



GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY, AND LABOR RELATIONS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, January 24, 2025

ATTENDANCE

Members: Jaime Patiño (Chair); Christine Cordon (Vice Chair); Michael Allawos; Gary Alpert; Betsy Andersen; Jan Arbuckle; Ernest Azevedo; Xouhoa Bowen; Cameron Bregman; Matthew Bronson; Daniel Buckshi; Jamie Cannon; Scott Carney; Yulia Carter; Savita Chaudhary; Lara Christensen; Bobby Davis; Mario Fernandez; Anmgel Galache; Mary Hao; George Harris; Bill Hussey; Randi Johl; Lynda Johnson; Jon Kaji; Michael Luellen; Michael MacDonald; Jull McLewis; Katherine Mirassou; John Mirisch; Brian Mohan; Cynthia Nava; Jeffrey Nibert; Maria Orozco; Lavonda Pearson; Jeremy Ray; Vicki Riddle; Margaret Roberts; Larry Spicer; Blair Stewart; Jim Vanderpool; Princess Washington; Frank Yokoyama

Cal Cities Partners: Jason Baltimore; Bob Brown

Staff: Johnnie Pina, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
Jason Rhine, Legislative Affairs Director

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Jaime Patiño and Vice Chair Christine Cordon welcomed the committee and members introduced themselves. Cal Cities President Lynne Kennedy and Cal Cities Executive Director Carolyn Coleman provided opening remarks and thanked committee members for their commitment and service.

II. **Public Comment**

Chair Patiño opened the meeting for public comments. There was no public comment.

III. **General Briefing**

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing to the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team provided a [General Briefing Update Document](#), which includes updates on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

IV. **Orientation and Parliamentary Procedures**

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the committee's scope and processes. The committee also received an overview of important parliamentary procedures.

V. **Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles**

Members were informed about where to find more information regarding the committee's Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles.

VI. Cal Cities 2025 Advocacy Priorities

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of [Cal Cities 2025 Advocacy Priorities](#).

VII. Adoption of 2025 Work Plan

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the items on the proposed work plan. Committee members discussed the draft work plan and provided input. A motion was made to adopt the 2025 work plan. The committee unanimously voted to adopt the following work plan:

- **Artificial Intelligence and Technology:** The committee will be briefed on emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), as it relates to the work of cities. The committee will also be kept well informed on legislation relating to how cities use AI and technology.
- **Governance and Transparency:** The committee will advocate for and receive regular updates on legislation that seeks to make reasonable modernizations to the Ralph M. Brown Act and solutions to reduce abuses of public record requests. The committee will also be kept informed on legislation related to appointed bodies such as the planning commission. The committee will additionally be kept well informed on changes to notice requirement.
- **Labor Relations:** The committee will be briefed and kept well informed regarding changes legislation that impacts cities as employers. The committee will advocate to protect cities from unworkable mandates.
- **Elections:** The committee will keep up to date on issues related to changes in election law.

VIII. Update to Cal Cities Policy

Cal Cities staff provided background information on resolution #1 from the 2024 Cal Cities Annual Conference. Cal Cities staff highlighted the actions taken by GTLR, the Resolution Committee, the General Assembly, and the Cal Cities Board of Directors. Committee members were walked through the draft policy changes that would formalize the resolved clause in resolution #1.

Committee members thanked the author of the resolution. A motion was made to support the update to Cal Cities policy and guiding principles as drafted in the committee packet. The motion passed unanimously. The updated policy is as follows:

Equity in Governance

Cal Cities believes in conducting the business of government with transparency, openness, respect, and civility. The spirit of honest public service is what builds communities. Open decision-making that is of the highest ethical standards honors the public trust. Cal Cities believes state officials and agencies should conform to the same level of transparency and ethical behavior as is imposed on local officials and agencies.

Cal Cities opposes any law or regulation that applies solely to California cities and local officials, unless such law or regulation also applies equally to

the state of California and state officials. Cal Cities acknowledges that local government and state government have their own unique needs. Specific proposals which treat state and local government differently should be carefully reviewed to ensure equity in governance.

IX. Bridge Public Sector Apprenticeship Initiative

Erica L. Manuel, CEO and Executive Director, [Institute for Local Government](#) (ILG) presented on the Institute's new apprenticeship initiative. The Institute for Local Government is a non-profit that provides training and education for local governments across the state. The [Bridge Public Sector Apprenticeship Initiative](#) is focused on developing a workforce pipeline into the public sector. The program is meant to assist local governments that are experiencing challenges with recruitment and retention in their agencies. The program is focused on filling the gaps on non-traditional public sector jobs that are in high demand such as accounting, information technology, health and human services, and human research careers. The goals of the program are to broaden access to public sector jobs and reduce recruitment and retention in local governments.

Members received information about ILG's work and how to connect with ILG staff for more information on workforce development programs.

X. Cal Cities Legal Advocacy Update

Emily Taylor, Cal Cities Senior Deputy General Counsel, briefed the committee on [Cal Cities Legal Advocacy Committee](#). The Legal Advocacy Committee is comprised of city attorneys from across California and helps Cal Cities determine which cases and Attorney General opinions merit Cal Cities engagement. Legal advocacy often comes in the form of amicus assistance — a brief filed by an entity or individual who is not a party in a given lawsuit but may be affected by the outcome. Amicus briefs can take a broad perspective, advising the court about the implications of resolving the issues presented.

The committee also received an update on several key court cases still pending. These include cases pertaining to the Public Records Act, police body camera footage, and police use of force.

XI. Legislative Update and Roundtable

Cal Cities staff provided a legislative update. To date, a limited amount of bills have been introduced. The following topics were discussed:

- Brown Act Modernization which would provide meeting flexibility to advisory bodies.
- California Voting Rights Act to address alternative voting methods and how equity issues and population caps impact certain elections.
- Barriers to becoming an elected official and exclusions of city council wages as income.
- Campaign finance to expand campaign funds towards childcare and senior care.
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) regulations on local governments' uses of AI.

- City vacancy rates.
- CalPERS divestment.
- Striking workers.
- Public Records Act.
- Recall elections.

XII. Adjourn

Chair Patiño thanked committee members and staff for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 28, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank

2016 Policy Committee Appointments

REMINDER: The 2015 policy committee appointments will end at the close of the