

**REVENUE AND TAXATION POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
Thursday, April 2, 2020  
ZOOM**

[Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee Slides](#)

Staff: Nicolas Romo, Legislative Representative  
Johnnie Pina, Legislative Policy Analyst

**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.

Chair Olivia Valentine and Vice Chair Lisa Middleton welcomed committee members, provided a brief introduction and gave brief opening remarks touching on COVID-19 and equity and justice issues.

**II. Public Comment**

Chair Valentine 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 illustrate 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 Update

Nicolas Romo, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities, provided the committee a legislative update on measures related to revenue and taxation. Mr. Romo touched on several measures including AB 2570 (Stone), SB 1441 (McGuire), SB 1431 (Glazer), and SB 1072 (McGuire). Additional information can be found on the linked slide deck.

### VI. Ballot Measures

#### 1. The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2020

The committee listened to presentations made by speakers representing both support and opposition campaigns. After a rather balanced deliberation, a motion was made to support the initiative. Following this motion, there was discussion of a potential substitute motion to oppose but ultimately that motion was never made and instead a member of the committee who opposed the measure called the question on the motion to support. The motion to support the initiative failed 15-25 on a roll call vote. With no other motions made, the committee did not recommend a position on the initiative.

#### 2. Family Home Protection and Fairness in Property Tax Reassessments Act

The committee heard a presentation made by a representative of the ballot measure support campaign. While the opposition was invited, no one in opposition testified against the measure. After several clarifying questions to the campaign representative and League staff, a motion was made to support the initiative. The motion to support the initiative carried 26-8.

**VII. Discussion on Equity and Justice**

As prompted by President John Dunbar, the committee discussed the issues of equity and justice focused on the two questions mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. The committee had a long thoughtful discussion that touched on how to incorporate an equity lens in legislative advocacy, equity in local revenue sources, fairness in taxation, economic development for communities of color, the school to prison pipeline, and the need for more staff and resources at the city level to carry out equity based programs.

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