



Scope of Responsibility

The Committee on Community Services reviews issues related to childcare, parks and recreation, libraries, cultural arts and community and human services programs.

Community Services

SUMMARY OF EXISTING POLICY AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Animals

The League supports legislation to prevent a person or animal shelter from selling, giving or otherwise transferring living animals to research facilities or animal dealers.

Arts, Cultural Resources, Historic Preservation and Activities

The League supports continued state funding that recognizes the important role of local arts activities

and historic preservation in community life and how these cultural activities affect the social health and economic vitality of cities.

Child Care

The League supports the creation of more affordable, innovative and quality parks and recreation and child care options for parents and concurrently encourages adherence to strict regulations and guidelines.

Children

The League believes that the children of California must be recognized as our state's most valuable resource. Their development, education and well-being are key to our state's future. Further, it is essential that each child have the support needed to become a productive citizen in the world of the 21st Century. This involves supporting diverse before-and-after-school programs and creating stronger linkages between municipal services and school-based job training programs in order to produce more job placement opportunities.

The League promotes the development of a cooperative program with the goal to increase enrollment of California's children in the Healthy Families Program.

The League encourages cities to promote anti-bullying efforts across California as well as provide education and awareness to the general public about the imminent health and safety concerns for bullied children, especially those with special needs.

Park Bond Funds

The League believes that any statewide park bond measure should include a component that provides per capita grants to cities and counties. The League opposes tying local eligibility for grant funds to non-park related issues, such as rent control or housing element status.

Public Parks/Recreational Facilities

While the State of California studies the use of crumb rubber in synthetic turf and playground surfaces, the League opposes legislation that requires cities to undertake specific actions before installation can occur.

The League supports requiring public pools to provide Automated External Defibrillator (AED) during pool operations.

Public Libraries

The League supports full funding of the Public Library Fund so that the State of California can fully fund its share of the program, understanding how libraries play an integral role in building and sustaining our communities. (Additional library-related policy is included in "Restructuring California's Public Library Services," the report of a joint task force co-sponsored by the League, CSAC, California Library Association and the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners.)

The League opposes legislation that requires public libraries to install and maintain computer software for use on computers in the library that prohibits access to obscene material to minors and other library patrons. The League believes that this issue is more appropriately addressed at the local level, in ways that meet local circumstances, and thus is an issue of local control.

Seniors

The League encourages cities to recognize seniors as a valuable state resource and to develop and improve intergenerational programs and activities. The League supports legislation that would provide funding for side-by-side day care facilities for California's youth, adults and seniors.

Healthy Cities

The League encourages California cities to help parents make healthy family choices; create healthy schools; provide access to healthy and affordable foods; and adopt city design and planning principles that promote physical activity.

The League encourages cities to involve youth, especially middle and high school students, with city health-related programs.

The League encourages cities to address the needs of an aging population through local and statewide planning, education and conference programming.

The League encourages cities to establish their own rules and regulations pertaining to community recreational activities.

Smoking and Tobacco Control

The League supports legislation that establishes a statewide smoking and tobacco control standard that includes electronic cigarettes and vapor products, as long as such legislation does not preempt the ability of cities and counties to enact local laws that are stronger than the statewide standard or to regulate in areas not covered in the statewide standard. The League opposes legislation that would restrict such local authority.

The League supports legislation that limits the ability of minors to obtain tobacco and tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes and vapor products.

The League supports and advocates that all 480 California cities be equitably included in the distribution of moneys that the state receives from the Tobacco Settlement Memorandum of Understanding, and believes that the moneys received by counties should benefit all cities within the county and that cities have input into the decision-making process.

The League supports legislation that requires tobacco retailers to obtain a state-issued license to sell tobacco products, as long as the legislation does not restrict or preempt the ability of cities to enact and enforce their own retail licensing programs and to enforce the state-wide licensing program. The League also supports legislation designed to restrict the sale of illegal, counterfeit tobacco products.

Note: *The League will review new legislation to determine how it relates to existing League policies and guiding principles. In addition, because this document is updated every two years to include policies and guiding principles adopted by the League during the previous two years, there may be new, evolving policies under consideration or adopted by the League that are not reflected in the current version of this document. However, all policies adopted by the League Board of Directors or the League's General Assembly become League policy and are binding on the League, regardless of when they are adopted and whether they appear in the current version of "Summary of Existing Policies and Guiding Principles."*