CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council Members
Ashley J. Feeney, City Manager

FROM: Amy Van, City Clerk
Danielle Jones, Administrative Assistant

SUBJECT: **Designation of Voting Delegate and Alternate(s) for the League of California Cities Annual Conference**

Summary and Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Council make a motion to designate a voting delegate and up to two alternates to participate at the Annual Business Meeting on September 25, 2026 during the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) Annual Conference.

Background and Analysis

The Cal Cities Annual Conference is scheduled for September 23-25, 2026, in Anaheim. The Annual Business Meeting will be held during the General Assembly on Friday, September 25, 2026. Consistent with Cal Cities bylaws, the City's voting delegate and alternates must be designated by action of the City Council, no later than September 1, 2026. The voting delegate and up to two alternate(s) must be registered to attend the conference.

At the Annual Business Meeting the Cal Cities membership considers and takes action on resolutions that establish Cal Cities policy. The City's appointed voting delegate plays an important role during the General Assembly by representing the City and voting on resolutions. Sixty days before the Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo, Cal Cities members may submit policy proposals on issues of importance to cities.

The City did not receive any information on General Resolutions from Cal Cities at the time of agenda packet publication; however, if received before the City Council meeting, staff will present the resolution(s) to the Council for discussion and determination of the City's position. Petitioned resolutions may be introduced during the Cal Cities Annual Conference.

In 2025, the City Council designated Council Member Nelson as the voting delegate and Mayor Lopez-Taff as the alternate.

Attachments

(1) 2026 Voting Delegate Information Packet
(2) 2026 Resolution Packet – sent to Council on 8/11/26

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

Council Action Advised by September 1, 2026

DATE: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

TO: Mayors, Council Members, City Clerks, and City Managers

RE: DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES
League of California Cities Annual Conference and Expo, Sept. 23-25, 2026
Anaheim Convention Center

Every year, the League of California Cities convenes a member-driven General Assembly at the Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo. The General Assembly is an important opportunity where city officials can directly participate in the development of Cal Cities policy.

Taking place on Friday, Sept. 25, 2026 the General Assembly is comprised of voting delegates appointed by each member city; every city has one voting delegate. Your appointed voting delegate plays an important role during the General Assembly by representing your city and voting on resolutions.

To cast a vote during the General Assembly, your city must designate a voting delegate and up to two alternate voting delegates, one of whom may vote if the designated voting delegate is unable to serve in that capacity. Voting delegates may either be an elected or appointed official.

Action by Council Required. Consistent with Cal Cities bylaws, a city's voting delegate and up to two alternates must be designated by the city council. Please note that designating the voting delegate and alternates **must** be done by city council action and cannot be accomplished by individual action of the mayor or city manager alone.

Following council action, please submit your city's delegates through the online submission portal by Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026. When completing the Voting Delegate submission form, you will be asked to attest that council action was taken. You will need to be signed in to your My Cal Cities account when submitting the form.

Submitting your voting delegate form by the deadline will allow us time to establish voting delegate/alternate records prior to the conference and provide pre-conference communications with voting delegates.

Conference Registration Required. The voting delegate and alternates must be registered to attend the conference. They need not register for the entire conference; they may register for Friday only. Conference registration opens June 2.

For a city to cast a vote, one voter must be present at the General Assembly and in possession of the voting delegate card and voting tool. Voting delegates and

alternates need to pick up their conference badges before signing in and picking up the voting delegate card at the voting delegate desk. This will enable them to receive the special sticker on their name badges that will admit the voting delegate into the voting area during the General Assembly.

Please view Cal Cities' event and meeting policy in advance of the conference.

Transferring Voting Card to Non-Designated Individuals Not Allowed. The voting delegate card may be transferred freely between the voting delegate and alternates, but *only* between the voting delegate and alternates. If the voting delegate and alternates find themselves unable to attend the General Assembly, they may *not* transfer the voting card to another city official.

Seating Protocol during General Assembly. At the General Assembly, individuals with a voting card will sit in a designated area. Admission to the voting area will be limited to the individual in possession of the voting card and with a special sticker on their name badge identifying them as a voting delegate.

The voting delegate desk, located in the conference registration area of the Anaheim Convention Center, will be open at the following times: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 24, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. On Friday, Sept. 25, the voting delegate desk will be open at the General Assembly, starting at 7:30 a.m., but will be closed during roll calls and voting.

The voting procedures that will be used at the conference are attached to this memo. Please share these procedures and this memo with your council and especially with the individuals that your council designates as your city's voting delegate and alternates.

Once again, thank you for submitting your voting delegate and alternates by Tuesday, Sept. 1. If you have questions, please contact Zach Seals at zseals@calcities.org.

Attachments:

- General Assembly Voting Guidelines
- Information Sheet: Cal Cities Resolutions and the General Assembly

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

General Assembly Voting Guidelines

1. **One City One Vote.** Each member city has a right to cast one vote on matters pertaining to Cal Cities policy.

