

COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, April 13, 2018

Sheraton Fairplex Hotel & Conference Center, Pomona

ATTENDANCE

Members: Bill DeHart (Chair); Larry Moody (V. Chair) Janet Abelson, Darlene Barber-Martinez, Stacy Berry, Lisa Blackwell, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Leslie Caviglia, Ruben Chavez, JoAnne Cousino, Harold Duffy, Christine Engel, Ashley Garcia, Jay Ingram, Janet Jimenez, Linda Krupa, Alina Kwak, Irais Lopez-Ortega, Tony Madrigal, Shelly Masur, Heidi Messner, Linda Molina, Bridgette Moore, Liz Morris, Thua-Ha Nguyen, W.F. Olsen, Todd Rigby, Sid Robinson, Lydia Romero, Bruce Roundy, Jess Sandoval, Velveth Schmitz, David Shapiro, Michael Smith, Avelina Torres, Thom Venegoni, Steve Walker, Brad Wilkie, Lori Wilson, Aly Zimmermann,

League Partner:

Staff: Erin Evans-Fudem

I. State Budget and Issues Briefing

The April 2018 Policy Committee meetings began with a general session briefing and an introduction from Rich Garbarino, League President, Council Member, South San Francisco. President Gabarino gave a brief welcome highlighting the importance of the League's 2018 Strategic goals and thanking everyone for their attendance. He then introduced League Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Director, Dan Carrigg, to discuss state budget and legislative issues.

Mr. Carrigg and Michael Coleman, the League's Fiscal Policy Advisor, provided an update on the Governor's budget. Mr. Coleman gave a brief presentation regarding the makeup of California's budget and discussed the projected surplus of an estimated \$6 billion.

Mr. Carrigg stated that the Governor's first commitment with additional funds is to fill California's 'Rainy Day' reserve fund to its constitutional limit. With several billion more in additional funds available, in addition to supporting additional funding to address homelessness, the League is making three budget requests: \$100 million for disaster equipment pre-positioning; \$100 million for the Transformative Climate Communities program; and \$100 million for organic waste recycling infrastructure.

Mr. Carrigg gave an update on the major ballot issues coming up in 2018, including the California Business Roundtable Initiative, which would limit the ability of cities to raise taxes and fees to provide essential services to their communities. He gave a background on the measure and stated that the League and a strong coalition of local government and labor associations are opposed and will continue to fight this initiative. Finally, he gave a brief overview of other initiatives that may be on the ballot ranging from rent control to splitting California into three states. He then introduced League's lobbyists to discuss their respective major issue areas.

Rony Berdugo, Legislative Representative, discussed the League's strategic goal of protecting existing transportation funding for local priorities and the ongoing SB 1 repeal effort. He described the League's campaign to protect SB 1 dollars and presented cities with several ways

they can do their part to protect the funding. He also discussed Proposition 69, on the June ballot, which will ensure that the revenue created by SB 1 is constitutionally restricted for transportation purposes. For cities looking to join in the League's advocacy efforts, both to oppose any gas tax repeal effort and to support the constitutional protections on the June 2018 ballot, please visit <https://fixcaroads.com/> to learn more.

Next, Jason Rhine, Assistant Legislative Director, briefed members on the issues surrounding affordable housing, homelessness, and land use. Mr. Rhine focused on the housing affordability and availability challenges throughout the state. He noted that even with the passage of last year's 15-bill "housing package," housing legislation continues to be a high priority for the Legislature this year.

Mr. Rhine discussed the League's opposition to SB 827 (Wiener), which would exempt certain housing projects from locally developed and adopted height limitations, densities, parking requirements, and design review standards. He also discussed the large number of bills introduced this year that touch on nearly every aspect of the current housing law. Also outlined were: HCD's projected milestones for SB 2 and the revenue that it will generate, homelessness funding, the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 and No Place Like Home funding. Mr. Rhine went on to discuss the Joint Task Force Report on Homelessness and its findings. The report can be found here: [Homelessness Task Force Report - Tools and Resources for Cities and Counties](#)

Dane Hutchings, Legislative Representative, provided an update on pensions and other labor and governance issues. He gave an overview of what will be happening on pensions this year and referenced the League's [Pension Survey Report](#). Mr. Hutchings stressed that cities are struggling with increasing costs and securing additional flexibility. He described the reality of attempting to find a solution to the pension issue in Sacramento and explained the League's strategy. Additionally, Mr. Hutchings discussed the League's opposition to AB 1912 (Rodriguez), which would apply prospective and retroactive joint and several liability to agencies who have entered into a JPA for all retirement related liabilities for any public retirement system. This measure would not just apply to CalPERS but any county retirement system as well. Mr. Hutchings also briefly described a CalPERS divestment bill.

