

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**November 13, 2025**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City  
Council Members

FROM: Lisa Kim  
City Manager

**I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

A. ZONING ADMINISTRATOR PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

An affidavit of publication is attached for items to be heard at the November 25, 2025 Zoning Administrator meeting.

**II. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS**

A. ORANGE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (OCTA)

Public Hearing notice from OCTA Board of Directors concerning the 2025 Orange County Congestion Management Program Report.

• **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

**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:

November 12, 2025

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

SIGNED:



Orange County News

Subscribed to and sworn by me this 12th day of November 2025.

LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
(SPECIAL MEETING)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR 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:

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• TUESDAY, 9:00 A.M., NOVEMBER 25, 2025

The City of Garden Grove Zoning Administrator will hold a Public Hearing in the Community Meeting Center, to consider the request listed below. Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Zoning Administrator, in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing [public-comment@ggcity.org](mailto:public-comment@ggcity.org) no later than 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Zoning Administrator as part of the meeting record.

## CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-285-2025

A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to operate an existing restaurant with a new original State Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Type "41" (On-Sale Beer And Wine - Eating Place) License and a recommendation that the Zoning Administrator revoke all previous Conditional Use Permits granted for the tenant space, including Conditional Use Permit No. CUP-224-2022, which was never exercised and expired. The site is at 12761 Harbor Boulevard, Unit I-1 in the PUD-121-98 (Planned Unit Development) 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).

ALL INTERESTED PARTIES are invited to attend said hearing and express opinions or submit evidence for or against the proposal as outlined above, on November 25, 2025. 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 Zoning Administrator 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: NOVEMBER 10, 2025  
PUBLISH: NOVEMBER 12, 2025  
Orange County News 11/12/2025-158281

00007270 00158281

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



November 7, 2025

*AFFILIATED AGENCIES*

*Orange County  
Transit District*

*Local Transportation  
Authority*

*Service Authority for  
Freeway Emergencies*

*Consolidated Transportation  
Service Agency*

*Congestion Management  
Agency*

## Public Hearing Notice

Dear Orange County Mayors, City Managers, City Clerks, Public Works Directors, and Colleges and Universities:

The Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) Board of Directors will conduct a Public Hearing concerning the **2025 Orange County Congestion Management Program Report** as follows:

**Monday, November 24, 2025 at 9:30 a.m.**

OCTA Headquarters, Board Room  
550 S. Main St  
Orange, California 92863

All persons having interest in these matters are encouraged to submit public comments to the Board of Directors by Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Please submit them to:

Andrea West  
Clerk of the Board  
Orange County Transportation Authority  
550 South Main Street  
P.O. Box 14184  
Orange, CA 92863-1584

**or**

[clerkoffice@octa.net](mailto:clerkoffice@octa.net)

Please contact the Clerk of the Board with any questions regarding this hearing or any requests for special accommodations no less than two business days prior to the hearing at [clerkoffice@octa.net](mailto:clerkoffice@octa.net) or 714.560.5611.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrea West".

Andrea West  
Clerk of the Board

**WEEKLY MEMO 11-13-2025**

# **SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



## Post Performance

November 6, 2025 – November 12, 2025

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

Included in this Report

X @CityGardenGrove

f Garden Grove City Hall

ig gardengrovecityhall




**Garden Grove City Hall**

Mon 11/10/2025 2:05 pm PST

✨ The countdown to the holiday season has officially begun! Experience festive sights, sounds, and festivities at the annual ...



Reach

36,856

Boosted

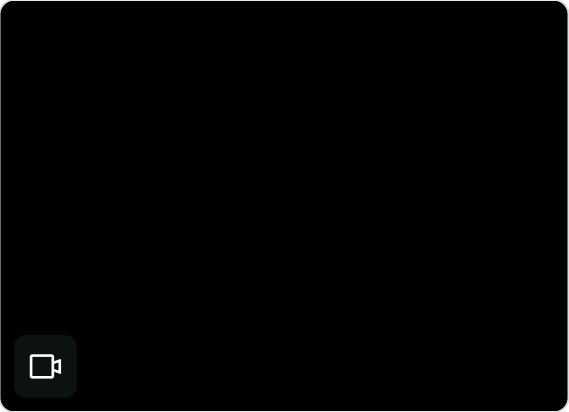



**Garden Grove City Hall**

Tue 11/11/2025 8:01 am PST

, ! 🇺🇸

Today, we pay tribute to the brave individuals wh...



Reach

11,645




**gardengrovecityhall**

Mon 11/10/2025 2:05 pm PST

✨ The countdown to the holiday season has officially begun! Experience festive sights, sounds, and festivities at the annual ...





Reach

9,615





Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 11/7/2025 2:13 pm PST



Clear out unwanted items before the holidays an...



