

FOCUS

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

November 9, 2006
Issue #44-2006

VOTERS REJECT PROP. 90

California voters have soundly rejected Proposition 90, the “taxpayer trap” initiative that would have taken away important quality of life protections in California communities. *For more, see Page 3.*

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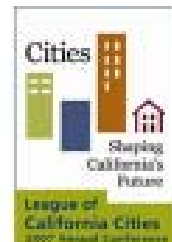
VOTERS PASS TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOND MEASURES

New funding for housing, transportation, flood control and schools was assured on November 7, when voters passed all five of the League-supported infrastructure measures on the November 2006 ballot. The infrastructure package will provide \$39.8 billion in bond funds for infrastructure (Propositions 1B-1E), and provide ongoing funding from the sales tax on gasoline for state and local transportation projects (Proposition 1A). *For more, see Page 4.*

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2007 LEAGUE ANNUAL CONFERENCE: CALL FOR EDUCATION SESSION IDEAS

Do you have a great idea for a session or speaker for the 2007 League of California Cities Annual Conference in Sacramento? If so, we want to know about it! *For more, see Page 3.*



WANT MORE DETAILS ON BILLS?

Visit the League of California Cities website at www.cacities.org/billsearch.

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CREATING COMMUNITY 2006: NEXT STEPS ON MHSA

Are you looking for the latest information and resources on housing as it relates to those with special needs? Be sure to attend "Creating Community 2006: Next Steps on MHSA," which will take place at the Pasadena Hilton hotel in Pasadena, from December 4-6, 2006.

Presented by Housing California, the conference offers attendees unique opportunities to network with mental health providers, homeless policy advocates, consumers and supportive housing developers. In California, the programs established by Assembly Bill 2034 and the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63), create the resources for both the mental health and affordable housing community to partner and provide services in new, innovative ways.

Through discussion and interactive presentations, the goal of the Creating Community conference is to help policymakers, service providers and advocates to make connections and build alliances.

Registration ends on November 27. For registration information, including a downloadable event brochure, visit www.housingca.org/events/creating-community/. For questions regarding the conference, contact Danielle Smith at dsmith@housingca.org.

KEEPING UP: RICK COLE NAMED ONE OF GOVERNING MAGAZINE'S '2006 PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR'

Ventura City Manager Rick Cole was named as one of Governing Magazine's "2006 Public Officials of the Year." Recognized for his work in the cities of Azusa, Pasadena, and Ventura, the award places Cole in an elite group of public officials ranging from the governor of Mississippi to the mayor of Nashville and a Bush Administration official.

Rick is the only city manager and the only Californian in this year's group of awardees.

"California has always represented the future to the rest of the nation," said Cole. "I'm proud that Ventura is becoming a national model of smart growth, accountable government and civic engagement."

The League congratulates Rick on his achievement and service to the cities of California.

NOVEMBER ISSUE OF *FOCUS ON HOUSING* IS NOW AVAILABLE

The November 2006 issue of *Focus on Housing*, the League's monthly housing electronic newsletter, has now been published!

This month's edition includes articles discussing the passage of the infrastructure bond measures (including the Prop. 1C housing bond), linkage fees, the city of Clovis' first time homebuyer program, and much more! To access the current issue, visit www.imakenews.com/focusonhousing. Printable versions of all back issues of *Focus on Housing* are available at www.cacities.org/housingarchive.

Do you have an idea for a feature article on a housing topic? Perhaps your city has a new affordable housing redevelopment success story? If so, we want to know about it! *Focus on Housing* is always looking for article submissions and feedback from its readers. For details on how to submit an article, contact League Communications Specialist Brian Heaton at bheaton@cacities.org.

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The League of California Cities officers expressed appreciation for the voters' ability to see through the deceptive nature of this cynical measure. In doing so, the League was joined with the more than 400 organizations representing business, labor, homeowner, taxpayer, consumer, agriculture, environmental, good government, local government, public safety and ethnic groups that worked tirelessly to defeat Prop. 90. The measure was defeated 52.5 percent to 47.5 percent.

"The voters showed us once again that they're not easily fooled," said League President Maria Alegria, mayor pro tem, Pinole. "They understood that this measure would have undermined our efforts to rebuild California's infrastructure and build the affordable housing our cities need."

"Voters clearly understood that if it passed, Prop. 90 would have led to a flood of new litigation, billions in new costs imposed on taxpayers, and important homeowner, community, environmental and quality of life protections would be jeopardized," added Tom Adams, co-chair of the "No on 90" campaign and board chairman of the California League of Conservation Voters.

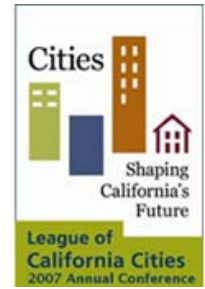
League Executive Director Chris McKenzie expressed the desire to work with the Legislature to consider proper eminent domain reform.

