

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**June 27, 2024**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members      FROM: Lisa Kim, City Manager

**I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

A. LETTER OF OPPOSITION

A copy of the Mayor's letter of opposition to AB 1893 (Wicks) Housing Accountability Act: housing disapprovals. Notice of Opposition (As of April 18, 2024)

B. PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

An affidavit of publication is attached for items to be heard at the July 18, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting.

C. COMMUNITY SERVICES

A memo is attached to inform City Council that the Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center, or other available City facilities if the Center is not available, will open as a Cooling Center when temperatures rise above 95 degrees.

• **OTHER ITEMS**

– SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.

– MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim  
City Manager



## CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Buffy Wicks  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
1020 N St, Room 157  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Steve Jones**  
Mayor

**Cindy Ngoc Tran**  
Mayor Pro Tem - District 3

**George S. Brietigam**  
Council Member - District 1

**John R. O'Neill**  
Council Member - District 2

**Joe DoVinh**  
Council Member - District 4

**Stephanie Klopfenstein**  
Council Member - District 5

**Kim B. Nguyen-Penalosa**  
Council Member - District 6

**RE: AB 1893 (Wicks) Housing Accountability Act: housing disapprovals.**  
**Notice of Opposition** (*As of April 18, 2024*)

Dear Chair Wicks,

The City of Garden Grove regrettably must take an **oppose unless amended** position on your measure AB 1893, which would place guardrails on "builder's remedy" projects; reduce affordable housing minimums; and prohibit local jurisdictions from denying certain housing developments even if they are meeting or exceeding state allocated housing goals.

We appreciate your desire to limit the application of "builder's remedy" projects by restricting where these projects can occur, limiting density, and allowing the use of objective development standards in some circumstances.

However, we strongly believe less focus should be on what happens if we do not adopt a housing element that substantially complies with the law, and more time and attention should be focused on how the state can partner with us and ensure that all jurisdictions come into compliance. Cities have worked diligently with the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to draft housing plans that accommodate their fair share of housing at all income levels. These complex plans can take years to develop and involve extensive feedback from HCD. This feedback often lacks clear direction regarding actions needed for a city to come into compliance.

The City of Garden Grove believes that AB 1893 could be improved with amendments. What is really needed is for the state to specify how cities can get a compliant housing element to avoid things like the builder's remedy before further restricting local control. For these reasons, the City of Garden Grove must **oppose unless amend AB 1893.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve Jones'.

Steve Jones  
Mayor

**AB 1893 (Wicks) Housing Accountability Act: housing disapprovals.**

**Notice of Opposition** *(As of April 18, 2024)*

June 27, 2024

Page 2

c: Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, 14<sup>th</sup> District ([Steve.Wertheim@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Steve.Wertheim@asm.ca.gov))  
Members, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Jennifer Swenson, Principal Consultant, Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
Joe Shinstock, Fiscal Director, Assembly Republican Caucus  
Senator Tom Umberg, 34<sup>th</sup> District, ([Emily.Rodriguez@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.Rodriguez@sen.ca.gov))  
Senator Janet Nguyen, 36<sup>th</sup> District, ([Tina.Tran@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Tina.Tran@sen.ca.gov))  
Assembly Member Tri Ta, 70<sup>th</sup> District, ([Hauwie.Tieu@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Hauwie.Tieu@asm.ca.gov))  
Connor Medina, League of California Cities, ([cmedina@calcities.org](mailto:cmedina@calcities.org))  
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, ([cityletters@calcities.org](mailto:cityletters@calcities.org))  
Lauren Kline, ACCOC, ([lkline@accoc.org](mailto:lkline@accoc.org))

AFFP

143774 Sp-138-2024- Moore

Attachment I B  
Mgrs Memo 6/27/24

## Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }  
COUNTY OF ORANGE } SS

I am a citizen of the United States; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principle clerk of the printer of ORANGE COUNTY NEWS, a newspaper of general circulation, published ONCE WEEKLY in the city of GARDEN GROVE, County of ORANGE, which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of ORANGE, State of California under the date of March 20, 1964, Case Number A-31502; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

June 26, 2024

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Orange County News.

Subscribed to and sworn by me this 26th day of June 2024.

LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER, 11300 STANFORD AVENUE, GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA, ON THE DATE \* INDICATED BELOW TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER ALL EVIDENCE AND REPORTS RELATIVE TO THE APPLICATION(S) DESCRIBED BELOW:

\* THURSDAY, 7:00 P.M., JULY 18, 2024

Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Commission. in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing public-comment@ggcity.org no later than 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Commission as part of the meeting record.

SITE PLAN NO. SP-138-2024

TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. TT-19314

A request for Site Plan approval to construct thirty-five (35) three-story, "for-sale" residential condominium units and associated site improvements on an approximately 1.4-acre lot. The proposal includes two (2) affordable housing units for "very-low income" households. Inclusion of the two (2) "very low-income" units qualifies the project for a density bonus, concessions, waivers, and reduced parking pursuant to the State Density Bonus Law. Also, a Tentative Tract Map to create a one-lot subdivision for the purpose of selling each dwelling unit as a condominium. The site is at 12701 Buaro Street in the R-2 (Limited Multiple-Family Residential) zone. In conjunction with the requests, the Planning Commission will consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend said Hearing and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposal as outlined above, on July 18, 2024. If you challenge the application in Court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Planning Commission at, or prior to, the public hearing. Further information on the above may be obtained at the Planning Services Division, City Hall, 11222 Acacia Parkway, or by telephone at (714) 741-5312.

DATE: June 24, 2024  
PUBLISH: June 26, 2024  
Orange County News 6/26/2024-143774

00007270 00143774

75 LEGAL  
OCN-CITY OF GARDEN GROVE  
P.O. BOX 3070  
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92842



**City of Garden Grove**  
**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Lisa Kim  
Dept.: City Manager  
Subject: COOLING CENTER

From: John Montanez  
Dept.: Community Services  
Date: June 27, 2024

OBJECTIVE

To inform City Council that the Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center (Center), or other available City facilities if the Center is not available, will open as a Cooling Center when temperatures rise above 95 degrees.

