



Your League and How to Use It

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES 2018 Annual Report

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



In 2018, the League of California Cities® celebrated its 120th anniversary and achieved another year of strong results for our members, both in the Legislature and at the ballot box. 2018 was also the year we adopted and began implementing a new strategic plan for the organization. I am proud to report that we are already making great strides on each of the plan's six goals. This year's achievements demonstrated the value of a strong, unified voice focused on issues that matter the most to California cities.

I am pleased to present this report of our accomplishments and appreciate your loyalty and engagement. In partnership with all of you, I look forward to carrying our momentum into 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn M. Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director
League of California Cities





SETTING THE DIRECTION FOR THE LEAGUE'S FUTURE

In 2018, following a nine-month planning process by a Strategic Plan Task Force comprised of a diverse mix of League members and staff, the League board approved a new three-year strategic plan for the organization, its first in nearly two decades. Informed and driven by our members, the plan charts a course for the League's future growth that builds on our current successes and will deliver even greater value to California cities.

The plan features six clear, robust goals to guide the organization's actions in the years ahead:

1. Strengthen California cities through proactive advocacy on common priority issues;
2. Increase the capacity of city officials and staff in California to provide the highest level of service to their communities;
3. Maintain high relevance and facilitate meaningful member engagement;
4. Raise the League's visibility as the preeminent voice for cities in California;
5. Enhance the League's governance to achieve even higher levels of engagement and effectiveness; and
6. Expand the League's organizational capacity to fulfill its mission and implement its strategic priorities.

The following sections highlight the League's progress on each of these goals in 2018.

MISSION STATEMENT

To expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

CORE VALUES

We Believe:

- Local self-governance is the cornerstone of democracy.
- Our strength lies in the unity of our diverse communities of interest.
- In the involvement of all stakeholders in establishing goals and in solving problems.
- In conducting the business of government with transparency, openness, respect, and civility.
- The spirit of honest public service is what builds communities.
- Open decision-making that is of the highest ethical standards honors the public trust.
- Cities are vital to the strength of the California economy.
- The vitality of cities is dependent upon their fiscal stability and local autonomy.
- The active participation of all city officials increases the League's effectiveness.
- Partnerships and collaborations are essential elements of focused advocacy and lobbying.
- Ethical and well-informed city officials are essential for responsive, visionary leadership and effective and efficient city operations.

STRENGTHEN CITIES THROUGH PROACTIVE ADVOCACY

Powered by a strong grassroots network of city officials, the League scored notable victories for cities in 2018 and made progress on key shared city priorities. The League:

- Served on the steering committee of the winning campaign for Propositions 1 and 2, which provide \$6 billion in much-needed funding to build housing for veterans, working families and those experiencing homelessness or at risk for becoming homeless.
- Partnered with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to lead an effective opposition effort that resulted in the California Business Roundtable withdrawing from the ballot the Tax Fairness, Transparency and Accountability Act of 2018 measure, which would have limited local ability to fund services by requiring all local taxes to be subject to a two-thirds vote and placing onerous conditions on the imposition of local fees.
- Served on the No on Proposition 6 campaign's executive committee. The campaign led a diverse coalition of more than 600 organizations — representing public safety, engineers, local governments, business and labor groups — in successfully urging voters to support Prop. 69, which ensures that new transportation funds cannot be used for non-transportation purposes, and to reject Prop. 6, which would have eliminated \$5 billion annually in existing transportation funds dedicated to improving the safety of local streets, roads and bridges in every community.

Los Angeles Times
 "It's hard to overstate how destructive Proposition 6 would be for California."
 September 22, 2018

THE SACRAMENTO BEE
 "...projects would be delayed, downsized or canceled together."
 September 21, 2018

The San Diego Union-Tribune
 "Vote no on Proposition 6."
 September 21, 2018



- Educated voters and secured passage of Prop. 72, a measure that provides incentives for California property owners to invest in rain-water capture systems.
- Successfully urged voters to pass Prop. 68, a \$4 billion park and water bond, which allocates \$200,000 to cities for parks and sets aside hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding for local parks and water upgrades, including safe drinking water, recycling, flood protection and climate change adaptation projects.
- Secured \$500 million in the state budget to help cities provide emergency assistance to those experiencing homelessness. The original budget did not include any funding to help cities address this growing challenge.
- Engaged as a major player in efforts to improve fire safety and prevention and to protect fire victims and cities from absorbing increased liability for utility-caused fires. This resulted in the passage of SB 901 (Dodd), a measure that shields cities from absorbing liability for utility-caused fires and allocates \$1 billion over five years for forest management and fire prevention.



