I. State Budget and Issues Briefing
The January 2016 Policy Committee meetings began with a general session briefing. League President and Mayor of Rancho Cucamonga, Dennis Michael welcomed attendees and thanked them for their contributions to the policy committees and to all California cities.

President Michael reviewed the League’s 2016 three Strategic Goals which prioritize (1) Improving funding for transportation infrastructure (2) Securing additional affordable housing resources and (3) Developing policy on local revenue modernization.

President Michael also discussed his recent participation in successful and constructive meetings with Governor Brown, leaders of the State Assembly and Senate and several key policy leaders. President Michael was joined by fellow League Executive Officers and expressed that the meetings demonstrated improved relations that will make for a constructive legislative year.

Dan Carrigg, League Legislative Director and Michael Coleman, League Fiscal Policy Advisor provided an overview of the Governor’s proposed FY 2016-17 budget. Mr. Carrigg noted that this year’s budget proposal contains good fiscal news for cities overall. Mr. Coleman reviewed the state’s revenue sources, bond obligations, and proposed spending in the Governor’s proposed budget of $170.7 billion. Mr. Carrigg expressed that the Governor’s proposal stresses fiscal prudence with a focus on planning for a future recession.

Jennifer Whiting, Assistant Legislative Director, updated the membership on recent efforts to improve and increase state transportation funding and gave an update on federal issues of importance to cities. Ms. Whiting indicated there continues to be progress made on efforts to secure additional transportation funding. The Brown administration and Legislature will be focused on the issue throughout this legislative year. On federal issues, Ms. Whiting was excited to announce that congress approved a five-year, $305 billion transportation bill. In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released its guidelines for the registration of unmanned aircraft (Drones) and the League has submitted a letter in response to the interim guidelines requesting that the registration requirements be strengthened in the final guidelines.

Rony Berdugo, League Legislative Representative, briefed members on public works and additional transportation issues including the Road Charge Pilot Program headed by the
California Transportation Committee which is studying the potential use of a road charge in lieu of a gas tax. Mr. Berdugo also discussed anticipated legislation which will aim to regulate street parking and local authority on parking violations. In addition, Mr. Berdugo noted that there may be action taken to curb the abuse of disabled parking placards.

Kendra Harris, League Legislative Representative, briefed members on expected legislation regarding homelessness and the identification of funding sources for affordable housing. Ms. Harris noted efforts by Senate Pro Tempore, Kevin de León to provide funding to build housing for the homeless and mentally ill. In addition, this legislative year there will be attention given to group homes, vacation rentals, and local control over massage businesses.

Jason Rhine, League Legislative Representative, informed attendees of the Governor’s proposals for the use of Cap and Trade funds, issues pending decision by the State Water Resources Control Board, and ongoing discussions on organic waste diversion. Mr. Rhine highlighted the proposed uses of cap and trade funds that will benefit cities, including a local government pot dedicated to disadvantaged communities which place in the top five percent of all communities designated as disadvantaged. In addition, there will be a continued focus on weatherization, urban greening, and energy efficiency programs.

Dan Carrigg, League Legislative Director, provided an update on public safety matters, including the League’s active effort to secure passage of AB 21 (Wood), the bill lifting the March 1 deadline for local government to have marijuana cultivation ordinances in place. Also discussed was the need to defend local control gains made via the marijuana legislation enacted in the past legislative year. Mr. Carrigg also made note of the League’s monitoring of state and federal legislation regarding drones and funding for law enforcement programs.

Dane Hutchings, League Legislative Representative, provided a briefing on issues related to labor, pensions, and elections. Mr. Hutchings brought attention to the pending case before the U.S. Supreme Court, Friedrichs v. CTA, which will impact union organization and dues collection. There is indication that legislation will be introduced this legislative year intended to offset the anticipated ruling, which will impact cities. In addition, Mr. Hutchings noted the Governor’s continued focus on addressing unfunded retiree healthcare and pension liabilities in which cities will be a large stakeholder in the discussions. Further, members were informed of potential legislation intended to require local governments to disclose more information to the public as well as improve their data storage and encryption standards.

II. Welcome and Introductions
The meeting was to called order and the committee made self-introductions.

III. Public Comment
There was no public comment.

IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules
The Parliamentary Procedures and Roberts Rules handout was reviewed by the Committee members prior to the meeting. Committee members did not have any questions about the rules or procedures.