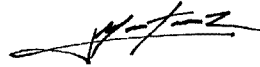
BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

During summer months, the Community Services Department has designated a city facility to operate as a Cooling Center, in order to meet the needs of residents during very hot weather. The Cooling Center is opened if the weather is forecast to be over 95 degrees. This determination will be based on the online National Weather Forecast.

For 2024, the Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center will serve as a Cooling Center during very hot weather. The Cooling Center welcomes all ages to enjoy air-conditioned accommodations. Visitors will have access to the Center's lobby and restrooms. Pets are not allowed except for service animals.

SUMMARY

The Garden Grove Sports and Recreation Center, or other city facilities if the Center is not available, will be opened as a Cooling Center for residents who may need to utilize a facility with air conditioning to offset the extreme heat of summer. The opening of the cooling center will be based on weather forecast.



John Montanez  
Director



By: Janet Pelayo, Deputy Director

**WEEKLY MEMO 06-27-2024**

# **SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



# Post Performance

June 20, 2024 - June 26, 2024

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.

**Included in this Report**

 Garden Grove City Hall





**Garden Grove City Hall**

Thu 6/20/2024 5:41 pm PDT

Sing and dance all summer long at the 2024 Free Summer Concert Series! 🎵 Join the Garden Grove Community Foundatio...



Reach

2,427



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Mon 6/24/2024 11:20 am PDT

Considering home repairs? Garden Grove is here to help! 🏠🔧 The Home Repair Program assists low-income residents wit...



Reach

1,619



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Wed 6/26/2024 11:25 am PDT

On Saturday, June 29, West Street, between Lampson Avenue and Chapman Avenue, will undergo rehabilitation,...



Reach

1,533



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Wed 6/26/2024 4:15 pm PDT

This Saturday, June 29, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., various streets in west Garden Grove will be temporarily blocked for the...



Reach

1,350



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Fri 6/21/2024 11:21 am PDT

The OCTA wants to hear from #GardenGrove residents like YOU! 🗣️  
Learn about the OC Transit Vision plan an...



Reach

928



**Garden Grove City Hall**


Thu 6/20/2024 11:31 am PDT

Your fun is their worst nightmare.  
#Fireworks can scare pets! Keep them inside and calm during the fireworks by...




Reach

493


 **Garden Grove City Hall**  
Mon 6/24/2024 7:59 am PDT

The Garden Grove Public Works Department's Water Services Division safe guards #GardenGrove's water supply an...


**Water Quality Report | City of Ga...**



**Reach 236**

 **Garden Grove City Hall**  
Thu 6/20/2024 1:49 pm PDT

#TBT to when Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones delivered his final State of the City address. Go "Back to the Future" and...



**Reach 183**



# Post Performance

June 20, 2024 - June 26, 2024

Review the lifetime performance of the posts you published during the publishing period.



**Included in this Report**

 Garden Grove Police Department



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Wed 6/26/2024 8:00 pm PDT

Earlier today, we held our 2024 #TeenCitizenAcademy. The attendees spent the day learning about #PoliceWor...



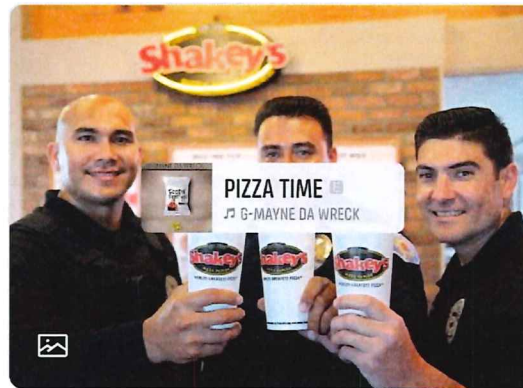
<b>Impressions</b>	—
<b>Reach</b>	—
<b>Engagements</b>	—
<b>Engagement Rate (per Impression)</b>	—



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Tue 6/25/2024 12:00 pm PDT

Please join us for our #PizzaWithPolice Event on July 17, 2024, from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, at Shakey's USA (12540 Valley...



<b>Impressions</b>	<b>728</b>
<b>Reach</b>	<b>723</b>
<b>Engagements</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Engagement Rate (per Impression)</b>	<b>8.1%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Mon 6/24/2024 1:16 pm PDT



<b>Video Views</b>	<b>430</b>
<b>Impressions</b>	<b>691</b>
<b>Reach</b>	<b>691</b>
<b>Engagements</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Engagement Rate (per Impression)</b>	<b>15.1%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Sun 6/23/2024 3:00 pm PDT

With #4thOfJuly just around the corner, we want to remind everyone that launching or throwing "unwanted" projectiles at...



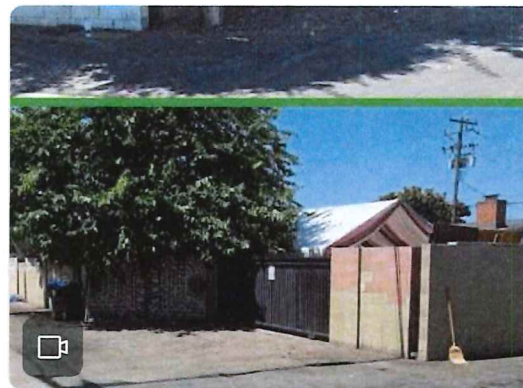
<b>Impressions</b>	<b>1,919</b>
<b>Reach</b>	<b>1,880</b>
<b>Engagements</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Engagement Rate (per Impression)</b>	<b>17.6%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Sat 6/22/2024 1:06 pm PDT

Outreach & Cleanup Recap #GGPD32 #SRTsaturday #WheresTheSRT #TeamWork Be Well OC Garden Grove...



