

FOCUS

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

October 13, 2006
Issue #40-2006

PROP. 90 UPDATE: PUSH AGAINST PROP. 90 STRENGTHENS, ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN BEGINS

The TV advertisement campaign against Proposition 90, the “taxpayer trap” measure on the November ballot, began this past Wednesday, October 11. Two commercials - a 30-second spot and a 15-second spot - are airing on major networks in select cities throughout California, beginning with Sacramento and Los Angeles and expanding to other markets shortly.

For more, see Page 4.

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WANT TO HELP FORM LEAGUE POLICY? APPLY NOW TO SERVE ON A POLICY COMMITTEE IN 2007

Are you interested in working to help form policy direction for the League of California Cities? If so, now is the time for city officials who wish to serve on a League policy committee in 2007 to request an appointment from their division or department president, or from League President Maria Alegria.

For more, see Page 3.

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LEAGUE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SEMINAR FILLING UP FAST!

The League of California Cities Fiscal Officers Department is hosting the Financial Management Seminar and Mini Expo in La Jolla on November 29 through December 1. Sessions will cover a wide range of financial topics, including the future of the state’s economy and a legislative and ballot election update by League staff. *For more, see Page 2.*

WANT MORE DETAILS ON BILLS?

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

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2006 LEAGUE FIRE CHIEFS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR COMING UP!

The 2006 League Fire Chiefs Seminar will be held from November 29 through December 1 in La Jolla (San Diego) at the Hilton Torrey Pines. Ruben Grijalva, director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Kate Dargan, assistant state fire marshal, will be the seminar's opening speakers.

A sample of this year's seminar topics include:

- An Update of the California Fire Assistance Program
- Urbanization and Disasters: Living in a Dangerous World
- Emerging Labor Management Trends
- Flu Pandemic and First Responders
- Personal Health and Wellness
- Ethical Leadership and Values

In addition to the informative sessions, this is also a great opportunity for new and experienced fire chiefs to network and learn about vendors and programs.

The cost of the 2006 League Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar is \$430 for city officials, \$550 for others, and \$125 for guest/spouse. The deadline for online registration for both the seminar and housing is October 30, otherwise registration may be done on-site. Those registering online will also receive a \$20 CityBooks coupon! Registration may be completed at www.cacities.org/events.

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.

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To be held at the Hilton Torrey Pines hotel, the seminar's schedule will also include "Growing Your Own Successors," led by Frank Benest and "Managing GASB 45 Liabilities" from a panel of speakers that includes Donald Field from Orrick, Herrington and Sutcliffe, Robert Hornaday from Keenan & Associates, and Kenneth Marzion from the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS).

Concurrent session topics will cover the following:

- The Proposition 218 "Squeeze"
- Trends in Housing & Redevelopment
- A Road Map to Improving Your Infrastructure
- UUT Jeopardy – a session about current and future threats to the Utility Users Tax
- Mandate This! – a session about the mandates process, reforms and what it could mean to your city pocketbook
- Explorations in Financial Ethics
- The Fair Labor Standards Act: Is it Fair or Standard?

The closing general session speaker will be the always hilarious Colin McKechnie, who will leave seminar attendees with ideas on how to pursue the "Stress-Less Path to Success." Colin is an internationally recognized training consultant and known for his interesting sessions that offer insight into life using humor. His sessions are praised by the likes of Queen Elizabeth II of England and the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

To register, please visit www.cacities.org/events. Cost for this event is \$430 for city officials, \$550 for other attendees and \$125 for guest/spouse. Registration must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, October 30. If you register online, you'll also receive a coupon for \$20 for CityBooks! Otherwise, registration must be done on-site.

Aside from the great education you'll receive, the Financial Management Seminar is the perfect place to network during the two evening receptions. There are lots of opportunities for you to meet new colleagues and catch up with old friends in beautiful La Jolla! We look forward to seeing you there!

POLICY from page 1

What Are League Policy Committees? The League's eight policy committees are composed of city officials from around the state. Policy committees help to make League policy by reviewing legislation, suggesting broad new policy guidelines and studying key issues impacting cities. Policy committees were created by the League's board of directors to assist it in its policy deliberations.

The eight standing policy committees are:

- Administrative Services
- Community Services
- Employee Relations
- Environmental Quality
- Housing, Community and Economic Development (HCED)
- Public Safety
- Revenue and Taxation
- Transportation, Communication and Public Works (TCPW)

What Is the Role of League Policy Committees? More than 400 elected and appointed city officials serve on policy committees, and participate directly in establishing League policy. They add their collective expertise, wisdom and opinions to the policy debate that is the foundation of League policy. Recommendations from the policy committees are forwarded to the League's board of directors.

