

**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Friday, January 19, 2018

League Office, 1400 K Street, Third Floor, Sacramento

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Bill DeHart (Chair); Janet Abelson, Sandra Armenta, Darlene Barber-Martinez, Sukari Beshears, Lisa Blackwell, Jennifer Cavanaugh, Ruben Chavez, Heather Cousin, JoAnne Cousino, Christine Engel, Ed Hernandez, Jay Ingram, Janet Jimenez, Mike Judge, Lucille Kring, Linda Krupa, Alina Kwak, Corina Lopez, Irais Lopez-Ortega, Tony Madrigal, Shelly Masur, Heidi Messner, Linda Molina, Bridgette Moore, Liz Morris, Thua-Ha Nguyen, W.F. Olsen, Sid Robinson, Lydia Romero, Bruce Roundy, Michael Smith, Avelina Torres, Mireya Turner, Thom Venegoni, Curtis Yakimow, Aly Zimmermann,

League Partner:

Staff: Erin Evans-Fudem

**I. State Budget and Issues Briefing**

The January 2018 Policy Committee meetings began with a General Session briefing. League' President, Rich Garbarino, Council Member of South San Francisco, gave a brief welcome which included highlighting the importance of the League's 2018 Strategic Goals. He then introduced League' Deputy Executive Director/Legislative Director, Dan Carrigg, to discuss state budget and legislative issues.

Mr. Carrigg stated that the state budget revenues continue to be strong and that the Governor plans to allocate additional revenues to fully-fund the state's Rainy Day Reserve fund at \$13.5 billion. Healthy reserves were also good for local government, he said, because it gave the state options during a downturn, rather than attempting to shift funds from local government as it had in the past. Mr. Carrigg then introduced Michael Coleman, the League's Fiscal Policy Advisor, to discuss the Governor's January budget.

Mr. Coleman gave a short PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 January Governor's budget. For more information about the impacts of the budget on cities, please review the League's [analysis](#), and information on Mr. Coleman's website [here](#). Mr. Coleman then gave Dan Carrigg the floor.

Mr. Carrigg briefly discussed the large amount of housing bills passed by the Legislature last year and how if more housing legislation were introduced this year could be difficult for cities to navigate. He also discussed the uncertainty California faces in regards to the President's recent tax reform legislation and plan to open up offshore drilling. Then Mr. Carrigg introduced the League's lobbyists to discuss their respective issue areas big topics. First, he introduced Dane Hutchings, League Legislative Representative, to discuss pensions and other labor and governance issues.

Mr. Hutchings gave an overview of what will be happening on pensions this year. Cities are struggling with increasing costs, and securing additional flexibility for cities is a priority. Additionally, Mr. Hutchings discussed two measures (not in print yet) that could have big effects on cities. The first measure 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.

The second measure would expand the number of days allotted in the safe harbor provision of the California Voting Rights Act to provide cities more time to convert to district-based elections.

Rony Berdugo, League Legislative Representative, discussed how the landmark passage of SB 1 (Beall, 2017) doubles the amount of funding cities receive for road maintenance and rehabilitation projects. He stressed that if the voters repealed SB 1, another funding package would not come together for a long time. He encouraged cities to proactively document and promote their road improvement work as the best way to protect their funding and to join in League efforts to support Proposition 69, the constitutional protections for new transportation revenues, and to participate in efforts to oppose the transportation funding repeal. Additionally, he thanked the Governor for his veto of SB 649 (Hueso) and how the League was taking steps to draft its own proposal on telecommunications deployment. This proposal would help preserve local control, while also providing a streamlined process for cities to roll out wireless “small cell” technology.

Jason Rhine, League Legislative Representative, focused in on the housing affordability and availability challenges throughout the state. Mr. Rhine noted that housing legislation is a high priority for the Legislature and the League this year. He reminded attendees to look through the [2018 Guide to New Housing Law in California](#), which was provided. Additionally, Mr. Rhine encouraged members to be active in advocating for legislation that will help local governments address their housing challenges while preserving appropriate local control functions. Mr. Rhine discussed SB 827 (Wiener), which would exempt certain housing projects from locally developed and adopted height limitations, densities, parking requirements, and design review standards. Cities were encouraged to submit an opposition letter.

