





**Next Virtual Meeting:** Friday, March 17, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*Brown Act Reminder: The League of California Cities' Board of Directors has a policy of complying with the spirit of open meeting laws. Generally, off-agenda items may be taken up only if:*

*1) Two-thirds of the policy committee members find a need for immediate action exists and the need to take action came to the attention of the policy committee after the agenda was prepared (Note: If fewer than two-thirds of policy committee members are present, taking up an off-agenda item requires a unanimous vote); or*

*2) A majority of the policy committee finds an emergency (for example: work stoppage or disaster) exists.*

*A majority of a city council may not, consistent with the Brown Act, discuss specific substantive issues among themselves at League meetings. Any such discussion is subject to the Brown Act and must occur in a meeting that complies with its requirements.*



**Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations Policy Committee  
Legislative Agenda  
January 2023**

**Staff:** Johnnie Pina, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist, [jpina@calcities.org](mailto:jpina@calcities.org)  
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**1. AB 37 (Bonta) Political Reform Act of 1974: Campaign Funds: Security Expenses.**

**Overview:**

This measure would lift existing limitations governing how campaign funds may be used by candidates and elected officials for security expenses.

**Bill Description:**

The Political Reform Act of 1974 regulates the use of campaign funds held by candidates for elective office, elected officers, and campaign committees. The Act authorizes a candidate or elected officer to use campaign funds to pay or reimburse the state for the costs of installing and monitoring a home or office electronic security system if specified conditions are met.

These conditions include that the candidate or elected officer has received threats to physical safety that have been verified by law enforcement, that no more than \$5,000 in campaign funds be used for this purpose, and that the candidate or elected officer report the expenditure of campaign funds to the Fair Political Practices Commission.

This bill would eliminate those conditions and instead authorize a candidate or elected officer to use campaign funds to pay or reimburse the state for the reasonable costs of installing and monitoring a home or office electronic security system, and for the reasonable costs of providing personal security to a candidate, elected officer, or the immediate family and staff of a candidate or elected officer, if those costs are reasonably related to the candidate or elected officer's status as a candidate or elected officer.

The Political Reform Act of 1974 requires two-thirds vote of each house of the Legislature to amend the Act.

**Background:**

AB 37 is a direct response to the increased number of hate crimes, harassment, and threats of violence directed at public figures.

For example, last year, at Sacramento Mayor Steinberg's home over 50 protesters showed up, some of whom were not residents of Sacramento. This protest quickly turned violent when people began throwing rocks at his home, damaging property, and chanting his children's names. Shortly after, a similar display of civil unrest was seen at Sacramento City Manager Howard Chan's home. Many elected officials throughout



the state and county live in fear that a decision or opinion could put their homes and families at risk.

The list of examples of recent incidents is unfortunately long. According to the National League of Cities, in a survey of 112 local public officials, 87 percent observed an increase in attacks on public officials in recent years, while 81 percent reported having experienced harassment, threats, and violence themselves. These could be in the form of personal attacks, physical assaults, and cyberbullying directed at themselves or their children.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Unknown.

**Existing Cal Cities Policy:**

Candidates running for elected office with young children often face the practical reality of paying for increased childcare to campaign and network when running for office. Cal Cities supports increasing diversity of elected officials at all levels and supports the use of campaign funds to pay for childcare expenses resulting from a candidate or officeholder engaging in campaign activities or performing official duties.

**Support:** None received as of 1/20/2023

**Opposition:** None received as of 1/20/2023

**Staff Recommendation:**

Cal Cities staff recommends the committee discuss and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Board Action:**