"We said throughout the campaign and will say again today that we are ready to sit down with the Legislature and other interested parties to enact real eminent domain reform, not the type of bait and switch measure the supporters of Prop. 90 offered the voters," explained McKenzie, who was also co-chair of the "No on 90" campaign. "We look forward to working with them, however, if they are interested in real eminent domain reform."

The League's 2007 Annual Conference Program Planning Advisory Committee will be considering session ideas for any topic area. To submit your ideas, a fully-completed proposal form packet is due on or before noon on Friday, January 19, 2007. This packet is available at www.cacities.org/ac. Any individual, group, business or organization may submit a proposal suggestion.

Who are the thought leaders that understand municipal government and the issues our cities face on a daily basis? What are the vital issues our membership must learn to succeed beyond 2007? This is an exciting opportunity to share your ideas, knowledge and expertise with local government staff, elected officials and decision makers!

The 2007 annual conference will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center from September 5-8, 2007, under the theme of "Cities...Shaping California's Future."



Stay Involved with the League!

The League wants to stay in touch! Just because you may have left your position with a city doesn't mean you stop caring about or wanting to be involved in city issues. Keep abreast of developments affecting cities and the League by becoming an active part of the League's alumni group. You will receive special rates at League conferences and events as well as an opportunity to stay in the thick of local government issues across the state. This is the League's way of saying "thank you" for your public service—there is no fee for this service.

Contact alumni@cacities.org or Robb Korinke at (916) 658-8258.

Proposition 84 also won voter support. This measure will provide \$5.4 billion in bond funds for coastal protection and other environmental projects.

Important for all the efforts to rebuild California's infrastructure, the voters also rejected Proposition 90, the measure that would have increased the cost of building affordable housing or other community improvements, by redefining "just compensation" to require new and unreasonable payouts whenever government agencies acquire property for public works. (See "Voters Reject Prop. 90," p.1) If local governments were unable to afford to pay the inflated costs, citizens would lose out on much-needed community projects that would otherwise enhance the community's standard of living.

Here's a brief run-down on the benefits to cities:

- **Proposition 1A – Transportation Funding Protection. Legislative Constitutional Amendment. (Prop. 42 Reform)**

This constitutional amendment to "fix" Prop. 42 permanently dedicates the sales tax on gasoline to transportation purposes, except in limited circumstances. With the passage of Prop. 1A, the Legislature's ability to borrow Prop. 42 funds is extremely limited, requiring the Governor to declare that California is facing severe fiscal hardship and a two-thirds vote by the Legislature.

- **Proposition 1B – Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, and Port Security Bond Act of 2006.**

This bond will provide more than \$19 billion for transportation programs statewide, including more than \$4 billion for public transit projects such as commuter rail systems, which will link many housing developments with nearby transportation.

Prop. 1B includes many programs which will help local communities across the state, including

\$2 billion to improve local streets and roads. Cities will benefit directly from \$1 billion of these funds, which will be allocated directly to cities through a per-capita formula that guarantees the smallest city a minimum of \$400,000 to address their most critical transportation needs. The League is pleased that voters recognized the importance of investing in state's transportation infrastructure, which is one of the League's 2006 strategic goals.

- **Proposition 1C – Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.**

Proposition 1C will provide \$2.85 billion for affordable housing efforts. Combined with Prop. 1B, passage of both is a winning combination for cities. Housing was also one of the League's 2006 strategic goals.

Cities will benefit from the entire bond measure, but most directly from \$1.35 billion out of the \$2.85 billion, which will help cities address housing-related infrastructure issues such as infill projects, parks, and transit-oriented development.

- **Proposition 1D - Kindergarten - University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006.**

Prop. 1D will provide \$10.4 billion in bonds to be deposited into the 2006 State School Facilities fund. The money will be used for the construction and renovation of schools and various educational programs, including \$500 million for both charter school facilities and technical education programs. The bond also includes \$29 million to fund joint-use projects for construction of K-12 school facilities.

- **Proposition 1E - Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.**

This bond would provide a total of \$4.09 billion to prevent flooding by repairing levees and other flood control infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and elsewhere. A high priority

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for the League in 2006, Prop. 1E also includes \$290 million for the creation of flood protection corridors and floodplain mapping.

- **Proposition 84 – Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds. Initiative Statute.**

Prop. 84 is a \$5.4 billion initiative that includes funding for safe drinking water projects and programs, flood control, and environmental protection. Among the items funded are \$240 million for safe drinking water, \$800 million for flood control, and \$450 million for wildlife and forest conservation.

To view a detailed breakdown on all the items each bond funds, see the story entitled “Your City Wins if Voters Pass Infrastructure Bond Measures” on the League website at www.cacities.org/ballotmeasures and in the November 3 edition of *Priority Focus*.

To view voter results from all the bond measures, visit the California Secretary of State website at www.vote.ss.ca.gov.

FIND A BILL, LEGISLATORS, LEG COMMITTEE - OR ASK LEG STAFF

Visit (and bookmark!) the League’s Legislative Resources page (www.cacities.org/legresources). You’ll find a roster and contact information for the League’s legislative staff; the online Bill Search program, background materials on lobbying your legislators, and more.