



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES

BUDGET

Local governments are facing fiscal headwinds just like the state. This means we all need to work together to protect what is most important to Californians: Keep residents in their homes, protect our environment, and ensure our communities are safe. Cal Cities is calling on lawmakers to fund three city priorities:

- Invest a minimum of \$1 billion in ongoing funding to the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grant program.
- Allocate \$400 million to fully implement Proposition 36, and respect the will of the voters.
- Devote \$100 million in Cap-and-Invest funding for clean public fleets, and \$29 million for local organic waste diversion efforts.



Scan for more detailed information about Cal Cities' advocacy priorities.

www.calcities.org/2026-advocacy-priorities

2026 Advocacy Priorities for California Cities

California's 483 cities are diverse and unique, but we are united with a clear message to the state: Cities are a smart investment for a strong California.

City officials are focused on ensuring every resident has access to the essential local services they depend upon. But they cannot do it alone. To keep California strong and resilient, the state must partner with cities to support our unhoused residents, increase housing supply, improve public safety, strengthen disaster preparedness, and keep our local economies strong.

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Cities are investing their own dollars to connect unhoused residents to services and housing and jumpstart affordable housing construction. But one-size-fits-all state mandates and a lack of ongoing state funding are hindering progress.

SUPPORT

AB 1708 (Solache): Cal Cities-sponsored bill that would increase access to state homelessness funding for cities with populations under 300,000.

AB 2296 (Papan): Cal Cities-sponsored bill that would allow cities to start drafting their housing elements six months earlier and requires the state to improve the housing element review process and provide greater certainty.

AB 736 (Wicks) & SB 417 (Cabaldon): A \$10 billion housing bond to finance affordable rental housing and homeownership programs.

SB 79 Clean-up legislation: Cal Cities is calling for a delay in the law's implementation until the 7th Regional Housing Needs Allocation cycle to provide locals adequate time to plan, and to allow the state to develop clear guidance and technical assistance. Cal Cities strongly opposes any effort to expand SB 79 to include additional transit stops.

OPPOSE

SB 866 (Blakespear): This bill would require all but 14 cities to add extensive homelessness reporting requirements to their housing elements – targeting cities that do not have access to state homelessness funding.



According to Cal Cities' new (2026) survey of city officials, **85% of cities have not received funding from the largest source of state homelessness funding available to local governments (HHAP)**. Seven in 10 cities are concerned about their ability to provide existing homelessness services long-term.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

City leaders are preparing their communities for the long-term impacts of climate change and rapidly responding when disasters strike. But cities do not have the budgets and resources needed to address these challenges alone.

SUPPORT

AB 2517 (Calderon): Cal Cities-sponsored bill that would require the Office of the State Fire Marshal to provide consistent, timely public updates when developing the local responsibility area fire hazard severity zone maps to provide greater protections for communities from wildfire threats.

AB 1866 (Rogers): Cal Cities-sponsored bill that would require the state, following a state-declared emergency, to prioritize allocating state disaster public assistance to local agencies that do not qualify for FEMA federal disaster aid.

OPPOSE CHANGES TO WILDFIRE LIABILITY

Cal Cities urges lawmakers to reject any changes to the state's existing strict wildfire liability framework. Energy utilities must be held fully accountable for ensuring infrastructure safety, and victims and local governments must continue to receive full compensation for property damage caused by utility-related wildfires.

FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Cities depend on fiscally sound state policies to keep our communities healthy, safe, and vibrant. Fiscal uncertainty endangers these shared goals and cities' ability to deliver essential services to residents.

SUPPORT

SB 922 (Laird): Cal Cities-sponsored bill that would clarify cities may recover the cost of street maintenance and road repair costs caused by public service operations, such as waste hauling, through service-related fees and charges.

OPPOSE

Unfunded Mandates: Local agencies are already owed over \$1 billion in unfunded state mandates. This year, lawmakers have introduced over 300 new bills that create or expand state-mandated programs. The Legislature's priorities should not be funded on the backs of cities.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The progress cities have been making to strengthen public safety must be sustained. Cities need a strong state partner to build on this momentum and ensure our communities remain safe and thriving.

SUPPORT

SB 758 (Umberg): Cal Cities-sponsored bill that would ban the sale of nitrous oxide in retail establishments that have a tobacco license, except grocery stores.

AB 1941 (Gonzalez, Mark): Cal Cities co-sponsored bill that would add new penalties for copper wire theft by targeting repeat and organized offenders who steal or traffic prohibited metal materials.