

FOCUS

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

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The Legislature is in recess until January 4.

Priority Focus will not publish next week, and will resume on Friday, January 6.

CALLING ALL NEWLY ELECTEDS! REGISTER NOW FOR JANUARY PROGRAM

Congratulations! You've just won election to the city council (or to be mayor), and now will help govern your city!

It's a huge responsibility – but help is at hand. It's the League of California Cities' Mayors and Council Members Academy Leadership Institute – and the Institute is holding an orientation for newly elected city officials on January 11-13, 2006, in Sacramento. You'll learn about municipal law, ethics, land use, municipal finance, how to deal with the media and gain other information that you can put to work immediately. *For more, see Page 3.*

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CALLING ALL GREAT IDEAS...

Do you have a great idea for a session or speaker for the 2006 League of California Cities Annual Conference? If so, we want to know about it! *For more, see Page 3.*

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HELPFUL LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES ON THE LEAGUE'S WEBSITE

On January 4, 2006, the California Legislature reconvenes, and a busy legislative year commences. Are you up-to-speed on all the important legislative information, dates and deadlines? *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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SAVE ON OFFICE SUPPLIES

The League of California Cities is pleased to announce a new joint purchasing contract available to California cities for office supplies. Los Angeles County has awarded Office Depot a comprehensive new contract for classroom and office supplies. The contract was awarded through the U.S. Communities Governmental Purchasing Alliance and is available for use by participating public agencies nationwide effective January 2, 2006.

This new contract provides improved pricing and a much more comprehensive range of office and classroom supplies. Office Depot has added over 1000 new products to their general catalog. Overall core-list pricing has improved in the range of 3 to 12 percent. Several additions to the contract provide even greater value, including copy and print services, which are now available from Office Depot retail locations, and a new 800-page catalog of products.

The office and classroom supplies contract results from an extensive evaluation of several proposals. The evaluation team included a cross section of cities, counties and school districts from around the country. Several agencies have indicated that this new contract may provide overall saving of much as 10 percent more than the old contract due to product expansion and pricing improvements.

Whether your agency is a long-time user of the Office Depot contract — about 200 California cities already use this program and are literally saving millions of dollars — or you are new to the program, we encourage you to explore the new savings and services that are available through this exciting new contract.

For more information on the contract, visit www.uscommunities.org.

U.S. Communities registered participants can visit www.secure.cacommunities.com to request a direct contact from your Office Depot representative.

Please share this information with officials responsible for city purchases. If you have questions about the League-sponsored joint purchasing program offered by U.S. Communities, contact Dan Harrison in the League's Sacramento office at (916) 658-8237 or dharrison@cacities.org, or go online to www.uscommunities.org.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEWS

The following information was provided by the California Association for Local Economic Development:

Tracking Micro-Businesses and the Self-Employed

Non-employers are businesses that have no paid employees and are subject to federal income tax. This 2003 report identifies the number of non-employer businesses in each state. Visit www.census.gov to view the statistics.

Business Activity Data Lurks in Environmental Records

Another resource for learning about business activity is the Environmental Protection Agency's detailed data located online at www.epa.gov/triexplorer/.

How Does Economic Development Work and Is It Working?

Don Iannone, leading economic development consultant shares his views on economic development and how to measure your successes. He details five actions that can strengthen economic development's ability to contribute to an improvement in the economic well-being of people.

To read this article, visit www.don-iannone.com and search for the article titled "How Does Economic Development Work and Is It Working?"

NEWLY ELECTEDS' from page 1 LEG RESOURCES from page 1

The meeting will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, located at 1230 J Street in downtown Sacramento. Upon completion, the attendees graduate from the first level of the Mayors and Council Members Academy, and can proceed on to higher levels of leadership training. More information on the Academy and the multiple levels of leadership can be found on the League website at www.cacities.org.

If you know someone who was elected to office during the past year, encourage them to register for this important event. Many have found that this program is essential for success in office. To register and view the official program announcement, please visit the League's Upcoming Programs/Events page at www.cacities.org/events.

UNABLE TO ATTEND THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES 2005 ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

Here's an opportunity to acquire the books written by some of the speakers on the program.

Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything, by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner, item no. 115

Guide to California Planning, by William Fulton & Paul Shigley, item no. 384

Sidewalk Strategies: Seven Winning Steps for Candidates, Causes and Communities, by Larry Tramutola, item no. 1607

Urban Sprawl and Public Health: Designing, Planning, and Building for Healthy Communities by Richard Jackson, item no. 1730

CityBooks can help increase your professional knowledge in vital areas. Don't miss this great way to expand and share your learning with colleagues at city hall! Books may be purchased online at www.cacities.org/store or call (916) 658-8257 for an order form.

The Legislative Resources section is the first link under the "Issues and Legislation" option found on the home page of the League's website. You can also find this page directly at www.cacities.org/legresources. The page has a variety of links that will help keep you prepared and on top of the dates, issues, and events going on throughout 2006.

In this section, links are provided for the League's "**hot bills**," **legislative contact information**, the **legislative calendar**, the League's online **Advocacy Center**, **Priority Focus** (the weekly newsletter keeping you informed of all League legislative matters), and much more.

To access the 2006 Legislative Calendar, go to www.cacities.org.

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CONFERENCE IDEAS from page 1

It's time to plan the 2006 League Annual Conference, and it's important that all League members have an opportunity to contribute to the content being planned. Who are the thought leaders that understand municipal government and the issues our cities face on a daily basis? What are the vital issues that our membership must learn to succeed beyond 2006?

Now is your chance to submit your proposal suggestions - the deadline for submissions is Friday, January 13, 2006.

For complete details and a proposal submission form, please e-mail Tracy Petrillo at tpetrillo@cacities.org.

The Annual Conference will be held September 6-9, 2006 in San Diego. The theme is "All Politics Is Local."