2. **Designating a City Voting Representative.** Prior to the Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo, each city council may designate a voting delegate and up to two alternates; these individuals are identified on the voting delegate form provided to the Cal Cities Credentials Committee.

3. **Registering with the Credentials Committee.** The voting delegate, or alternates, may pick up the city's voting card at the voting delegate desk in the conference registration area. Voting delegates and alternates must sign in at the voting delegate desk. Here they will receive a special sticker on their name badge and thus be admitted to the voting area at the General Assembly.

4. **Signing Initiated Resolution Petitions**. Only those individuals who are voting delegates (or alternates), and who have picked up their city's voting card by providing a signature to the credentials committee at the voting delegate desk, may sign petitions to initiate a resolution.

5. **Voting.** To cast the city's vote, a city official must have in their possession the city's voting card and voting tool; and be registered with the credentials committee. The voting card may be transferred freely between the voting delegate and alternates but may not be transferred to another city official who is neither a voting delegate nor alternate.

6. **Voting Area at General Assembly.** At the General Assembly, individuals with a voting card will sit in a designated area. Admission to the voting area will be limited to the individual in possession of the voting card and with a special sticker on their name badge identifying them as a voting delegate.

7. **Resolving Disputes**. In case of dispute, the credentials committee will determine the validity of signatures on petitioned resolutions and the right of a city official to vote at the General Assembly.

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

How it works: Cal Cities Resolutions and the General Assembly

Developing League of California Cities policy is a dynamic process that engages a wide range of members to ensure Cal Cities represents cities with one voice. These policies directly guide Cal Cities' advocacy to promote local decision-making, and lobby against statewide policies that erode local control.

The resolutions process and General Assembly is one way that city officials can directly participate in the development of Cal Cities policy. If a resolution is approved at the General Assembly, it becomes official Cal Cities policy. Here's how resolutions and the General Assembly work.

Prior to the Annual Conference and Expo

General Resolutions

Sixty days before the Annual Conference and Expo, Cal Cities members may submit policy proposals on issues of importance to cities. The resolution must have the concurrence of at least five additional member cities or individual members.

Policy Committees

The Cal Cities President assigns general resolutions to policy committees where members review, debate, and recommend positions for each policy proposal. Recommendations are forwarded to the Resolutions Committee.

During the Annual Conference and Expo

Petitioned Resolutions

The petitioned resolution is an alternate method to introduce policy proposals during the annual conference. The petition must be signed by voting delegates from 10% of member cities, and submitted to the Cal Cities President at least 24 hours before the beginning of the General Assembly.

Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee considers all resolutions. General Resolutions approved[1] by either a policy committee or the Resolutions Committee are next considered by the General Assembly. General resolutions not approved, or referred for further study by both a policy committee and the Resolutions Committee do not go to the General Assembly. All Petitioned Resolutions are considered by the General Assembly, unless disqualified.[2]

General Assembly

During the General Assembly, voting delegates debate and consider general and petitioned resolutions forwarded by the Resolutions Committee. Potential Cal Cities bylaws amendments are also considered at this meeting.

Who's who

Cal Cities policy development is a member-informed process, grounded in the voices and experiences of city officials throughout the state.

The **Resolutions Committee** includes representatives from each Cal Cities diversity caucus, regional division, municipal department, and policy committee, as well as individuals appointed by the Cal Cities president.

Voting delegates are appointed by each member city; every city has one voting delegate.

The **General Assembly** is a meeting of the collective body of all voting delegates —one from every member city.

Seven **policy committees** meet throughout the year to review and recommend positions to take on bills and regulatory proposals. Policy committees include members from each Cal Cities diversity caucus, regional division, and municipal department, as well as individuals appointed by the Cal Cities president.

[1] The Resolution Committee can amend a general resolution prior to sending it to the General Assembly.
[2] Petitioned Resolutions may be disqualified by the Resolutions Committee according to Cal Cities Bylaws Article VI. Sec. 5(f).

For more information visit www.calcities.org/general-assembly

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

2025-2026 CAL CITIES OFFICERS

President
Gabe Quinto
Mayor
El Cerrito

First Vice President
Teresa Acosta
Council Member
Carlsbad

Second Vice President
David Cohen
Council Member
San Jose

Immediate Past President
Lynne B. Kennedy
Mayor Pro Tem,
Rancho Cucamonga

Executive Director and CEO
Carolyn M. Coleman

August 10, 2026

TO: Cal Cities Members

RE: Cal Cities 2026 Resolution Packet

Sixty days before the Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo, Cal Cities members may submit resolutions on issues of importance to cities. This year, Cal Cities received one resolution by the July 25 deadline.

The attached packet contains the proposed resolution, background information, supporting letters from cities and city officials, and an analysis of the resolution by Cal Cities. The packet includes detailed information on the resolution process and the next steps for the resolution.

We encourage each city council to consider the resolution and determine a position so your voting delegate can represent your city's position on the resolution.

