

**GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND LABOR RELATIONS POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, April 2, 2020

WebEx

[Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations Policy Committee Slides](#)

Staff: Bijan Mehryar, 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 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 Jess Talamantes and Vice Chair George Harris welcomed committee members and provided introductory remarks.

II. Public Comment

None

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. COVID-19 Round Table Discussion

The committee received an update on the latest actions the League has taken to better understand the impact COVID-19 has had on cities. At this time policy committee members shared their own experiences related to communicating with residents, operating public meetings remotely, complying with the Brown Act, complying with Public Records Act requests, maintaining operations, employee relations, and enforcement of social distancing orders.

V. Legislative Update

Bijan Mehryar, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities, provided the committee a legislative update on measures related to disallowed compensation; evidentiary privilege; email retention; public records; employee release time; employment discrimination; and the high-risk local government agency audit program.

VI. Legislative Agenda

The committee had a robust conversation on [ACA 5 \(Weber\)](#), which if approved by the Legislature and then the voters, would repeal Section 31 of Article I of the California Constitution. This section of the California Constitution was added by Proposition 209 of 1996. It prohibits cities and other governments from discriminating or giving preferential treatment to any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin with regard to public employment, public contracting, or public education. After a thoughtful conversation, the committee ultimately voted to defer taking a position on ACA 5 until more information is provided at a future date.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4, So. San Francisco Conference Center, 255 S. Airport Blvd, South San Francisco*

(*subject to change)