

ANALYSIS, COMMENTARY & UPDATES  
**PRIORITY FOCUS**  
ON LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY ISSUES THAT AFFECT CALIFORNIA CITIES

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Issue #36-2004

**LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE: "UNITED WE WIN"**

Approximately 1600 city officials are expected to gather at the Long Beach Convention Center on September 17 for the opening session of the League of California Cities' 106<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. City officials will participate in numerous sessions throughout the 3-1/2 day conference, covering city finance, housing, homeland security, ethics, environmental justice, and a range of other issues important to cities. *For more see page 2.*



**PROPOSITION 1A UPDATE**

Support for Proposition 1A showed strong growth this week, adding significantly to the more than 225 supporters already on board. Prop1A is the constitutional amendment on the November 2004 ballot that will restrict future state raids on local funds. It is sponsored by the League and our LOCAL coalition partners (the California State Association of Counties and the California Special Districts Association), and enjoys strong bipartisan support by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, legislators and a growing list of statewide and local organizations. *For more see page 4.*



**ERAF CASH PAYMENT OPTION NEARS**

The terms of the local government agreement in the State Budget calls for local government to make an Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) "contribution" in fiscal years 2004-05 and 2005-06. The State Controller's Office is required to provide county auditors with a calculation of each city's share of the 2004-05 ERAF "contribution" by September 15, 2004. The League understands that the Controller's staff members are busy finalizing those numbers. As soon as those figures are available, we understand the Controller's office will post them on their website [www.sco.ca.gov](http://www.sco.ca.gov). The League will send out an alert on the city manager and fiscal officer listserves when the information is available. *For more see page 5.*

**Hot Bills**

**Act Now**

- **AB 2702**
- (Steinberg)
- Housing: Second
- Units. Position:
- Request for
- VETO.
- **SB 1818**
- (Hollingsworth)
- Density Bonuses.
- Position: Request
- for VETO.

*Want more details on these and other bills? Log on to the League of California Cities Web site at [www.cacities.org/legtracking](http://www.cacities.org/legtracking).*

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**ANNUAL CONFERENCE from page 1** .....

**Long Beach Mayor and former League President Beverly O'Neill** will welcome to the attendees, who will gather under the conference theme, "United We Win," a reference to the League's strengthened focus on coalition-building and advocacy that has resulted in the Legislature placing Proposition 1A on the November 2004 statewide ballot.

Developed as part of the budget agreement negotiated by Governor Schwarzenegger and local government leaders, Prop 1A will strengthen constitutional protections for local revenues by restricting the Legislature's ability to raid local tax dollars. (See also "Proposition 1A Update".)

**Professor David Gergen**, former advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford, Reagan, and Clinton, is scheduled to deliver the keynote address at the Opening Plenary Session. He will speak on the topic, "The World, the Nation, the Campaign and Cities".

Also speaking at the Friday opening session will be **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta**. The former San Jose mayor and congressman has been selected by the past presidents of the League as the winner of the 2004 Presidents Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor is bestowed on persons who have dedicated their lives to public service and have been particularly involved with local government.

Saturday's General Session will include a report from **California State Attorney General Bill Lockyer**. The keynote address at Saturday's General Session will be given by Charles Lyons, President of the National League of Cities, who will speak on city issues at the federal level of government.

Former U.S. Congressman and White House Chief of Staff **Leon Panetta** will deliver the Sunday closing address. Panetta, who is currently co-chair of the Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy at California State University at Monterey Bay, will speak on the topic, "Local Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".

**Be sure your city VOTES!** City officials can be part of the real action at the conference and help form League policy and programs that will guide our work in the years ahead by participating in the **annual business meeting on Sunday morning**. All

cities have been sent the packet of resolutions that will be considered by the conference and voted on Sunday. Be sure you are there to participate in this action – and hear the closing keynote by Leon Panetta.

**Informal Sessions Added.** New this year will be some 15 short, informal discussion and briefing sessions held over the lunch break and the late afternoon break. These sessions will afford city officials the chance to explore topics of a somewhat narrowed interest, or which developed after the program deadline. The format, whether a briefing by an expert or a discussion among experienced officials, will be more like a conversation around a (large) kitchen table or among friends at a sidewalk bistro. Enjoy this new format!

**Youth at the Annual Conference.** This year the League is again planning on cities including their youth at the conference – but the youth must be registered in advance, with all releases properly signed and submitted to the League. **We will not register youth on site. Be sure your youth delegation is registered in advance so they are not turned away at the door.** This is necessary so that each student has the proper liability releases on file before they travel to the conference. If you are planning to have youth attend the conference but have not registered them yet, please fax your registration forms and releases by September 13 to 916-658-8220.