- Continued efforts to identify sustainable solutions to public pension liability and helped negotiate a tailored solution to the challenge of pension liabilities of joint powers agencies in AB 1912 (Rodriguez), which prevents the imposition of substantial burdens and costly unworkable requirements on local agencies and favors a more equitable apportionment scheme.
- Filed 63 friend-of-the-court briefs and letters in the California or federal appellate courts or with the state Attorney General on cases of interest to cities statewide, including *Cal Fire Local 2881 v. California Public Employees' Retirement System*, a case that may have important implications for cities' ability to manage rising pension costs.

INCREASE THE CAPACITY OF CITY OFFICIALS AND STAFF

In 2018, the League hosted a wide variety of conferences, seminars, academies, forums and institutes throughout the state that responded to the professional development needs of city officials. Over 4,600 city officials attended these events, and 2,985 sites registered to attend League-hosted webinars, many with over 10 participants per site.

MAINTAIN HIGH RELEVANCE AND FACILITATE MEANINGFUL MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

- Over the course of the year, the League's Regional Public Affairs Managers hosted meetings in the League's 16 regional divisions that featured educational and networking sessions for division members.
- To inform its annual strategic goal-setting process, the League launched a member survey to prioritize legislative issues for cities.
- In an effort to ensure that League conferences and educational programming better meets the needs of the different professions that comprise California city government, the League implemented a new process for our Annual Conference that enabled members to provide feedback on which potential session topics and speakers best met their educational needs.





RAISE THE LEAGUE'S VISIBILITY

In addition to participating in press events statewide, major media outlets from across the state, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *Sacramento Bee* and *Associated Press*, featured the League in stories on city issues.

To raise awareness and advance city priorities, the League released a series of publications as resources for cities and policy-makers.

Retirement System Sustainability Study and Findings

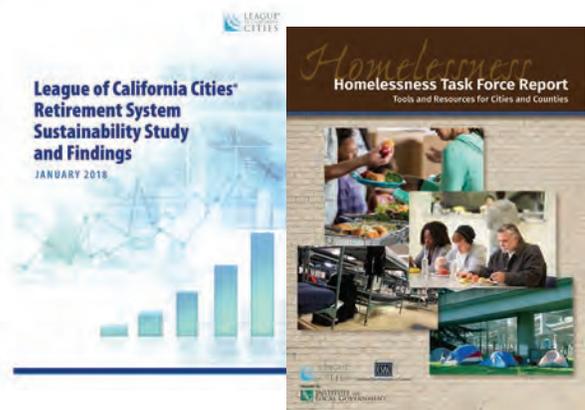
The League released the *Retirement System Sustainability Study and Findings*, a definitive study of pension costs for California cities. The report details the need for more tools and options to ensure that cities continue to be competitive employers with the capacity to deliver high-quality municipal services.

2018 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Report

To support its advocacy for infrastructure investment, the League released the *2018 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Report*. This study underscores the need for California to maintain existing levels of dedicated transportation funding or risk the continued rapid decline of the state's transportation system.

Joint Homelessness Task Force Report

The League and the California State Association of Counties released the *Joint Homelessness Task Force Report*, which details the resources and tools cities and counties are using to address the needs of homeless individuals and families in their communities.



ENHANCE THE LEAGUE'S GOVERNANCE

To assist our new board members, the League launched an orientation webinar designed to equip them with the tools needed to serve effectively on the League board.

EXPAND THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

To better serve our members, the League:

- Invested in improvements to our technology infrastructure;
- Launched a redesigned website for *Western City* magazine; and
- Migrated the membership database to a cloud-based platform.

The League also upgraded computers and software to ensure that our technology supports the needs of members and staff.

