

# Benefits of Membership in the League of California Cities

Founded in 1898, the League is the leading local control advocate for California's cities. Through the League, cities collectively marshal the resources to defend and expand local control in the Legislature, at the ballot box, in the courts and through strategic outreach to inform and educate the public, policymakers and opinion leaders. League engagement has provided and protected hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for cities in recent years and preserved local control against many threats to the land-use, employee relations and other authority of cities. All this is possible only through the collective involvement of virtually every city statewide.



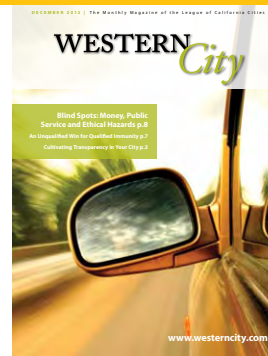
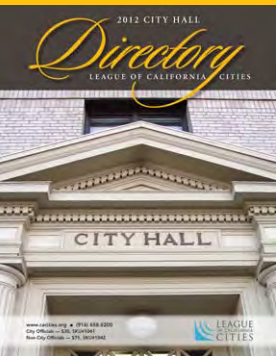
## Among the many significant benefits cities receive from their League membership are:

**Legislative and Ballot Measure Advocacy.** A team of Sacramento-based and 16 field staff work with city officials to advocate for local control and secure fiscal resources for cities in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C. The League helped lead successful ballot measure campaigns in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010 that protected local tax funds and land-use authority.

**Member-Driven Policies and Services.** League policies and priorities are formulated and established by mayors, council members and other officials from member cities who serve on the League board of directors, policy committees, divisions, departments, caucuses and task forces.

**Legal Advocacy.** The League conducts an active legal advocacy program in support of California cities. Members may request amicus support in cases to which they are a party if statewide interests are at stake. During 2011 and 2012, the League participated in 94 cases on behalf of member cities in federal and state courts, in addition to 10 requests for formal review and input from the California Attorney General. The League also filed lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality under Propositions 1A and 22 of the 2011 diversion of Vehicle License Fee funds from cities and the sales and property tax clawbacks in the 2012 redevelopment budget trailer bill.

**Discounted Conference/Seminar Registration.** Members receive deep discounts (\$1,000) on registration fees for conferences and seminars, including the League Annual Conference & Expo, the City Managers' Conference, City Attorneys' Conference and other yearly meetings.



**Leadership Opportunities.** Elected city officials and staff from member cities may serve on League policy committees, the board of directors (staff representing their professional department) and as officers of the diversity caucuses. Staff may hold a leadership/officer position in their professional department, and elected officials may serve as officers of the League's 16 regional divisions.

**Information.** The League invests in comprehensive research on both city fiscal matters and other issues by conducting strategic surveys and substantive analyses of policy. Sponsored by the League, the League's fiscal consultant Michael Coleman publishes extensive data, statistics and analyses of California city and county finance, tax election results and more at the California Local Government Finance Almanac ([www.CaliforniaCityFinance.com](http://www.CaliforniaCityFinance.com)). League surveys focus on important city policies such as compensation, fiscal priorities, local services and more.

**Research and Best Practices.** The Institute for Local Government ([www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)) is the League's non-profit research and education affiliate that promotes good government at the local level with practical, impartial and easy-to-use resources for California communities.

**Publications.** The League's publications, such as *Open and Public IV*; *The People's Business*; *The Municipal Law Handbook*; and *The Proposition 218 Implementation Guide*, are considered the definitive sources on critical aspects of city government operations. The League's annual *City Hall Directory* provides contact information for every elected city official and key city department heads.

**Recognition for Innovation.** Member cities may seek prestigious recognition for innovation through both the League's Helen Putnam Award program ([www.HelenPutnam.org](http://www.HelenPutnam.org)) and the Institute for Local Government's Sustainability and Climate Change Beacon Award ([www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward](http://www.ca-ilg.org/BeaconAward)).

**Relevant Communications.** The League's newly redesigned website ([www.cacities.org](http://www.cacities.org)) serves as a major clearinghouse of news and information related to city issues and policy. Through League listservs, city officials may exchange best practices and other information. Members receive *CA Cities Advocate*, the League's almost-daily electronic newsletter; *Western City*; the League's award-winning monthly magazine; and announcements of educational and networking opportunities; and updates on legislative developments. The League's effective use of the social media platforms Facebook and Twitter keeps the membership updated in real time on developments in the Capitol and throughout California that affect cities.



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