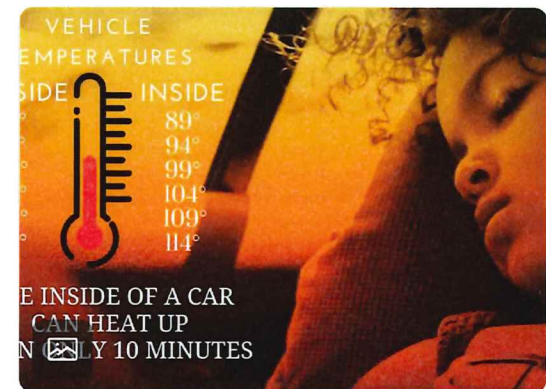
<b>Video Views</b>	<b>736</b>
<b>Impressions</b>	<b>1,677</b>
<b>Reach</b>	<b>1,597</b>
<b>Engagements</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Engagement Rate (per Impression)</b>	<b>12%</b>



**Garden Grove Police Depa...**

Thu 6/20/2024 6:00 pm PDT

It's officially #summer! That means, school is out and temperatures are rising. Don't forget to stay hydrated; and...



<b>Impressions</b>	<b>2,666</b>
<b>Reach</b>	<b>2,666</b>
<b>Engagements</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Engagement Rate (per Impression)</b>	<b>5.1%</b>

**WEEKLY MEMO 06-27-2024**

# **NEWS ARTICLES**





# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT:  
Dana Yang, (714) 741-5131  
Economic Development and Housing

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280  
Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Monday, June 24, 2024



### FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR HOME REPAIRS

The City of Garden Grove announces new funding is now available for the City's Home Repair Program. The grant program assists qualified low-income Garden Grove residents with receiving up to \$5,000 to make home improvements. The grants do not need to be repaid to the City and are designed for minor home repairs. The homeowner is required to contribute a minimum of \$500 of their own funds towards the repairs. Major repairs to the home that are above \$5,000 will not be considered for the Home Repair Program. Applications for the Home Repair Program are available online at <https://apply.ggcity.org/>

Acceptable exterior and interior home repairs include, but are not limited to, window replacement, electrical repairs, pest control, interior and exterior painting, plumbing repairs, heater replacement (HVAC), handicap accessibility modifications, and repairs to address building or safety code violations in the home. Homeowners that are looking to repair or replace their roof can visit the City's Re-Roof Loan program webpage at <https://ggcity.org/re-roof-loan-program> or by contacting Timothy Throne at [timothyt@ggcity.org](mailto:timothyt@ggcity.org).

Eligible residents for the Home Repair Program must meet all program income and application requirements. Funding will be awarded to approximately 20 eligible applicants who are selected through a blind raffle.

FUNDING NOW AVAILABLE FOR HOME REPAIRS  
2-2-2

The City will be opening the Home Repair Program application twice throughout the year. The first application period for the Home Repair Program opened on June 24, 2024 at 9:00 am and will close on July 8, 2024 at 4:00 pm. The second application period for the Home Repair Program will open on December 2, 2024 at 9:00 am and will close on December 16, 2024 at 4:00 pm.

Please visit <https://ggcity.org/home-repair-program> for additional information regarding the Home Repair Program or contact Dana Yang at (714) 741-5131 or [danay@ggcity.org](mailto:danay@ggcity.org).

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# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT: Ana Pulido  
Public Information Officer  
(714) 741-5280/[anap@ggcity.org](mailto:anap@ggcity.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media

Thursday, June 27, 2024



### **CITY RECOGNIZES NEARLY 50 LOCAL COLLEGE GRADUATES**

On Tuesday, June 25, 2024, the City of Garden Grove recognized nearly 50 residents for their achievements in higher education at the 2024 Garden Grove College Graduates' Reception. Graduates received local, state, and federal certificates of recognition, and over \$11,000 in opportunity cash prizes, gift cards, and services.

In a video message, Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones encouraged graduates to build their careers in Garden Grove.

"There are several different career disciplines represented in the Class of 2024 that include technology, medicine, science, social work, and education. All of those careers have major employers in Garden Grove," said Mayor Jones. He added, "The possibilities for success in Garden Grove are endless."

Title sponsors for the event were Astro Orthodontics, Embassy Suites by Hilton Anaheim South, Garden Grove Shell #1, and Thirsty Cow Korean Barbeque. Master's sponsors include the Garden Grove Unified School District and Dibs Digital Wellness.

For event photos, information, and complete lists of graduates and sponsors, visit [ggcity.org/grads](http://ggcity.org/grads).

###

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

**June 27, 2024**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Meeting minutes for the April 18, 2024 Garden Grove Planning Commission Meeting.
3. Meeting minutes for the June 27, 2024 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator Meeting.
4. League of California Cities articles from June 21, 2024 to June 27, 2024.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 27, 2024 – August 8, 2024

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Thursday	June 27	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting
		6:30 p.m.	GGCF Free Summer Concert Series: Smokin' Cobras Downtown Main Street
			\$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	June 28		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	July 2	6:00 p.m.	Traffic Commission Meeting, CMC
Thursday	July 4		City Hall Closed – Independence Day
Tuesday	July 9	5:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC
		6:30 p.m.	Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
Thursday	July 11	9:00 a.m.	Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC
			Downtown Commission Meeting, CMC
		5:00 p.m.	Parks, Recreation and Arts Commission Meeting Eastgate Park, 12001 St. Mark St.
			\$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day
Friday	July 12		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Thursday	July 18	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday	July 23	5:30 p.m.	Closed Session, CMC
		6:30 p.m.	Housing Authority, CMC Sanitary District Board, CMC Successor Agency Meeting, CMC City Council Meeting, CMC
			<b>CANCELLED</b>
Friday	July 26		City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure
Tuesday	August 6	5:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.	GG Police Department National Night Out 2024 11301 Acacia Parkway
Thursday	August 8	12:30 p.m.	Ice Cream Social, CMC AB Room \$2 Coaches Holiday Drive Casual Dress Day

GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION  
Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioner Arbgast  
Commissioner Cueva  
Commissioner Cunningham  
Commissioner Laricchia  
Commissioner Lindsay  
Commissioner Paredes  
Commissioner Ramirez

Absent: Arbgast, Cueva

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Laricchia

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC – None.