Reach

6,882





Garden Grove City Hall

Mon 11/10/2025 10:30 am PST



#GGAAlert The H. Louis Lake Senior Center will remain closed for a planned roof replacement project from Monday, November 10 to Friday,...



Reach

3,140





gardengrovecityhall

Fri 11/7/2025 2:13 pm PST



Clear out unwanted items before the holidays an...





Reach

2,085





Garden Grove City Hall

Fri 11/7/2025 9:00 am PST

!?

#DYK the offers specialized technical assistance and business expansion loans to help local, small businesses grow...



Reach

1,430





gardengrovecityhall

Fri 11/7/2025 5:17 pm PST

 Turn in unwanted firearms for gift cards TOMORROW, November 8!



Reach

1,312





gardengrovecityhall

Tue 11/11/2025 8:02 am PST

, ! 

Today, we pay tribute to the brave individuals wh...



Reach

1,033





Garden Grove City Hall

Tue 11/11/2025 12:00 pm PST



 Rain is in the forecast, **#GardenGrove!**  
Remember to stay safe and be prepared!

...



Reach

1,018





gardengrovecityhall

Mon 11/10/2025 10:57 am PST



Reach

847





gardengrovecityhall

Fri 11/7/2025 9:00 am PST

**!?** **#DYK** the **CORE NINJAS** offers specialized technical assistance and business expansion loans to help local, small businesses grow....



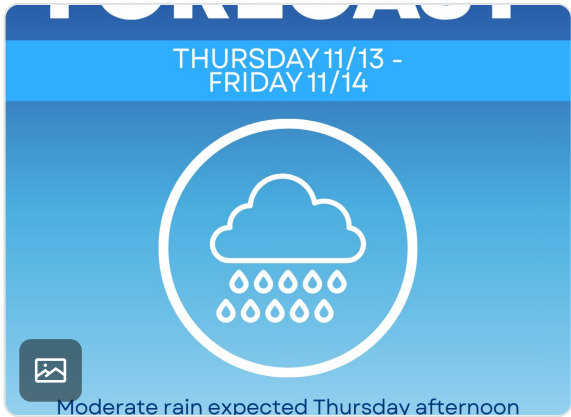
Reach

779



**gardengrovecityhall**  
Tue 11/11/2025 12:00 pm PST

 Rain is in the forecast, **#GardenGrove!**  
Remember to stay safe and be prepared!  
...



Reach

713



**gardengrovecityhall**  
Mon 11/10/2025 10:30 am PST

**#GGAAlert** The H. Louis Lake Senior Center will remain closed for a planned roof replacement project from Monday, November 10 to Friday,...



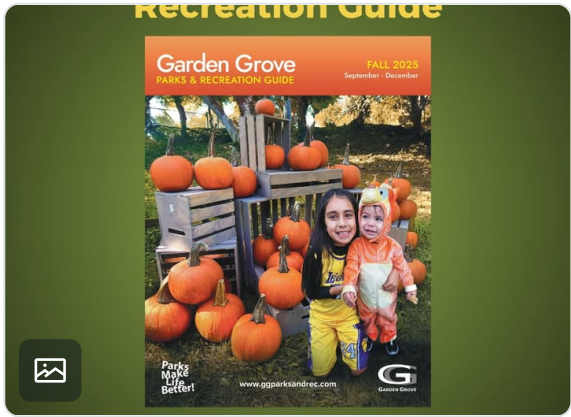
Reach

658



**Garden Grove City Hall**  
Sat 11/8/2025 12:00 pm PST

 The holiday season can get busy, so remember to make time for yourself and your loved ones! The is filled with fun, healthy...



Reach

576





**Garden Grove City Hall**

Mon 11/10/2025 8:57 am PST



Join us for the annual Winter in the Grove on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., in Village Green Park, 12732 Main...



Reach

565



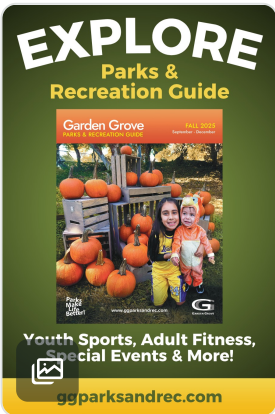


**gardengrovecityhall**

Sat 11/8/2025 12:00 pm PST



 The holiday season can get busy, so remember to make time for yourself and your loved ones! The is filled with fun, healthy...



Reach

564





**gardengrovecityhall**

Mon 11/10/2025 5:55 pm PST





Reach

539



X @CityGardenGrove

Tue 11/11/2025 12:20 pm PST

🌧️ Rain is in the forecast, **#GardenGrove!**  
Remember to stay safe and be prepared!

...



