



January 9, 2026

**MEMORANDUM**

To: City Managers and City Clerks  
From: League of California Cities CEO/Executive Director Carolyn Coleman  
Subject: 2026 League of California Cities Membership Dues Invoice

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Thank you for your city's membership in Cal Cities. We achieved so much together in 2025 by partnering to ensure the strength and resiliency of our diverse cities in the face of our state's difficult economic times. We know your city's financial resources are not unlimited, and we greatly value your city's contribution to ensuring California city leaders and cities are strong today and tomorrow.

**Achieving Strong Results**

Accompanying your city's 2026 membership dues invoice is the League of California Cities 2025 Annual Report. Together, we proactively advocated for resources and drove policies that were member-informed and grounded in the voices and experiences of cities.

The value and benefits your city gains from belonging to Cal Cities make supporting Cal Cities a wise investment. A customized "Return on Investment" report for your city is also enclosed. This report summarizes the significant financial benefits your city receives as a direct result of Cal Cities' advocacy. As you can see, the value of your participation in Cal Cities is many multiples of the annual dues payment. Equally important, the value of membership provides elected and appointed city officials in your city the ability to engage in meaningful policy discussions, pertinent educational workshops and relevant networking opportunities.

**Advancing the Mission**

Today, as in 1898 when California cities first came together to protect their common interests, Cal Cities serves as the leading voice for cities across California. Working in concert with 473 member cities, partners, and coalition supporters, protecting and expanding local decision-making through advocacy and education remains the cornerstone of Cal Cities activities.

In 2025, Cal Cities sponsored 15 bills in the State Legislature, the most in recent history; six were signed into law, delivering favorable action for cities on **short-term rentals, recovery housing, metal theft, and public murals**. Cal Cities led a coalition to ensure **Cap and Trade dollars** remained available to fund city priorities and effectively lobbied to significantly narrow the local impacts of **SB 79 (Wiener)** prior to its passage. We overcame well-funded opposition to help ensure passage of a bill that improves cities' ability to capture millions of tax dollars left uncollected each year on **short-term rentals**, and secured improvements for cities to last year's **problematic warehouse bill**.

With timely and relevant topics, Cal Cities also welcomed high levels of engagement from city officials at our events and flagship conferences that were hosted in communities around the state and virtually.

In 2026, Cal Cities will again be a vital resource for your community. We look forward to partnering with you to elevate the voice of city leadership through our advocacy in the Legislature and the courts on the following advocacy priorities identified by our members:

- Protect and enhance **local revenues** and expand **economic development tools**.
- Strengthen partnerships with the state to improve **public safety**.
- Secure investments to prevent and reduce **homelessness** and increase the supply of **affordable housing**.
- Strengthen **climate change resilience** and **disaster preparedness**.

### **Membership Remains Affordable**

Under the Cal Cities bylaws, annual membership dues are based on city population as determined by the California Department of Finance.

Balancing the fiscal impact on cities with the key role membership dues play in sustaining Cal Cities' strong operations, the Cal Cities Board authorized a 3% adjustment to the dues schedule for 2026. This decision reflects the Board's commitment to membership while ensuring adequate funding to support Cal Cities' advocacy and educational programs.

Consistent with Board policy, Cal Cities maintains a Litigation Contingency Reserve Account (LCRA), funded through an optional voluntary surcharge set as a percentage of dues. Reviewed annually by the Board, the LCRA covers current-year board-approved litigation expenses and maintains reserves for potential litigation costs in the following year. Because the LCRA is fully funded, no surcharge is required, and the enclosed invoice reflects a zero surcharge.

### **California Cities Are Stronger Together**

Through Cal Cities, all cities and all city officials have the opportunity to help shape vital solutions to the issues of greatest importance to our cities and the state of California.

On behalf of Cal Cities Officers and Board, I encourage your enthusiastic support of and participation in the League of California Cities during 2026 and beyond. Together, we can build even stronger cities and a more vibrant California.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Cal Cities Chief Financial Officer Steve Maciel at [smaciel@calcities.org](mailto:smaciel@calcities.org) or 916.658.8277.

Enclosures: Dues Invoice and Schedule  
Membership Benefits  
Cal Cities Return on Investment Report  
2025 Annual Report

The League of California Cities is powered by the collective voice of its members. We defend local control, advocate for cities, and provide education and connection opportunities that help local leaders address today's challenges. Membership in Cal Cities is an investment that strengthens the collective voice and influence of cities across California.

