

# 2017



## LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES ANNUAL REPORT

Serving as the Leading Voice for California Cities  
through Advocacy and Education



# League of California Cities

## 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Serving as the Leading Voice for California Cities through Advocacy and Education

The mission of the League of California Cities® is to protect and expand local government authority by advocating for the common interests of cities before the Legislature, the courts and at the ballot box. The League also supports the work of cities by providing education opportunities for elected and appointed city officials throughout the state. This focus has guided generations of League leaders and its staff since 1898, when a group of pioneering city officials organized a meeting to share strategies and build a common city platform to advocate before the Legislature. After 119 years and now representing 98 percent of the state's cities, the League continues to focus on actions that will advance city priorities in the short- and long-term in an increasingly complex environment.

### Effective Advocacy

In 2017, the League engaged with city officials, legislators and diverse coalitions of stakeholders to make the case for city priorities and local control. Significant progress was accomplished on both fronts by the close of the legislative session.



#### **Blueprint for More Housing Legislation Delivers Affordable Housing Funding and New Tools**

The League was effective in advancing support for affordable housing in cities

this year. When the Governor signed a package of bills with new resources, tools and incentives for housing, it included two League-supported measures and one League-sponsored measure. SB 2 dedicates 70 percent of the \$250 million it generates annually to local government housing programs, and SB 3 places a \$4 billion bond on the November 2018 ballot to support veteran housing programs, affordable housing and infill development. The Governor also signed League-sponsored SB 540, which streamlines the planning process for new housing construction.

#### **\$1.5 Billion in Funding for Local Street and Road Repairs**

Following a multi-year effort by the League, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and other organizations in the Fix Our Roads Coalition to both



educate and advocate for a comprehensive transportation infrastructure funding solution, an agreement finally materialized in 2017. The Road Repair and Accountability Act of



2017, which comprises SB 1 and ACA 5, combines dedicated funding with strong accountability measures. SB 1 provides an additional \$5.4 billion annually for the state and local transportation system, of which \$1.5 billion is dedicated to city and county street and road repairs. For cities, it doubles the amount of maintenance funds they previously received to fix their streets. ACA 5, which is scheduled for the June 2018 ballot, provides constitutional protection to ensure that several new funding sources will be used for transportation purposes only.

#### **Resources for Parks/Water Projects Advance**

The passage of SB 5, a \$4 billion parks and water bond scheduled for the June 2018 ballot, was another win for cities that the League helped secure in 2017.



This measure includes \$425 million of per capita funding allocations to cities with each city receiving a minimum of \$200,000 for their parks. It also includes \$725 million dedicated to "park-poor" communities, as well as additional funding for state parks, nature conservancies, climate and environmental programs, flood control, drought and drinking water programs and Salton Sea improvements.



growth in 2017 — Mayors and Council Members Executive Forum attendance grew by 72 percent and the Fire Chiefs Leadership Institute sold out. Collectively, League conferences reached over 4,600 city officials in-person, and League webinars reached thousands more.

### **Other Legislative Efforts to Protect Local Control**

The League led a successful battle to get cities removed from legislation, AB 1250, that would have limited cities' contracting authority.

In another significant effort, the League partnered with over 300 cities and defeated SB 649, an industry-backed measure that would have given away public property for the private gain of a single industry — wireless telecommunication companies. In his veto message, the Governor said what many already understood, "I believe that the interest which localities have in managing rights of way requires a more balanced solution than the one achieved in this bill."

### **Quality Education and Professional Development**

In response to increasing demand, the League expanded education opportunities for city officials through a variety of formats, including in-person conferences,



webinars, and one-day issue briefings. The 2017 Annual Conference & Expo brought more than 1,700 attendees to Sacramento. Two conferences that recently returned to League programming after a five-year hiatus continued to see significant



### **Looking Forward to 2018**

Following a meeting with the leadership of the divisions, departments, caucuses and policy committees, on Dec. 1, 2017, the League Board of Directors adopted the following 2018 Strategic Goals for the organization:

- Address Public Safety Concerns of California Cities.
- Ensure Sustainability of Public Pension and Retirement Health Benefits.
- Protect Existing Transportation Funding for Local Priorities.
- Improve Housing Affordability and Support Additional Resources to Address the Homelessness Crisis.

Additional information on the 2018 League Strategic Goals is available at [www.cacities.org/priorities](http://www.cacities.org/priorities).

Thank you to all the city officials who supported the League's advocacy and programming in 2017. The League is effective on behalf of its city members because of you and looks forward to serving California cities in 2018.



# 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

## Legislative Advocacy

**2,979** bills introduced, of which the League monitored, tracked and engaged on 1,413.

**23** League action alerts sent on high-priority legislation.

**271** Advocacy app users.

**28** League-supported bills signed by Governor Jerry Brown.

**2** League-opposed bills vetoed by Governor Jerry Brown.

**5** Diversity Caucuses.

**50+** League Board Members.

**107** City meetings with legislators and legislative staff arranged by Regional Public Affairs Managers.

**425** members serving on one of the League's 7 standing policy committees.

**161** alumni of the League's California Civic Leadership Institute, including 27 who are serving in the 2017–18 Legislature.

## Legal Advocacy

**42** friend-of-the-court briefs/letters approved for filing in California or federal appellate courts or with the Attorney General.



## Information

**83** issues of *CA Cities Advocate* e-newsletter with 8,700 subscribers and an average of 30 stories per month.

**123,500** visitors to [www.cacities.org](http://www.cacities.org).

**69,400** unique visitors to news article pages on [www.cacities.org](http://www.cacities.org).

**12** issues of *Western City* magazine published with a total of 440 pages of content along with 33 *Western City* articles reprinted nationally and statewide.

**36,000** visitors to [www.westerncity.com](http://www.westerncity.com).

**3,185** League Facebook likes.

**150** reporter inquiries.

**7,662** League Twitter followers with an average of 63 tweets per month and an average of 8,570 monthly impressions.

**34** new Institute for Local Government (ILG) resources on a range of California local government topics.

**114,000** visitors annually to [www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org) with 2,600 ILG resources downloaded monthly.

**11** active League Listservs with 4,575 subscribers who use these city-focused forums to discuss priority issues.

## Recognitions Given

**11** Helen Putnam Award-winning cities recognized for their best practices and leadership.

**52** cities awarded the ILG Beacon Spotlight recognition and full Beacon Award for their sustainability efforts.

**2** Distinguished Legislative Leadership Awards given.

## Education

**1,739** Annual Conference attendees and 266 exhibitors, including 87 first-time exhibitors.

**9** municipal department meetings with a combined total of 2,951 attendees.

**28** webinars with 3,253 individual registrations, many with 10+ participants per registration.

## League-Created Financial Programs for Cities

**U.S. Communities:** 366 cities saved \$5.4 million using cooperative purchasing program with discounts on goods and services — [www.uscommunities.org/lcc](http://www.uscommunities.org/lcc).

**CSCDA:** \$2 billion issuance of tax-exempt bonds and tax credits for cities/communities/nonprofits — [www.cscda.org](http://www.cscda.org).

**CalTRUST:** \$2.7 billion in pooled investment of public funds at attractive rates — [www.caltrust.org](http://www.caltrust.org).