Reach

N/A



X @CityGardenGrove

Tue 11/11/2025 12:20 pm PST

 [ggcity.org/sandbags](https://ggcity.org/sandbags)

 When driving in the rain, be cautious, slow down, and turn on your headlights.

 To report fallen branches, call the Public Works Department at (714) 741-5375. For after-hours and weekend service, please call the [@GardenGrovePD](#) at (714) 741-5704.

Reach

N/A

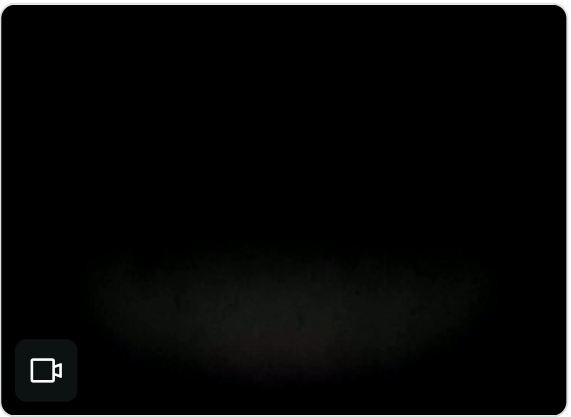


X @CityGardenGrove

Tue 11/11/2025 8:01 am PST

Happy Veterans Day! 🇺🇸

Today, we pay tribute to the brave individuals wh...



Reach

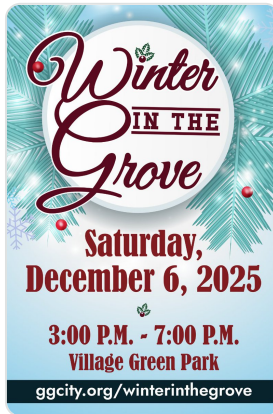
N/A



**@CityGardenGrove**  
Mon 11/10/2025 2:05 pm PST



✨ The countdown to the holiday season has officially begun! Experience festive sights, sounds, and festivities at the annual Winter in the Grove...



Reach

N/A



**@CityGardenGrove**  
Mon 11/10/2025 10:32 am PST



**#GGAlert** The H. Louis Lake Senior Center will remain closed for a planned roof replacement project from Monday, November 10 to Friday,...



Reach

N/A



**@CityGardenGrove**  
Mon 11/10/2025 10:32 am PST



During the closure, cold pack lunches will be served at the Garden Grove Courtyard Center, 12732 Main St, Mon-Fri, from 11:30AM-12:00PM, on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more info:

☎: (714) 741-5253

🌐: [ggcity.org/seniorcenter](http://ggcity.org/seniorcenter)

#GG1956 #GardenGrove #SeniorCenter



Reach

N/A





@CityGardenGrove

Fri 11/7/2025 3:28 pm PST



 EMERGENCY WATER SHUTDOWN

Water Services has an emergency water shutdown affecting Tiffany Ave and George Reyburn Road. The water is expected to be off until by 5:00 PM.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience.

#GG1956



Reach

N/A





@CityGardenGrove

Fri 11/7/2025 2:39 pm PST



 Clear out unwanted items before the holidays and help keep Garden Grove clean. Bring your bulky items, household batteries, and paper for...



Reach

N/A





@CityGardenGrove

Fri 11/7/2025 9:00 am PST



Swipe to see how they're growing their business with the program's support.

...



Reach

N/A





@CityGardenGrove

Fri 11/7/2025 9:00 am PST

!#DYK the Garden Grove MicroBiz Program offers specialized technical assistance and business expansion loans to help local, small...




Reach

N/A



"We're experts in educating kids, but we know there's always more to learn about running a business."



# Post Performance

November 6, 2025 – November 12, 2025

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

Included in this Report

 Garden Grove Police Department





Garden Grove Police Depart...

Wed 11/12/2025 12:41 pm PST

The Gun Buyback event this past weekend was a huge success!

...



|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Video Views                      | 597  |
| Impressions                      | 597  |
| Reach                            | 420  |
| Engagements                      | 14   |
| Engagement Rate (per Impression) | 2.3% |





Garden Grove Police Depart...

Tue 11/11/2025 8:18 am PST

🇺🇸 Today, on **#VeteransDay**, we honor the brave men and women who have selflessly served our country and the families who stand proudly besi...



|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Video Views                      | 2,708 |
| Impressions                      | 2,708 |
| Reach                            | 2,228 |
| Engagements                      | 126   |
| Engagement Rate (per Impression) | 4.7%  |





Garden Grove Police Depart...

Fri 11/7/2025 8:13 am PST

In Memory of Officer Michael Rainford **#EOW** November 7, 1980.

...



|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Video Views                      | 1,238 |
| Impressions                      | 1,238 |
| Reach                            | 1,068 |
| Engagements                      | 65    |
| Engagement Rate (per Impression) | 5.3%  |



Garden Grove Police Depart...