## Your city's return on investment report:

SAN PABLO	FY2021-22	FY2022-23	FY2023-24	FY2024-25	FY2025-26	TOTAL
DUES	10,682	13,949	14,367	14,798	15,242	69,038
TOTAL RETURN*	9,357,391	2,266,962	2,411,816	2,756,415	2,923,420	19,716,004
<b>RATE OF RETURN</b>	<b>876:1</b>	<b>163:1</b>	<b>168:1</b>	<b>186:1</b>	<b>192:1</b>	<b>286:1</b>

Here are some ways that Cal Cities Delivered in 2025:

- Cal Cities **sponsored 15 bills** — the most in recent history! Eight of those measures made it to the Governor's desk, and **six were signed into law**. Bills focused on short-term rentals, recovery housing, metal theft, and murals.
- Took on deep-pocketed corporations by sponsoring a bill that will crack down on illegal short-term rentals and enable cities to **capture the millions of tax dollars** left uncollected each year. The bill received bipartisan support and was signed into law.
- Compelled lawmakers to **narrow the impact of SB 79 (Wiener) 13 times** before it was signed into law. The bill, opposed by 180 cities, forces local governments to approve residential projects with limited environmental review and public engagement near specific transit stops.
- Led a coalition to ensure **Cap-and-Trade dollars continue to flow and fund city priorities**. The final package includes dedicated money for affordable housing and wildfire preparedness.
- Secured changes to a **problematic warehouse bill** from last year, which largely focused on mandated circulation planning and potential enforcement by the Attorney General.
- Amplified city voices at the Capitol. Dozens of **city officials traveled from every corner of the state to testify in Sacramento**, and cities **submitted over 1,300 letters** to the Legislature to advance city priorities.
- Filed **over 30 amicus briefs and letters** in support of cities in state and federal courts.
- Elevated city voices at nearly **100 regional division events in which roughly 4,000 members** spoke with **60 state and federal lawmakers** to inform and educate them about legislation that will impact California communities.
- Convened more than **15,000 city officials** at Cal Cities conferences, webinars, division events, or roundtables to share ideas, hear from experts, and learn from each other.

\*Includes: 1. Net gain in revenues by virtue of the VLF/Property Tax Swap. Growth in Property Tax in Lieu of VLF versus estimated growth in VLF had it remained. 2. Local revenues protected by Prop. 22. Prop. 22 ended the Legislature's ability to borrow or delay HUTA and Prop. 42 gas tax funds. Also includes growth in HUTA from SB1 annual inflation adjustment. 3. SB1 Local Streets and Roads Funds. New Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account funds is also constitutionally protected. 4. American Rescue Plan Act.

## League of California Cities 2026 Dues Schedule

For cities having a population of:			2025 Dues	2026 Increase	2026 Dues	
1	to	500	---	\$92	\$3	\$94
501	to	600	---	241	7	248
601	to	700	---	481	14	495
701	to	800	---	526	16	542
801	to	900	---	630	19	649
901	to	1,000	---	740	22	762
1,001	to	1,250	---	923	28	951
1,251	to	1,500	---	1,108	33	1,142
1,501	to	1,750	---	1,293	39	1,331
1,751	to	2,000	---	1,478	44	1,522
2,001	to	2,250	---	1,662	50	1,712
2,251	to	2,500	---	1,849	55	1,904
2,501	to	2,750	---	2,031	61	2,092
2,751	to	3,000	---	2,218	67	2,284
3,001	to	4,000	---	2,956	89	3,045
4,001	to	5,000	---	3,693	111	3,803
5,001	to	7,500	---	4,985	150	5,135
7,501	to	10,000	---	5,753	173	5,925
10,001	to	15,000	---	6,944	208	7,153
15,001	to	20,000	---	7,997	240	8,237
20,001	to	25,000	---	10,012	300	10,312
25,001	to	30,000	---	12,022	361	12,383
30,001	to	40,000	---	14,798	444	15,242
40,001	to	50,000	---	18,004	540	18,545
50,001	to	60,000	---	20,739	622	21,361
60,001	to	70,000	---	22,794	684	23,478
70,001	to	80,000	---	23,943	718	24,662
80,001	to	90,000	---	25,522	766	26,288
90,001	to	100,000	---	27,959	839	28,798
100,001	to	125,000	---	31,888	957	32,844
125,001	to	150,000	---	35,098	1,053	36,151
150,001	to	200,000	---	39,893	1,197	41,090
200,001	to	500,000	---	41,890	1,257	43,147
			<i>Plus</i>	1,999	60	2,059
<i>per each full 10,000 of population over 200,001</i>						
500,001	to	640,000	---	101,682	3,050	104,732
			<i>Plus</i>	1,847	55	1,902
<i>per each full 10,000 of population over 500,001</i>						
Over		640,000		126,699	3,801	130,500

A bylaws provision states that no city's dues may increase by more than \$5,000.