**Second City featured at Saturday banquet.** The hilarious comedy improvisation troupe *Second City* will provide a delightful respite from the work of the conference during their performance at the conference banquet Saturday evening, September 18. All conference attendees are invited to this event. Just exchange the coupon in your registration packet for an actual dinner ticket by 9:00 am Saturday morning so we know to set a place for you.

The *Second City* is working on a few skits that you will find both relevant and familiar, so don't miss the show. And experience the **"Death by Chocolate"** dessert reception following, hosted by leading League Partners. It will be an evening you will thoroughly enjoy and long remember.

*Continued on Page 5*

## FRESNO CONFERENCE WILL CELEBRATE ETHNIC MEDIA IN VALLEY CALIFORNIA

The country's largest ethnic media conference showcasing the news organizations representing immigrant and minority populations in California and nationwide will be held September 24 at the Fresno Convention Center, 848 M Street, Fresno, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Members of the League of California Cities can receive a \$5 discount on their advance expo registration.

The conference will focus on California's Inland Empire and Imperial, Central and Northern Valleys as regions of rapid population growth and increasing diversity. The event will feature 100 ethnic and youth media exhibitors, workshops and general sessions, and a Community Leadership Awards luncheon honoring local heroes nominated by ethnic media.

The conference is sponsored by New California Media (NCM), a network of ethnic news organizations organized some years ago by the Pacific News Service. It will be co-hosted by The Fresno Bee/ Vida En El Valle, Univision, The Great Valley Center, the Pan-Valley Institute of the American Friends Service Committee and The Downtown Association of Fresno.

The conference will feature numerous topics of interest to city officials, including a presentation by California Secretary of Health and Human Services Kim Belshe on health care issues in Valley California; national pollster Sergio Bendixen on how multilingual polling is a powerful tool for connecting with populations traditionally excluded from the public forum; "Is Home Ownership a Vanishing Dream?"; "Best Ideas on Energy Saving from the Ethnic Media"; a roundtable on air pollution, drought, toxins, sprawl, and more.

The NCM EXPO is a unique opportunity for organizations and individuals looking to strengthen their working relationship with the media serving California's immigrant and minority communities. The event is geared to be of particular interest to civic and business leaders, marketers and media professionals.

To learn more about the conference and to see

a schedule of events, visit <http://expo.ncmonline.com>. For information about registration, including the \$5 discount offered to League members, call Danielle Worthy at 415-503-4170 or visit [www.ncmonline.com](http://www.ncmonline.com).

## STRIDING FOR LEANER CITIES

### ATTENTION ALL ANNUAL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES!

If you're looking for a way to recover from the Saturday night "Death by Chocolate" reception, you may want to join the League's Community Services Policy Committee on Sunday, September 19, 2004 at 7:00 am for a 5K Fun Run/Walk. The goal of the Fun Run/Walk is to promote awareness and a commitment to fitness by cities. The course will begin outside the Long Beach Convention Center and continue along the bike path. Please note that the course will be marked for distances as well. For more information contact League Policy Analyst Genevieve Morelos at [gmorelos@cacities.org](mailto:gmorelos@cacities.org)

### NOTICE: NO PUBLICATION NEXT WEEK

*Priority Focus* will not be published next Friday, September 18, due to our staff participation at the League's Annual Conference in Long Beach. For updates on conference activities and League priority issues, visit the League's website at [www.cacities.org](http://www.cacities.org). We will resume publication on Friday, September 25.

**PROP 1A SUPPORTERS from page 1** .....

The following are new supporters who signed on to support Prop 1A over just the past two weeks:

**Business Organizations:** Antelope Valley Chambers of Commerce, Inland Valley Chamber Alliance, San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce, Santa Clarita Chamber of Commerce, Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group, California Building Industry Association, Building Industry Association of Tulare/Kings Counties, Inc., Business, Industry & Government Coalition of the South San Joaquin Valley, Chino Valley Chamber of Commerce, Fortuna Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Real Estate Management, International Council of Shopping Centers, Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce, Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Industrial & Office Properties, Victorville Chamber of Commerce

**Agriculture:** California Farm Bureau Federation

**Water:** El Dorado County Water Agency, Stockton East Water District

**Labor Organizations:** California Teamsters Public Affairs Council, State Building & Construction Trades Council, SEIU Local 347