Thu 11/6/2025 12:09 pm PST



On Thursdays throughout November, we're taking time to recognize and show gratitude to those here at #GGPD who keep everything running smoothl...



|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Impressions                      | 3,767 |
| Reach                            | 3,702 |
| Engagements                      | 325   |
| Engagement Rate (per Impression) | 8.6%  |

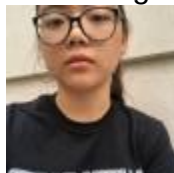
**WEEKLY MEMO 11-13-2025**

# **NEWS ARTICLES**

# Garden Grove police, county collect nearly 300 weapons at gun buyback



Orange County Supervisors Vicente Sarmiento (third from left), Doug Chaffee (middle) and Janet Nguyen (second from right) hosted a gun buyback event Saturday, Nov. 8 that brought in 298 firearms. (Photo by county staff)



By **CLAIRE WANG** | [cwang@scng.com](mailto:cwang@scng.com)

PUBLISHED: November 13, 2025 at 7:42 AM PST

Orange County residents traded in nearly 300 firearms for gift cards at a gun buyback event over the weekend.

At the drive-up exchange in Garden Grove, local police handed out \$34,400 worth of gift cards in exchange for 298 unwanted weapons, including 23 assault rifles.

The Saturday, Nov. 8, event was sponsored by county supervisors Doug Chaffee, Vicente Sarmiento and Janet Nguyen. It was the third buyback hosted by the county; [previous events in Placentia and Anaheim netted 757 firearms, including 53 assault rifles.](#)

“Every firearm turned in is one less chance for a tragedy to occur in our neighborhoods,” Fourth District Supervisor Chaffee said in statement. “The success of this program demonstrates that when we come together, we can make meaningful progress toward reducing gun violence and building safer, stronger communities for everyone.”

Sarmiento echoed Chaffee’s sentiment and called the exchange an “innovative approach that respects the rights of our community members” and allows them “to voluntarily take gun safety into their own hands.”

Orange County saw a total of 149 gun-related deaths in 2024, including 39 homicides and 107 self-inflicted fatalities, according to the OC Sheriff’s Department.

At the Garden Grove buyback, participants anonymously disposed of unwanted guns in exchange for \$100 gift cards to Kroger, Costco and Target. Those who turned in handguns or rifles received one gift card for each firearm, while those who handed over assault weapons went home with three cards per item.

The police also handed out 122 free gun locks at the event, as part of a [new program that will distribute up to five free locks per household](#) to reduce the risk of gun accidents.

The Tribune  
November 11, 2025

# Firm to stage major city events proposed to the city council

BY OC TRIBUNE STAFF ON NOVEMBER 11, 2025 • ( [LEAVE A COMMENT](#) )



EVENTS such as “Foods of Garden Grove Live” could be organized by an Anaheim firm under a contract proposed to the Garden Grove City Council (file photo).

Garden Grove could be getting more fun.

At Wednesday’s meeting the Garden Grove City Council will consider a contract for special services for events such as Winter in the Grove and Foods of Garden Grove Live.

The contract would be for an amount not to exceed \$200,000 annually. The chosen vendor is James Event Productions, based in Anaheim.

According to its website, its experience includes a wide variety of types, including company picnics, events and festivals, catering, kids rides, “spectacular rides,” attractions (including a mechanical bull), inflatable rides, booth games and a variety of entertainment.

The company would be responsible for managing all logistical and operational aspects, although other vendors could also be used by the city.

The agreement would be for an initial one-year term with the option to extend the agreement for up to four additional one-year terms.

The council will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Ave. The meeting was moved from Tuesday because of observance of Veteran's Day.



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

CONTACT:  
Mark Freeman  
Community Services Department  
(714) 741-5212/[markf@ggcity.org](mailto:markf@ggcity.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



Monday, November 10, 2025

## **CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT ANNUAL WINTER IN THE GROVE EVENT**

Experience holiday sights, sounds, and festivities at Garden Grove's annual Winter in the Grove community event on Saturday, December 6, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., in Village Green Park, located at 12732 Main Street. Entry to the event is free.

The "Snowtopia" attraction will feature free, unlimited snow slides crafted from 50 tons of snow.

The event will also include a holiday craft boutique showcasing handmade items from local crafters available for purchase, entertainment from local dance troupes and school choirs, carnival games, craft-making for kids, holiday photo areas, free refreshments, and food for sale from local non-profit organizations. The event culminates with the lighting of a 24-foot, fully decorated tree, along with a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Businesses and organizations interested in sponsoring Winter in the Grove can call (714) 741-5212.

