



League of California Cities

2022

Annual Report



Message from Executive Director and CEO

The key to progress is partnership, and for the League of California Cities, 2022 was a year full of collective action and success on behalf of California's cities and towns.

In 2022, Cal Cities delivered yet again for our members, advancing critical advocacy priorities in the Legislature and the courts, and offering exceptional education opportunities.

Working together with our local leaders and partners, we secured significant funding for cities that will help spur affordable housing, reduce homelessness, and implement organic waste regulations. We protected local transportation projects, safeguarded current funding streams that cities use for critical services, and fought back against regulations that add an extra layer of unnecessary bureaucracy.

We diversified and expanded on the success of our online educational programming and launched a new, in-person conference for city leaders to advocate at the Capitol and learn from peers and experts alike. We also strengthened Cal Cities' technology infrastructure to increase member engagement and better serve city officials.

Cal Cities is a strong, effective organization because we are member-informed and grounded in the voices and experiences of cities throughout the state. Together, we are strengthening local decision-making, driving state policy, and crafting solutions to everyday challenges.

I'd like to express my gratitude to the 2021-22 Cal Cities Officers and Board members for their leadership and guidance. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the talented and dedicated Cal Cities staff. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of people who call our cities home.

I am proud to present the Cal Cities 2022 Annual Report, which captures our collective achievements in support of California cities over the past year. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn M. Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Carolyn M. Coleman
Executive Director and CEO
League of California Cities

Mission

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

Vision

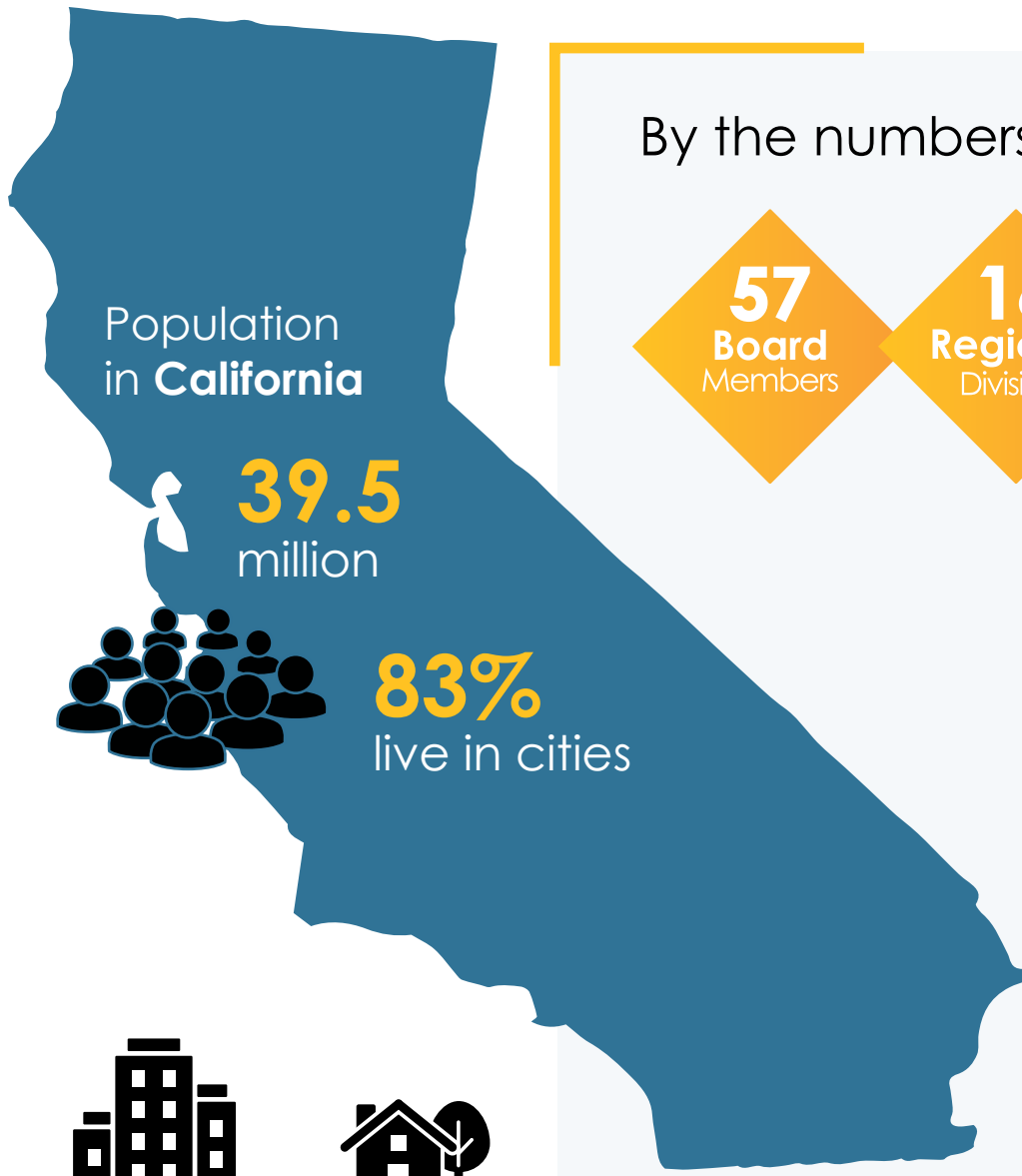
To be recognized and respected as the leading advocate for the common interests of California's cities.