Voting Delegates: City councils must appoint a voting delegate to vote during the General Assembly. Each city may also appoint up to two alternate delegates. If your city has not already done so, please appoint your voting delegate by Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026. The voting delegate packet contains more information.

The 2026 General Assembly will be held Friday, Sept. 25, at 8:30 a.m. in the Anaheim Convention Center during the Annual Conference and Expo.

For questions about resolutions, voting delegates, or the General Assembly, please contact Zach Seals.

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

2026 Resolution Packet

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

2026 Resolution Packet

Information on 2026 Resolutions Process

Consideration by Policy Committee (pre-conference)
Per the Cal Cities bylaws, Cal Cities President Gabe Quinto has referred the submitted resolution to the Housing, Community, and Economic Development Committee. The committee will meet on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. via Zoom to review the resolution and make a recommendation that will be sent to the Resolutions Committee. A public comment period will be held during the meeting. Register for the meeting here.

A list of recommendations the policy committee may make during its meeting is on page two of this packet.

Consideration by Resolutions Committee (during conference)
On Thursday, Sept. 24, at 1:00 p.m. the Resolutions Committee will meet to review the resolution and the recommendation of the policy committee.

The Resolutions Committee consist of one representative from each of Cal Cities caucuses, departments, divisions, and policy committees, as well as up to ten additional appointments made by the Cal Cities President. A public comment period will be held during the meeting. Refer to the onsite conference program for the location.

A list of recommendations the Resolutions Committee may make during its meeting is on page two of this packet.

Consideration by the General Assembly (during conference)
The General Assembly will convene on Friday, Sept. 25, at 8:30 a.m. to consider any resolutions the Resolutions Committee has forwarded. To vote during the General Assembly, voting delegates must have checked in at the voting delegate booth.

Conference attendees will receive materials for the General Assembly on the evening of Thursday, Sept. 24. For more information on voting and discussion procedures during the General Assembly, see page three of this packet.

Petitioned Resolutions (during conference)
The petitioned resolution is an alternate method to introduce policy proposals during the annual conference. To initiate a petitioned resolution, voting delegates from 10% of member cities must sign the petition. The resolution and signatures are due at least 24 hours before the beginning of the General Assembly. Voting delegates who have checked in at the voting delegate booth can receive more information on petitioned resolutions at the booth onsite.

Policy Committee and Resolutions Committee Actions

The submitted resolution will be heard by the policy committee to which it was assigned, and the Resolutions Committee. The table below shows what recommendations these bodies may make on the resolution.

Policy Committee Actions	**Resolutions Committee Actions**
Approve	Approve
Disapprove*	Disapprove*
No Action	No Action
Amend and approve	Amend and approve
Refer to appropriate policy committee for further study*	Approve as amended
Refer as amended to appropriate policy committee for further study*	Refer to appropriate policy committee for further study*
	Refer as amended to appropriate policy committee for further study*
	Approve with additional amendment(s)
	Additional amendments and refer to appropriate policy committee for further study*

**If a resolution is disapproved or referred for further study by all policy committees to which it is assigned and the Resolutions Committee, it will not proceed to the General Assembly.*

General Assembly Voting and Discussion Procedures

Discussion Procedures:
Discussion procedures during the General Assembly are guided by two calendars: the Consent Calendar and the Regular Calendar. As seen below, resolutions are calendared by the recommendations they receive from policy committees and the Resolutions Committee.

For General Resolutions:

Policy Committee Recommendation	Resolutions Committee Recommendation	Calendar
Approve	Approve	Consent Calendar
Approve	Disapprove or refer	Regular Calendar
Disapprove or refer	Approve	Regular Calendar
Disapprove or refer	Disapprove or refer	Does not proceed to General Assembly

For Petitioned Resolutions:

Policy Committee Recommendation	Resolutions Committee Action	Calendar
N/A	Approve	Regular Calendar
	Disapprove or Refer	Regular Calendar
	Disqualified	Does not proceed to General Assembly

Items on the Consent Calendar will be presented as one motion during the General Assembly from the Resolutions Committee chair. Unless an item on the Consent Calendar is set aside by the majority of the General Assembly, a vote will be taken on the whole calendar. If an item is set aside, it will be opened for discussion, followed by a vote.

Items on the Regular Calendar will be presented individually by the Resolutions Committee chair. After a recommendation is presented by the Resolutions Committee chair, the resolution will be opened for discussion by the General Assembly. A vote will take place following discussion.

Voting Procedures:
Per Cal Cities Bylaws Article XII, Sec. 2, all votes will be conducted by voice vote first. If the presiding official cannot determine the outcome, a vote will be taken by an alternative method, typically a raise of voting cards by voting delegates. A roll call vote may be called for by delegates of ten percent or more of the General Assembly.

