

**December 14, 2023**



LEAGUE OF  
**CALIFORNIA  
CITIES**

Strengthening California Cities  
through Advocacy and Education

# **2023 City Clerk New Law and Elections Seminar**

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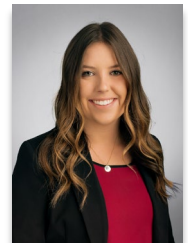
# Legislative Advocates



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# Advocacy Priorities

1. Safeguard local revenues and bolster local economic development.
2. Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness.
3. Improve public safety in California communities.
4. Expand investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.

# Safeguard local revenues and bolster local economic development

Cities are the engine of the state economy. With a looming state budget deficit, it is critical to counter efforts by the state and corporations to erode or skim local revenue. Cal Cities supports increasing local revenue streams for local governments and **opposes any effort to reduce or eliminate existing funding to cities**. Cal Cities will use every tool in the toolbox — legislative, legal, and grassroots mobilization — to **fight a 2024 ballot measure** that represents an existential threat to local control. The measure, sponsored by the California Business Roundtable, would put at risk billions of dollars for essential local services. Cal Cities also supports legislation that will fund a **state-local partnership to enhance economic development** in these uncertain fiscal times.

# Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness

The threat of climate change is no less during tough economic times. The state needs to accelerate its efforts to **prepare, reduce, and adapt** to the ever-changing risks posed by climate change — especially in **vulnerable and under-resourced communities**. These risks include wildfires, flooding, drought, and other extreme weather events. Cal Cities will pursue **funding strategies**, including potentially a bond, that provide cities with the necessary resources to **improve community and infrastructure resiliency**. Cal Cities will also seek to advance a partnership with state and federal agencies to strengthen essential infrastructure, including modernizing the state's **water supply** and energy grid.

# Improve public safety in California communities

A spike in retail theft, violent smash-and-grab robberies, fentanyl deaths and illicit drug use, and back-to-back natural disasters, as well as strained social services are creating challenges beyond the capacity of local governments. Cal Cities will partner with the state to advance solutions that help **reduce crime, increase emergency service capacity**, and provide more support to those residents struggling with **substance abuse**. We will work with the Legislature, the Governor, and allies to craft legislation that will **reform Proposition 47**, while **avoiding a return to the days of mass incarceration**.

# Expand investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing

California cities are doing more than ever to get residents off the streets and into safe, stable, and affordable housing. However, the homelessness crisis in the world's fifth-largest economy continues unabated — fueled in part by a lack of affordable housing. Cal Cities is calling on the state to provide **ongoing funding** to bolster local efforts to support individuals experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness as well as strengthen state and local partnerships **to improve access to wraparound services**, including mental health and substance use treatment. Cal Cities also supports ongoing funding for cities to **jumpstart the construction of affordable housing**, while ensuring cities **retain local decision-making** and flexibility to achieve community and state housing goals.

# Public Meetings and Public Records

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

This measure eliminates the sunset date on provisions of law allowing local agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with specified Ralph. M Brown Act requirements during a proclaimed state of emergency. This measure also provides greater flexibility for agencies that meet on a fixed date every month by extending the AB 361 (Rivas, Statutes of 2021) renewal period to 45 days.



# General Government

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

This measure allows general law cities to adjust council member salaries for inflation.

# City Clerks Department Legislative Series

## Calling all City Clerks!

The Cal Cities City Clerks Department is launching a new legislative series in 2024!

Hear about the latest legislation impacting city clerks from your Cal Cities lobbyist.

Presented by: Johnnie Pina, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist for Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations

Interested? Send an email to:

**Meghan McKelvey** [mmckelvey@calcities.org](mailto:mmckelvey@calcities.org) or  
**Isaac Black** [iblack@calcities.org](mailto:iblack@calcities.org)



## Legislative Series Schedule:

- **January 25 at 3:00 p.m.**
- **March 7 at 3:00 p.m.**
- **May 16 at 3:00 p.m.**
- **June 27 at 3:00 p.m.**
- **August 8 at 3:00 p.m.**

# QUESTIONS?

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