March 21, 2024 MINUTES:

Action: Received and filed.

Motion: Laricchia Second: Lindsay

Ayes: (4) Cunningham, Laricchia, Lindsay, Ramirez  
Noes: (0) None  
Abstain: (1) Paredes  
Absent: (2) Arbgast, Cueva

PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-259-2024 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF KATELLA AVENUE AND EUCLID STREET AT 10912 KATELLA AVENUE

Applicant: FREEDOMHOUSE OC (JOSIAH SILVA)  
Date: April 18, 2024

Request: A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to operate a new religious facility, including church services, an accredited bible college, and a child day care, all within an existing 46,287 square foot tenant space. The site is in the NMU (Neighborhood Mixed Use) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Planning Commission will also consider a determination that

the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Action: Resolution No. 6085-24 was approved with a modification to Water Services Division Condition of Approval number 23.

Motion: Paredes Second: Lindsay

Ayes: (5) Cunningham, Laricchia, Lindsay, Ramirez, Paredes

Noes: (0) None

Absent: (2) Arbgast, Cueva

PUBLIC HEARING - MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, AMENDMENT NO. A-040-2024, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT NO. PUD-019-2024, SITE PLAN NO. SP-136-2024, VARIANCE NO. V-042-2024, VESTING TENTATIVE TRACT MAP NO. TT-19298 FOR PROPERTY LOCATED ON THE EAST SIDE OF NEWHOPE STREET, NORTH OF GARDEN GROVE BOULEVARD, AT 12828 NEWHOPE STREET

Applicant: OLSON URBAN HOUSING, LLC

Date: April 18, 2024

Request: A request that the Planning Commission recommend City Council approval of a zoning map amendment, residential Planned Unit Development, and related entitlements for a proposed 15-unit multiple-family residential project on an approximately 0.88-acre site. The specific land use entitlement approvals requested include the following: (i) zoning map amendment to re-zone the subject property from R-1 (Single-Family Residential) to residential Planned Unit Development (PUD-019-2024) zoning with an R-3 (Multiple-Family Residential) base zone; (ii) residential Planned Unit Development to facilitate the development of the project; (iii) Site Plan approval to construct fifteen (15) three-story detached homes along with associated site improvements; (iv) a Vesting Tentative Tract Map to create a one-lot subdivision for the purpose of selling each dwelling unit as a condominium; and (v) a Variance to deviate from the minimum property size to establish a residential Planned Unit Development.

The Planning Commission will also consider a recommendation that the City Council adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and an associated Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project.

Action: Resolution Nos. 6086-24 (A/PUD), 6087-24 (SP/V/TT), 6088-24 (MND/MMRP) were approved with modifications to revise and further clarify Conditions of Approval numbers 9, 14.d., 15.k., 21, 25, 28, 29, 30, 65.d., 65.k., 65.m., 68, 69, 70.a., and 74.

Condition Number 79 was added as follows: Per the applicant's agreement, the applicant shall record a covenant against the property to prohibit the conversion of garages to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), to the extent permissible under State law.

Other than Olson Urban Housing, LLC representatives, one letter of support was submitted by Brian Bruggeman, one letter of concern was submitted by Ngoc Cao, and seven people spoke with concerns relating to privacy, property value, guest parking, street parking, density, and potential damage from construction.

The Developer handed out a packet of 27 signed letters in support of the project.

Motion: Laricchia Second: Ramirez  
Ayes: (5) Cunningham, Laricchia, Lindsay, Ramirez, Paredes  
Noes: (0) None  
Absent: (2) Arbgast, Cueva

MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Chair Lindsay asked staff to look into the railroad crossings at Western, Lampson, and Chapman Avenues as the rails have separated from the last rains. Staff would look into the matter.

MATTERS FROM STAFF: Staff mentioned the May 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting would be cancelled and added that Community Development is launching a campaign for the next three months called 'Plan, Build and Beautify,' using local social media to highlight Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement. Also, Planning was the recipient of two OCAPA (Orange County American Planning Association) awards, the first, to recognize a Planning Agency's exceptional work certifying the Housing Element and ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit) outreach, and second, an award for a 'hard-won victory' for completion of the Garden Brook Senior Village.

ADJOURNMENT: At 9:10 p.m.

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Judith Moore  
Recording Secretary

GARDEN GROVE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR MEETING  
Garden Grove Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 27, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-262-2024

Applicant: BWTC, LLC  
Location: 5939 Chapman Avenue  
Date: June 27, 2024

Request: A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to allow a new restaurant to operate with a new original State Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Type "47" (On-Sale, General, Eating Place) License. The site is in the C-2 (Community Commercial) zone. In conjunction with the request, the Zoning Administrator will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Action: Public Hearing Held. Speaker(s): Joshua Kim

Action: The Zoning Administrator adopted Decision No. 1852-24.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The Zoning Administrator adjourned the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

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Judith Moore  
Recording Secretary



## Cal Cities pushing for climate bond as deadline looms

Jun 26, 2024

By Melissa Sparks-Kranz, *legislative affairs lobbyist (environmental quality)*, and By Zack Cefalu, *legislative affairs analyst*

Cal Cities is in strong support of ongoing negotiations by the Legislature to place a climate bond on the November ballot — *if* lawmakers adopt amendments to support local efforts to meet the state's climate goals. Climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness are among Cal Cities' top [advocacy priorities](#) for 2024.

The fast-approaching deadline for measures to qualify for the November ballot is technically June 27. However, the Legislature tipped its hand earlier this week when Senate Speaker Pro Tem Mike McGuire [stated](#) lawmakers are seeking an extension from the Secretary of the State until July 3 to add bond measures to the ballot, perhaps signaling they are close to a final deal. Two legislative bills introduced in 2023, [AB 1567 \(Garcia\)](#) and [SB 867 \(Allen\)](#), currently propose an approximately \$15 billion climate bond. Cal Cities has a support if amended position on both bills and is [seeking changes](#) that expand the types of projects the bonds can fund.