For more information, visit [ggcity.org/winterinthegrove](https://ggcity.org/winterinthegrove) or call (714) 741-5200.

###

# Winter IN THE Grove

*Saturday, December 6, 2025*

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 🌿 Village Green Park

12732 Main Street, Garden Grove

*Free Refreshments and Kids' Activities*

Food available for purchase



Crafters Boutique · Snow Slides · Santa & Mrs. Claus · Tree Lighting



[ggcity.org/winterinthegrove](http://ggcity.org/winterinthegrove)  
(714) 741-5200





# SNOWTOPIA

Sponsored by Liga Swapmeet

## FREE UNLIMITED SNOW SLIDES

- 9 total snow slides
- 50 tons of snow



## HOLIDAY CRAFT BOUTIQUE

Purchase the perfect handmade gift from local artisans



## FUN FOOD

'Chilly' Dogs, Hot Cocoa, Cookies, Kettle Corn & More



## FROSTY'S PHOTO SHOP

Take the perfect selfie or holiday family portrait at one of our many photo ops



## FREE CRAFTS AND CARNIVAL GAMES

Ornament Decorating, Letters to Santa, and themed carnival fun



## ENTERTAINMENT

Enjoy the songs and dances from local schools and performers



# CITY OF GARDEN GROVE NEWS

Contact: John Montanez  
Community Services Director  
(714) 741-5200 / [johnmo@ggcity.org](mailto:johnmo@ggcity.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Information Office (714) 741-5280

Follow the City of Garden Grove on Social Media



Thursday, November 13, 2025

## **GARDEN GROVE RESIDENTS INVITED TO SHOWCASE HOLIDAY DECORATIONS**

The City of Garden Grove invites residents to spread holiday cheer by submitting a recent, unedited photo of their house, condo, or apartment's exterior holiday decorations. Submissions will be featured in the City's online gallery, Garden Grove Holiday Lights.

Photos may be submitted at [www.ggcity.org/holiday-lights](http://www.ggcity.org/holiday-lights) starting on Monday, November 24.

For more information and submission guidelines, visit [www.ggcity.org/holiday-lights](http://www.ggcity.org/holiday-lights).

###

# GARDEN GROVE HOLIDAY LIGHTS

—— 2025 ——

*Let's spread our holiday cheer  
and light up Garden Grove*

## Submission Period

**Monday, November 24 -  
Thursday, December 11**

**Please upload (1) photo of your home  
in JPG or PNG format by visiting:**

**<https://ggcity.org/holiday-lights>**

**Photos will be posted  
on the City's website on  
Monday, December 15**



*Happy  
Holidays*



**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**  
**November 13, 2025**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Notice of Cancellation of the November 20, 2025 Garden Grove Planning Commission Meeting.
3. League of California Cities articles from November 7, 2025 to November 13, 2025.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 13, 2025 – December 12, 2025

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|          |             |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday | November 13 | 9:00 a.m.              | Downtown Commission Meeting, CMC                                                                                                                                                |
| Thursday | November 13 | 9:00 a.m.              | Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC<br><b>CANCELLED</b>                                                                                                                           |
| Thursday | November 13 |                        | \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day                                                                                                                                                    |
| Friday   | November 14 |                        | City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure                                                                                                                                       |
| Thursday | November 20 | 7:00 p.m.              | Planning Commission Meeting, CMC                                                                                                                                                |
| Tuesday  | November 25 | 5:30 p.m.<br>6:30 p.m. | Closed Session, CMC<br>Housing Authority Meeting, CMC<br>Sanitary District Board Meeting, CMC<br>Successor Agency Meeting, CMC<br>City Council Meeting, CMC<br><b>CANCELLED</b> |
| Thursday | November 27 |                        | City Hall Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday                                                                                                                                         |
| Friday   | November 28 |                        | City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure                                                                                                                                       |
| Monday   | December 1  | 6:30 p.m.              | Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation<br>Commission Meeting, CMC                                                                                                            |
| Thursday | December 4  |                        | \$2 Holiday Drive Casual Dress Day                                                                                                                                              |
| Thursday | December 4  | 7:00 p.m.              | Planning Commission Meeting, CMC                                                                                                                                                |
| Tuesday  | December 9  | 5:30 p.m.<br>6:30 p.m. | Closed Session, CMC<br>Industrial Development Authority Meeting, CMC<br>Successor Agency Meeting, CMC<br>City Council Meeting, CMC                                              |
| Thursday | December 11 |                        | \$2 Coaches Casual Dress Day                                                                                                                                                    |
| Thursday | December 11 | 9:00 a.m.              | Zoning Administrator Meeting, CMC                                                                                                                                               |
| Friday   | December 12 |                        | City Hall Closed – Regular Friday Closure                                                                                                                                       |



**NOTICE OF CANCELLATION**  
**OF THE**  
**GARDEN GROVE PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**NOVEMBER 20, 2025**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular Meeting of the Garden Grove Planning Commission scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, is hereby cancelled.