“California is a state rich with diversity, but it is the commonality of our interests that bring us together and makes Cal Cities so powerful as an organization. I'm proud of our collective work over the last year to recognize the challenges cities face and advance solutions that improve the quality of life for all Californians.

*Cindy Silva
Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek
2021-22 Cal Cities President*



2021-22 Cal Cities Board of Directors



By the numbers...



Cal Cities serves thousands of city officials and staff...

- Mayors and Council Members
- City Managers
- City Attorneys
- City Clerks
- Fire Chiefs
- Fiscal Officers
- Human Resources Directors
- Planning Commissioners
- Public Works Officers
- Public Safety Officers



Largest city
Los Angeles
3.8 million



Smallest city
Amador City
201

Legislative Advocacy

Cal Cities works directly with members of the Legislature, Governor's administration, and other organizations to advocate on behalf of California cities and towns. In 2022, Cal Cities and the powerful voices of city officials it represents advanced the member-driven and board-approved 2022 Action Agenda.



Homelessness and community wellness

Cal Cities supported and improved a landmark law that creates a first-of-its-kind civil court process known as the Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court program. This program connects individuals experiencing acute mental illnesses with a court-ordered care plan managed by a care team in the community. Cal Cities also proudly sponsored a new law that creates a peer-to-peer suicide prevention curriculum for firefighters and emergency medical services personnel.



Housing

Cal Cities secured \$1 billion in the state budget to support cities' efforts to tackle the housing supply and affordability crisis in their communities. Cal Cities also secured critical amendments to housing bills that are now law to prevent the further erosion of local zoning and land use authority.



Infrastructure

Cal Cities led a broad coalition against a large, unfunded transportation measure that would have required cities to adopt significant and costly changes to their general plans. Cal Cities secured amendments that removed the worst parts of the bill, and it now respects local decision-making and flexibility. Cal Cities also stopped transportation bills that would have restricted local decision-making and the use of funding sources for local transportation initiatives.



Climate resiliency

Cal Cities' advocacy yielded results to help cities implement the state's new organic waste recycling programs and advance shared state and local goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Cal Cities secured an additional \$180 million for cities this year, as well as greater local flexibility for achieving compliance with state regulation procurement requirements. Cal Cities also played a critical role in the passage of a landmark single-use plastics and packaging recycling law, ensuring that new costs will not be borne by cities or their residents.