2026 Resolution

1. Resolution No. 1 submitted by City of Murrieta
    - Letters of concurrence submitted by:
        i. City of Banning;
        ii. City of Calimesa;
        iii. City of Canyon Lake;
        iv. City of Moreno Valley;
        v. City of Norco;
        vi. City of Torrance;
        vii. Crystal Ruiz, Mayor, City of San Jacinto;
        viii. Jessica Alexander, Mayor, City of Temecula
    - Referred to Housing, Community, and Economic Development Committee
    - Policy Committee Recommendation:
    - Resolutions Committee Recommendation:

Resolution No. 1
Submitted by City of Murietta

1. A RESOLUTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES CALLING FOR A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OR OTHER FORM OF INITIATIVE TO ENSURE FINAL LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER HOUSING AND LAND USE DECISIONS

Source: City of Murrieta
Concurrence of five or more cities/city officials
Cities/city officials: City of Banning; City of Calimesa; City of Canyon Lake; City of Moreno Valley; City of Norco; City of Torrance; Crystal Ruiz, Mayor, City of San Jacinto; Jessica Alexander, Mayor, City of Temecula
Referred to: Housing, Community, and Economic Development Policy Committee

WHEREAS, California cities have historically been responsible for adopting general plans and zoning regulations, reviewing housing development proposals, and providing or coordinating the streets, water, wastewater, public safety, parks, transportation, and other infrastructure and services necessary to support responsible, environmentally sound, and well-planned residential growth; and

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities is dedicated to protecting and expanding local control for municipalities across the state to ensure their orderly growth and development; and

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities recognizes that local zoning is a primary function of cities and an essential component of home rule, and that a city's general plan should guide its land use planning and strategic decision-making free from pre-emption by the state; and

WHEREAS, increasingly prescriptive statewide housing mandates and development approval requirements can override locally adopted plans, zoning standards, and public review procedures without adequately accounting for differences that exist in each unique jurisdiction in infrastructure capacity, water availability, wildfire and evacuation risks, environmental constraints, fiscal impacts, public service needs, and community priorities; and

WHEREAS, California's housing goals can be more effectively advanced through state funding, streamlined environmental requirements, and voluntary partnerships that support housing production while preserving the authority of locally elected officials to determine how and where housing is best planned and approved;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities, assembled during the Annual Conference in Anaheim, California, on September 25, 2026, that the League of California Cities support the development and advancement of a state constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies that restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use matters within municipal boundaries, including general plans, housing elements, zoning, density, design and development standards, project siting, and the approval or denial of housing development applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any constitutional amendment or alternative strategy should preserve the State's authority to establish broad statewide housing goals and enforce constitutional and civil rights, fair housing requirements, building and life-safety standards, and generally applicable environmental protections, while protecting cities from state actions that compel, through funding conditions or state law, the approval of housing developments that are inconsistent with locally adopted requirements; override local zoning or density standards; or invalidate locally adopted housing or land use decisions when a city has planned in good faith to accommodate its regional housing needs allocation and maintains adequate capacity for housing at all income levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the League of California Cities consider establishing a statewide working group or other appropriate committee(s) to evaluate and develop a proposed constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use matters including but limited to: conducting appropriate legal, fiscal, and policy analyses; engaging cities and other stakeholders; and building a statewide coalition of proponent supporters in preparation for; the November 2030 General Election, or within another reasonable time frame as determined by the working group.

Resolution No. 1: Background Information

Background Information for Resolution

Source: City of Murrieta

Background:
California cities are responsible for planning residential growth, adopting general plans and zoning regulations, reviewing development proposals, and providing or coordinating the infrastructure and public services necessary to support new housing. Since 2010, the State has enacted more than 500 housing-related laws that have increasingly shifted housing and land use authority away from local governments. These laws have expanded by-right development, limited locally adopted standards and review processes, and established enforcement mechanisms, including the builder's remedy, that may override local plans and zoning. Although these measures are frequently presented as solutions to housing affordability, many increase development capacity or restrict local review without delivering the meaningful production of housing needed to address the housing crisis.

At the same time, the State has continued to prioritize increased development capacity without adequately accounting for the infrastructure, public services, economic realities, and safety measures necessary to support housing growth. State mandates often fail to reflect local conditions, including roadway and utility capacity, water availability, wildfire exposure, environmental limitations, fiscal impacts, and the availability of essential services. Cities are consequently required to accommodate additional housing while receiving no funding or assistance to address the resulting infrastructure and service demands.

Local elected officials are directly accountable to the residents who experience the effects of development decisions and are responsible for balancing housing production with infrastructure capacity, public safety, environmental protection, fiscal sustainability, and community needs. Cities of all types in California have been grappling with this dynamic, ranging from urban to rural, coastal to inland, small to large, northern to southern, voicing concerns to legislative representatives with minimal responsiveness. This is an issue of statewide concern that needs the strength and diversity of the League of California Cities to pursue a long-term solution.

The proposed resolution directs the League of California Cities to establish a statewide working group to evaluate a constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use decisions. The working group would be tasked with developing a more balanced framework that preserves the State's role in establishing broad housing goals and enforcing constitutional, civil rights, fair housing, building, life-safety, and environmental requirements, while restoring meaningful local authority to allow cities to determine how statewide housing

objectives should be implemented in a manner that reflects local conditions and community priorities while continuing to support responsible housing production.

