



**PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
January 23, 2025**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Stephanie Youngblood (Chair); Scott Nassif (Vice Chair); Andrea Alexander; Walt Allen; Valerie Amezcua; Jan Arbuckle; Gerry Beaudin; Ken Berkman; Carrie Broggie; Ed Chen; Christian Clegg; Ed Delgado; Bea Dieringer; Phill Dupper; Philippe Eskandar; Anders Fung; Renee Golder; Larry Gonzalez; Gerry Gonzalez; Bob Harriman; Susan Harvey; Lynda Johnson; Jean Josey; Mark Kairis; Larry Klingaman; Kaylee May Law; Bridgett Lewis; Jack Liu; Ray Marquez; Brian McCarthy; Kevin Mensen; Sean Mill; Dolores Morales; Sharona Nazarian; Rick Robinson; Lydia Romero; Shannon Shaw; Marty Simonoff; Daniel Singer; Daniel Stefano; Jennifer Torres-O'Callaghan; Jeff Wang; Ian Winbrock

Staff: Jolena Voorhis, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist
Zack Cefalu, Policy Analyst

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Youngblood and Vice Chair Nassif welcomed the committee members and introduced themselves and present Cal Cities staff. Each committee member present did self-introductions.

Cal Cities CEO Carolyn Coleman and Cal Cities President Lynne Kennedy both welcomed the committee and thanked them for their work. Both also mentioned the continued support Cal Cities has for the Los Angeles and all Southern CA cities impacted by the wildfires occurring this month.

II. Public Comment

A member mentioned their city wants to start a working group in their county (Contra Costa) on emergency services and evacuation routes for natural disasters. This working group would be a very hands-on approach to the collaborative work needed for improvements across the county. The member also mentioned a desire to potentially start a pilot program in which homeowners who voluntarily adopt insurance industry guidelines on the basis insurers agree to write policies in the area.

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 provided a [General Briefing Update](#), which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

IV. Committee Orientation

Jolena Voorhis reviewed the role and purpose of the policy committee as well as the parliamentary procedures used by the committee.

V. Cal Cities 2025 Advocacy Priorities

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2025 Advocacy Priorities. The Cal Cities 2025 Action Agenda is as follows:

- 1. Protect local revenues and expand economic development tools.**
Safeguard and modernize revenue streams for local priorities. Pursue new economic development opportunities that bolster local economies and cultivate a strong local workforce, including expanded workforce recruitment and retention tools. Strengthen climate change
- 2. Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness.**
Support city efforts to prepare, prevent, and adapt to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, including wildfires, drought, sea level rise, and other extreme weather events. Increase transparency and access to insurance policies, especially following a natural disaster.
- 3. Strengthen and modernize critical infrastructure.**
Dedicate new resources and protect existing funding to maintain and improve essential infrastructure, including bridges, roads, broadband, and the state's water supply and energy grid.
- 4. Secure investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.**
Secure dedicated funding to bolster cities' long-term planning efforts to support unhoused residents and accelerate the construction of affordable housing. Strengthen state and regional partnerships to expand access to wraparound services and improve the housing element planning process. Ensure cities have the flexibility and decision-making authority to meet their community and state housing goals and reduce homelessness.

A committee member made a motion to add an action item onto the agenda regarding the priorities and the adoption a public safety priority. Under Cal Cities bylaws this requires a 2/3 vote in favor to add agenda items and the motion passed unanimously.

After a robust discussion regarding the process for developing the Cal Cities Advocacy Priorities a motion was made to recommend to the board that they include the 2024 public safety advocacy priority as a part of Cal Cities' 2025 Advocacy Priorities. The motion passed unanimously.

The recommendation will be brought to the board at the February Board Meeting.

VI. Adoption of 2025 Work Program

To inform the committee's work program, committee members were asked to respond to an online survey selecting their top priorities for the committee to focus on in the coming year.

Staff provided an overview of the survey responses and proposed work program and allowed for discussion. The committee agreed the work program captured high priority issues throughout the state.

Ultimately, the committee unanimously adopted the following items for the 2025 work program:

- 2025 Wildfires/Fire Insurance.
- Proposition 36 Implementation/Addressing Crime.
- Law Enforcement Crossover with Initiatives to Address Homelessness.

A member made a motion to adopt the 2025 Workplan, the motion passed unanimously.

VII. Emergency Operations Roundtable

Chair Youngblood, Vice Chair Nassif, and Jolena Voorhis led a roundtable discussion related to emergency operations preparedness.

Ms. Voorhis started the roundtable by providing an overview of the current state of the ongoing Los Angeles County wildfires, with a focus on both the Palisades and Eaton fires. The day prior to the policy committee meeting a new wildfire began, the Hughes Fire, which at the time of the meeting had burned 10,000 acres.

She further discussed Cal Cities role in disseminating information and resources among impacted cities as well as Cal Cities coordination with Cal-OES on daily informational briefing. Jolena mentioned the legislation from the Special Legislative Session that will provide \$2.5 billion in wildfire recovery and rebuilding efforts to the cities impacted by the fires. Cal Cities anticipates a lot of after-action reports and legislation in response to fires which could include hydrant pressure and water supply, evacuation routes, fire insurance, and looting during the fire.

The committee had a discussion about what can be done around infrastructure preparedness in light of lessons learned from the Los Angeles County fires and discussing what might be included in the state's after-action report. The committee also discussed the ongoing fire insurance crisis in the state as well as issues with power outages and utilities infrastructure.

VIII. Proposition 36 Implementation

The committee was given a presentation from Jonathan Raven, Assistant CEO, California's District Attorney's Association, about the implementation of Proposition 36. Jonathan reviewed the different provisions of Prop. 36 and the coalition that worked for its passage. Jonathan provided an update on how certain counties have already begun to utilize the provisions in Prop 36 to increase enforcement and arrests for retail theft offenses and the hope for increased enrollment in substance abuse treatments and collaborative courts.

Mr. Raven provided an overview of the treatment-mandated felonies created under Prop. 36, as well as the statute relating to increased penalties for petty theft charges with prior misdemeanor theft convictions. He also provided an overview of potential funding available to assist with the implementation such as

money from Proposition 1 and funding from the Board of State and Community Corrections.

The committee engaged in a discussion about the previous wide-spread use of drug courts and their effectiveness, expressing a desire to see similar programs created for the treatment-mandated felonies created under Prop. 36.

IX. Legislative and Budget Update

Ms. Voorhis provided an overview of the budget and upcoming priority legislation.

Upcoming Priority legislation includes:

- Legislation related to the 2025 wildfires
- Fire Insurance
- Emergency Preparedness/Response
- Proposition 36 Implementation
- SB 357 (Wiener, 2023) Clean-Up

X. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27th, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

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