Erin Evans-Fudem, League Legislative Representative, highlighted evolving environmental and community issues that will be big in 2018. With successful reauthorization of the cap-and-trade program last year, monitoring the programs and proposed funding allocations will continue to be a priority. In addition, Ms. Evans-Fudem discussed the importance for cities to engage in discussions about organic waste recycling regulations, disaster relief and wildfire response legislation, as well as offshore drilling, and clean drinking water legislation.

Tim Cromartie, League Legislative Representative, updated members on the continued rollout of cannabis regulations and the different ways cities can stay engaged on this issue. On the topic of public safety, he informed members they should be aware of a ballot initiative, sponsored by the Police Chiefs and the Grocers associations, seeking to amend the list of violent offenses as it relates to the provisions of Proposition 57, which provides for expanded parole considerations and increased rehabilitation programming for non-violent offenders. In addition, cities must stay alert for the drone industry to push for federal preemption in the annual Federal Aviation Administration’s reauthorization bill.

## **II. Welcome and Introductions**

Committee Chair DeHart thanked the members for their time and commitment. Members introduced themselves and said one thing that their city is known for.

## **III. Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules**

The Chair referred members to a handout on the parliamentary procedures. Members were assured that a representative of the City Attorney’s department and committee staff will assist, if needed.

**V. Committee Orientation**

The Chair and Erin Evans-Fudem provided a brief explanation of the League's policymaking process, including the role of the committee in making recommendations to the League Board and the collaborative process between committee members and staff on preparing meeting agendas.

**VI. Update of Existing Policy & Guiding Principles**

Ms. Evans-Fudem explained the importance of the guiding principles document as the foundation League advocacy positions. This document helps guide the League's action on legislation.

**VII. Update on the 2018 Park & Water Bond (SB 5, De Leon, 2017)**

Mary Creasman, Director of Government Affairs, Trust for Public Lands spoke to the committee about the importance of SB 5, what these funds are being used for and funds will benefit communities. SB 5 is the largest investment that California has made to parks and lower income communities. This bond will be on the June ballot.

Committee members has specific questions about what the funds can be used for and how to support the initiative.

**VIII. League Strategic Goals for 2018**

Ms. Evans-Fudem introduced the 2018 strategic goals and explained the process of establishing the goals. Ms. Evans-Fudem stated that the goals also influence scheduling presentations/speakers for the committee.

**IX. Draft 2018 Work Program**

Committee members broke into seven working groups to develop priority issues as part of the committee's 2018 work program. Each group selected a representative to present their group's top priorities to for the Community Services Policy Committee.

Using a system of placing dots next to proposed issues for the work program, committee members top priorities are:

**Homelessness:** The committee heard from experts in funding for comprehensive services for the homeless population, which included addressing the issue of hunger. The committee will consider ways to strengthen local control in housing the homeless population, and to consider issues facing children in transitional housing.

**Affordable Housing:** The committee will hear from speakers about issues related to affordable housing, including those proposals for state mandates or that allow for local control.

**Children's Issues:** The committee will consider a number of issues related to children, including preschool education, cannabis education, transitional housing for ages 18-21, and other issues related to safety for children.

**Libraries:** The committee will hear from speakers and consider policy proposals regarding after school programs, out of school eating programs, and programs for seniors.

The committee voted to adopt the work plan with all ayes and one no.

**X. Homelessness Task Force Final Report**

Melissa Kuehne and Hang Tran from the Institute for Local Government (ILG) gave an overview of the homeless problem in California. California represents almost half of the homeless population. Cities need to use multiple tools to tackle the homeless issue problem.

ILG has resources such as essential component for homeless plans, services, personal care, conducting community outreach and much more. For more resources, please visit: [www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)

**XI. Legislative Update**

Ms. Evans-Fudem provided the committee with a brief update on legislation that the League took positions on last year. As we enter into the second-year of a two-year session, Legislators are still creating their bill packages. Ms. Evans-Fudem reviewed legislation that the committee worked on in 2017 as well as legislation that has been introduced so far in 2018. Committee members will receive additional updates at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, April 12, Sheraton Fairplex Hotel, 601 W. McKinley Ave, Pomona**