



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, June 4, 2020

ZOOM

[Community Services Policy Committee Slides](#)

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, Community Services

General Briefing:

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing prior to the start of policy committee meetings, the League advocacy team compiled a [General Briefing Update Document](#), which includes the latest on federal and state legislative matters affecting cities within their respective policy areas.

I. Welcome and Introductions

League President John Dunbar, Mayor, Yountville, welcomed everyone to the second installment of virtual policy committee meetings. He thanked all of the Policy Committee members for the extra effort they give on behalf of California's cities. President Dunbar explained it is a challenging time for cities as they incur significant expenses associated with the public health crisis. He highlighted that the League is calling on state and federal governments to provide direct and flexible funding to all cities, and will be advocating for resources needed to respond to, and recover from, this pandemic.

President Dunbar also addressed the brutal death of George Floyd. He explained that as local leaders, everyone has the power – and responsibility – to confront the underlying racism and civil injustice still present within communities. He said the League would be setting aside time during each policy committee meeting to talk about two key questions on equity and justice. The first question was, "In order to help city leaders focus on equity and justice in our communities, what specific policy issues should we advance in your committee?" The second question was, "What resources do cities need to respond to what is happening in our communities?" President Dunbar explained that the discussions generated by these questions would help inform the League's work in the coming weeks and months to provide the support necessary to make real and positive changes.

President Dunbar introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone for leading in one of the most challenging times in recent history. She explained that California's cities have been models for the nation, and their actions in response to COVID-19 have saved lives. Ms. Coleman said that besides developing policy recommendations on ballot measures and legislation, the League is asking the policy committees to have a discussion on President Dunbar's two key questions related to equity and justice. Ms. Coleman highlighted that without the committee members' engagement, the League wouldn't be the strong organization it is.

Vice Chair Messner, Councilmember from the City of Eureka, then welcomed committee members and provided an introduction and some opening comments.

II. Public Comment

Vice Chair Messner asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

III. COVID-19 Update

League staff provided a COVID-19 update, which highlighted resources such as the League's COVID-19 dedicated [webpage](#), [email](#), and [webinar series](#). League staff also gave an overview of the potential impacts that COVID-19 may have on key state legislative and budget deadlines. Notably, COVID-19 response and recovery, along with issues such as housing, homelessness, public safety, and wildfires, will likely continue to be legislative priorities for this session, while other legislative priorities may be delayed until next session.

Additionally, League staff provided an overview of the League's [Support Local Recovery](#) campaign. This highlighted the campaign's goals, which includes securing \$7 billion from the state government and \$500 billion from the federal government in direct and flexible funding to support critical city services. League staff also provided some key takeaways from the League's fiscal analysis, which illustrates that all cities, regardless of size and geography, are being impacted by COVID-19, with over 90 percent of cities reporting that they are considering cutting/furloughing city staff or reducing public services. The League continues to work closely with its federal lobbying team and the National League of Cities regarding a potential fourth stimulus package.

IV. Budget Update

League staff provided an update on the Governor's May Revision proposed budget. The budget proposal has been scaled down to \$203 billion from the \$222.2 billion proposed in January. The focus of the budget is the protection of California's core values: public education, public health, public safety, and people hit hardest by COVID-19. The May Revision proposes to use \$16.2 billion in the Budget Stabilization Account (Rainy Day Fund) over three years. The League's budget analysis can be found [here](#).

V. Legislative Agenda

AB 2213 (Limon) Office of Emergency Services: Model Guidelines

League staff walked the committee through the bill. Several members asked questions. Some raised concerns about the lack of clarity in the guidelines. League staff clarified that AB 2213 allows CalOES broad authority to develop the guidelines with California Volunteers. Other committee members spoke in support of the need to develop guidelines for local governments and other local entities to identify, type, and track community resources that could assist in responding to, or recovering from, disasters.

Committee Action: A motion was made to **support** AB 2213. It carried unanimously, with a 34-0 vote.

VI. Legislative Update

League staff highlighted several bills of interest to the committee. These bills include AB 2054, SB 1196, and SB 793. Committee members also asked questions about AB 2501 and SB 1130.

VII. Community Services Work Plan Update

League staff updated the committee on actions that have been taken to accomplish the committee's work plan. It was noted how different the state of the world is from when the work plan was developed.

VIII. Equity and Justice Discussion

The committee discussed equity and justice as it relates to the community services policy community. Members spoke about equity and justice in the healthcare system with emphasis on hospital closures. Members also talked about the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on communities of color. A member mentioned concerns over the militarization of local police forces. A committee member shared the need for more direct funding to cities instead of allocating the money to counties.

IX. Child Mental and Physical Health, Wellness, and Well-Being Update

Senator Connie Leyva spoke to the committee about the importance of access to good jobs, good healthcare, and mental health programs. She stressed that the state must have a strong safety net even as the state faces significant budget challenges. Senator Leyva outlined priorities in the state budget that included protecting core education programs; providing additional funding in some school programs; closing the digital divide (20 million students do not have access to the internet); and ensuring that childcare and afterschool care remains a priority or the economy can't recover. She also believes additional federal assistance may come but the state must be prepared if it does not happen. Senator Leyva then took several questions from the committee. Vice Chair Messner thanked her for speaking on behalf of the committee.

Vice Chair Messner thanked the committee for their hard work this year and expressed appreciation for everyone's participation and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: Staff will notify committee members after August 17 if the policy committee will be meeting in October.