Only one bill will move forward next week if both houses can come to a final agreement on the long-awaited climate bond. The Senate and the Assembly have been in negotiations since April, debating the size of the bond — now estimated to be between \$8 to \$10 billion — and which specific categories the bond will fund. The Legislature will then need to secure a two-thirds vote in both houses to place the bond in the voter's hands in November.

Cal Cities is advocating for [five main categories](#): waste and recycling, energy, water, coastal resiliency, and community and wildfire resiliency. Some outside watchers think the water, coastal, and wildfire resiliency categories will be included in the bond since these issues are top priorities for voters.

Cal Cities, alongside the California State Association of Counties, Urban Counties of California, California Special District Associations, and Big City Mayors, in asking lawmakers to include funding to help meet the state's carbon neutrality and greenhouse gas reduction goals and keep costs down for residents.

Cal Cities has significant concerns about funding the state's transition to clean vehicles and the fast-approaching state deadlines for cities, counties, and special districts to do so. Cal Cities is also fighting for funding for organic waste infrastructure, which is sorely needed to meet cities' state-mandated emissions reduction from landfills. These bond dollars will help reduce that burden on local governments and ratepayers.

Stay tuned for more news from Cal Cities in the next week, as the negotiations continue.





## State Bills in Brief: June 26-July 3

Jun 26, 2024

**A weekly primer on the bills and committee hearings that have a direct impact on cities**

*By Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor. Additional contributions by the Cal Cities Advocacy Team*

Welcome to the next-to-last State Bills in Brief. (In theory.) Let's celebrate with two recent Cal Cities wins. Sen. Josh Newman and Sen. Lena Gonzalez pulled two bills opposed by Cal Cities.

[SB 1164 \(Newman\)](#) would have temporarily exempted new accessory dwelling units (ADU) from property tax assessments if the owner made a "good faith effort" to ensure the unit was used as housing. This exemption would have made it more difficult for cities to provide critical public services. Newman argued that the taxes were a "substantial disincentive" to new ADUs.

However, the number of new ADUs and ADU permits are through the roof.

[SB 252 \(Gonzalez\)](#) would have forced the state's biggest pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies. Sen. Gonzalez pulled the bill, citing "damaging" amendments from the Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee, but vowed to try again next year.

In less positive news, Sen. Dave Cortese is pulling [SB 915](#). The measure would have allowed police and first responders to intervene when a driverless vehicle interrupts an emergency response and created a pathway for local self-driving regulations. Cortese pressed pause after he was forced to water the bill down but says he will reintroduce something similar next year. Perhaps the most interesting news is what's not (yet) scheduled for a floor vote or committee hearing. A package of retail theft bills has [seemingly stalled](#) in the Legislature and a [multibillion climate bond](#) vote will likely get pushed back several days.

July 3 is the last day for policy committee hearings, after which lawmakers have until Aug. 16 to get their bills through any final fiscal hearings. For information about bills scheduled for a committee hearing, keep reading. To learn what each section means — or to access a previous State Bills in Brief — visit the [archive page](#).

### Hot bills

Lawmakers will hear nine high priority bills this week, including some measures that strike at the heart of local government finances and operations.

### Expanded unemployment benefits for striking workers

- **For 26 weeks.** [SB 1116 \(Portantino\)](#) would allow striking workers to draw unemployment benefits after two weeks. Cal Cities opposes the measure due to the severe, downward pressure it would apply to city budgets.

- **Didn't this already fail?** When the Governor vetoed a similar measure [last year](#), he said, “Now is not the time to increase costs or incur this sizable debt.” This should hold true this year, as the state is grappling with a multibillion-dollar budget shortfall.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Insurance Committee at 1:30 pm.

#### **Burdensome, inflexible, and costly contracting rule**

- **Disincentivizing contractors.** [AB 2557 \(Ortega\)](#) would dramatically curb local agency service contracts due to its onerous obligations and costs. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **Nearly 5,000 impacted agencies.** The bill would require some nonprofits contracting with cities to adopt sweeping new reporting and auditing practices under certain circumstances. If passed, it would directly undercut statewide policy goals and partnerships, including the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention program.
- **When is the hearing?** July 3 in the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Keeping ethics training free**

- **The one you take every two years.** [AB 2631 \(Fong\)](#) would ensure that an ethics training course remains free online indefinitely. Cal Cities is sponsoring the measure.
- **Why now?** The Fair Political Practices Commission may no longer be able to provide the program due to budget restraints. About 2,000 new agencies and several thousand agency officials will become subject to these training requirements starting in 2025.
- **When is the hearing?** July 2 in the Senate Elections and Constitutional Amendments Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Builder's remedy safeguards come with a price**

- **What would the bill do?** [AB 1893 \(Wicks\)](#) would place some guardrails on builder's remedy projects. However, it would also limit cities' ability to impose objective standards in specific development projects. Cal Cities opposes the measure unless amended.
- **Possible changes.** Cal Cities is urging lawmakers to require the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide cities with technical assistance and clear guidance on how to substantially comply with housing element law to avoid the builder's remedy altogether. Cities should also be allowed to impose objective standards, just like in other affordable housing laws.
- **When is the hearing?** July 3 in the Local Government Committee at 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of session.

#### **Duplicative housing and homelessness planning bill**

- **Unnecessary changes.** [AB 3093 \(Ward\)](#) would require cities to consider and plan for the needs of homeless residents when developing their housing elements, which cities already do. Cal Cities will oppose the measure unless it is amended.
- **Possible changes.** Cal Cities requested several amendments that would clarify the bill's proposed new income categories. Without these changes, the bill will set cities up to fail.
- **When is the hearing?** July 2 in the Senate Housing Committee at 1:30 p.m.

#### **No more self-certification for housing elements**

- **Builders remedy incentives.** [AB 1886 \(Alvarez\)](#) would remove the ability of cities to self-certify housing plans that are “in substantial compliance with housing element law.” This would encourage more developers to bypass local zoning laws in favor of the so-called builder's remedy. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **Complex planning.** Housing elements take years to develop. Cities often receive unclear or conflicting guidance about their plans. Instead of punishing good faith efforts, the state should help cities finalize their housing elements and put those plans to work.
- **When is the hearing?** July 1 in the Senate Appropriations Committee at 10 a.m.

