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 policy committee and thanked them all for joining the webinar. President Dunbar recognized the extraordinary action city leaders have taken since the beginning of the pandemic to lower the risk of exposure and spread of COVID-19 in our communities. President Dunbar stated while local officials are serving their residents and business owners, the League is working with federal, state, and county government officials, as well as health care experts, to ensure resources and financial support for cities. He emphasized the importance of policy committees to the League’s core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities. President Dunbar closed by thanking policy committee members for all of the extra effort they put in on behalf of all California cities.

President Dunbar introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone for their continued leadership through the COVID-19 pandemic and for making time to participate in policy committee meetings through the new web-based platform. She explained the League would not be as effective if it were not for the collective efforts of policy committee members. Ms. Coleman concluded by emphasizing the League will continue its core mission of being an advocate for cities through this unprecedented time.

Chair Olivia Valentine and Vice Chair Lisa Middleton welcomed committee members and provided a brief introduction. Vice Chair Middleton, who serves as the local government representative on the CalPERS Board of Directors, gave a general CalPERS update and stated that CalPERS has been preparing for a downturn and is in a better position to handle a downturn than in 2008. Vice Chair Middleton reminded the committee that cities will not feel the CalPERS fiscal impact of the loss in returns until 2022.

II. 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, 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 summarized the three federal relief and stimulus bills, highlighting the recently passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The CARES Act is a historic $2 trillion emergency package intended to stave off economic collapse in the wake of COVID-19. Lastly, League staff mentioned the possibility of a fourth federal stimulus package. The League continues to work closely with its federal lobbying team and the National League of Cities on the fourth package.

IV. City Fiscal Challenges Discussion
The committee received an update on the latest actions the League has taken to better understand the fiscal impact that COVID-19 will have on cities and allowed time for policy committee members to share their own experiences. Additionally, committee members shared what resources from the state and federal government would best assist their city in the short term and long term.

V. Legislative Update
Nicolas Romo, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities, provided the committee a legislative update on measures related to revenue and taxation. Mr. Romo solicited feedback from policy committee members on two bills. The first measure was AB 3009 (Mullin), which would change the formula for calculating a successor agency’s administrative cost allowance. The second measure was SB 1072 (McGuire), which would authorize the option for a city to enact an ordinance exclusively delegating its authority to collect any transient occupancy tax (TOT) imposed by that local agency on short-term rentals to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and to enter into a contract with the department to perform all functions incident to the collection and administration of any TOT imposed on a short-term rental.

VI. Housing & Homelessness Update
Jason Rhine, Assistant Legislative Director, League of California Cities, provided the committee a legislative update on measures related to planning and zoning, accessory dwelling units, affordable housing, homelessness, mitigation and development fees, mobile homes, and tax increment financing. The committee also received an update on the League’s housing production proposal. More information on the League’s proposal can be found on the League’s Housing webpage.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4, So. San Francisco Conference Center, 255 S. Airport Blvd, South San Francisco*
(*subject to change)