



COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS March 26, 2026

[Committee Slides](#)

ATTENDANCE

Members: Tamala Takahashi (Chair); Clint Weirick (Vice Chair); Merl Abel; Joe Amelio; Keri Lynn Baert; Debbie Baker; Xouhoa Bowen; Jeremy Bubnick; Janice Cader-Thompson; Elizabeth Calciano; Ruben Chavez; Lara Christensen; Ashlee DePhillippo; Felicia Galindo; Greg Gomez; Jessyka Heredia; Dayna Hunter; Tracy Jensen; Rachel Kertz; Daniel LeBlang; Marilyn Librers; Latika Malkani; Carla Mason; Annie McCary; Peggy McQuaid; Carla Mead; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Lisa Murphy; Sonya Patterson; Michael Ponce; Kashef Qaadri; Sheila Rossi; Mario Saucedo; Karin Schnaider; Michelle Shoresman; Valerie Vandever; Anissa Williams; Amy Woolridge

Cal Cities Partners: Alicia Berhow

Staff: Caroline Grinder, Legislative Advocate
Serena Scott, Legislative Affairs Analyst

I. General Briefing

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing at the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team provided a brief update on the latest legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Takahashi and Vice Chair Weirick welcomed the committee members and provided opening remarks, including general housekeeping information.

III. Public Comment

Chair Takahashi opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

IV. Presentation: Childcare and the City Role

Vice-Chair Weirick introduced guest speaker Dr. Shelly Masur, the Vice President of Advisory and State Policy from the Low-Income Investment Fund. Dr. Masur gave an in-depth presentation on the role of cities in building childcare supply. Dr. Masur's presentation focused on why cities should care about childcare, the types of programs cities can support, and strategies local governments can use to improve access to affordable childcare. Dr. Masur's slides and contact information are available in the [linked committee presentation](#).

V. Update to Existing Policy and Guiding Principles

During the Community Services Policy Committee meeting in January, the committee reviewed Cal Cities' Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles

document, which is updated every two years to reflect the committee's work. This information is used as a reference tool for driving Cal Cities' engagement in the legislative process.

In that discussion, Committee members indicated they would like to make technical changes to the seniors' policy during the March meeting. Specifically, the committee suggested updating the language to refer to seniors as older adults and adding a new policy to combat ageism.

Cal Cities staff drafted the following proposed policy for consideration:

Older Adults ~~Seniors~~

Cal Cities encourages cities to recognize **older adults** ~~seniors~~ as a valuable state resource and to develop and improve intergenerational programs and activities. Cal Cities supports legislation that would provide funding for side-by-side day care facilities for California's youth **and adults of all ages** ~~adults, and seniors~~. **Cal Cities also supports policies that promote age-inclusive communities and address ageism. This includes efforts to ensure that older adults are integrated into the economic and civic life of their communities.**

The committee discussed the policy at length and decided to make the following edits:

Older Adults ~~Seniors~~

Cal Cities encourages cities to recognize **older adults** ~~seniors~~ as a valuable state resource and to develop and improve ~~intergenerational~~ programs, **services, community planning, funding, and opportunities.** ~~and activities.~~ Cal Cities supports legislation that would provide funding for ~~side-by-side day care~~ facilities for California's youth **and adults of all ages** ~~adults, and seniors~~. **Cal Cities also supports policies that promote age-inclusive communities and address ageism. This includes efforts, like intergenerational programming, to ensure that older adults are integrated into the economic and civic life of their communities.**

A motion was then made to support the newly proposed language, which was approved unanimously.

VI. Legislative Agenda

AB 1674 (Ahrens)

AB 1674 would establish the Food Desert Elimination Grant Program and require local governments in a food desert or an area at risk of becoming a food desert to ensure that applicants for new housing developments do not reduce the site's capacity for a large grocery store. If the site capacity is reduced, the local government must require the applicant to provide equivalent mitigation.

The committee discussed AB 1674 thoroughly. While members acknowledged that food insecurity is a pressing issue, the conversation consistently reflected doubt that this bill would help cities tackle it in a meaningful way. Additional concerns were raised about the distinction between large grocery stores and

smaller food retail options, as well as the bill's potential impact on affordable housing.

Ultimately, the committee determined that the bill does not do enough to address the economic factors that lead to food deserts. A motion was made to not take a position on AB 1674, which passed unanimously.

This bill was also heard in the Housing, Community & Economic Development Committee. They voted 21-20 to take an oppose unless amend position on the measure. The amendments requested include:

- Allow cities the option to require grocery stores.
- Incentivize streamlining the processing for grocery stores.
- Do not have the grant funding be paid for by developers.

AB 1914 (Schiavo)

AB 1914 would require cities and counties, when they update two or more general plan elements on or after January 1, 2028, to review and update, at a minimum, the land use, circulation, housing, safety, and environmental justice elements, to address local childcare needs.

The committee had a lengthy discussion about AB 1914, with many members expressing concerns about their city's ability to update its general plans to include childcare and frustration that many bills have recently mandated general-plan updates for a variety of state priorities.

There was a lot of support amongst committee members for more local flexibility in deciding which elements should be updated and when. As a result, an initial motion was made to support the bill if amended to remove the trigger, allowing local governments to update the required elements when they open them. Then a substitute motion was made to support the bill if amended to:

- Require cities to decide which elements they would like to update to include childcare, with a minimum requirement that one element of the city's choosing be updated.
- Cities would be able to update the elements to include childcare the next time they open the element, therefore removing the trigger in the bill currently.
- Require the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (or other relevant state agency) to provide technical assistance and guidance to local governments to assist them in planning for childcare.

The substitute motion passed with 29 in support, 6 in opposition, and 2 abstentions.

This bill was also heard in the Housing, Community & Economic Development Committee. They voted 26-14 to oppose the measure.

AB 2072 (Solache)

AB 2072 would create a state contingency fund to maintain continuity of benefits for CalFresh and the supplemental nutrition program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) during a federal government shutdown or other lapse in federal appropriations.

The committee had a robust discussion, which resulted in a motion being made to support the bill if amended to remove the 2029 sunset out of concern that the date would make a political statement. A substitute motion was then made to support the bill as is, keeping the sunset date. The substitute motion passed with 36 in favor and 1 opposed.

SB 492 (Menjivar)

SB 492 would create the Youth Housing Bond Act of 2026, which would authorize the sale of \$1 billion in general obligation bonds at the next statewide election to fund youth centers and housing.

The committee unanimously voted to support SB 492 and directed staff to advocate for the contents of SB 492 to be incorporated into a larger housing bond for the November ballot. The committee also encouraged Cal Cities to emphasize the need for additional funding to support housing options for vulnerable populations at risk of homelessness, including foster youth and older adults.

VII. Budget and Legislative Update

Cal Cities staff gave a legislative and budget update – the bills budget items discussed can be found in [the linked slide deck](#).

VIII. Adjourn

Chair Takahashi and Vice Chair Weirick thanked committee members and staff for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

Next Meeting (Virtual): Thursday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.