As the primary statewide organization representing California cities, the League is uniquely positioned to lead this effort. Its established policy, legal, legislative, communications, and advocacy networks enable it to convene municipalities, evaluate potential strategies, conduct legal and fiscal analyses, build consensus, engage stakeholders, and coordinate with statewide decision-makers. League leadership would help ensure that any recommendation reflects the collective interests of California municipalities and would provide the credibility, organizational capacity, and statewide reach necessary to advance a viable strategy.

Resolution No. 1: Letters of Concurrence

City of Banning
Office of the Mayor

July 23, 2026

President Gabe Quinto
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for a Resolution Establishing a Working Group to Evaluate a State Constitutional Amendment or Other Initiative to Restore Local Housing and Land Use Authority

Dear President Quinto,

The City of Murrieta is sponsoring a resolution for consideration by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities to establish a statewide working group to evaluate a constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use decisions.

The proposed resolution, together with the required background materials, will be submitted to the Cal Cities for consideration at the 2026 Annual Conference in Orange County on September 24 and 25, 2026. The resolution would direct the League to convene a working group to evaluate potential approaches for addressing the increasingly broad and prescriptive state mandates affecting local housing, zoning, development standards and project approval authority.

On behalf of the City of Banning, this letter confirms our support for the City of Murrieta's submission of the proposed resolution and its consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Respectfully,

Richard Royce, Mayor
District 4, City of Banning

Colleen Wallace, City Council Member
District 5, City of Banning
President, Riverside County Division
League of California Cities

City of Calimesa
908 Park Avenue, Calimesa, California 92320
Telephone 909.795.9801 Facsimile 909.795.4399
www.calimesa.gov
"Preserving and enhancing the open space atmosphere and quality of life in Calimesa"

July 21, 2026

President Gabe Quinto
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for a Resolution Establishing a Working Group to Evaluate a State Constitutional Amendment or Other Initiative to Restore Local Housing and Land Use Authority

Dear President Quinto,

The City of Murrieta is sponsoring a resolution for consideration by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities to establish a statewide working group to evaluate a constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use decisions.

The proposed resolution, together with the required background materials, will be submitted to Cal Cities for consideration at the 2026 Annual Conference in Orange County on September 24 and 25. The resolution would direct the League to convene a working group to evaluate potential approaches for addressing the increasingly broad and prescriptive state mandates affecting local housing, zoning, development standards, and project approval authority.

On behalf of the City of Calimesa, this letter confirms our support for the City of Murrieta's submission of the proposed resolution and its consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Jeff Cervantez
Mayor
City of Calimesa

CITY OF CANYON LAKE

www.canyonlakeca.gov
Ⓟ 951.244.2955
Ⓕ 951.246.2022

July 23, 2026

President Gabe Quinto
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for a Resolution Establishing a Working Group to Evaluate a State Constitutional Amendment or Other Initiative to Restore Local Housing and Land Use Authority

Dear President Quinto,

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On behalf of the City of Canyon Lake, this letter confirms our support for the City of Murrieta's submission of the proposed resolution and its consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Arron Brown
City Manager
City of Canyon Lake

Brian Mohan
City Manager

July 23, 2026

President Gabe Quinto
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for a Resolution Establishing a Working Group to Evaluate a State Constitutional Amendment or Other Initiative to Restore Local Housing and Land Use Authority

Dear President Quinto,

The City of Murrieta is sponsoring a resolution for consideration by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities to establish a statewide working group to evaluate a constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use decisions.

The proposed resolution, together with the required background materials, will be submitted to Cal Cities for consideration at the 2026 Annual Conference in Orange County on September 24 and 25. The resolution would direct the League to convene a working group to evaluate potential approaches to address increasingly broad and prescriptive state mandates affecting local housing, zoning, development standards, and project approval authority.

On behalf of the City of Moreno Valley, this letter confirms our support for the City of Murrieta's submission of the proposed resolution and its consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Brian Mohan
City Manager
City of Moreno Valley

CITY OF
NORCO
HORSETOWN USA

July 22, 2026

President Gabe Quinto
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for a Resolution Establishing a Working Group to Evaluate a State Constitutional Amendment or Other Initiative to Restore Local Housing and Land Use Authority

Dear President Quinto,

The City of Murrieta is sponsoring a resolution for consideration by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities to establish a statewide working group to evaluate a constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use decisions.

The proposed resolution, together with the required background materials, will be submitted to Cal Cities for consideration at the 2026 Annual Conference in Orange County on September 24 and 25. The resolution would direct the League to convene a working group to evaluate potential approaches for addressing the increasingly broad and prescriptive state mandates affecting local housing, zoning, development standards, and project approval authority.