DATED: November 13, 2025

JOHN RAMIREZ  
CHAIR



# The federal shutdown put SNAP funding in limbo. California cities stepped up to fill the gap

Nov 12, 2025

*Jackie Krentzman is a Bay Area-based writer and editor. Additional research contributions by Caleb Zimmerschied Valadez, freelance writer, Karina Rodriguez, Cal Cities digital media producer, and Cal Cities regional public affairs managers.*

At the start of November, 5.5 million Californians — including 3.5 million seniors and children — temporarily lost access to CalFresh, known federally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), due to the federal government shutdown.

Although the government is on the brink of reopening, a series of competing court orders has sown confusion over SNAP benefits. And community advocates are warning that the crisis could linger, as food banks are now short on stock and food orders are delayed.

Counties and nonprofits are typically on the frontlines of food insecurity, but many California cities are responding as well. Almost every city is sharing resources with its residents about county and nonprofit food banks they can access. Some cities, such as South San Francisco, Mammoth Lakes, and Riverside, are directly funding food insecurity programs.

"We are not immune to what's happening in Washington, D.C., but we are not powerless," South San Francisco Mayor Eddie Flores said. "It's a moment like this that requires us to lead."

The state has also released \$80 million to support food banks, and Gov. Gavin Newsom has sent the California National Guard to help food banks pack and distribute food.

"From low-income residents to members of our military, there are suddenly thousands of Riverside residents who now are in danger of going hungry," Mayor Pro Tem Chuck Conder said of Riverside's \$100,000 allocation. "This program is designed to supplement their nutritional needs until a broader solution can be worked out at the federal level."

Other cities are marshalling their resources and leveraging partnerships. San Diego partnered with a local food bank and San Diego State University to host an emergency food distribution event supporting more than 2,000 city residents. Sonoma is co-sponsoring a "Food & Funds Drive" at its city hall this coming weekend. Irvine will hold an emergency food drive in mid-November.

"We won't let the gridlock in D.C. stop us from doing the right thing here at home," San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria said in a post on Instagram.

Cities are finding creative ways to stretch their dollars to help. West Hollywood is working with the nonprofit Farm Habit to provide \$15 in shopping credits to customers with a \$0 EBT balance during the disruptions. Merced has placed food donation bins throughout the city. San Jose is exploring ways to set up hubs to assist Santa Clara County and nonprofits with their food distribution. Stockton council members are even volunteering at food banks.

Fresno Council Member Nelson Esparza [last week](#) called the conditions “truly heartbreaking.” The city voted a few days later to send \$250,000 to Central California’s largest food bank.

“The horrifying reality is there are still families ... who will go to the grocery store and find out the hard way that those benefits were not renewed for this month,” he said at a press conference.

Others are amplifying the work of their nonprofit partnerships, which some cities fund, such as in Santa Monica and Irvine. [Santa Monica](#) has partnered with a local food bank to add food donation boxes throughout the city. Irvine is advertising its [free monthly grocery boxes](#) on its social media channels, along with its free school breakfast and lunch programs.

The effects have not been felt equally. Many rural cities are struggling to help hungry residents, as they often don’t have the resources of larger cities. For example, 27% of residents of Tulare and Imperial Counties had their benefits cut off, nearly double the statewide average.

Other counties with a high percentage of SNAP recipients include [Fresno, Kern, Lake, and Del Norte counties](#).

Galt, a rural city in Sacramento County, doesn’t have the resources to provide emergency food assistance for its 3,000 impacted residents. The city is coordinating with the county and sharing information about available resources through its social media channels, newsletter, and website.

“We are encouraging community support by providing direct links where residents can donate to our local food banks,” Assistant City Manager Amie Mendes told Cal Cities. “Galt is a small, tight-knit community where neighbors take care of one another. We are confident that our residents will continue the long-standing tradition of giving and supporting one another in times of need.”

The action taken may be varied, but California cities are united in their vow to help their constituents who lost their SNAP benefits.

“No family should have to scrape by or wonder when their next meal will be,” Fresno’s Esparza told [Fox26News](#). “If the federal safety net falters, we have an obligation to strengthen our local apparatus. This is about taking steps to combat the forthcoming food insecurity that is happening as a result of the federal government shutdown.”



## Help shape the 2026 City Leaders Summit program

*Nov 12, 2025*

*By Cal Cities Education Staff*

The League of California Cities is looking for volunteers to help shape next year's [City Leaders Summit](#). Volunteers will provide feedback on proposed educational sessions to ensure that the programming meets the needs of Cal Cities members.

