

FOCUS

Analysis, Commentary and Updates on Legislative and Policy Issues that Affect California Cities

November 4, 2005
Issue #43-2005

The Legislature is
in recess until
January 4.

STATE AND LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL FORMED TO ADVISE GOVERNING BOARD OF STREAMLINED SALES AND USE TAX PROJECT

The League of California Cities and the National League of Cities (NLC) continue to monitor the work of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Project (SSTP) to ensure that local government is seen as a visible participant in the project and to represent California and other local government interests on issues as they arise. *For more, see Page 2.*

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REGISTER NOW FOR THE LEAGUE'S FIRE CHIEFS SUMMIT

The League's Fire Chiefs Summit will be held on Wednesday, November 30, through Friday, December 2, at the Hyatt Regency in Monterey. *For more, see Page 2.*

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HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER A 'ONE STOP SHOP' FOR INFORMATION

The Institute for Local Government (ILG), the nonprofit research arm of the League of California Cities, continues to fill its online Housing Resource Center (HRC) with numerous informative housing resources. *For more, see Page 2.*

WANT MORE DETAILS ON BILLS?

Visit the League of
California Cities
website at
[www.cacities.org/
billsearch](http://www.cacities.org/billsearch).

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In their efforts to maintain a state and local voice in this matter, NLC and its local government partners worked together to develop a proposal for the State and Local Advisory Council (SALT). This council serves as a review board with the purpose of advising the SSTP Governing Board on matters pertaining to the administration of the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement, including admission of states into membership, noncompliance, interpretations of definitions and regulations, and revisions or additions to the agreement.

Local government representatives on this council were recommended jointly by NLC, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National Association of Counties and the Government Finance Officers Association. Ben Wong, League board member and West Covina council member, has been appointed to sit on the council and represent city interests.

In addition to his role as a council member, Ben also serves as the assistant to Board of Equalization (BOE) Chairman John Chiang, and has had experience as president and general manager of a family-owned small business. His background and interest in this issue will serve cities well.

SSTP STATUS IN CALIFORNIA

The Board of Equalization staff continues to provide analysis of individual sections of the SSTP Agreement for review and comment. As these become available, the League will continue to share with members and provide direct input to the BOE.

In addition, there continue to be plans for the BOE to implement a comprehensive fiscal study to identify the fiscal impacts to the state and local governments of the agreement overall. The study has not yet begun, and there is no set date for finishing this study at this point.

The League will continue to support efforts to produce this study, the results of which will enable us to fully evaluate the impact the agreement would have on cities should the state adopt it in the future.

If you have any questions on SSTP, please contact League Regional Representative Jean Korinke at jkorinke@cacities.org, or (916) 658-8245.

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The 2005 summit is an excellent opportunity for fire chiefs to reflect on the issues that have come up throughout the year, and provides a chance to look ahead to the many challenges and successes in the future. It is important for all fire chiefs to come together to share experiences and discuss ideas to better serve the citizens of California.

Features of the 2005 summit include sessions on professional standards, diversity in the work place, work schedules, establishing business and strategic plans, fire training programs, and much more.

For more information and to register, please visit the League's events page on the website at www.cacities.org/events.

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HOUSING from page 1

Located at www.ca-ilg.org/hrc, the Housing Resource Center provides information on a variety of topics, including funding, housing laws, and case studies. In the "Housing Tool Box" section, additional information is available on subjects such as density, housing elements, housing land trusts, housing trust funds, inclusionary housing, infill, prefabricated homes, and much more!

For more information, or to suggest an additional resource, contact Bill Higgins at (916) 658-8250. Bill can also be reached via e-mail at bhiggins@cacities.org.

The HRC is a joint project between ILG and the League, and was funded by the Fannie Mae Foundation.