Policy Committee Meetings in 2007 Almost Set. Policy committees generally meet three to four times per year at facilities near an airport served by Southwest Airlines. Meetings are held on Thursdays and Fridays and generally run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and include lunch. The locations generally rotate between north and south and the meeting days switch each year.

For 2007, the meeting dates and locations are as follows: January 11-12 in Sacramento and March 29-30 in Ontario; June dates are likely to be 28-29 at a Northern California location to be determined, but this is still tentative.

Thursday meetings will be: Community Services; Employee Relations; Revenue and Taxation; Public Safety

Friday meetings will be: Administrative Services; Environmental Quality; HCED; TCPW

How To Become A Policy Committee Member? It is easy to become a member of a policy committee. First, decide what policy areas interest you, and which policy committee you would like to serve on. Second, ask your division or department president to appoint you to that policy committee. Third, if those slots are already filled, you may request the League president to appoint you to a committee. The majority of appointments are made each year between October and December.

Please be aware that all appointments end at the conclusion of each year's annual conference. Re-appointments are not automatic and must be requested each year. League bylaws provide that each division has two appointments and each department has one appointment. The League president may appoint 16 members to each policy committee.

If you wish to pursue a League Presidential Appointment, please write or e-mail League President Maria Alegria with your request. It is helpful to include a brief background statement about yourself. In addition, remember to indicate on which committee you wish to serve.

League Presidential Appointment requests should be sent to the League's office: c/o Linda Welch Hicks, 1400 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. E-mail requests are acceptable and should be sent to lhicks@cacities.org.

Questions? If you have questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact League staff at (916) 658-8224.

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The first 30-second spot, "*Many Groups, Many Reasons*," includes quotes from diverse organizations like the League of Women Voters of California, California Small Business Association, National Wildlife Federation, League of California Homeowners, and California Taxpayers' Association.

The second ad, entitled "*Scale*," is a 15-second spot that also highlights the diverse coalition opposing Proposition 90 and informs voters that the vast majority of funding to support Proposition 90 has come from large out-of-state developers.

To view both ads, visit www.noprop90.com.

'No Prop. 90' Editorials Up to 26, Coalition Increases Membership

Twelve more editorials were published during the past week against Prop. 90. The additions have brought the total in California to 26, with no signs of slowing down. One of more notable quotes came from the *Los Angeles Daily News*, which said Prop. 90 goes "far past reasonable."

"Proposition 90 is the classic Trojan horse measure that appears to be benign, but carries a terrible reality at its core. That dark core is that it redefines property rights to an absurd extreme that could do severe damage to future financial health and physical development. ... Virtually the only group to benefit from Proposition 90 will be land-use lawyers and a few property owners and speculators. But the rest of us will pay dearly for it. Vote no on Proposition 90." -*Los Angeles Daily News* (10/10/06)

The *Palm Springs Desert Sun* spotlighted the measure's negative impact on the protection given to the public.

"The best costume prize this month should go to Proposition 90, a real wolf in sheep's clothing. Proponents say the measure is about protecting private property rights, but it's really about limiting protections for the public good. Voters should be

wary of this deception and reject the measure." - *Palm Springs Desert Sun* (10/6/06)

Here is the current listing of editorials written against Proposition 90:

- *Los Angeles Times*, (10/12/06)
- *Monterey County Weekly*, (10/12/06)
- *Contra Costa Times*, (10/11/06)
- *Los Angeles Daily News*, (10/10/06)
- *Sonoma Index-Tribune*, (10/10/06)
- *Fresno Bee*, (10/9/06)
- *Santa Maria Times*, (10/8/06)
- *Modesto Bee*, (10/6/06)
- *Palm Springs Desert Sun*, (10/6/06)
- *Milpitas Post*, (10/5/06)
- *San Francisco Examiner*, (10/5/06)
- *Woodland Daily Democrat*, (10/4/06)
- *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, (10/4/06)
- *Paradise Post*, (10/3/06)
- *San Jose Mercury News*, (10/2/06)
- *Pasadena Star News*, (9/27/06)
- *Whittier Daily News*, (9/27/06)
- *San Gabriel Valley Tribune*, (9/27/06)
- *Riverside Press-Enterprise*, (9/25/06)
- *Gilroy Dispatch*, (9/22/06)
- *Sacramento Bee*, (9/16/06)
- *Napa Valley Register*, (9/14/06)
- *Mountain View Voice*, (9/08/06)
- *Santa Rosa Press Democrat*, (9/11/06)
- *Torrance Daily Breeze*, (8/23/06)
- *San Diego Union-Tribune*, (8/22/06)

San Francisco Chronicle Report Exposes 'Deceptive' Prop. 90 Funding

Last week, an investigative report by the *San Francisco Chronicle* quoted a number of political-finance and watchdog organizations calling the out-of-state funding of Prop. 90 such terms as: "deceptive," "secretive," and "dirty."

