



LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE AGENDA  
MARCH 8, 2018 | 6PM  
SUNNYVALE CITY HALL | WEST CONFERENCE ROOM  
456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE | SUNNYVALE, CA

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1. Call to order, roll call   | 6:00 PM |
| 2. Legislative Guiding Principles (action)                                | 6:05 PM |
| 3. Legislative update (Patrick Ahrens invited)                            | 6:10 PM |
| 4. Receive update on pending state legislation & direct staff accordingly |         |
| 5. Public Comment   | 6:55 PM |
| 6. Adjournment  | 6:59 PM |



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 8, 2018 | 6:20 PM  
SUNNYVALE CITY HALL | WEST CONFERENCE ROOM  
456 WEST OLIVE AVENUE | SUNNYVALE, CA

Call to order	6:32 PM
Present:	Santa Clara – Debi Davis
Campbell – Jeffrey Cristina	Saratoga – Mary-Lynne Bernald (phone),
Cupertino – Rod Sinks	Manny Cappello 6:50PM
Gilroy – absent	Sunnyvale – Larry Klein
Los Altos – Jeannie Bruins 6:37 PM	
Los Altos Hills – absent	Rob Rennie, Los Gatos, Legislative
Los Gatos – Marico Sayoc	Action Committee, chair
Millpitas – absent	Patrick Ahrens, Office of Assembly
Monte Sereno – Burton Craig	Member Evan Low
Morgan Hill – absent	Steve Preminger, Santa Clara County
Mountain View – Pat Showalter 6:41PM	Andi Jordan, Executive Director
Palo Alto – Greg Scharff	Dave Simons, citizen, Sunnyvale,
San Jose – absent	Planning Commissioner

Patrick Ahrens, Office of Assembly Member Evan Low, gave a legislative update.

- Democratic Caucus no longer has a super majority due to several resignations because of sexual harassment and sexual assault complaints. More resignations are expected. This has impacting governing and the ability to pass legislation. Democrats can no longer by-pass the Republicans.
- Governor has released his budget. Assembly Member Low is requesting “budget asks”. Requests will be going to City Managers.
- Legislator will be focused on Housing Bond – this would be another budget ask.
  - Transportation and Housing are always on the list, but looking for specific projects.
- SB 827 (Weiner) – Zoning near high-quality transit establishes an incentive for building housing near high quality transit. This bill is a proposal and it will be amended and marked up. This is a drastic reaction and it will change.
  - Legislative Action Committee members noted about the bill:
    - Would be helpful to clarifying content such as “transit corridors”
    - What happens when general plan and zoning is in conflict?
    - Inquired about school impacts

- Incentives for compliance would be helpful
- Patrick reiterated that he is happy to help give updates and please contact him with questions.
  - Office: 408-446-2810
  - Cell: 408-482-7383
  - Patrick.Ahrens@asm.ca.gov

Consent Agenda: Greg Scharff moved, Larry Klein seconded, the approval of the August 2017 meeting minutes. Unanimously approved by consensus.

Legislative Action Committee Guiding Principles: Pat Showalter motioned, Rod Sinks seconded, the approval of the Legislative Action Committee Guiding Principles which will be sent to each city for information. The Board of Directors will consider adoption of the Guiding Principles at the March 2018 meeting.

Adjournment 7 :00 PM until March 8, 2018 at 6PM at Sunnyvale City Hall, West Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,  
Andi Jordan  
Executive Director

## **Introduction**

The Cities Association takes positions on federal, state, and regional legislative issues that may impact its member cities, so as to advocate for the interests of the member cities. In most cases, positions are taken by the Board of Directors after receiving a recommendation from the Legislative Action Committee (LAC). However, legislative issues occasionally arise in a fashion that prevents timely deliberation and response from the Board of Directors. To address such occasions, the Board of Directors establishes this list of standing legislative advocacy positions. When time does not permit consideration by the Board of Directors, the President of the Cities Association is empowered to advocate for or against issues according to these standing legislative advocacy positions, subject to subsequent ratification by the Board of Directors.

## **General Administration**

The Cities Association respects the importance of local control over areas of municipal responsibility, and it opposes legislation and initiatives that weaken or eliminate existing local control.

## **Municipal Revenue**

The Cities Association recognizes the ongoing difficulty for cities to maintain and enhance revenue, due to the legislative framework that governs municipal revenue sources. As a general rule, the Cities Association opposes legislation or initiatives that threaten municipal revenue sources.

## **Opposition to Unfunded Mandates**

Recognizing the frequency with which federal, state, and regional initiatives attempt to impose unfunded mandates on cities, the Cities Association opposes unfunded mandates.