Other Legislative Achievements

Cal Cities' advocacy efforts spurred state action on a wide range of top concerns for cities and pushed back on state regulations that add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.



Crime



Catalytic converter theft is rising throughout the state and driving up insurance costs for residents. Cal Cities supported two new laws designed to disincentivize black market operations and dissuade further theft.

Protecting local revenues



Cal Cities successfully pushed back against legislation that threatened local revenues that cities need to fund essential services. One proposed measure, which was defeated, would have provided manufacturing companies a full sales tax break for the next five years – with an estimated revenue loss to local governments over \$2.5 billion.

Cal Cities also stopped two measures that would have required state and local pension systems to withdraw high-performing investments, leading to a negative impact on the pension fund system and employer costs.

By the numbers...

This year Cal Cities tracked and engaged on

1,430 bills,
two-thirds

of all bills introduced.



Cal Cities staff held
100+ meetings
with state lawmakers
and legislative staff.



More than
400 local leaders
engaged in Cal Cities
committees to shape policy
positions central to our advocacy.

Protected more than
\$3 billion
in local revenues

By the numbers...

35

Friend-of-the-court
briefs filed.



3 Updates to legal publications



“

We are one small city, and when we join together with all the other cities in the state of California, our collective voice is so strong. We can't do it alone. Joining the League of California Cities has been very important for us to strengthen our voice, especially in advocacy.

Teresa Acosta,
Council Member, Carlsbad,
Cal Cities Board Member

Legal Advocacy

One of the unique services available to Cal Cities members is the robust legal advocacy program that protects the interests of cities in matters before the courts. State and federal appellate courts issued favorable decisions for cities in several cases in which Cal Cities filed an amicus, or “friend-of-the-court,” brief. A few highlights include:



In **Old East Davis Neighborhood Association v. City of Davis**, a California Court of Appeal confirmed a longstanding legal presumption in favor of cities' determinations of general plan consistency. Upon request by Cal Cities, the court published the case so that it can now be cited as favorable precedent by cities in other cases.



In **California River Watch v. City of Vacaville**, Cal Cities successfully urged the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to withdraw an earlier, unfavorable opinion finding that a city could be held liable for coincidental contamination of water moving through its water system, even when the city did not directly cause the contamination. The withdrawn opinion decreases the liability for cities that operate public water systems.



A California Court of Appeal answered Cal Cities' request to publish a favorable opinion for cities regarding **Hobbs v. City of Pacific Grove**, a case concerning cities' short-term rental ordinances. The published case can now be used by other cities as precedent to oppose legal challenges to short-term rental ordinances.

Education and Events

Cal Cities offers unmatched learning opportunities for city leaders. Its conferences and events provide local officials with a chance to hear from experts and explore new solutions to the everyday challenges cities face.

Cal Cities launched the inaugural City Leaders Summit in 2022, a new event for city officials to advocate on state policy decisions that impact cities and gain top-notch leadership skills. During the event, more than 200 city leaders met with legislators to discuss the most pertinent issues affecting their cities and attended in-depth educational sessions to explore local solutions to statewide problems.

In 2022, eight of Cal Cities' flagship conferences returned to in-person offerings, and the Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo welcomed the largest number of attendees since 2014. Cal Cities built on the success of the previous year's online programming and offered several highly engaging virtual educational opportunities, including the Speaker Series and webinars.



By the numbers...

17 Webinars and Speaker Series with **5,476** attendees



10 Conferences with **4,037** attendees

42 Department roundtables with **3,224** attendees



133 Division events with **4,370** attendees

“Cal Cities, especially at the division level, provides a lot of great training for staff members and newly elected council members. When I was first elected in 2018, I had the benefit of attending a series of orientations where Cal Cities really laid the groundwork for how to be an effective council member. That was an incredibly helpful resource to me.

