



GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY AND LABOR RELATIONS POLICY COMMITTEE

Highlights

February 10, 2022

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members:

Rick Bonilla (Chair); Melanie Bagby (V. Chair); Michael Allawos; Gary Alpert; Samantha Argabrite; Bill Baber; Scott Bauer; Elisa Cox; Jessica Deakyne; Debra Dorst-Porada; Neysa Fligor; Chris Freeland; Christa Freemantle; Marcus Fuller; Leon Garcia; Lakhvir Ghag; Eniko Gold; Tori Hannah; George Harris; Mike Healy; Linda Hollinsworth; John Jansons; Randi Johl; Kathleen Kelly; Yvonne Kimball; Joe Lillio; Joe Lopez; Frank Luckino; Steve Martin; Salvador Melendez; Crystal Miles; Buenaflor Nicolas; Lori Ogorchock; Tomas Oliva; Aledandra Orogas; Cynthia Owens; Blanca Pacheco; Aaron Palmer; Gaudenz Panholzer; Glenn Parker; Jaime Patino; Lavonda Pearson; Thai Viet Phan; Chaps Poduri; Pam Powell; Ana Maria Quintana; Mary Ann Reiss; Maribel Reynosa; Sylvia Robles; Reina Schwartz; Rhonda Shader; Bruce Soublet; Tanya Spiegel; Isaac Suchil; Erica Vega

League Partners: Dana Anderson; Tim James

Staff: Johnnie Pina, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. She explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

President Silva explained that while policy discussions can be lively and members may not always agree, Cal Cities derives its strength as a member-driven organization from this deliberative debate and recommendation process.

President Silva then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director, and CEO. Ms. Coleman welcomed committee members and thanked them for their service to their cities and Cal Cities. She explained that the policy committee process is central to Cal Cities advocacy, ensuring it is member-driven and represents the interests of cities across California.

Ms. Coleman thanked committee members again for serving on the committees and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Bonilla, and Vice Chair Bagby, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. **Public Comment**

Chair Bonilla asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

III. **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 Cal Cities advocacy team compiled a General Briefing Document, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

IV. **CalPERS Update**

Michael Cohen, Chief Financial Officers, CalPERS and Travis Antoniono, Investment Manager, CalPERS provided a detailed update which focused on the condition of CalPERS financial status, the impact of the change in the discount rate, and how CalPERS is engaging in climate change reduction efforts.

V. **Brown Act Roundtable**

Committee members provided feedback on possible changes to the Brown Act. The committee recommended the following:

- Discuss forming a working group to analyze Brown Act changes.
- No longer require council members to disclose home addresses when participating in a meeting virtually.
- Remove the need to renew the AB 361 (R. Rivas) declaration every 30 days.
- Allow for hybrid meetings as they provide greater access to the public.
- Maintain best practices for use of technology.
- Advocate for local control when it comes to allowing cities to determine what type of meeting is best for them.
- Allow for flexibility on the use of video cameras.

There was a wide variety of options and perspectives shared during the roundtable.

VI. **Legislative Agenda**

Fiscal and Financial Training Legislative Proposal by Senator Lena Gonzalez

Cal Cities staff provided a detailed explanation of the proposal and asked committee members for input and direction. Committee members expressed concern over specified mandated training for elected officials and the proposal's constitutionality regarding the prohibition of hiring out of state city managers. Others supported the concept stating that training is important and could be beneficial. There was a suggestion that education opportunities offered by Cal Cities regarding this topic could be beneficial as well.

The committee directed Cal Cities staff to work with Senator Lena Gonzalez and provide her with the committee's extensive feedback. Cal Cities staff will bring the measure back to the committee as needed.

VII. Existing Policy and Guiding Principles

Cal Cities staff explained the importance of the guiding principles. This document contains Cal Cities policies that reflect positions taken by the policy committee and the Cal Cities Board of Directors and is used as a reference tool for Cal Cities staff when reviewing legislation. Members were directed to their agenda packet to review proposed changes to the document.

Ultimately, a motion was made to approve the Existing Policy and Guiding Principles document, which passed.

VIII. Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda. Cal Cities staff discussed the virtual League Leaders workshop and explained the process by which these priorities are established. The Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda is as follows:

- 1. Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and reform state housing laws to retain local authority.** Secure adequate and sustainable funding for cities to increase construction of housing at all income levels, particularly affordable housing and workforce housing. Reform state housing laws to ensure cities retain local decision-making to meet the needs of their communities.
- 2. Attain investments to strengthen and sustain critical infrastructure.** Advocate for policies that strengthen the conditions of local streets, highways, bridges, public transit, and broadband to improve workforce and economic development. Secure support for the modernization and expansion of the statewide water grid, including infrastructure, storage, and conveyance. Work with stakeholders to provide cities with access to the tools needed to ensure projects are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively to meet current and future needs.
- 3. Secure increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.** Secure additional ongoing, flexible resources to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing. Enhance city and county coordination and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to ensure adequate wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk of, or already experiencing, homelessness in our communities, and effectively address mental health and substance use disorders.
- 4. Strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery from climate change impacts through improved collaboration and resources.** Secure additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and sea level rise. Promote collaboration with other city, state, and federal governments, to strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.

IX. Adoption of 2022 Work Program

Cal Cities staff discussed the results of the work program survey. Committee members provided feedback. A motion was made to approve the work program as amended to include abuse of the public records act to bullet No. 3.

The GTLR 2022 Work Program is as follows:

- 1. Public Pension Liability:** The committee will engage with CalPERS and remain informed on legislation, court actions, and administrative activity at CalPERS affecting pension costs, and other post-employment benefits.
- 2. Labor Relations and Workers' Compensation:** The committee will be briefed and kept well informed regarding changes to the workers' compensation system as well as other matters that impact cities as employers. Staff will continue to advocate to protect cities from unworkable mandates and unreasonable expansions of the workers' compensation system.
- 3. Transparency and Technology:** Discuss issues related to modernizing the Brown Act and abuses of public record requests. Advocate for more resources and coordination on cybersecurity issues for local governments.
- 4. Monitor Legislation:** Continue to monitor legislation as it relates to the subject matter of this committee. It is the goal of the committee to support presentations and discussions that benefit their consideration of legislation and recommendations to Cal Cities.

X. Legislative and Budget Update

This item was deferred to the next meeting due to time constraints.

XI. Adjourn

Chair Bonilla thanked the committee for their hard work this year and said some closing remarks. Chair Bonilla then adjourned the meeting.

Next Virtual Meeting: Thursday, April 28, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.