



GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY AND LABOR RELATIONS POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, March 17, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Elisa Cox (Chair); Frank Yokoyama (Vice Chair); Paul Akinjo; Michael Allawos; Cindy Allen; Gary Alpert; Dana Anderson; Jan Arbuckle; Scott Bauer; Spencer Bowen; Daniel Buckshi; Jessica Deakyne; Leon Garcia; Eniko Gold; Raymond Gregory; Tori Hannah; Mike Healy; Tim Herbert; Linda Hollinsworth; John Jansons; Bhavin Jindal; Kathleen Kelly; Tamara Letourneau; Joe Lillio; Joe Lopez; Julie Lucido; Frank Luckino; Deborah McGarrey; Alexander Miller; John Mirisch; Buenaflor Nicolas; Jaime Patino; LaVonda Pearson; Pam Powell; Jeremy Ray; Mary Ann Reiss; Hong Sae; Kendall Sawyer; Sepi Shyne; Raquel Vasquez; Regina Youngblood; Mary Ann Zendejas

Cal Cities Partners: Craig Hayes

Staff: Johnnie Pina, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

President Ali Sajjad Taj, Council Member, Artesia, welcomed everyone to the second policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. He explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

President Taj then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director, and CEO. Ms. Coleman welcomed committee members and thanked them for their service to their cities and Cal Cities. She explained that the policy committee process is central to Cal Cities advocacy, ensuring it is member driven and represents the interests of cities across California. Ms. Coleman thanked committee members again for serving on the committees and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Cox, and Vice Chair Yokoyama, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. **Public Comment**

Chair Cox asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

III. **General Briefing**

Cal Cities staff provided a General Briefing of all policy areas, which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities, as detailed below. The Advocacy team's complete analysis of the [Governor's proposed budget for 2023-24](#) and the [2023 Advocacy Priorities](#) are available on the Cal Cities' website.

- **Community Services:** Securing ongoing funding to support cities' efforts to reduce homelessness continues to be a top priority for Cal Cities. This spring, the Legislature is hyper-focused on local "accountability" for state homelessness funding. Cal Cities is working diligently to ensure any new accountability measures do not limit local flexibility to address this critical issue. Cal Cities is also in strong support of Senator Eggman's [SB 43](#) and [SB 363](#), which would improve the state's behavioral health care system.
 - [Caroline Cirincione](#), Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
- **Environmental Quality:** Cal Cities continues to promote the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the natural environment, public health, and quality of life for all residents. Cal Cities is engaging with the author and affected stakeholders of [AB 1000 \(Reyes\)](#), which would require minimum setbacks and additional requirements for logistic centers, warehouses, and related infrastructure. Cal Cities is also working with our Coastal Cities Working Group on [SB 272 \(Laird\)](#).
 - [Nick Romo](#), Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
- **Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations:** Cal Cities is sponsoring two measures that aim to modernize the Brown Act: [AB 817 \(Pacheco\)](#) and [AB 557 \(Hart\)](#); and a measure that would reform council member pay: [SB 329 \(Dodd\)](#). Cal Cities is also opposing [SB 251 \(Newman\)](#), which would limit an elected officer from employment with another elected officer with the same constituencies.
 - [Johnnie Ping](#), Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
- **Housing, Community, and Economic Development:** Cal Cities continues to focus on our advocacy priority to increase the supply of and affordability of housing, while also maintaining local decision-making. Cal Cities opposes [SB 423 \(Wiener\)](#), which would expand SB 35 (Chapter 366, Statutes of 2017) provisions and eliminate the January 1, 2026 sunset date.
 - [Jason Rhine](#), Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs
- **Public Safety:** As concerns about repeated retail theft continue to grow, Cal cities is sponsoring [AB 1708 \(Murtsuchi\)](#), which would increase accountability or repeat offenders and offer pathways for pre-plea diversion programming. During the February Board meeting, the Cal Cities Board of Directors approved a resolution to address the fentanyl overdose crisis in California. Cal Cities will support bills [AB 367 \(Mainschein\)](#) and [SB 44 \(Umberg\)](#), which would have great impacts on cities' ability to mitigate the fentanyl crisis.
 - [Elisa Arcidiacono](#), Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
- **Revenue and Taxation:** Cal Cities is committing to preserving existing local revenue streams and bolstering local fiscal sustainability. Cal Cities is sponsoring [AB 972 \(Maienschein\)](#), which would streamline the state grant application process for local governments so every community has the same opportunity to compete for funding. Cal Cities continues to strongly oppose the [California Business Roundtable ballot measure](#) that would restrict new or increased taxes and jeopardize local fiscal sustainability and is actively monitoring introduced legislation that would create new tax exemption programs that would reduce local tax revenues.
 - [Ben Triffo](#), Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