Written by Patrick Hoge, the story ran in the *Chronicle's* October 5 edition and exposed the

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complicated and shady web of out-of-state organizations bankrolling the campaign in support of Proposition 90. The *Chronicle* revealed the “Yes on 90” is funded by a network of tax-exempt advocacy groups that “*operate with varying levels of openness*” and all with ties to New York real estate mogul Howie Rich, who “*is funneling millions of dollars to the (Prop. 90) campaign ... in a way that cloaks the identity and number of financial supporters.*”

For more, visit www.noprop90.com.

‘No on 90’ Coalition Continues to Grow

More and more organizations and individuals are joining the “No on 90, Californians Against the Taxpayer Trap” coalition, as they become more familiar with the cynical “taxpayer trap” provisions in this measure. Here is a list of ***those individuals and organizations that have joined this week.*** For a complete list, visit www.noprop.90.com.

New Organization and Individual Endorsements Week of 10/9-10/13:

Public Safety:

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Business:

- Southern California Leadership Council
- Tulare Chamber of Commerce
- Victorville Chamber of Commerce
- California Nations Indian Gaming Association
- Inland Action, Inc.

Homeowners:

- Hayward Mobilehome Owners Association

Organized Labor:

- California-Nevada Conference of Operating Engineers

Ethnic:

- Mexican-American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- Multicultural Education Training and Advocacy, Inc.
- Coalition for Economic Equity
- Center for Third World Organizing
- Filipinos for Affirmative Action
- Japanese American Citizens League
- Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (Northern California Chapter)
- Asian Law Caucus
- California Immigrant Welfare Collaborative
- Centro Legal De La Raza
- Instituto Laboral De La Raza
- La Familia Counseling Service

Community:

- California Association of Nonprofits

Faith-Based:

- Progressive Jewish Alliance
- American Jewish Congress

Public Interest/Civil Rights:

- American Civil Liberties Union (Northern California and Southern California Chapters)
- People for the American Way
- Youth Force Coalition
- Anti-Defamation League
- California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League
- California Women’s Agenda
- Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
- Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence
- Intergroup Clearinghouse
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
- Community United Against Violence
- Americans for Democratic Action – Southern California Chapter
- Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom

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- Californians for Justice
- Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice
- Justice Matters Institute
- AIDS Legal Referral Panel
- Charles Houston Bar Association
- Child Care Law Center
- Communities for a Better Environment
- Employment Law Center of the Legal Aid Society of San Francisco
- Equal Justice Society
- Equal Rights Advocates
- First Amendment Project
- Housing Rights, Inc.
- Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area
- Legal Services for Prisoners with Children
- Meiklejohn Civil Liberties Institute
- National Center for Youth Law
- National Lawyers Guild (San Francisco Bay Area Chapter)
- Online Policy Group

Environmental:

- Heal The Bay
- Friends of Five Creeks

Water:

- Coachella Valley Water District

Study Finds Prop. 90 Would Cost Taxpayers 'Billions' Annually. An independent study released on September 27 by a team of economists at LECG Consulting, led by former legislative analyst Dr. William Hamm, has concluded that "the costs imposed on the taxpayers by Proposition 90 would amount to billions of dollars annually."

Entitled "The Fiscal Impact of Proposition 90," visit www.noprop90.com for a copy of the report

'No on 90' Walk Pieces Available Soon

Planning to walk precincts in the next few weeks?

If so, please consider carrying a "No on 90"

message with you when you do. The campaign is producing a two-sided color piece that you can use to help educate voters about this harmful measure. Similar to the piece that was available at "No on Prop. 90" information desk at the League's Annual Conference, it will outline the impacts of Prop. 90 to taxpayers, the environment, public safety, infrastructure and our communities on the front, and the back will feature a partial list of the diverse groups who are opposed. Walk pieces should be available soon. Contact your Regional Representative to reserve yours today.

Know the Rules for Ballot Measure Advocacy. City officials can participate in ballot measure advocacy if they do so **on their own time**, and without using any public resources. To make sure you understand the "do's and don'ts" of ballot measure advocacy, please review "Working on a Ballot Measure Campaign: Some Rules for City Officials" located at www.cacities.org/ballotmeasures.

Leaving City Office? Retiring?

The League wants to stay in touch! Just because you are leaving your position with the 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 part of the League's alumni group. Members will receive periodic updates on city issues and League activities. This is the League's way of saying "thank you" for your public service—there is no fee for this service.

To join, go to www.cacities.org/alumni or send your contact information to dharrison@cacities.org.