
File ID: 2026-01338

8/18/2026

Designation of Voting Delegate for 2026 League of California Cities (Cal Cities) Annual Conference and Expo

File ID: 2026-01338

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass a **Motion** designating Councilmember Lisa Kaplan as voting delegate and City Manager Maraskeshia Smith as alternate voting delegate to the 2026 League of California Cities (Cal Cities) Annual Conference and Expo.

Contact: Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk, (916) 808-5442, mcuppy@cityofsacramento.org, Office of the City Clerk

Presenter: None

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Cal Cities 2026 Resolution Packet

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: The 2026 League of California Cities (Cal Cities) Annual Conference and Expo is scheduled from September 23 through September 25, 2026 in Anaheim, California. During the conference, League membership will consider and act on resolutions that establish League policy. Each City Council must designate a voting delegate and may, if they wish, designate up to two alternate voting delegates. The recommendation is to designate Councilmember Lisa Kaplan as voting delegate and City Manager Maraskeshia Smith as alternate voting delegate as allowable by the League of California Cities bylaws.

Policy Considerations: This action will comply with the League of California Cities requirement that voting delegates be selected by City Council action.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The proposed action is not a project under CEQA

because it is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. (CEQA Guidelines §15378(b)(5).)

Sustainability: Not applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable.

Rationale for Recommendation: Each City Council must designate a voting delegate to be eligible to vote at the General Assembly business meeting at the 2026 Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo.

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.



**2025-2026
CAL CITIES OFFICERS**

President

Gabe Quinto
Mayor
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First Vice President

Teresa Acosta
Council Member
Carlsbad

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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**

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



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 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 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



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



CITY OF T O R R A N C E

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.

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

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal Ruiz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping line extending from the end of the name.

Crystal Ruiz

Mayor

City of San Jacinto



City of Temecula

41000 Main Street ■ Temecula, CA 92590
(951) 694-6416 ■ Fax (951) 694-6499 ■ TemeculaCA.gov

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.

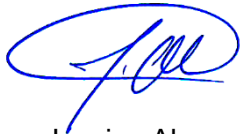
While the State has an important role in addressing California's housing needs, a collaborative approach that respects local expertise and preserves meaningful local discretion will produce stronger, safer, and more sustainable communities. The proposed working group offers an opportunity to evaluate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

Mr. Gabe Quinto, President
League of California Cities
July 23, 2026
Page 2

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Alexander', enclosed within a blue oval.

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