#### **Controlled substance list update**

- **Proactive update.** [SB 1502 \(Ashby\)](#) would create penalties for the illicit position, use, sale, and trafficking of xylazine — also known as “tranq.” Cal Cities supports the measure.



- **A dangerous combination.** A non-opiate sedative and muscle relaxant, xylazine can be deadly when combined with opioids. Officials have [linked the drug](#) to a growing number of overdose deaths in California.
- **When is the hearing?** July 2 in the Assembly Public Safety Committee at 9 a.m.

#### **Enhanced attorney-client privilege endangers government operations**

- **A one-sided standard.** [AB 2421 \(Low\)](#) would restrict internal investigations into workplace misconduct by broadly limiting employer-employee communications. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **But wait there's more.** The bill's vague language could create a prohibition on day-to-day internal communications, unintended violations of the proposed bill, and decreased public agency transparency and accountability.
- **When is the hearing?** Lawmakers will hear AB 2421 in two committees: June 26 in the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee at 1:30 p.m. and again on July 2 in the Senate Judiciary Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Retention bill ignores external factors**

- **An unfunded mandate.** [AB 2561 \(McKinnor\)](#) would force local agencies to produce, implement, and publish plans to reduce union vacancy rates that exceed 10% for over six months. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **Right problem. Flawed approach.** Many cities are actively taking steps to reduce vacancy rates and address retention challenges. Cities are committed to working collaboratively on the issue, but diverting staff away from core service delivery to produce reports on vacancy rates will not fill key city positions.
- **When is the hearing?** July 3 in the Senate Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement Committee at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Priority bills**

Cal Cities is engaging with over 40 other priority measures this week, including several recently elevated zoning, revenue, and community service bills.

#### **Assembly bill shifts housing infrastructure costs to cities**

- **Developer piggy bank.** [AB 2729 \(Patterson, Joe\)](#) would lock in development fees early on, delay their collection until a certificate of occupancy, prohibit interest on deferred fees, and create a shot clock for local governments to spend or return the fees to the developer unless specific conditions are met. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **Time is money.** This is true for developers and cities. Local agencies rely on these fees to pay for essential infrastructure: roads, sidewalks, parks, and lighting.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Senate Local Government Committee at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Water fee clarification**

- **Protecting city revenues.** [SB 1072 \(Padilla\)](#) would shield public agencies from costly legal challenges to their water, sewer, and refuse collection service fee structures. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **Credits, not refunds.** Water providers cannot make a profit from their services and instead maintain reserves to cover future costs, such as capital improvement projects. Recent, multimillion lawsuits threaten those reserves and would likely force utilities to raise rates to cover refunds.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Local Government Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Property tax postponement for older adults**

- **Aging in place.** [AB 2564 \(Boerner\)](#) would reinstate a program that protects seniors and disabled adults from being priced out of their homes due to high property taxes. Cal Cities supports the measure.

- **Dwindling funding.** It's unlikely that the program can fund all eligible applicants. AB 2564 would remedy that issue by ensuring the fund's balance is never below \$15 million at the start of the fiscal year.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### Expediting homeless responses

- **A familiar approach.** [SB 1361 \(Blakespear\)](#) would clarify that supportive service programs are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act — just like homeless shelters. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **We need to act faster.** SB 1361 would give local agencies another tool to speed up the arrival of these lifesaving services.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee at 9 a.m.

#### Automatic ADU approval

- **Two new ministerial approvals.** [SB 1211 \(Skinner\)](#) would force cities to approve up to eight detached accessory dwelling units (ADU) on an existing multifamily dwelling lot. Cities would also need to approve up to two detached ADUs on a proposed multifamily development *before* construction begins. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **Developer workaround.** The bill would allow a developer to construct ADUs in areas never meant for development and reduce community benefits, such as open space, parks, and parking.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee at 9 a.m.

#### Automatic single-family unit approval

- **Overriding approved housing plans.** [SB 1123 \(Caballero\)](#) would force cities to approve up to 10 new vacant units on a parcel that was zoned and planned for one unit. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **But why?** Like many recent legislative efforts, this measure undermines and calls into question the state's regional housing needs allocation process.
- **When is the hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Local Government Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### Housing element review changes could set cities up to fail

- **Impossible standard.** [AB 2023 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#) would add over 4 months to the housing element review process by resetting the review times for amendments to housing elements at the state and local level.
- **Possible changes.** Cal Cities is seeking changes that would make it easier for cities to meet the statutory deadline and make AB 2023 consistent with existing law.
- **When is the hearing?** July 2 in the Senate Judiciary Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### Stiffer fentanyl penalties

- **Enhanced sentencing.** [SB 226 \(Alvarado-Gil\)](#) would make it a felony to simultaneously possess fentanyl and a loaded gun. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **Why it matters.** Fentanyl is one of the most dangerous drugs in the U.S.
- **When is the hearing?** July 2 in the Assembly Public Safety Committee at 9 a.m.

#### Unlocking disaster funding

- **Focused funding.** [AB 2776 \(Rodriguez\)](#) would allow the Office of Emergency Services to prioritize infrastructure and housing projects for communities impacted by major federal, state, and local disasters. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **Why it matters.** State and federal disaster funding criteria are very specific. If local governments do not meet those criteria, they must bear the brunt of recovery costs. California has had nearly 30 major federal disasters since 2018.
- **When is the hearing?** July 1 in the Senate Appropriations Committee at 10 a.m.