On behalf of the City of the Norco, this letter confirms our support for the City of Murrieta's submission of the proposed resolution and its consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bash
City Council Member
(951) 768-8981

2870 Clark Avenue, Norco, CA 92860 www.norco.ca.us

CITY OF
TORRANCE

SHARON KALANI
MAYOR

CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS
DAVID KARTSONIS – District 1
BRIDGETT LEWIS – District 2
ASAM SHEIKH – District 3
VACANT – District 4
BETTY LIEU – District 5
Dr. JEREMY GERSON – District 6

July 29, 2026

President Gabe Quinto
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for a Resolution Establishing a Working Group to Evaluate a State Constitutional Amendment or Other Initiative to Restore Local Housing and Land Use Authority

Dear President Quinto,

The City of Murrieta is sponsoring a resolution for consideration by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities to establish a statewide working group to evaluate a constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use decisions.

The proposed resolution, together with the required background materials, will be submitted to Cal Cities for consideration at the 2026 Annual Conference in Orange County on September 24 and 25. The resolution would direct the League to convene a working group to evaluate potential approaches for addressing the increasingly broad and prescriptive state mandates affecting local housing, zoning, development standards, and project approval authority.

On behalf of the City of Torrance, this letter confirms our support for the City of Murrieta's submission of the proposed resolution and its consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly at the 2026 Annual Conference.

Local authority is essential because cities are best positioned to craft housing strategies tailored to their unique community conditions, infrastructure capacity, and geographic needs.

3031 Torrance Boulevard • Torrance, California 90503 • 310/618-2801 • FAX 310/618-5841

When given the flexibility to plan locally, cities can achieve meaningful housing results while maintaining the character and balance of their communities.

The City of Torrance has consistently demonstrated that local control and proactive housing production go hand in hand:

- **Housing Corridor Overlay Zone:** Through our approved 6th Cycle Housing Element, Torrance created the Housing Corridor Overlay (HCO). This targeted local framework allows for by-right housing and mixed-use development across seven key commercial and transit-adjacent corridors, streamlining approvals and incentivizing production across a full range of income levels.

- **Housing Element Progress & Accountability:** As documented in our Housing Element Annual Progress Reports (APR), Torrance actively tracks, updates, and implements programs—such as aligning our Land Use and Safety Elements—to clear barriers for residential development while ensuring robust infrastructure and public safety standards.

These initiatives illustrate that local governance can effectively drive housing opportunities without one-size-fits-all mandates from the state. Restoring and protecting local land use authority will allow cities across California to continue developing solutions that work best for their residents.

If you have any questions or require further discussion, please feel free to contact Carlos Huizar, Management Associate at (310) 618-5880 or via email at CHuizar@TorranceCA.gov.

Sincerely,

Sharon Kalani
Mayor, City of Torrance

cc:
Ron Holiday, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Murrieta
Lori Stone, City Councilmember, City of Murrieta
Jeff Kiernan, Los Angeles County Division, jkiernan@cacities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org
Joe A. Gonsalves & Sons, gonsalvi@gonsalvi.com

595 S San Jacinto Ave, San Jacinto, CA 92583
Cell: 951-282-1895 • Office: 951-487-7330 • email: cruiz@sanjacintoca.gov

July 23, 2026

Mr. Gabe Quinto, President

League of California Cities

1400 K Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support for Murrieta's Proposed Resolution on Housing and Local Governance

Dear League of California Cities Leadership,

I am writing in my individual capacity as Mayor of the City of San Jacinto to express my strong support for the City of Murrieta's proposed resolution, which is scheduled for consideration by the General Assembly at the 2026 Annual Conference.

This resolution represents a timely and important opportunity to thoughtfully examine the balance between California's statewide housing goals and the fundamental constitutional principle of local governance. The proposal to establish a statewide working group to explore a potential constitutional amendment, legislative reforms, or other policy initiatives would create a valuable forum for assessing how local authority over housing and land use decisions can be strengthened while still addressing the State's housing challenges.

Cities are uniquely positioned to understand the distinct needs, opportunities, and constraints of their communities. Local elected officials are directly accountable to the residents they serve and are best equipped to make land use decisions that reflect a community's character, infrastructure capacity, economic development priorities, environmental stewardship, and long-term vision. Moreover, local governments carry the primary responsibility for protecting public safety. Issues such as housing density, transportation, emergency access, wildfire preparedness, evacuation routes, law enforcement and fire service capacity, water availability, and critical infrastructure are inherently local matters that demand the knowledge, judgment, and responsiveness of those who serve their communities daily.

While the State has a critical role to play in addressing California's housing needs, a collaborative approach that respects local expertise and preserves meaningful local discretion will result in stronger, safer, and more sustainable communities. The proposed working group offers a constructive path forward to evaluate policies that achieve our shared housing objectives while restoring an appropriate balance between state direction and local authority.

Although this letter reflects my personal position as Mayor and does not constitute an official action or policy of the City of San Jacinto or the San Jacinto City Council, I respectfully endorse the City of Murrieta's submission of this resolution and encourage its favorable consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly.

