

GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY AND LABOR RELATIONS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, April 9, 2021

Zoom

[Policy Committee Slides](#)

ATTENDANCE

Members: Lori Ogorchock (Chair); Rick Bonilla (Vice Chair); Michael Allawos; Dana Anderson; Bill Baber; Melanie Bagby; Darlene Berber; Dan Buckshi; Aram Chaparyan; Richard Constantine; Katherine Cooley; Ken Domer; Kerri Dorman; Leon Garcia; Raymond Hamada; George Harris; Sue Higgins; Linda Hollinsworth; John Jansons; Kathleen Kelly; Paolo Kespradit; Jelani Killings; Dawn LaBar; Joe Lillio; Joe Lopez; Steve Martin; Aaron Meadows; Jason Nutt; Alexandra Orogas; Gaudenz Panholzer; Glenn Parker; Jamie Patino; LaVonda Pearson; Karen Pinkos; Mary Ann Reiss; Hong Sae; Daniel Sanchez; Jesse Sandoval; Reina Schwartz; Rhonda Shader; Corey Sianez; Renata Sos; Bruce Soublet; Kim Summers; Anthony Tave; Hans Uslar; Erica Vega

League Partners: Alicia Bernhow

Staff: Bijan Mehryar, Legislative Representative; Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Policy Analyst

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair: Lori Ogorchock, Council Member, Antioch and Vice-Chair: Rick Bonilla, Deputy Mayor, San Mateo, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. Public Comment

Chair Lori Ogorchock, asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

III. Federal Update

Bijan Mehryar, Legislative Representative, provided the committee a federal update.

- In March, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan.
 - \$65.1 billion in relief for Cities
 - First time in history the federal government will provide funding to all 19,000 cities nationwide.
 - Awaiting full guidance from the Treasury Department.
 - Also in March, President Biden unveiled the American Jobs Plan.
 - Significant investments proposed for infrastructure throughout the country to the tune of \$2.7 trillion.
- Cal Cities was successful in communicating our needs to our federal partners and will continue to provide insight on how future federal action can support California Cities.

IV. Budget Update

Bijan Mehryar, Legislative Representative, provided the committee a budget update.

- A number of early budget actions have been taken:
 - New paid sick leave mandate;
 - Golden State Stimulus Plan; and
 - New deal on wildfire prevention

- May Revision is due by mid-May and will more accurately reflect the state's fiscal position.

V. Legislative Update

Cal Cities staff briefed the committee on key bills of importance to cities, and what to expect in this year's legislative session. Cal Cities staff discussed the following measures:

- [SB 443 \(Newman\) Elections. Redistricting;](#)
- [SB 590 \(Allen\) 2022 Statewide Primary Election. Terms of Office;](#)
- [AB 339 \(Lee\) Local Government. Open Meetings;](#)
- [AB 361 \(R. Rivas\) Open meetings. Local Agencies;](#)
- [SB 270 \(Durazo\) Public Employment. Labor Relations;](#) and
- [SB 278 \(Leyva\) Public Employees' Retirement System. Disallowed Compensation.](#)

Additional bill information can be found in the [Policy Committee Slides](#).

VI. Legislative Agenda

Cal Cities staff briefed the committee on action items for consideration. The committee took the following actions:

- **AB 53 (Low) Election Day Holiday.**
This measure would make the day on which a statewide general election is held, the first Tuesday in November of any even-numbered year, a state holiday. This measure would also make the third Monday in February, Washington Day, observed only in odd-number years. The committee voted 31-4 to remain neutral on the measure and for staff to raise concerns with the author's office while expressing our support for the intent of the bill.
- **AB 237 (Gray) Public employment, unfair practices: health protection.**
This measure would make it an unfair practice for public employers to fail or refuse to maintain or pay for continued health care or other medical coverage for an enrolled employee for the duration of that employee's participation of an authorized strike. The committee voted, with one no vote, to have this measure brought back before the committee for consideration in June. They also directed staff to express our concerns about the bill to the bill author.
- **AB 845 (Rodriguez) Disability retirement: COVID-19 presumption.**
This measure would create a rebuttable presumption for the purposes of disability retirement with CalPERS. It would specify that a COVID-19-related illness contracted in the course of employment shall be eligible for an in-service disability retirement. The committee voted 19-16 to oppose the bill.