V. Committee Orientation
Chair Clarke and Dane Hutchings, Legislative Representative, presented the orientation document. They briefly reviewed the document and noted the roles and responsibility of the committee. Mr. Hutchings described the committee’s vital role in advancing legislative priorities.
VI. League Mission Statement and Strategic Goals for 2016
Chair Clarke reviewed the League’s goals for 2016 and explained that these goals were adopted by the League’s Board of Directors in November 2015 and will serve as the guiding goals for the organization for the year.

VII. Review of Existing Policy & Guiding Principles
League staff explained the purpose and role that the existing policies and guiding principles play in the League taking action on legislative and regulatory proposals. The document establishes general guidance to the lobbyists on any legislation that may come up during the session without having to return to the Committee on specific bills. This document is updated every two years to reflect past action in support or opposition of proposed policies. Bills that do not conform to existing policy are brought to Committee for discussion. Chair Clarke highlighted the changes made in the description portion of the committee. More specifically, the committee’s scope has expanded to review legislation regarding technology, privacy, data transparency/security—in addition to the committees’ existing responsibilities. Chair Clarke entertained a motion and second to adopt the 2016 guiding policies and procedures—the measure carried with a unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Civic Engagement and Voter Turnout
California Secretary of State Alex Padilla discussed three items during his presentation.

1) Updates to the Secretary of State website.
   a. With the revised launch of “Vote California”, California is now in compliance with federal guidelines. New features include voters being able to gather information on registration, vote by mail, provisional balloting, election data and election specific information all on one home page. Additionally the site allows voters to access information on their polling place and voter information guides.

2) Assembly Bill (AB) 1461 (Gonzalez) California New Motor Voter Program (Implementation)
   a. Full implementation of the measure should occur by 2017. There are inherent challenges with software integration and staff training. But the SOS is confident that the measure should have a significant impact on voter registration in time for the 2018 gubernatorial election.

3) Senate Bill (SB) 450 (Allen) All-Mailed Ballot Elections
SOS urged the League to adopt a support position on SB 450 stating that vote by mail (VBM) ballots have increased civic engagement and leads to higher participation. Additionally, creating state of the art “vote centers” whereby voters can drop off and/or cast their ballots will be an additional tool to increase voter turnout

IX. Open Data/Protection, Privacy & Consumer Protection (Panel Discussion)
Hank Dempsey, Chief Consultant, Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee and Tom Clark, Consultant, Assembly Judiciary Committee spoke about emerging issues related to open data, data security, encryption standards and the need for cities to upgrade their data security. Both speakers encouraged the League to provide an evolving guideline of “best practices” for adopting new data security standards. Speakers thought this could be an effective tool for cities that need direction in adopting new policies and operational procedures.

Additionally, the implementation of SB 272 (Hertzberg) was brought up by the committee. Overall the committee does not see significant challenges with complying with the measure.
Speakers weighed in on the balance cities face with making data readily available and transparent against the need of critical infrastructure security.

X. Legislative Update
   a. AB 169 (Maienschein), Chaptered- (Update)
   b. SB 272 Hertzberg, Chaptered - (Update)
   c. Two-Year Bill Overview (Attachment)
   d. Senate Bill (SB) 450 (Allen): Elections: All-Mail Ballot Elections (Full Text)

Note: SB 450 was not on the committee agenda other than being on a list of two-year bills. However, during a presentation to the committee on election issues, Secretary of State Alex Padilla discussed the merits of the bill at length and asked for the League’s support. During the review of two-year bills, staff indicated that existing policy allowed the League to support. However, a few committee members expressed a desire to review the bill in detail before the League took an official position. The majority of the committee continued to voice support for the bill. In the end, the committee decided to add the bill to the agenda as an action item and entertained a motion and second to recommend a position of Support in Concept until the committee could thoroughly review the bill. Instead, the Chair recommended that the committee adopt a “Support in concept’ position to allow League staff to engage on the measure in a productive manner.

XI. 2016 Work Program
The Committee focused on two issue areas for the draft work program.

   Item 1: There was a robust discussion with regards to the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), specifically regarding the high cost of litigation. As such, a committee member made the following motion.

   “To explore options, establish a framework and create a strategy to pursue 2017 legislation to toll or cap attorney's fees in CVRA litigation”.

   The motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously (voice vote)

   Item 2: The committee discussed its enhanced focus legislation regarding technology, data security and data transparency. Specifically there were concerns from some committee members that there needs to be additional information provided and educational opportunities for committee members so that they may provide the appropriate recommendations on such policies. As such, a committee member made the following motion.

   “To further explore educational opportunities, focus on policy trends and impacts of legislation related to technology, open data and data security”.

   The motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously (voice vote)

XII. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 2016, Handlery Hotel, San Diego