Andrew Chou,
Mayor, Diamond Bar,
Los Angeles County Division President



Our strength is our membership

In 2022, thousands of city officials attended virtual and in-person events through Cal Cities' divisions, departments, and caucuses to share best practices and advocate for top city priorities. Cal Cities' advocacy efforts help strengthen the entire organization and create a stronger, unified voice when representing local interests in the state Capitol.



Cal Cities' strength is in its diversity, and the power of the organization is demonstrated in the work we do together. As several educational opportunities returned to in-person events, Cal Cities held on to the success of virtual convenings as a forum for city officials to collaborate and share new ideas for serving their residents. Thousands of city officials participated in member-driven department and issue-based roundtables.



In 2022, Cal Cities also launched the online Advancing Equity Community, where city leaders can connect, share information, and discover resources on diversity, equity, and inclusion matters for cities.

Visibility

Cities and towns in California are deeply committed to making their communities healthy and vibrant places to live, work, and play. Cal Cities shares best practices employed by cities for creatively tackling some of California's biggest challenges because we believe that cities learning from each other is part of what makes us all stronger.

Bringing greater visibility to the work of cities and amplifying the voices of city leadership is integral to what Cal Cities does every day. This work is key to advancing the collective power of cities, ensuring that our members can share the experiences of cities in the state Legislature and Congress, and shape important conversations in the media on issues of critical importance to our cities.

This past year, the voices of Cal Cities members were in highly respected state and national media, advocating for the needs of cities. They were featured in Cal Cities' *Western City* magazine, #LocalWorks video stories and through our social media storytelling, and in our weekly *Cal Cities Advocate* newsletter that goes directly to the inboxes of more than 12,000 readers. The 12 winning cities of the esteemed Helen Putnam Award for Excellence, chosen for their outstanding efforts to improve the quality of life and delivery of services in their communities, were also featured in *Western City* magazine and social media channels throughout the year.



By the numbers...

Cal Cities was mentioned in **1,800** news stories



132 million estimated reach



26 #LocalWorks stories of local actions that are making a difference to California communities.

Follow us on social media!

12 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence winners featured in *Western City* magazine

- City of Eureka
- City of Buellton
- City of Lakewood
- City of Montebello
- City of Redondo Beach
- 19 Cities and Towns in Contra Costa County
- City of Modesto
- City of Placentia
- Town of Paradise
- City of Laguna Niguel
- City of Pismo Beach
- City of Gonzales



50 Cal Cities Advocate newsletters with **12,583** subscribers

“ I think at the end of the day, we are all advocates for our cities. We're all champions. And the League of California Cities helps us be more effective champions...

*Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft,
Mayor, Alameda,
Cal Cities Board Member*



@calcities



City Solutions

Cal Cities is committed to connecting cities to services and solutions, and that commitment was stronger than ever in 2022.

In addition to the California Statewide Communities Development Authority, a joint powers authority which enables local governments to access low-cost, tax-exempt financing for community-based public benefit projects, Cal Cities expanded its financial solutions for cities in 2022. Cal Cities launched California CLASS, a local government investment pool that provides public agencies with an additional diversification option for their daily liquidity and strategic reserve investments.



CAL CITIES PARTNER Through the Cal Cities Partner Program, business partners supported the work of city officials by connecting them with services to help support their residents. Cal Cities Partners also engaged in educational activities, policy development, conferences, regional meetings, and networking events throughout the year.

By the numbers... **81** Cal Cities Partners

The Cal Cities Team

Supported by a staff of about 70, Cal Cities is the leading advocate and premier educational resource for California cities and their leaders.



The Cal Cities 2021-22 Board of Directors

The Cal Cities Board of Directors provides leadership and guidance, shaping state policy and the actions of the organization.