#### Facilitating compost facilities



- **Permitting and siting.** [SB 1045 \(Blakespear\)](#) would require the Office of Planning and Research and CalRecycle to detail the best practices for siting composting facilities on its website as a resource for local governments.
- **50-100.** That's the estimated number of new organic waste recycling facilities needed to meet the state's methane emission reduction goals. Cities need technical assistance to meet this ambitious goal.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Local Government Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Streamlining hydrogen fueling would create a bad precedent and increase costs**

- **What's the bill number?** [SB 1418 \(Archuleta\)](#) would force cities to create a streamlined permitting process for hydrogen-fueling stations. Cal Cities opposes the measure unless the bill includes funding and clarity and ties implementation to local demand.
- **But why?** This measure proposes a one-size-fits-all approach regardless of market conditions, existing technology, storage complexities, or local resources. Expediting a process involving a highly volatile and difficult-to-contain gas is just plain dangerous.
- **What is the next hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Local Government Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Overly broad gate regulation**

- **Massive number of massive gates.** [AB 2149 \(Connolly\)](#) would create new standards for large, rolling gates — and potentially create new litigation risks for cities. Cal Cities will oppose the measure unless it is amended.
- **Unfunded mandate.** The bill's scale is unworkable. Cal Cities is seeking changes that would lower the legal risks to cities, costs for implementing a new state mandate, and the number of gates that cities would need to regulate.
- **When is the hearing?** July 2 in the Senate Judiciary Committee at 9:30 a.m.

#### **Thrift store permitting**

- **Top-down ban.** [AB 2632 \(Wilson\)](#) would stop cities from treating thrift stores differently from other stores for zoning and permitting purposes. Cal Cities opposes the measure.
- **Weighing options.** Although thrift stores are a vital part of many communities, they also come with unique traffic, public health, and noise impacts.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Senate Local Government Committee at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Campaign finance update**

- **Commonsense change.** [SB 1243 \(Dodd\)](#) would raise the threshold for contributions regulated by the Levine Act from \$250 to \$1,000 and give officials more time to correct an unintentional violation. Cities could also choose to set a lower contribution limit. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **Have you seen the inflation rate?** The Levine Act does not contain an inflation index and policymakers have not adjusted the contribution limit for over 40 years.
- **When was the hearing?** June 26 in the Assembly Elections Committee at 9 a.m.

#### **With age comes unique insights**

- **Older adults.** [AB 2207 \(Reyes\)](#) would require six different California state boards, commissions, and advisory committees to include an older adult representative. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **Silver tsunami.** By 2030, one in four Californians will be 60 or older. Older Californians should have an avenue to share their unique insights on the issues impacting them the most, like [homelessness](#).
- **When is the hearing?** July 3 in the Senate Local Government Committee
- at 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of the session.

#### **Ending food insecurity**

- **A meaningful step.** [AB 1961 \(Wicks\)](#) would create a task force dedicated to ending hunger across the state. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **Why it matters.** The Public Policy Institute of California estimates that one in ten households lack the resources to adequately meet their food needs.

- **When is the hearing?** July 1 in the Senate Human Services Committee at 3 p.m. or upon adjournment of the session.

#### Senior meal program expansion

- **How?** [AB 2410 \(Wallis\)](#) would expand existing senior nutrition programs to include to-go meals. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **Building on success.** Some [COVID-era programs](#) allowed cities to expand the reach of their senior meal programs. This expansion would be a meaningful step forward in reducing food insecurity among some of the state's most vulnerable residents.
- **When is the hearing?** July 1 in the Senate Appropriations Committee at 10 a.m.

Cal Cities is engaging on over 20 other key bills through July 3, including [SB 937 \(Wiener\)](#), [SB 1046 \(Laird\)](#), [AB 1814 \(Ting\)](#), [SB 689 \(Blakespear\)](#), [SB 1262 \(Archuleta\)](#), [AB 2346 \(Lee\)](#), [AB 2309 \(Muratsuchi\)](#), [AB 2766 \(Low\)](#), [AB 2311 \(Bennett\)](#), [AB 2320 \(Irwin\)](#), [AB 2807 \(Villapudua\)](#), [AB 3241 \(Pacheco\)](#), [SB 820 \(Alvarado-Gil\)](#), [AB 3068 \(Haney\)](#), [AB 2485 \(Carrillo, Juan\)](#), [AB 2243 \(Wicks\)](#), [AB 2922 \(Garcia\)](#), [AB 2643 \(Wood\)](#), [AB 491 \(Wallis\)](#), [AB 2223 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#), and [AB 2371 \(Carrillo, Juan\)](#).

#### Other bills to watch

Here are two more bills — and Cal Cities wins — city leaders need to know about.

#### Police canine bills advance

- **Opposition removed.** [AB 2042 \(Jackson\)](#) would require the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to develop guidelines for K9s. Cal Cities removed its opposition to the bill following several changes.
- **A better alternative.** [AB 3241 \(Pacheco\)](#) would also require POST to develop standards for K9s that are clearer than the ones proposed by AB 2042 and in line with case law. Cal Cities supports the measure.
- **When are the hearings?** The Senate Public Safety Committee will hear both bills on July 2 at 8:30 a.m.

#### Cal Cities moves to neutral on housing fee bill

- **What would the bill do?** [AB 1820 \(Schiavo\)](#) would require cities to provide an estimated itemized list of fees and taxes during the preliminary application process within 30 days of a developer's request. Cal Cities recently removed its opposition to the bill after the author adopted several helpful, clarifying amendments.
- **When is the hearing?** July 2 in the Senate Housing Committee Skinner at 1:30 p.m.

[View all tracked bill hearings](#)





# Prop. 1 funding is rolling out fast. Here's what cities need to know

Jun 26, 2024

By Caroline Grinder, *legislative affairs lobbyist*

The state is fast-tracking its implementation of Proposition 1, the behavioral health bond passed in March. The Cal Cities-supported ballot measure provides billions in new funding for behavioral health housing for people experiencing homelessness.



State officials will roll out \$3.3 billion in funding for behavioral health housing this summer. Cities can apply for these funds, half of which is reserved specifically for cities and counties. A second round of funding will be available in mid-2025. The state plans to award all funding — \$6.38 billion in total — no later than 2026.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) noted several important requirements in its recently released [bond guidance](#). Notably, all applicants must be supported by the county behavioral health director where the project is located. Applicants must also base their proposals on local behavioral health needs data, community engagement, and regional collaboration.