The Summit is scheduled for April in Sacramento. The annual event allows city leaders from across the state to participate in peer-to-peer discussions and in-depth sessions on evergreen and emerging issues facing cities.

Volunteers will receive an email in December with a packet of session descriptions and a link to an online survey. They will have one week to complete the survey. After reviewing the survey results, the programming committee will select sessions and share member feedback with session organizers so that they can tailor the panel based on member needs.

To participate, please email your name, title, and city with the subject line "City Leaders Summit — Proposal Review" to Event Program Manager [Kayla Boutros](#) by Wednesday, Nov. 19.



## 2025 legislative year in review

*Nov 12, 2025*

**By Jason Rhine, senior director of legislative affairs**

Two events shaped the 2025 legislative session more than any others: the reelection of President Donald Trump and the deadly Palisades and Eaton fires that killed 31 people and destroyed 11,000 homes. In total, legislators introduced over 2,300 bills, with around 900 reaching the Governor's desk.

But those issues weren't the only things on city leaders' minds this year — and Cal Cities made sure state leaders knew that. Cal Cities ran an ambitious, proactive legislative agenda, sponsoring 15 bills focused on short-term rentals, climate resiliency and adaptation, housing, sober living facilities, wildfire mitigation, the Brown Act, and clean drinking water. Eight reached Newsom's desk, six of which he signed.

### **Budget crunch impacts housing and homelessness funding**

Crafting a balanced state budget was exceptionally challenging in 2025 due in no small part to a \$11.8 billion deficit, changes in federal policy, a sluggish economy, and substantial growth in Medi-Cal costs and caseloads.

The final budget zeroed out the state's biggest homeless prevention grant program for the fiscal year and slashed the [Infill Infrastructure Grant](#) program — over the objections and warnings of Cal Cities and others. State leaders did, however, allocate \$100 million in one-time funding to implement the Proposition 36 public safety initiative and revived a few of the state's most successful affordable housing programs.

While technically balanced, lawmakers and the Governor relied on borrowing, delays, deferrals, shifts, reserve spending, and reductions to close the gap — kicking the can down the road to next year, where a \$15-\$20 billion deficit looms large.

### **Well-funded opposition campaign couldn't stop common-sense reform**

With cities struggling with fiscal uncertainty and a lack of housing, [SB 346 \(Durazo\)](#) quickly became one of Cal Cities' most important sponsored bills of the year. The measure cracks down on illegal short-term rentals and enables cities to capture the millions of tax dollars left uncollected each year. It passed without a single "no" vote before being signed into law — despite a disinformation campaign led by deep-pocketed corporations.

### **Prop. 4 funding protected**

The state is largely barred from raiding local coffers to fill budget holes, but that doesn't mean it won't try. In the early months of budget negotiations, state leaders attempted to claw back funding from last November's \$10 billion climate bond to fill the budget deficit.

Thanks to [consistent advocacy](#) from Cal Cities and a broader coalition, the Governor and Legislature agreed to not just preserve the funding stream as is, but increase the first tranche of funding to \$3.287 billion. Cities can use Prop. 4 monies for a range of initiatives, including safe drinking water, climate and wildfire resilience, extreme heat mitigation, and outdoor access.

### **Cal Cities ensures city priorities are in Cap-and-Invest deal**

The climate crisis is affecting cities' core functions: infrastructure, public safety, and housing. And Cal Cities made sure that was top of mind for lawmakers, as they negotiated [a two-bill deal](#) that makes sweeping changes to the Cap-and-Trade Program (now Cap-and-Invest). In a win for cities, the new framework includes funding for affordable housing and sustainable community efforts, as well as wildfire resilience. Explicitly excluded are funds for clean transportation, organic waste infrastructure, and climate adaptation. However, the deal allows the Legislature to allocate \$1 billion at its discretion during the annual budget process: Cal Cities will fight for every last dollar.

### **It's Groundhog Day ... again**

The legislative session is not complete without dozens of new bills aimed at addressing the extreme underproduction of housing in California. In 2025, lawmakers introduced [over 100 housing-related bills](#), many seeking to limit local land use authority, cap or reduce development fees, and impose new ministerial approval processes. [SB 79 \(Wiener\)](#) may have received the most attention, as it disregards state-certified housing elements and grants land use authority to transit agencies without requiring them to align development standards with local rules. A groundswell of opposition from over 180 cities and other advocacy organizations compelled the author to amend the bill 13 times, narrowing the scope to cities in eight large counties.

### **Housing element clarity denied**

Channeling long-simmering frustrations from city officials about the housing element process, Cal Cities teamed up with Asm. Diane Papan to sponsor [AB 650](#). This common-sense measure would have made it easier for cities to plan for housing faster and more effectively. Even though AB 650 sailed through with bipartisan support and zero "no" votes, Newsom vetoed the bill, claiming it "inappropriately shifts responsibility for preparing housing elements from local jurisdictions to HCD."

