10 Best practices for cities lobbying the California Legislature

The League of California Cities advocacy efforts are strongest when joined by the voices of city leaders.

1. **Appoint a city legislative liaison,** become familiar with the state-level political process, track key legislation, and work with your regional public affairs manager. Locate contact information for your regional public affairs manager at calcities.org/divisions.
2. **Use Cal Cities' online bill search** to find information about a bill, track Cal Cities' positions, download sample letters, and more at calcities.org/bill-search.
3. **Get to know your Senate and Assembly representatives,** as well as staff in their district and Capitol offices. Find your lawmaker at senate.ca.gov and assembly.ca.gov.
4. **Get to know members of your local media** and educate them on legislative issues affecting your city.
5. **Know your numbers** and understand how state decisions impact your city's budget. Visit calcities.org/MRSH to learn about local finance issues.
6. **Build networks and collaborate with other groups** in your community on key legislative issues.
7. **Organize an internal process within your city** for developing and proposing changes to laws that will help your city.
8. **Adopt local policies on legislation** that enable your city to react quickly to the legislative process and respond to Cal Cities action alerts.
9. **Write letters on legislation** featured in the *Cal Cities Advocate*. Visit calcities.org/take-action for sample letters and view outcomes of specific measures at calcities.org/bill-search.
10. **Stay up to date on major issues** impacting local government. Sign up to receive the *Cal Cities Advocate* newsletter at calcities.org/news.

Get Involved

Policy Committees

City officials actively debate, shape, and steer Cal Cities' policymaking process and advocacy efforts. Over 400 officials collectively add their expertise and guidance to Cal Cities through one of seven policy committees.

Subscribe

Access regular updates from the *Cal Cities Advocate* newsletter and the *Western City* magazine, as well as connect with your peers. Visit calcities.org/subscribe for more info.

Additional useful links

Institute for Local Government ca-ilg.org
National League of Cities nlc.org