Erin Evans-Fudem, Legislative Representative, highlighted evolving environmental and community issues. She discussed the importance for cities to engage in discussions about several issues including organic waste recycling regulations, disaster relief and wildfire response legislation, offshore drilling, and clean drinking water legislation. Specifically, she discussed Propositions 68 and 72, which are on the June ballot. Proposition 68 is the park and water bond which will bring more funding to maintain parks and protect water storage and infrastructure. Proposition 72 would give a tax exemption to those who install a rainwater capture system on their property. She also elaborated on the League's several budget requests: \$100 million for fire prevention; \$100 million for waste diversion; and \$100 million for the Transformative Climate Communities program.

With the current absence of a public safety legislative representative, Dan Carrigg provided an update on public safety and revenue and taxation. Mr. Carrigg gave a brief update on the public safety initiative sponsored by the California Police Chiefs Association and the Grocers

Association that attempts to address issues of chronic retail theft and violent crime. Having initially thought that the amount of cannabis legislation would slow down after last year, he reported that there are a large number of bills introduced attempting to change laws surrounding cannabis. He also briefly touched on drones as an emerging policy area.

Mr. Carrigg continued his presentation on revenue and taxation and an update regarding some important initiatives that may make their way onto the November ballot. He gave an update regarding tax increment tools and redevelopment. Mr. Carrigg went on to describe the various tools available to cities and the potential for redevelopment to come back. The League will continue working with Legislators to continue to expand the options for local agencies. He briefly discussed legislation regarding annexations and incorporations.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Bill DeHart welcomed committee members and began with the introductions of himself, Vice Chair Larry Moody, and League staff, followed by self-introductions of each committee member. Each member introduced themselves along with one interesting fact about their city or town.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. State Fire Response and Disaster Relief Draft Policy

One area of legislative focus is helping ensure communities are better prepared for disasters. Another area of legislative focus is assisting with post-disaster non-medical assistance to help individuals and communities recover. This is an area where League policy does not offer much guidance, so League staff—after reviewing some of the legislation—has proposed some potential policy for consideration.

The general sentiment of the committee was that many cities would need assistance to handle the effects of the disasters – whether it be funding for the appropriate volume of firefighting personnel, property insurance payouts, to how to provide ample protection and evacuation procedures for animals (specifically for those that reside in rural communities).

The committee sought to ensure the wording was broad enough to include emergency response prepositioning. The committee debated enumerating services for animals, but ultimately decided the policy as drafted could cover animal services.

The committee voted on each item separately. Motion to approve the amendment to existing policy, as amended, passed by unanimous voice vote. Motion to approve the new policy passed by a nearly unanimous voice vote, with one committee member opposed.

- Amend existing policy: The League supports additional funding for local agencies to recoup the costs associated with fire safety in the community and timely mutual aid reimbursement for disaster response services in other jurisdictions. The League also supports additional funding for local agencies to preposition **emergency response** personnel and equipment as well as coordinate notification systems with local and state agencies.

- New proposed policy: The League supports measures that provide resources for local governments to coordinate services to assist displaced residents and communities recover from wildfires, earthquakes and other natural disasters.

V. Legislative Agenda

SB 1045 (Weiner) Conservatorship: chronic homelessness: mental illness and substance abuse disorders

This measure would create a new conservatorship that focuses on providing supportive housing with intensive wraparound services to care for the most vulnerable Californians who are chronically homeless, mentally ill and suffer from serious substance use disorders. The program focuses on people who routinely end up in emergency room, psychiatric facilities, jail, or other police custody and for whom voluntary support services have repeatedly failure to have a positive long-term impact. The legislation states that the conservator can be a local agency or a guardian, appointed by an official of the county.

The committee discussed this measure thoroughly. Ultimately the majority of committee members believed the measure is lacking answers to certain questions, including how individuals in conservatorship would be housed, how funding would be identified, and how case management would be done. A motion to watch the measure passed by voice vote with three committee members opposed.

VI. Homelessness Task Force Report

Melissa Kuehne of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) gave a presentation on the findings from the Homelessness Task Force Report; spearheaded by a task force comprised of elected officials, municipal housing and homelessness leaders, and city and county attorneys. The committee was interested in the findings and a conversation began, with city officials relaying the homelessness concerns and statuses within their own communities. Committee members see value i the report and concluded that homelessness was a major issue to address in the near future.

VII. Legislative Update

League Staff presented to committee members a list of current bills that the League had taken position on, and briefed the members on the status of several bills and their potential impacts on cities.

VIII. Libraries: Children's and Community Service Programs

Helen McAlary, Director of the Library, Recreation, Arts & Culture for the city of Ontario, gave a presentation on her city's program in which children gather at the local library to receive affordable lunch options during the summer months, when school lunches are no longer available. The committee members were excited at the prospect of implementing similar programs in their own cities and towns.

Next Meeting: Friday, June 8, League of California Cities, Sacramento