Thank you for your leadership and your thoughtful consideration of this important matter.

Respectfully,

Crystal Ruiz

Mayor

City of San Jacinto

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July 23, 2026

Mr. Gabe Quinto, President
League of California Cities
1400 K Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: **Support for the City of Murrieta's Resolution Establishing a Working Group to Evaluate a State Constitutional Amendment or Other Initiative to Restore Local Housing and Land Use Authority**

Dear President Quinto:

I am writing in my individual capacity as Mayor of the City of Temecula to express my strong support for the City of Murrieta's proposed resolution for consideration by the General Assembly of the League of California Cities at the 2026 Annual Conference.

The proposed resolution presents an important opportunity to thoughtfully evaluate the appropriate balance between California's statewide housing objectives and the constitutional principle of local governance. Establishing a statewide working group to examine a potential constitutional amendment, legislative reforms, or other policy initiatives will provide a meaningful forum to assess how local authority over housing and land use decisions can be strengthened while continuing to address the State's housing challenges.

Cities are uniquely positioned to understand the needs, opportunities, and constraints of their communities. Local elected officials are accountable to the residents they serve and are best equipped to make land use decisions that reflect a community's character, infrastructure capacity, economic development goals, environmental stewardship, and long-term vision. Equally important, local governments bear the primary responsibility for protecting public safety. Decisions regarding housing density, transportation, emergency access, wildfire preparedness, evacuation routes, police and fire service capacity, water availability, and critical infrastructure are inherently local matters that require the knowledge and judgment of those who serve their communities every day.

While the State has an important role in addressing California's housing needs, a collaborative approach that respects local expertise and preserves meaningful local discretion will produce stronger, safer, and more sustainable communities. The proposed working group offers an opportunity to evaluate policies that achieve these shared objectives while restoring an appropriate balance between state direction and local authority.

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Although this letter reflects my personal position and is not an official action or policy of the City of Temecula or the Temecula City Council, I respectfully endorse the City of Murrieta's submission of this resolution and encourage its favorable consideration by the League of California Cities General Assembly.

Thank you for your leadership and your thoughtful consideration of this important issue.

Respectfully,

Jessica Alexander
Mayor, City of Temecula
Signing in her individual capacity
and not on behalf of the City of Temecula
or the Temecula City Council.

Resolution No. 1: Staff Analysis

League of California Cities Staff Analysis on Resolution No. 1

Staff: Brady Guertin, Legislative Advocate
Committee: Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Summary:

Resolution No.1 states that the League of California Cities (Cal Cities) will:

1. Support the development and advancement of a state constitutional amendment or legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategy that restores and strengthens local authority over housing and land use matters, including general plans, housing elements, zoning, density, design and development standards, project siting, and the approval or denial of housing development applications.

   Pursuant to the resolution, the strategy should preserve the state's authority to set broad, statewide housing goals and enforce civil rights, fair housing, building safety, and environmental standards while protecting local control by preventing the state from compelling the approval of developments that conflict with local requirements, override local zoning or density standards, or overturn local land use decisions where a city has planned for and maintained sufficient capacity to meet its housing obligations.

2. Consider establishing a statewide working group or other appropriate committee(s) to evaluate and develop a proposed constitutional amendment or other legislative, policy, or ballot-based strategies to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use matters. The resolution states: "conducting legal, fiscal, and policy analyses; engaging cities and other stakeholders; and building a statewide coalition of proponent supporters in preparation for the November 2030 General Election, or within another reasonable time period."

Background:

As provided in the background information, the city of Murrieta is sponsoring this resolution in response to concerns over state laws that have increasingly reduced city discretion over housing and land use decisions, including legislation that requires ministerial or by-right approvals for housing projects, limits the application of local development standards, and strengthens state enforcement mechanisms against local governments.

Additionally, the city of Murrieta, in its background information, maintains that these legislative efforts have not resulted in sufficient housing production to address California's housing shortage and have not adequately accounted for

local infrastructure, public service needs, public safety, market, and fiscal considerations.

The resolution states that California's housing goals are better advanced through state funding, streamlined environmental requirements, and voluntary partnerships, while preserving local authority over how and where housing is best planned and approved.

Consideration of the resolution may be informed by a brief examination of how the California Constitution allocates authority between the state and cities with respect to land use decisions.

The constitution grants cities the power to adopt local laws to protect the public's health, safety, and welfare. This grant is called the "police power," which is the basis for local land use regulation. The constitution grants charter cities the additional power to adopt local laws affecting "municipal affairs." This power, commonly referred to as "home rule," is based on the principle that a city, rather than the state, is in the best position to identify and satisfy the needs of the local community.

The constitution's broad grant of police power contains a significant limitation. Local law adopted under the police power is not valid if it "conflicts" with state law. A local law "conflicts" with state law when it regulates the same "field" in which the Legislature has stated its intent to occupy. In that case, state law is said to "preempt" the local law and it cannot be enforced.