Officers

Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, President
Ali Sajjad Taj, Council Member, Artesia, First Vice President
Dan Parra, Council Member, Fowler, Second Vice President
Cheryl Viegas Walker, Council Member, El Centro, Immediate Past President
Carolyn M. Coleman, Executive Director and CEO

Directors

Walt Allen, Mayor Pro Tem, Covina, African American Caucus
Jan Arbuckle, Vice Mayor, Grass Valley, At-large
Dan Arriola, Council Member, Tracy, LGBTQ Caucus
Denise Athas, Council Member, Novato, At-large
Al Austin, Council Member, Long Beach, Large City Representative
Emily Beach, Council Member, Burlingame, Peninsula Division
LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager, Berkeley, Personnel and Employee Relations Department
John Binaski, Fire Chief, Clovis, Fire Chiefs Department
London Breed, Mayor, San Francisco, Large City
Joe Buscaino, Council Member, President Pro Tem, Los Angeles, Large City Representative
Ken Carlson, Council Member, Pleasant Hill, East Bay Division
David Cohen, Council Member, San Jose, Large City Representative
Michael Colantuono, City Attorney, Grass Valley, City Attorneys Department
Pippin Dew, Council Member, Vallejo, North Bay Division
Phill Dupper, Mayor, Loma Linda, Inland Empire Division
Jerry Dyer, Mayor, Fresno, Large City
Edgard Garcia, Council Member, El Centro, Imperial County Division
Todd Gloria, Mayor, San Diego, Large City
Karen Goh, Mayor, Bakersfield, Large City
Eric Guerra, Council Member, Sacramento, Large City Representative
Rene Guerrero, Director of Public Works, Pomona, Public Works Department
Gene Hernandez, Mayor Pro Tem, Yorba Linda, Orange County Division
Steve Hofbauer, Mayor, Palmdale, Desert Mountain Division
Lindsey Horvath, Council Member, West Hollywood, NLC Board of Directors

Britt Huff, Mayor Pro Tem, Rolling Hills Estates, At-large
Randi Johl, Legislative Director/City Clerk, Temecula City, Clerks Department
Dan Kalb, Council Member, Oakland, Large City Representative
Ellen Kamei, Council Member, Mountain View, Women's Caucus
Lynne Kennedy, Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Cucamonga, At-large
Jim Lewis, City Manager, Pismo Beach, City Managers Department
Corina Lopez, Council Member, San Leandro, NLC Board of Directors
Gloria Ma'ae, Council Member, Anaheim, Large City Representative
Tony Madrigal, Council Member, Modesto, Central Valley Division
Juslyn Manalo, Council Member, Daly City, API Caucus
Ray Marquez, Mayor, Chino Hills, At-large
Lisa Middleton, Mayor, Palm Springs, At-large
Porsche Middleton, Mayor, Citrus Heights, At-large
John Minto, Mayor, Santee, San Diego County Division
Richard Montgomery, Mayor Pro Tem, Manhattan Beach, At-large
Eric Nelson, Planning Commissioner, Dana Point, Planning and Community Development Department
Lori Ogorchock, Council Member, Antioch, Mayors and Council Members Department
Blanca Pacheco, Mayor, Downey, At-large
David Pollock, Council Member, Moorpark, Channel Counties Division
Dave Potter, Mayor, Carmel, Monterey Bay Division
Ana Maria Quintana, Vice Mayor, Bell, Los Angeles County Division
Gabe Quinto, Mayor, El Cerrito At-large
Roberta Raper, Dir. of Finance & Technology, West Sacramento, Fiscal Officers Department
Dana Reed, Mayor, Indian Wells, Riverside County Division
David Sander, Council Member, Rancho Cordova, At-large
Jeff Smith, Police Chief, Pismo Beach, Police Chiefs Department
Joan Smith Freeman, Mayor, Yreka, Sacramento Valley Division
Esmeralda Soria, Council Member, Fresno, Latino Caucus
Kuldip Thusu, Council Member, Dinuba, South San Joaquin Valley Division
Mireya Turner, Mayor Pro Tem, Lakeport, Redwood Empire Division
Nancy Young, Mayor, Tracy, At-large



Strengthening cities through **advocacy** and **education**

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