- **Transportation, Communications, and Public Works:** Cal Cities is working with the Office of Broadband and digital Literacy within the California Department of Technology, to provide input towards the development of the State Digital Equity Plan to promote the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool for organizations throughout the state. Cal Cities is co-sponsoring [AB 400 \(Rubio\)](#) and [SB 706 \(Caballero\)](#). These measures are both related to the expanded use of design build and progressive design build delivery methods for public works projects.
 - [Damon Conklin](#), *Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist*

IV. Workers' Compensation Update

Jason Schmelzer, Lead Advocate, California Coalition on Workers' Compensation and Partner at Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange joined the committee and briefed them on legislation related to workers' compensation. Mr. Schmelzer also gave the committee an overview of the history of workers' compensation in California.

V. Cybersecurity Update

Cal COES was unavailable to attend the meeting. Cal Cities will work with Cal OES to update cities on statewide cyber security efforts in a different venue.

VI. Legislative Agenda

[SB 769 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Local government: fiscal and financial training.

This measure would require a member of a legislative body, if that local agency provides any type of compensation, salary, stipend, or provides reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred by a member of a legislative body in the performance of official duties, to receive at least two hours of fiscal training every two years, as described.

Cal Cities staff provided a detailed explanation of the proposal and asked committee members for input and direction. The committee then separated into breakout rooms for discussion and debate. Once the committee came back together there was additional discussion. The committee then voted 23-12 to oppose SB 769.

VII. Legislative Update

Mr. Pina gave an extensive legislative update, which includes such bills as:

[SB 252 \(Gonzalez\)](#) Public Retirement Systems: Fossil Fuels: Divestment.

Would require CalPERS to divest from fossil fuels by 2030.

Cal Cities Position: Oppose

[AB 1484 \(Zbur\)](#) Temporary Public Employees.

Would require temporary employees to be automatically included in the same bargaining unit as the permanent employees upon the request of the recognized employee organization.

Cal Cities Position: Oppose

SB 399 (Wahab) Employer Communications: Intimidation.

Would prohibit an employer from requiring its employees to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or participate in any communications with the employer, the purpose of which is to communicate the employer's opinion about religious matters, political matters.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

AB 504 (Reyes) State and Local Public Employees: Labor Relations: Disputes.

Would allow local public employees to refuse to enter property that is the site of a primary labor dispute, perform work for an employer involved in a primary labor dispute, or go through or work behind a primary picket line. Would prohibit an employer from directing an employee to take those actions.

Cal Cities Position: Oppose

AB 597 (Rodriguez) Workers' Compensation: First Responders: Post-traumatic Stress.

Would substantially expand California's current workers' compensation presumption for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to emergency medical technicians (EMT) and paramedics.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

AB 453 (Cervantes) District-based Elections.

Would require a public hearing concerning district-based elections that is consolidated with a meeting of the governing body include other substantive agenda items, to begin at a fixed time.

Cal Cities Position: Watch

AB 764 (Bryan) Elections: City and County Redistricting.

This measure states the intent of the Legislature to add new to add new requirements to the Fair Maps Acts.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

AB 1248 (Bryan) Local Redistricting: Independent Redistricting Commissions.

Would require independent redistricting commissions for cities over 300,000 in population.

Cal Cities Position: Pending

AB 817 (Pacheco) Local Government: Open Meetings.

Would allow non-decision-making legislative bodies currently governed by the Brown Act, such as advisory bodies and commissions, to participate in two-way virtual teleconferencing without posting their physical location.

Cal Cities Position: Co-Sponsor

AB 557 (Hart) Open Meetings: Local Agencies: Teleconferences.

Would allow cities to meet remotely during proclaimed states of emergency under modified Brown Act requirements. Would also provide greater flexibility for agencies that meet on a fixed date every month by extending the AB 361 renewal period to 45 days.

Cal Cities Position: Co-Sponsor

SB 251 (Newman) Political Reform Act of 1974: Elected Officers: Conflicts of Interest.

Would prohibit an elected officer from employment by any other elected officer with the same constituency, except if the elected officer first began their employment by the other officer with the same constituency on or before December 31, 2023.

Cal Cities Position: Oppose

AB 37 (Bonta) Political Reform Act of 1974: Campaign Funds: Security Expenses.

Would expand the ability for officials to expend campaign funds for security expenses.

Cal Cities Position: Support

SB 329 (Dodd) Cities: City Council Members: Compensation.

Would allow general law cities to increase the council member salaries to reflect inflation.

Cal Cities Position: Sponsor

VIII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Friday, June 23, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Pomona (in-person)