

Jan 2022 CAR Meetings – Virtual  
Local Government Policy committee  
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The Local Government Policy committee is a new committee to CAR this year although this same group was known as the "the Local Government Forum" until this year. The difference is now this committee can make motions when needed as before we basically were a reporting forum.

This committee consists mostly of active Government Affairs Directors and representatives from region/association local government relation committees.

We spent about half of our allotted time on the new functions etc... of this committee and the last part on a couple of recommendations to move forward. We did not get to our three speakers before we ran out of time.

All forms of local tax increases require voter approval. proponents of such measures draft the language that describes their measure. They tend to emphasize the benefits of the proposals making them seem both logical and appealing. Voters tend to not read the longer official analysis located near the end of the ballot pamphlet usually prepared by a city attorney or county council which is more detailed, technical, and harder to understand. Could CAR be a source for "impartial" analysis of such proposals? Should this committee leadership and staff discuss making the analysis of all these proposals a CAR priority? If CAR were to make these evaluations, it would require considerable resources and likely require hiring additional staff or should an analysis just be done on a case-by-case basis as requested by local associations to CAR?

The recommendation from the committee was just to request the Strategic Planning and finance committee "consider" making the analysis of local tax ballot measures a "priority"

The jury is out with the idea we will hear back in the Sacramento meetings in April.

2. Many local taxes include an exemption for certain qualifying taxpayers. To receive these exemptions a taxpayer is required to apply with the taxing entity, typically the county assessor, if he/she wants to receive the exemption. It is a great benefit to receive these exemptions for those eligible. It would be better to simply grant these exemptions instead of going through the opt-in/opt-out on the part of the taxpayer. There would be objections from local agencies and local governments such as how would a jurisdiction always know if a taxpayer is eligible for a particular benefit.

This committee requests that the Taxation and Government finance committee consider a policy seeking to require local governments to apply all property tax exemptions to eligible taxpayers. Information on this will require an issue briefing paper be prepared and considered at the Spring Business Meetings.

that concludes my report.