

PRIORITY FOCUS



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SIGNATURES SUBMITTED TO QUALIFY THE HOMEOWNERS PROTECTION ACT

Eminent Domain Reform Now, the group working to promote the **Homeowners Protection Act**, submitted over 1.1 million signatures to county election officials on Wednesday, Nov. 28, to qualify the measure for the June 2008 ballot. *For more, see Page 2.*



CALIFORNIA PRESENCE ON THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES BOARD GROWS Election of Loveridge, Lowe, and Paras-Caracci Brings Total to Five



Members of the California delegation at the National League of Cities Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, La. (Photo courtesy of NLC)

California's representation in the National League of Cities (NLC) expanded on Saturday, Nov. 17, as Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge (second vice president), Hemet Council Member Robin Lowe and Duarte Council Member Tzeitel Paras-Caracci were elected to NLC's board of directors.

The election, which took place at the culmination of NLC's annual conference in New Orleans, La., means California now has five seats on the board. *For more, see Page 2.*



WEB DIALOGUE SCHEDULED FOR PANDEMIC FLU PREPARATION

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has scheduled a three-day Web dialogue to discuss draft guidelines to help determine priorities for vaccination in a severe influenza pandemic. Set for Dec. 4-6, cities are encouraged to take part in the dialogue in order to learn about pandemic flu, ask questions and offer feedback on the guidelines.

For more information and to register, visit www.webdialogues.net/panflu/engage.

The **Homeowners Protection Act** will provide iron-clad protections for homeowners by prohibiting state and local governments from using eminent domain to secure a home to transfer to a private developer. The measure provides responsible eminent domain reform in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's *Kelo v. City of New London* decision of 2005.

The broad coalition supporting the **Homeowners Protection Act** includes businesses, labor groups, environmentalists, seniors, homeowners, affordable housing advocates and local government.

"California cities are supporting the **Homeowners Protection Act** because we feel that homeowners deserve additional protections from eminent domain," explained Chris McKenzie, executive director of the League of California Cities. "This straightforward measure will protect our residents' most prized possession without attempting to sneak in unrelated and dangerous provisions, unlike other faux eminent domain reforms out there."

The League thanks all of the city officials across the state who contributed their personal time to help the coalition gather signatures.

Other 'Eminent Domain Reform' Measure Riddled with Hidden Agendas

There is another so-called "eminent domain reform" measure that has submitted signatures to qualify for the June 2008 ballot. Called the California Property Owner and Farmland Protection Act (CPOFPA), it is similar to the defeated Proposition 90 of 2006.

Funding for this measure, dubbed the "Hidden Agendas Scheme," comes from wealthy apartment owners, mobile park owners and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (among others). The groups are using the issue of eminent domain as a Trojan horse, in a deceptive attempt to trick voters into abolishing rent control and other tenant protection laws.

CPOFPA also contains poorly drafted provisions that count stop future water projects, destroy local land use planning and erode environmental protections.

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The three new members join Novato Council Member and Former League of California Cities President Pat Eklund and Los Angeles Council Member Dennis Zine, whose terms on the NLC board are up in Nov. 2008.

Loveridge was elected as NLC's second vice president. He will become president in 2010. Lowe and Paras-Caracci were elected to the board of directors for two-year terms.

League of California Cities Executive Director Chris McKenzie was enthusiastic about the increased role California can have with NLC and the know-how the California NLC delegation brings to the table.

"Our delegation brings experience handling natural disasters, implementing innovative solutions to address climate change, protecting local revenue, strengthening infrastructure and improving the quality of life for residents of our state," McKenzie said.

League of California Cities President and San Diego Council Member Jim Madaffer agreed, spotlighting Loveridge as an outstanding choice for NLC's second vice president position.

"Ron Loveridge has occupied virtually every leadership position open to a city official and is one of the state's top air quality policy experts," Madaffer explained. "NLC could not have chosen a more qualified individual."

New Issue of *Focus on Housing* Published

The Dec. 2007 issue of *Focus on Housing*, the League of California Cities' housing newsletter, was published on Monday, Nov. 26.

Included in the issue is a cover story on how the California Property Owners and Farmland Protection Act (CPOFPA) – a measure claiming to be about eminent domain reform – may derail inclusionary housing ordinances, an article on the quest for a permanent source of affordable housing funds by California Department of Housing and Community Development Director Lynn Jacobs, and much more.

To read the issue, visit www.imakenews.com/focusonhousing. Subscription to the newsletter is free and can be done on the Web site. For more information, or to submit information or story ideas, please contact League Communications Specialist Brian Heaton at bheaton@cacities.org.

Find a Bill, Legislators, Leg Committee, or Ask League Leg Staff

Visit (and bookmark!) the League's [Legislative Resources](http://www.cacities.org/legresources) Web 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.
