



## The League of California Cities

has been shaping the Golden State's political landscape since it was founded in 1898. Cal Cities is a fierce advocate for the state's 482 cities, defending and expanding local control through advocacy efforts in the Legislature, at the ballot box, in the courts, and through strategic outreach that informs and educates the public, policymakers, and opinion leaders. Together, with our members, Cal Cities delivers major victories for cities year after year, protecting local control, securing billions of dollars in new funding, and preserving existing city resources.

Cal Cities also organizes department, regional, and statewide conferences and events designed to educate city officials about the latest professional developments and new solutions to the everyday challenges cities face. Whatever your experience level may be, Cal Cities stands ready to provide the information, training,

and resources necessary to effectively run a municipality.

Cal Cities membership, which extends to all elected and appointed officials in member cities, offers several opportunities to shape statewide policy and access cutting-edge professional development. Membership touchpoints extend through 16 Regional Divisions, nine Municipal Departments, five Diversity Caucuses, and seven Policy Committees.

City officials are the reason California's cities are resilient and diverse communities where our residents can live, work, and play. Cal Cities is here to help ensure you are the best city official you can be for your community.

This Cal Cities roadmap will help get you started, highlighting ways you can get involved and get the most out of your membership.

## Subscribe

Cal Cities engages with city officials through a variety of channels to keep you informed on the issues that matter most. The weekly [Cal Cities Advocate](#) newsletter delivers relevant and timely information to subscriber inboxes with breaking news on legislative issues, the latest Cal Cities programs, state and federal funding opportunities, and stories on locally-driven efforts.

[Western City magazine](#), a monthly digital publication, dives deep into big policy issues and trends, as well as practical ideas for city officials. Subscribe to the monthly [Western City magazine](#) newsletter to receive a preview of each issue directly in your inbox.

Colleagues can connect with one another or share information about specific city-related topics, departments, and more through one of the many Cal Cities [discussion groups](#).

## Connect

Representing every member city and town in California, [Regional Divisions](#) are at the core of our advocacy efforts. City officials — both elected and career — help develop region-specific programs and carry out grassroots activities that support legislative, regulatory, and ballot measure goals.

Functioning as professional societies with educational and networking opportunities, [Municipal Departments](#) connect city officials with like-minded colleagues to share ideas and play an essential role in forming Cal Cities policy and programs. Municipal Departments provide much-needed technical and advisory support through the organization and help create continuing education programs and other works of interest to department members.

Cal Cities encourages membership in one of its five [Diversity Caucuses](#), which provide city officials with common interests, characteristics, issues, and identity as another way to connect with each other. The Diversity Caucuses reflect the diversity of California's cities, and membership is open to all Cal Cities' members.

Through its [Cal Cities Partner Program](#), Cal Cities provides an opportunity for outside organizations to support the work of cities while engaging in educational activities, policymaking, conferences, regional meetings, and networking events throughout the year. Whether they are participating in Regional Division events, Policy Committee meetings, or through various online or in-person educational forums, Cal Cities Partners bring a valued voice to conversations around city issues.

## Hone your skills

Cal Cities provides cutting-edge professional development and sharing opportunities through year-round conferences, training seminars, webinars, roundtables, and more. Led by policy experts and seasoned local leaders, each event covers and offers solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing city leaders. Each year, the [Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo](#) brings together nearly 2,000 California city leaders for an educational and peer-to-peer sharing event filled with dynamic panel discussions, keynotes, breakout sessions, and an interactive expo.

Take your political career from the local level to state level. The [California Civic Leadership Institute](#) educates local leaders as they progress in their political careers and create strong partnerships with state leaders.

## Advocate

Cal Cities' advocacy efforts are strongest when joined by the voices of city leaders. [Testify](#) in legislative sessions, [write letters](#) to lawmakers, and help communicate local issues to Sacramento and Washington, D.C., as only you know how.

Cities must be prepared for challenges to local democracy and statewide fiscal raids. Ongoing fundraising through the Cal Cities political action committee, [CitiPAC](#), ensures there are funds necessary to immediately and effectively respond to emerging threats and advocate for cities at the ballot box.

## Join

Cal Cities protects local control and advances its member-driven state Action Agenda thanks to the active involvement of city officials from throughout the Golden State. City leaders directly influence Cal Cities' overall efforts through their involvement in [grassroots campaigns](#), [task forces](#) on specific and major issues, and [conference planning committees](#).

City leaders can also get involved with regional or issue-specific programs such as the Coastal Cities Group, Rural City Information Exchange, and the Advancing Equity Community.

## Be recognized

Cal Cities recognizes city leaders whose actions strengthen local control, increase the quality of life for all Californians, and create vibrant, healthy city governments through a number of [awards](#): Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, Cities for Workforce Health, Outstanding Local Streets and Roads Project Awards, Department and Division awards, and the Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Mayors and Council Members Leadership Academy [Torch Program](#) honors the hard work of local elected officials who seek to enhance their knowledge and skills in order to better serve the public.

The Cal Cities [#LocalWorks](#) initiative shines a spotlight on examples of local actions that are making a difference to their communities. Topics include affordable housing, homelessness, resident programs and services, public safety, emergency preparedness, and more.

## Be a leader

The [Board of Directors](#) is responsible for the overall supervision, control, and direction of Cal Cities and consists of representatives from each of the 16 Regional Divisions, nine Municipal Departments, five Diversity Caucuses, and mayors of California's 10 largest cities, as well as 12 elected at-large members.

Leadership roles in [Regional Divisions](#), [Municipal Departments](#), and [Diversity Caucuses](#) help drive region-, department-, and caucus-specific goals and educational programming; have general supervision of the sub-group; and promote the purposes and goals established by Cal Cities.

More than 400 officials collectively add their expertise and guidance to Cal Cities through one of seven [Policy Committees](#). City officials actively debate, shape, and steer Cal Cities' policy-making process and advocacy efforts throughout the year.

## Visit [calcities.org](https://calcities.org) for more information

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# Cal Cities Roadmap

## GET INFORMED

### SUBSCRIBE

- *Cal Cities Advocate*
- *Western City* magazine
- Discussion groups

### CONNECT

- Regional Public Affairs Manager
- Municipal Departments
- Diversity Caucuses
- Cal Cities Partner Program

### ADVOCATE

- Write letters
- Support CitiPAC
- Testify

### HONE YOUR SKILLS

- Annual Conference and Expo
- Other conferences
- Webinars, Speaker Series, and Roundtables
- Workshops
- California Civic Leadership Institute

## GET INVOLVED

### JOIN

- Regional Divisions
- Conference planning committees
- Task forces

## BE A LEADER

### BE RECOGNIZED

- Torch Program
- Conference speaker
- Award programs
- Local Works

### BE A LEADER

- Board of Directors
- Regional Division, Municipal Department, and Diversity Caucus Leadership
- Policy Committees