## **Protecting Tax Exempt Municipal Bonds**

The Cities Association recognizes that tax exempt municipal bonds are an essential revenue tool for cities to fund infrastructure projects and other critical initiatives. The Cities Association supports the existence of tax exempt municipal bonds and opposes efforts to weaken or eliminate such bonds.

## **Improved Access to Grants and Reimbursement**

The Cities Association recognizes that cities depend on grant funding and reimbursements from state, federal, and regional agencies. It also recognizes that unnecessary bureaucracy and other barriers can impede or reduce the availability and effectiveness of grant revenue. Accordingly, the Cities Association supports efforts to streamline grant and reimbursement processes. It specifically opposes unnecessary regulations, requirements, or bureaucratic processes to new or existing grants and reimbursement opportunities.

## **CalPERS Stability**

The Cities Association recognizes the threat posed to cities by CalPERS unfunded liabilities. As such, the Cities Association supports efforts to provide long-term stability of CalPERS funding.

## **Land Use**

### **CEQA Reform**

The Cities Association supports the environmental protections provided by the California Environmental Quality Act. At the same time, it recognizes the burdensome nature of some CEQA provisions, as well as the frequency with which CEQA is utilized to obstruct projects for reasons unrelated to environmental protection. As such, the Cities Association supports efforts to streamline the CEQA process and prevent CEQA abuse, provided those efforts do not materially weaken the environmental protections provided by CEQA.

### **Inclusionary Housing**

The Cities Association supports legislative efforts to support inclusionary zoning that maintains local control by overturning the Palmer Decision.

### **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)**

The Cities Association supports expanding the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and it opposes efforts to reduce CDBG funding.

## **Public Works**

### **Infrastructure Funding**

The Cities Association supports increased state and federal funding to meet cities' infrastructure needs.

### **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program**

The Cities Association supports restoration of the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program and the budgeting of adequate federal funds for the EECBG Program.

### **Protecting Cities' Water Supply**

The Cities Association supports legislation and funding that supports water efficiency, conservation, increased use of recycled water, drought relief and policies, and local agencies' ability to manage and protect groundwater supplies. The Cities Association opposes legislation and initiatives that threaten the availability of water provided to cities by regional water agencies. The Cities Association further recognizes that the affordability of water is a critical issue for the residents of its member cities, and it opposes legislation and initiatives that would create undue fiscal impacts on water ratepayers.

### **Transportation**

The Cities Association recognizes that transportation planning must be done on a regional level in order to be effective and supports efforts for adequate funding of transportation.

## **Environment**

### **Climate Change**

The Cities Association recognizes the danger posed by climate change, and the unique and substantial responsibility and opportunities that cities have to combat climate change through land use and municipal regulation. It therefore supports efforts and initiatives to mitigate climate change. It

specifically supports the provision of funds, incentives, and/or revenue-raising authority to assist cities in funding climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### **Community Choice Energy (CCE) Programs**

The Cities Association supports the availability of Community Choice Energy, and it opposes legislation and initiatives that threaten CCE programs or their economic competitiveness.

### **Zero Waste**

The Cities Association advocates for the achievement of zero waste goals. In particular, the Cities Association supports Extended Producer Responsibility programs, which shift the fiscal burden of hazardous waste disposal to the entities that produce the hazardous products.

### **Parks**

The Cities Association recognizes the importance of open space for recreation and exercise. It supports funding for acquisition, operation and maintenance of parks.

### **Economic Development**

As a general rule, the Cities Association supports new and existing financing tools for local governments to maximize resources for economic development.

### **Workforce Development**

The Cities Association supports local workforce development agencies, which are entirely funded through state and federal grants. As such, the Cities Association opposes cuts to workforce development funding.

### **Library Services**

The Cities Association supports [the American Library Association Bill of Rights](#).

### **Library Bonds**

The Cities Association supports a State Constitutional Amendment to lower the voting threshold for library-related municipal bonds from 2/3rds to 55%.

### **Education**

The Cities Association recognizes that the State of California separates municipal government from school governance. However, adequate funding of schools is essential to the well-being of communities, and a failure to properly fund schools can impact crime, traffic, economic development, property values, and other areas of interest to schools. As a general rule, the Cities Association supports efforts to ensure proper school funding.

### **School Impact Fees**

The Cities Association recognizes that state limits on school development impact fees generate insufficient revenue for school capital projects in Santa Clara County, due to the high cost of development in Santa Clara County as compared to the rest of the State of California. Accordingly, the Cities Association supports efforts to raise state limits on school development impact fees to levels reflecting the actual cost to schools imposed by new housing development.

## Human Rights

The Cities Association respects the right of every individual to the services provided by municipal government, and to enjoy the benefits of living within its communities. The Cities Association opposes legislation or initiatives that threaten the rights of specific groups, or changes to policies or law enforcement processes that target specific groups.