**Taxpayer Groups:** National Tax Limitation Committee PAC, Kern County Taxpayers Association, Northern California Coalition for Limited Government, Sacramento County Coalition for Limited Government

**Statewide Local Government:** California Park & Recreation Society, Inc.

**Local Government:** Elk Grove Community Services District, Los Osos Community Services District, Contra Costa County Mayors' Conference, Rubidoux Community Services District, Squaw Valley Public Service District, County of Imperial, Counties of Kings, Tuolumne, Trinity and Yuba; Cities of Clayton,

Concord, Cotati, Danville, Foster City, Mountain View, Rancho Palos Verdes, San Rafael, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Long Beach and San Anselmo

**Law Enforcement:** Antioch Police Department, Kensington Police Officers Association

**Fire and Emergency Services:** Atascadero City Fire Department, Beverly Hills Firemen's Association, Georgetown Fire District

**Businesses:** Classic Communities, Inc., Wine Country Homes, Inc., Latino Times

**Public Safety Individuals:** John Anderson, Madera County Sheriff

**Political:** California Congress of Republicans, California Republican Party, Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley

**Individuals:** Andrew Alexander, Mayor, City of Calistoga, Lynn Morehouse, Windsor Town Councilmember, Jan Scully, Sacramento County District Attorney, Todd Spitzer, California State Assembly Member, William R. Bamattre, Chief, Los Angeles Fire Department/Chair, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs, James R. Davis, Chief of Police, City of El Cajon, Hugh Dugan, Firefighter, Atascadero City Fire Department, Todd C. Kruper, Council Member, City of Sand City, Mark Miranda, Citizen, Megan Miranda, Student, Richard J. Probert, Retired, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Michael Stornetta, Firefighter, Atascadero City Fire Department

In addition to coalition building, the Yes on 1A campaign is organizing an aggressive press push for the last six weeks of the campaign that will include regionalized news conferences and editorial board visits.

### YES ON 1A CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES VICTORY TEAMS

Do you have what it takes to be a Yes on 1A Victory Team Leader? Victory Team Leaders will play an extremely important role in the Yes on Prop 1A campaign. The Victory Team is made up of active campaign supporters that have pledged to help with fundraising, voter education efforts, and helping to get out the vote in the final weeks of the campaign. By becoming a Yes on 1A Victory Team Leader, you will become a part of an active regional team that is willing to step up and truly show our commitment to passing Prop 1A.

Yes on 1A Victory Team Leaders will receive regular e-mail updates that will outline ways you can help the campaign as well as highlight fundraising and coalition building successes throughout the state.

Victory Team Leaders will pledge to do the following:

- Contribute or raise at least \$5,000 or more for the Yes on 1A campaign.
- Help with coalition building efforts.
- Help with Get Out the Vote efforts, like phone banking, material distribution in your community and other grassroots activities.
- Participate in campaign activities including speakers' bureaus, attending press conferences and more.

To sign up, or to learn more about the Victory Teams, please visit the campaign website at [www.YesonProp1A.com](http://www.YesonProp1A.com), or call 916.443.0872.

**For more information on this and other League issues, visit [www.cacities.org](http://www.cacities.org).**

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE from page 2 . . .

#### HOUSING BUREAU CLOSED; RESERVE DIRECTLY WITH A HOTEL NOW

The Long Beach Housing Bureau is no longer accepting reservations for the League's Annual Conference. If you have not made your request for lodging during the Annual Conference, you may call each hotel listed directly or contact the Bureau on their website at [www.visitlongbeach.com](http://www.visitlongbeach.com). The principal conference hotels are listed on the League's website (click "Professional Education and Development, or log into [www.cacities.org/ed](http://www.cacities.org/ed)). But you may need to contact other hotels for the accommodations you need, since rooms are very tight, especially on Friday, September 17.

If you have made reservations and have not received an acknowledgement number, please call the Bureau at 562/436-3645 ext. 111. The League has no rooms to make available, so we are unable to assist with reservations.

### ERAF from page 1 . . . . .

As you may recall, the statutory provisions regarding the ERAF "contributions" direct the county auditors to deduct these ERAF amounts from the property tax for vehicle license fee swap payments that are to be paid in January and May of 2005. The statute regarding the ERAF payment allows cities the option of directly paying the amount to the county auditor. Cities that wish to exercise this option should note that the county auditor must receive the payment by **OCTOBER 1, 2004** or the amount will be deducted from the property tax adjustment amount. Please contact Frances Medema, management analyst, at [medemaf@cacities.org](mailto:medemaf@cacities.org) with any questions regarding this notice.