

CAL CITIES SELECTS 2025-26 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

At the League Leaders Conference earlier this month, Cal Cities Board of Directors adopted an update to our 2025-26 Advocacy Priorities following a day and a half of workshops with more than 100 city leaders who serve in leadership positions with Cal Cities.

Below are the newly adopted 2025-26 Advocacy Priorities:

1. **Protect and enhance local revenues and expand economic development tools.**

Californians are deeply concerned about affordability. Cities must safeguard local revenue streams, oppose unfunded mandates, and pursue new economic development tools that bolster local economies.

2. **Strengthen partnerships with the state to improve public safety.**

The progress cities have been making to strengthen public safety must be sustained. Cities call on the state to respect the will of the voters and provide the resources needed to fully implement Proposition 36. Cities support sustained investments in police, fire services, and public works as a foundation of public safety.

3. **Secure investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.**

Secure ongoing funding to bolster all cities' efforts to support unhoused residents and strengthen state and regional partnerships to expand access to wraparound services.

Secure ongoing funding to accelerate the construction of affordable housing and reform the Regional Housing Needs Allocation process.

Ensure cities have the flexibility and local decision-making authority to meet their community and state housing goals, as well as reduce homelessness.

4. **Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness.**

Support city efforts to prepare, prevent, and adapt to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change, including wildfires, drought, sea level rise, and other extreme weather events. Increase transparency and access to insurance policies, especially following a natural disaster.

Los Angeles County Division Board of Directors also met last month to create their priorities; they are:

- Advocate and engage city and county officials to enhance community and public safety, emergency response, and law enforcement challenges.
- Advocate for resources and tools to increase the direct and equitable distribution of funding required to supply affordable housing and homeless services.
- Oppose legislation and policies that fail to protect and preserve local decision-making authority over land use, housing, and other matters traditionally reserved for cities.
- Support partnerships and communication that encourage community engagement, economic development and safe transportation for LA28 and other major events.

LA COUNTY DIVISION 2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Division took positions or tracked 5 state bills, one budget trailer bill proposal, and engaged with the LA County Board of Supervisors on the plan to close Men's Central Jail. Of the state bills with Division positions, three bills ended favorably to the Division and the trailer bill proposal for the Delta Conveyance project was never put into print. Below are the details of our Division advocacy.

Support [AB 1 \(Connolly\)](#) Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.

This bill would require the California Department of Insurance (CDI) to consider whether to update the Safer from Wildfire regulations to include home hardening in the regulations on or before January 1, 2030.

Status: **Chaptered**

Support in Concept [AB 1138 \(Zbur\)](#) Income and Corporate Taxes: CA Film Tax Credit

Expands the California Film and TV Tax credit program from the current \$330 million per year to \$750 million per year. This bill would also make several changes to modernize the program, make it more competitive, and support California's film and TV production industry.

Status: **Chaptered**

Oppose [AB 470 \(McKinnor\)](#) Telephone Corporations: Carriers of Last Resort

As amended, AB 470 provides procedures for telephone corporations to relinquish its carrier of last resort designation for an eligible area and requires the CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to affirm that the requirements for a telephone corporation to have been met and that b communities are notified.

Status: Senate Appropriations. Held under submission, two-year bill.

Support [AB 888 \(Calderon\)](#) California Safe Homes Grant Program

This measure would create the California Safe Homes Grant Program which would provide funding to individuals, cities, counties and special districts for roof hardening and home hardening.

Status: **Chaptered**

Update: \$12.5 million was appropriated for home hardening grants in FY2025-26.

Watch [SB 220 \(Allen\)](#) Los Angeles Metro Transportation Authority: Governance.

This bill proposes expanding the LA County Metro Transportation Authority (Metro) Board of Directors from 14 to 22 to reconcile the expansion of the LA County Board of Supervisors that is required by the passage of Measure G in November 2024.

Update: Senator Allen has amended SB 220 recently and has removed the language that alters the composition of the Metro Board. Instead this bill now seeks a report from Metro and the County by July 2027 on their plan to accommodate the increase in the Board of Supervisors due to the passage of Measure G.

Status: Senate Transportation, two-year bill.

Support Delta Conveyance Project Streamlining Budget Trailer Bill

The Los Angeles County Division supports the efforts to pass a budget trailer bill to streamline the Delta Conveyance Project and has signed on to a [coalition letter circulated by the Metropolitan Water District](#).

Status: Was not introduced prior to the end of this year's session. Proponents indicate they will try again next year.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL POSTPONES TOUGH CHOICES TO MAY

The Governor submitted his \$349 billion spending plan on January 9 and his proposal leans heavily on the late budget adjustments made last year and appears to be kicking the can down the road given what fiscal experts have said about the economic downturn and the impact of H.R. 1. There is little to no new spending in this budget proposal, and it doubles down on last year's late cuts to the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program.

Check out Cal Cities budget proposal analysis from our special edition [CA Cities Advocate on JAN 9](#)

ADVOCATE FOR CAL CITIES AND YOUR CITIES PRIORITIES AT CITY LEADERS SUMMIT: APRIL 22 – 24

City Leaders Summit offers opportunities for city leaders from across the state to lobby lawmakers directly on Cal Cities' member-chosen [advocacy priorities](#), gain top-notch leadership skills, and connect with peers during in-depth educational sessions.

Registration is now open! Join us April 22-24 at the Sacramento SAFE Credit Union Convention Center for our 2026 City Leaders Summit! Details and registration is available [HERE](#).

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING CAL CITIES EVENTS

- [January 20 from 11 AM – 12 PM: Cal Cities Roundtable: E-Bike Regulations](#)
- [January 21 – 23: 2026 Mayors & Council Members Academy \(Sacramento\)](#)
- [January 29 from 11 AM – 12 PM: Fire Chiefs Department Roundtable: Advocating your Fire Department Priorities](#)
- [February 11 – 13: 2026 City Managers Conference \(sold out\)](#)
- [March 5 from 6 – 8:30 PM: LA County Division Membership Meeting \(SoCal Edison, Rosemead\)](#)
- [March 11 – 13: 2026 Planning Commissioners Academy \(Anaheim\)](#)
- [April 22 – 24: City Leaders Summit – see above \(Sacramento\)](#)
- [May 13 – 15: 2026 City Attorneys Spring Conference \(Universal City\)](#)
- September 23 – 25: 2026 Annual Conference and Expo (Anaheim)
➔ *Have an idea for an Annual Conference session? Keep an eye out for our call for proposals the week of FEB 1.*