

December 9, 2021



LEAGUE OF
**CALIFORNIA
CITIES**

Strengthening California Cities
through Advocacy and Education

City Clerks Legislative Update

2021: The year in review

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Overview of 2021

- **January:** Robust \$227 billion budget proposed by Governor with budget surplus.
- **March:** \$8 billion direct and flexible American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to all California cities.
- **June:** Many COVID-19 restrictions lifted.
- **June/July:** State enacts \$262.6 billion spending plan fueled by a \$76 billion state surplus and \$27 billion in federal aid.
- **June/July:** ARPA funding released to cities.
- **September:** Legislature completes business; Governor wins recall election.

2021 Strategic Priorities

1. Secure state and federal funding for local COVID-19 public health response and economic recovery for all.
2. Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and resources to assist individuals at risk of – or already experiencing – homelessness while preserving local decision making.
3. Improve state-local coordination and planning to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.
4. Protect and modernize critical infrastructure.

Secure state and federal funding for local COVID-19 public health response and economic recovery for all

Helped secure direct relief to cities, residents, and businesses

- **\$8 billion** in direct and flexible ARPA funding.
- Advanced **regulatory and statutory flexibility** for small businesses.
- Major **Brown Act** relief for cities to provide services and conduct city business safely and uninterrupted.

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Secure funding to increase the supply of housing and resources to assist individuals experiencing homelessness

- Secured funding to address homelessness and affordable housing.
 - **\$1 billion** annually for next two years to expand or develop local capacity to prevent and help reduce homelessness.
 - **\$584 million** for the Infill Infrastructure Grant program designed to support affordable housing.
 - **\$250 million** for sustainable community strategies planning grants.
- Defeated legislation that would have negatively impacted cities.
 - **AB 1401 (Friedman)**, which would have restricted local parking requirements.
 - **AB 989 (Gabriel)**, which would have created a costly and time-consuming appeals process with a new Office of Housing Appeals in the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

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Secure funding to increase the supply of housing and resources to assist individuals experiencing homelessness

Governor signs legislation despite opposition from city leaders.

- **SB 9 (Atkins)** will require local governments to ministerially approve a housing development containing two residential units in single-family zones and urban lot splits. This 'by right' or mandatory approval scheme changes the rules midstream and as a result, may hinder housing plans already being implemented.
- **AB 215 (Chiu)** will slow existing housing efforts by adding a step to the housing element certification process requiring 40 additional days. It also allows the Department of Housing and Community Development to appoint or contract with other counsel to represent the department in such cases if the Attorney General declines to represent them.

Improve state-local coordination and planning to strengthen community disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery

Secured much-needed funding for disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.

- **SB 155 (Committee on Budget)** and **SB 170 (Skinner)** provides billions in climate resiliency and disaster preparedness.
- **\$4.5 billion** will help cities and others prepare for, fight, and recover from wildfires.
- **SB 1 (Atkins)** creates the California Sea Level Rise State and Regional Support Collaborative at the Ocean Protection Council to help coordinate and fund state efforts to prepare for sea level rise associated with climate change. \$40 million in funding provided separately.

Protect and modernize critical infrastructure

- Helped advance much-needed broadband and transportation investments.
 - **\$6 billion** in funding for broadband infrastructure.
 - **AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry)** and **SB 4 (Lena Gonzalez)** will prioritize equitable broadband deployment and make important separate tweaks to the California Advanced Services Fund, which supports broadband deployment.
 - **SB 640 (Becker)** will provide clarity to allow cities to partner on projects crossing multiple jurisdictions.
- Helped defeat **SB 556 (Dodd)** that would have gone beyond federal regulations regarding wireless broadband infrastructure deployment.

Looking ahead to 2022

2022 Action Agenda

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2022 strategic advocacy priorities

- Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and reform state housing laws to retain local authority.
- Attain investments to strengthen and sustain critical infrastructure.
- Secure increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery from climate change impacts through improved collaboration and resources.

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Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and reform state housing laws to retain local authority.

Secure adequate and sustainable funding for cities to increase construction of housing at all income levels, particularly affordable housing and workforce housing. Reform state housing laws to ensure cities retain local decision-making to meet the needs of their communities.

Secure increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.

Secure additional ongoing, flexible resources to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters, and permanent supportive housing. Enhance city and county coordination and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to ensure adequate wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk of, or already experiencing, homelessness in our communities, and effectively address mental health and substance use disorders.

Attain investments to strengthen and sustain critical infrastructure.

Advocate for policies that strengthen the conditions of local streets, highways, bridges, public transit, and broadband to improve workforce and economic development. Secure support for the modernization and expansion of the statewide water grid, including infrastructure, storage, and conveyance. Work with stakeholders to provide cities with access to the tools needed to ensure projects are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively to meet current and future needs.

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Strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery from climate change impacts through improved collaboration and resources.

Secure additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and sea level rise. Promote collaboration with other city, state, and federal governments, to strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.

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QUESTIONS?



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THANK YOU!

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