Aa | Approve as amended+ |
| Aaa | Approve with additional amendment(s)+ |
| Ra | Refer as amended to appropriate policy committee for study+ |
| Raa | Additional amendments and refer+ |
| Da | Amend (for clarity or brevity) and Disapprove+ |
| Na | Amend (for clarity or brevity) and take No Action+ |
| W | Withdrawn by Sponsor |

Procedural Note:

The League of California Cities resolution process at the Annual Conference is guided by the League Bylaws. A helpful explanation of this process can be found on the League's website by clicking on this link: [Resolution Process](#).

CONSENT CALENDAR

Resolution No. 1

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES CALLING FOR AN AMENDMENT OF SECTION 230 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DECENCY ACT OF 1996 TO REQUIRE SOCIAL MEDIA COMPANIES TO REMOVE MATERIALS WHICH PROMOTE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

Source: City of Cerritos

Concurrence of five or more cities/city officials

Cities: City of Hawaiian Gardens, City of Lakewood, City of Ontario, City of Rancho Cucamonga, City of Roseville

Referred to: Governance, Transparency and Labor Relations and Public Safety Policy Committees

Recommendation to General Resolutions Committee:

Governance, Transparency and Labor Relations Committee - **APPROVE**

Public Safety - **APPROVE**

Recommendation to General Assembly - **APPROVE**

WHEREAS, local law enforcement agencies seek to protect their communities' residents, businesses, and property owners from crime; and

WHEREAS, increasingly, criminals use social media platforms to post notices of places, dates and times for their followers to meet to commit crimes; and

WHEREAS, Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 currently provides online platforms (including social media platforms) immunity from civil liability based on third-party content and for the removal of content; and

WHEREAS, in the 25 years since Section 230's enactment, online platforms no longer function simply as forums for the posting of third-party content but rather use sophisticated algorithms to promote content and to connect users; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice, in its June 2020 report, "Section 230 — Nurturing Innovation or Fostering Unaccountability?," concluded the expansive interpretation courts have given Section 230 has left online platforms immune from a wide array of illicit activity on their services, with little transparency or accountability, noting it "makes little sense" to immunize from civil liability an online platform that purposefully facilitates or solicits third-party content or activity that violates federal criminal law; and

WHEREAS, current court precedent interpreting Section 230 also precludes state and local jurisdictions from enforcing criminal laws against such online platforms that, while not actually performing unlawful activities, facilitate them; and

WHEREAS, amendment of Section 230 is necessary to clarify that online platforms are not immune from civil liability for promoting criminal activities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED at the League General Assembly, assembled

at the League Annual Conference on October 9, 2020 in Long Beach, California, that the League calls upon the U.S. Congress to amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to condition immunity from civil liability on the following:

1. Online platforms must establish and implement a reasonable program to identify and take down content which solicits criminal activity; and
2. Online platforms must provide to law enforcement information which will assist in the identification and apprehension of persons who use the services of the platform to solicit and to engage in criminal activity; and
3. An online platform that willfully or negligently fails in either of these duties is not immune from enforcement of state and local laws which impose criminal or civil liability for such failure.