### **Another good year for recovery housing oversight**

Newsom signed two recovery housing bills sponsored by Cal Cities: [AB 492 \(Valencia\)](#) and [AB 424 \(Davies\)](#). AB 424 ensures the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) keeps communities informed on its investigations into complaints of treatment facilities. AB 492 requires DHCS to inform a city if the department approves a new license in its jurisdiction. This marks the second consecutive year that Asm. Avelino Valencia, Asm. Laurie Davies, and Cal Cities have sent recovery housing bills to the Governor's desk — the most movement on the issue in over a decade.

### **Cal Cities secure changes to flawed homeless measures**

Cal Cities pushed back hard on two measures that posed serious threats to cities' ability to address homelessness. The first, [SB 634 \(Pérez\)](#), sought to block cities from adopting any rule that imposes civil or criminal penalties on homeless residents. After sustained opposition from nearly 100 cities, Sen. Sasha Pérez changed the bill to address Cal Cities' concerns, which Newsom later signed into law.

[SB 16 \(Blakespear\)](#) into a [two-year bill](#) after receiving similar pushback, shelving it for the year. Cal Cities and over 50 organizations opposed the measure after it was amended to impose sweeping new requirements for the [HHAP program](#) — including an ambitious regional interim housing plan.

### **Putting a dent in metal theft**

Metal theft has become a widespread and costly issue that damages critical infrastructure — everything from manhole covers to electric vehicle charging stations — and endangers public safety. This year, Cal Cities sponsored [AB 476 \(Gonzalez\)](#), which enhances reporting requirements for recyclers and junk dealers and increases fines for metal theft. The bill sailed through the Legislature and was signed by the Governor.

### **Warehouse citing clean-up finally happens**

Legislative fights often span multiple legislative sessions, even decades. This year, lawmakers delivered long-promised (and hard-fought) changes to last year's problematic [warehouse law](#). The clean-up legislation, [SB 415 \(Reyes\)](#), addresses a significant number of [concerns](#) raised by Cal Cities and others when the original bill emerged at the [end of the session](#) last year after months of closed-door negotiations.

### **Big Brown Act change comes with a big price tag**

For years, Cal Cities has pursued much-needed reforms to the Brown Act. In 2025, lawmakers responded — albeit not in the way Cal Cities had hoped — by making the most extensive changes to the Brown Act in years. [SB 707 \(Durazo\)](#) includes several provisions that give cities more meeting flexibility. But these changes come with [sweeping and costly new mandates](#) on cities without adequate resources, flexibility, or time to implement them.

### **Good wildfire and fire insurance bills were signed, but more work remains**

Legislators introduced over 100 measures to address issues identified after the devastating fires in Los Angeles County. Cal Cities worked extensively to get many of these bills across the finish line. Some, like [AB 1 \(Connolly\)](#) and [SB 616 \(Rubio\)](#), focus on beefing up the state's wildfire mitigation standards. Others, such as [AB 888 \(Calderon\)](#) and [SB 326 \(Becker\)](#), direct money to local home hardening and Zone Zero implementation efforts. But passing these bills was the easy part. Implementing them is going to be a significant challenge, as city officials must partner with state and other local agencies to reduce fire risk and make communities more resilient.

### **New resources and punishments to stop prostitution and human trafficking**

The Governor signed a critical piece of legislation pushed by Cal Cities, [AB 379 \(Schultz\)](#), that will make it easier for law enforcement to address prostitution and human trafficking. The measure created new charges — including for people who solicit 16- and 17-year-olds for prostitution — and requires certain businesses to display information about human trafficking. AB 379 also increases fines for businesses that enable prostitution and human trafficking, establishes a fund for victim services, and

tasks the Office of Emergency Services with directing funds to district attorney offices to fight human trafficking.

### **Looking ahead**

While cities didn't win every fight in the Legislature, 2025 was a successful year filled with major victories: That's because cities throughout the state stepped up and spoke up about the issues that mattered most to them. Cities submitted over 1,300 letters to the Legislature. With this strong engagement, Cal Cities is well-positioned to tackle the numerous challenges that lie ahead in 2026.

It is difficult to know for sure what to expect in the new year. However, state leaders are staring down a \$15-\$20 billion budget deficit, the nation's second-highest unemployment rate, uncertain federal actions, new leadership in the state Senate, and a gubernatorial election. And this year's raft of new laws certainly did not solve the state's seemingly perennial issues — the high cost of living, homelessness, a lack of affordable housing, and the impacts of climate change. Newsom's lame duck status and higher political aspirations will also likely hang over next year's proceedings.