2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President

Rich Garbarino
Council Member, South San Francisco

1st Vice President

Janet Arbuckle
Council Member, Grass Valley

2nd Vice President

Randon Lane
Council Member, Murrieta

Immediate Past President

JoAnne Mounce
Mayor Pro Tem, Lodi

BOARD MEMBERS

Stephany Aguilar
Council Member, Scotts Valley

Rachelle Arizmendi
Council Member, Sierra Madre

Al Austin
Council Member, Long Beach

Michele Beal Bagnieris
City Attorney/City Prosecutor, Pasadena

Patrick Bouteller
Director of Gov't Relations, San Diego

Randy Breault
Public Works Director, Brisbane

Joe Buscaino
Council Member, Los Angeles

Magdalena Carrasco
Vice Mayor, San Jose

Christopher Cate
Council Member, San Diego

Tony Dahlerbruch
City Manager, Palos Verdes Estates

Laurie Davies
Council Member, Laguna Niguel

Dan DeSmidt
Police Chief, Belmont

John Dunbar
Mayor, Yountville

Jason Elliott
Chief of Staff, San Francisco

Karen Goh
Mayor, Bakersfield

Bob Smith
Vice Mayor, Bakersfield

Eric Guerra
Council Member, Sacramento

George N. Harris II
Deputy City Mgr/Treasurer, Victorville

Curtis Hunt
Council Member, Vacaville

Randi Johl
Director of Legislative Affairs / City Clerk, Temecula

Dan Kalb
Council Member, Oakland

Kirsten Keith
Council Member, Menlo Park

Michelle Marchetta Kenyon
City Attorney, Pacifica, Piedmont, Moraga

Ken Lane
Council Member, Ceres

Clint Lorimore
Mayor, Eastvale

Steve Manos
Mayor Pro Tem, Lake Elsinore

L. Dennis Michael
Mayor, Rancho Cucamonga

Leyne Milstein
Assistant City Manager, Sacramento

John Minto
Mayor, Santee

Mishal Montgomery
Mayor's Chief of Staff, Anaheim

Richard Montgomery
Council Member, Manhattan Beach

Jorge Morales
Council Member, South Gate

Lou Muñoz
Planning Commissioner, Rancho Cucamonga

Scott Nassif
Council Member, Apple Valley

Clinton Olivier
Council Member, Fresno

Joseph Palla
Mayor, Cloverdale

Daniel Parra
Mayor Pro Tem, Fowler

Ana Maria Quintana
Vice Mayor, Bell

Bruce Roundy
Vice Mayor, Orland

Fred Shaw
Mayor, Carpinteria

Cindy Silva
Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek

Sam Spagnolo
Council Member, Rancho Cucamonga

Barb Stanton
Council Member, Apple Valley

Ali Sajjad Taj
Council Member, Artesia

Jerry Thorne
Mayor, Pleasanton

Cheryl Viegas-Walker
Mayor, El Centro

Alan Wapner
Mayor Pro Tem, Ontario



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

California cities are the centers of innovation, commerce and quality-of-life for 83 percent of the state's population. As 2019 commences, the League stands ready to work with our new Governor, legislators and stakeholders to ensure our communities continue to be vibrant. To enable the League to focus and hit the ground running in the New Year, the League's board of directors met in November and adopted the following member-informed strategic advocacy goals for 2019 to guide our efforts in the State Capitol:

1. Provide cities additional funding and tools and preserve local authority to address housing production, affordability and homelessness challenges;
2. Improve disaster preparedness, recovery and climate resiliency;
3. Promote sustainability of public pension and retirement health benefits; and
4. Address public safety concerns of California cities.

For regular updates on League activities, visit www.cacities.org and sign up to receive CA Cities Advocate, the League's electronic newsletter which features legislative developments, conferences and educational events, opportunities for cities and more.

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES 2018 By the Numbers

ADVOCACY

The League monitored, tracked and engaged on

1,968
BILLS

75 percent
of ALL bills introduced

32 League-supported bills signed by Gov. Jerry Brown

4 League-opposed bills vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown

Voters supported **6** ballot measures on League positions

21 League action alerts sent on high-priority legislation

63 Friend-of-the-court briefs/letters filed in state and federal appellate courts or with the Attorney General

Homelessness Task Force webpages accessed **7,000** times

2,000 downloads of the Homelessness Task Force report

www.ca-ilg.org

RECOGNITIONS

12 HELEN PUTNAM award-winning cities recognized for their best practices and leadership

The Institute for Local Government **Beacon Awards**

5 FULL BEACON AWARDS

45 cities received the Beacon Spotlight Award

9 cities honored with

LOCAL STREETS AND ROADS AWARDS for their innovative local transportation improvement projects

428 Members served on one of the League's **7** standing policy committees

5 Diversity Caucuses

50+ League Board Members

16 Regional Divisions

10 Professional Departments

EDUCATION

1,778 ANNUAL CONFERENCE attendees and **268** exhibitors, including **71** first-time exhibitors

22 WEBINARS with **2,985** sites registered, many with 10+ participants per site

9 Municipal department meetings with a combined total of **2,678** attendees

The League celebrated

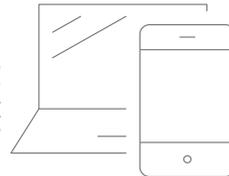
120 years

of strengthening California cities through advocacy and education

CONNECTIONS

151,455

visitors to www.cacities.org
An **18** percent increase from 2017



12 LEAGUE LISTSERVS with **7,727** subscribers who use these city-focused forums to discuss priority issues

9,349 Twitter followers

3,474 Facebook likes

185 Reporter inquiries from major publications including: *Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle, The San Diego Union-Tribune, The Sacramento Bee* and *Associated Press*

54 issues of **CA Cities Advocate** e-newsletter with **11,743** subscribers up **25** percent from 2017

12 issues of **Western City** magazine with a total of **464** pages of content

Institute for Local Government **29** new resources on California local government topics

135,000

visitors to www.ca-ilg.org with **2,950** ILG resources downloaded monthly

Average monthly visitors

29,416

www.westerncity.com

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

CSCDA

\$1.5 billion in issuance of tax-exempt bonds and tax credits for cities, communities and nonprofits

www.cscda.org

CalTRUST

\$2.7 billion in pooled investment of public funds at attractive rates

www.caltrust.org