An ordinance adopted by a charter city under the municipal affairs power cannot be enforced if it affects a "matter of statewide concern." The subjects that have been identified as "matters of statewide concern" have changed over the years due to economic, social, and political circumstances.

Since the 1960s, the state has enacted numerous laws that limit or preempt aspects of local land use and zoning authority. These laws include the Fair Employment and Housing Act, Housing Element Law, Housing Accountability Act, Density Bonus Law, Permit Streamlining Act, accessory dwelling unit laws, California Environmental Quality Act, and others. In recent years, the state has enacted several laws that Cal Cities was the leading opposition force against, as many of the proposals pre-empted local land use authority, limited public review, and constrained local flexibility. In support of its housing and land use legislation, the Legislature has cited a statewide housing crisis and the need for increased housing production at all income levels while asserting that a uniform approach to local land use decision-making is required.

Discussion:
The resolution does not prescribe a specific policy mechanism. The eight letters in support recommend creating a working group or committee to evaluate potential approaches, including legislative proposals, constitutional amendments, or ballot initiatives to strengthen local authority over housing and land use matters.

A discussion of a strategy to restore and strengthen local authority over housing and land use matters will need to consider the California Constitution's framework for both preemption of police power enactments and municipal affairs, discussed above. It will also need to determine whether changes to the California Constitution will be proposed, and whether they constitute an amendment or a revision, which require different processes.

A constitutional revision is a multistep process blending legislative consensus, voter support, and on occasion, a constitutional convention. It requires significant public engagement.

A constitutional amendment would require a ballot initiative, which includes gathering enough valid signatures to qualify for the ballot, building large coalitions to support election efforts, and campaigning to voters to support the initiative. This process can involve significant costs. In the last major election for ballot initiatives in 2024, proponents spent $8-$18 million to qualify for the ballot and spent nearly $700 million for the full election cycle, averaging out to about $100 million per ballot initiative.

Cal Cities has been engaged in ballot advocacy for over 20 years. In the early 2000s, Cal Cities developed a ballot advocacy infrastructure that included forming an issue political action committee, fundraising, establishing a network of regional managers, and building a coalition with other organizations to ultimately advocate on a ballot measure. Ballot advocacy requires the approval of the Board of Directors with a supermajority vote.

In the Legislature, Cal Cities plays an active and influential role to ensure that local flexibility and autonomy in the land use and housing space is maintained by engaging on dozens of bills every legislative session to ensure that cities' voices are heard at the state Capitol. Below, you will find Cal Cities "Existing Policy" on local control, housing, and land use policies.

Fiscal Impact
The resolution itself would not have a significant direct fiscal impact. However, depending on what actions follow, the fiscal costs could be significant.

Existing Cal Cities Policy

Vision

To be recognized and respected as the leading advocate for the common interests of California's cities.

Mission Statement

To expand and protect local control for cities through education and advocacy to enhance the quality of life for all Californians.

We Believe

- Local self-governance is the cornerstone of democracy.
- Our strength lies in the unity of our diverse communities of interest.
- In the involvement of all stakeholders in establishing goals and in solving problems.
- In conducting the business of government with transparency, openness, respect, and civility.
- The spirit of honest public service is what builds communities.
- Open decision-making that is of the highest ethical standards honors the public trust.
- Cities are vital to the strength of the California economy.
- The vitality of cities is dependent upon their fiscal stability and local autonomy.
- The active participation of all city officials increases the League's effectiveness.
- Partnerships and collaborations are essential elements of focused advocacy and lobbying.
- Ethical and well-informed city officials are essential for responsive, visionary leadership and effective and efficient city operations.

Zoning

Cal Cities believes local zoning is a primary function of cities and is an essential component of home rule. The process of adoption, implementation and enforcement of zoning ordinances should be open and fair to the public and enhance the responsiveness of local decision-makers. State policy should leave local siting and use decisions to the city and not interfere with local prerogative beyond providing a constitutionally valid procedure for adopting local regulations. State agency siting of facilities, including campuses and office buildings, should be subject to local notice and hearing requirements in order to meet concerns of the local community. Cal Cities opposes legislation that seeks to limit local authority over parking requirements.

Housing Element

Housing issues should be addressed in the general plan as other planning issues are. The housing element should be prepared for the benefit of local

governments and should have equal status with the other elements of the general plan.

Encourage Full Community Participation
Foster an open and inclusive community dialogue and promote alliances and partnerships to meet community needs.

Well-Planned New Growth
Recognize and preserve open space, watersheds, environmental habitats, and agricultural lands, while accommodating new growth in compact forms, in a manner that:

- De-emphasizes automobile dependency;
- Integrates the new growth into existing communities;
- Creates a diversity of affordable housing near employment centers;
- Provides job opportunities for people of all ages and income levels.

Support:
The following letters of concurrence were received:
City of Banning
City of Calimesa
City of Canyon Lake
City of Moreno Valley
City of Norco
City of Torrance
Crystal Ruiz, Mayor, City of San Jacinto
Jessica Alexander, Mayor, City of Temecula