These requirements are critical. They will help ensure the state directs the funding to the projects that will make the most impact in communities throughout the state. Cal Cities strongly supports these requirements and has consistently urged DHCS to consider the unique needs of each community when awarding funds.

Under Prop. 1, counties must also now submit three-year comprehensive behavioral health services plans, which include fiscal transparency and enhanced data reporting requirements. The state will release related guidance in early 2025, and the new plans will go live in July 2026. As part of the rollout, Gov. Gavin Newsom launched [mentalhealth.ca.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.ca.gov), a one-stop-shop for people seeking mental health resources. This website also includes information about the ongoing changes to the state's behavioral health system and will soon include a way to monitor counties' implementation of several key programs, including Prop. 1, CARE Court, and conservatorship reform.

Cal Cities will continue to provide updates and educational opportunities about Prop. 1. Several resources are already available to cities:

- [Prop. 1 fact sheet](#).
- [DHCS Listserv](#), which provides real-time updates.
- [DHCS stakeholder engagement opportunities](#).
- [Prop. 1 briefing slide deck](#).
- [DHCS behavioral health transformation website](#).

Cal Cities' [2024 Advocacy Priorities](#) focus on securing investments to address homelessness and boost the supply of affordable housing. For years, Cal Cities has called on the Legislature and the Governor to provide ongoing funding to address these crises. The investments made through Prop. 1 align with these goals and are a step forward in addressing the needs of vulnerable Californians.



## Cities poised to clinch a bittersweet victory in the state budget

*Jun 26, 2024*

The Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom are set to finalize a budget deal over the next few hours. The \$297.9 billion spending plan includes a big win for cities, along with some painful cuts, deferrals, and relatively modest restorations.

By far the biggest win is the restoration of \$1 billion in funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program. The budget deal also largely preserves funding for a range of behavioral health programs.

“Budgets are statements of priorities, and there is no higher priority in the state of California than reducing homelessness,” said San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria [on behalf of the Big City Mayors group](#). “These funds are critical to our ongoing efforts to make homelessness in California rare, brief, and nonrecurring.”

However, the funding is not nearly enough to address the statewide housing and homelessness crisis. “Another year of one-time funding will not magically fix our skyrocketing housing and homelessness crisis,” Cal Cities CEO Carolyn Coleman [noted last week](#).

The deal also includes \$1.1 billion in cuts to affordable housing programs and \$500 million to student housing programs, marring an otherwise difficult, but relatively palatable budget deal.

Barring any unexpected legislative jostling or [“blue pencil”](#) reductions, the deal maintains much of what lawmakers pushed for in an earlier placeholder budget. The final deal includes new, modest increases for fentanyl trafficking reduction, active transportation, and new electricity infrastructure. It also includes new cuts that would further slow local broadband expansion projects.

This year’s budget battle was a far cry from two years ago when the state had an estimated \$100 billion budget surplus. Gov. Gavin Newsom and legislative leaders agreed this year to pursue several changes that would reform the state’s famously volatile revenue system. Although details are scant, one floated reform is a 2026 constitutional amendment that would grow the state’s main reserve account.

For now, Democratic leaders agreed to dip into the state’s reserves, put off a wage increase for healthcare workers, eliminate vacant state agency positions, claw back Medi-Cal funding, and pause tax breaks for businesses to help close the nearly \$50 billion budget shortfall. Lawmakers are also haggling over a [bond measure](#) to fund the state’s climate priorities.

Cal Cities will release a full analysis later this week after policymakers formally approve the deal.





# Victory for cities! The CA Supreme Court strikes tax ballot measure off the November ballot

*Jun 26, 2024*

The California Supreme Court ruled today that the tax ballot measure backed by the California Business Roundtable — what opponents, including Cal Cities, call the Taxpayer Deception Act — amounts to a revision of the Constitution and ordered the Secretary of State to refrain from placing it on the November ballot.

In its unanimous decision, [the court concluded](#) the measure would clearly “accomplish such far-reaching changes in the nature of our basic governmental plan as to amount to a revision” of the California Constitution. The ruling was in response to the Governor and the Legislature who petitioned the court, as well as Cal Cities and other local government associations who [submitted an amicus brief](#) in support of that position.

The court determined the measure would “fundamentally rework the fiscal underpinnings of our government at every level,” and “would shift so much authority in such a significant manner, that it would substantially alter our framework of government.”

“No amount of funding from wealthy corporations will change the fact that the California Supreme Court decided the Taxpayer Deception Act is unconstitutional,” said Carolyn Coleman, executive director and CEO of the League of California Cities. “It’s great news for cities and their residents that this dangerous initiative will not move forward this year, and local officials can now keep their focus on delivering local services.”

This ruling ends many months of work to defeat the ballot measure, in the court and through grassroots mobilization of [local government officials and their coalition partners](#) — including firefighters, teachers, labor, and community groups throughout the state. Cal Cities and its partners maintain that the ballot measure could decimate essential services, including fire and police, lead to expensive and frivolous litigation, and benefit wealthy corporations at the expense of California residents.

In the opinion, Supreme Court Justice Liu acknowledged that a pre-election review of a ballot measure is unusual. But he wrote that waiting until after voters weighed in to consider the constitutionality of the initiative “would be more challenging than in a typical case” because it includes a rollback provision that could invalidate existing taxes. It “would thus require the state and localities to start preparing to administer special elections if they wish to avoid nullification of taxes or charges,” Liu wrote.

Defeating this measure was a top priority for Cal Cities with close to 250 cities passing resolutions opposing it.

“Today’s court ruling is a victory for public service, and the important work cities and local governments do every day to ensure that we have a strong quality of life here in California,” said Coleman.

“Thank you to the Cal Cities leadership and city officials for recognizing early on that this measure presented an existential threat to our cities and their residents, and acting swiftly in partnership with Cal Cities Regional Public Affairs Managers and the broader coalition to mount an aggressive campaign to ensure that this measure would be stopped.”