

Date: November 10, 2023

To: Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Thomas B. Modica, City Manager



Subject: **Government Affairs Year in Review 2023**

This memorandum provides information on the City of Long Beach's (City) funding and legislative advocacy efforts for 2023. **Attachment A** provides an overview of the City's funding successes. At the county, state, and federal levels, City staff and the City's legislative representatives advocated for one-time funding priorities and projects, resulting in approximately \$12.5 million in funding to Long Beach and another \$3.2 million still being considered through the federal budget process.



Attachment B highlights the City's legislative advocacy. The City took positions on 32 legislative proposals at the state and federal levels and wrote a total of 65 position letters (inclusive of letters to the State Legislature and the Governor), 75 grant support letters, and 28 earmark letters. Legislative position letters sent on behalf of the City can be located on the City's [State Legislative Outreach](#) and [Federal Legislative Outreach](#) webpages. Of the state bills the City took positions on, 14 were successfully enacted and will become State law; five were adopted by the State Legislature but vetoed by the Governor; nine were turned into two-year bills; and one was held in Committee. The City also opposed a citizen's initiative that may appear on the November 2024 ballot.



Government Affairs Year in Review 2023

November 10, 2023

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Attachment C includes a comprehensive state legislative and budget overview from the City's state representative, Arc Strategies, providing additional insight on specific issues and legislation of interest to the City.

If you have any questions, please contact Tyler Bonanno-Curley, Acting Deputy City Manager, at (562) 570-5715 or Tyler.Curley@longbeach.gov.

ATTACHMENTS:

ATTACHMENT A—GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE BY THE NUMBERS, FUNDING

ATTACHMENT B—GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE BY THE NUMBERS, LETTERS

ATTACHMENT C—ARC STRATEGIES LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW: 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION


CC: DAWN MCINTOSH, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS P. HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
LINDA F. TATUM, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
APRIL WALKER, ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
KEVIN LEE, CHIEF PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
MONIQUE DE LA GARZA, CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT HEADS

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

BY THE NUMBERS - 2023

FUNDING

\$6 Million



State Earmarks
Awarded

- **\$4 million** to maintain and renew Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos facilities
- **\$1.25 million** to bolster the City's homelessness emergency activities, prevention efforts, and services for community members at risk of or experiencing homelessness
- **\$750,000** to support the City Prosecutor's Reentry Services Program, providing services to formerly incarcerated community members and their families

\$3.2 Million



Federal Earmarks
Pending

- **\$1 million** for Studebaker Road Corridor improvements
- **\$850,000** for Heartwell Park improvements
- **\$850,000** for Bixby Park improvements
- **\$500,000** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park improvements

\$6.5 Million



LA County Funding
Awarded

- **\$6.5 million** toward the acquisition and rehabilitation of a permanent facility for shelter and homeless services

Grand Total Awarded: **\$12.5 Million**
Total Still in Process: **\$3.2 Million**

For the past three years, the City has submitted projects to the legislative delegation for potential direct funding through the federal and state budget processes. Congress has accepted congressionally-directed spending requests, otherwise known as earmarks; and the State Legislature also had an opportunity to prioritize one-time funding for district projects, despite a \$30 billion budget deficit. The delegation secured \$12.5 million in funding to Long Beach and another \$3.2 million is still being considered through the federal budget process. A [memorandum](#) issued on March 15, 2023, outlines the projects the City shared with the entire delegation for consideration through the annual appropriations process. This year's successes are detailed below.

Federal Successes

In Spring 2023, the City had an opportunity to submit congressionally directed spending requests to our federal delegation for consideration in the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 24) federal budget. The City's congressional delegation advanced several of Long Beach's project requests, as explained in a [memorandum](#) issued on May 31, 2023, totaling \$29 million. Of the nine projects that our federal delegation advanced, four projects are still under consideration through the FY 24 budget process, including:

- **\$1 million** for Studebaker Road Corridor improvements;
- **\$850,000** for Heartwell Park improvements;
- **\$850,000** for Bixby Park improvements; and,
- **\$500,000** for Martin Luther King, Jr. Park improvements.

Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund the government at current levels through November 17, 2023. Newly appointed Speaker Mike Johnson announced intentions to have the House vote on the FY 24 Financial Service and General Government and the FY 24 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies bills during the week of November 6, 2023, and to vote on the FY 24 Labor, Health and Human Services bill during the week of November 13, 2023. Staff will continue to monitor the federal appropriations process and will provide an update on which projects are funded in the adopted FY 24 budget.

State Successes

The State's \$310.8 billion FY 24 Budget includes nearly \$38 billion in budgetary reserves. However, following two years of unprecedented revenue growth, the State now faces a significant downturn driven by a declining stock market, high inflation, rising interest rates, and job losses in high-wage sectors—all of which have led to slower revenue growth. As a result, fewer district projects were approved as compared to budget surplus years. Despite budgetary constraints, the City's delegation members successfully advocated for the adopted Budget to include \$6 million in funding for the following Long Beach projects:

- **\$4 million** to maintain and renew Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos facilities;

- **\$1.25 million** to bolster the City's homelessness emergency activities, prevention efforts, and services for community members at risk of or experiencing homelessness; and,
- **\$750,000** to support the City Prosecutor's Reentry Services Program, providing services to formerly incarcerated community members and their families.

County Success

On January 10, 2023, the Long Beach City Council adopted a proclamation of a local homelessness emergency, allowing the City to facilitate requests to other local, State and/or Federal jurisdictions and allow the City Manager, or designee, to take preventative measures necessary to protect persons and property within the scope of the local emergency. The Government Affairs team has co-lead the Intergovernmental Workgroup as part of the City's emergency operations, which has included regular communication with Los Angeles County about partnership opportunities to address the homelessness emergency, as outlined in this [letter](#). Through direct outreach and advocacy, the County committed to providing \$6.5 million toward the acquisition and rehabilitation of a permanent facility for shelter and homeless services. At the June 13, 2023, meeting, the Long Beach City Council approved the authorization for the purchase of property, located at 702 W. Anaheim St., to be utilized by the City as a permanent, year-round shelter for people experiencing homelessness.

Grant Success

The Government Affairs Office also plays an active role in requesting grant letters of support from our legislative delegation for City and community projects. This contributes to making grant applications more competitive by demonstrating regional support and significance. Furthermore, the Government Affairs Office regularly participates in Citywide Grant Collaborative meetings by facilitating trainings related to earmarks and sharing information about State and federal funding opportunities. This year, the Government Affairs Office secured 61 grant letters of support for city projects and 14 grant letters of support for community projects.

In collaboration with Public Works, the Government Affairs Office successfully advocated for \$30 million to support the Shoreline Drive Realignment project through the federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot grant. In addition to securing numerous letters of support from our legislative delegation and regional partners for the City's grant application, the Government Affairs Office organized multiple advocacy visits to Washington, D.C. to brief staff at the U.S. Department of Transportation, White House officials, and Congressional representatives about the importance of this project and its alignment with the administration's infrastructure priorities. The project will reconfigure West Shoreline Drive to remove a roadway barrier and improve access and connectivity between Downtown Long Beach and public open space; create a new bicycle path and pedestrian amenities; and divert highway traffic from residential streets to major arterials.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS OFFICE BY THE NUMBERS - 2023

LETTERS

65 **Position Letters**




- 46 Letters on Legislative Proposals
- 13 Letters on the Homelessness Emergency
- 6 Letters on Regulations

75 **Grant Support Letters**



- 61 Letters in Support of City Projects
- 14 Letters in Support of Community Projects

28 **Earmark Letters**



- 15 Letters from the Mayor
- 13 Letters from our Legislative Delegation

Overview of the City’s Legislative Positions

The City’s legislative positions and outcomes for 2023 are listed below. The City took positions on 32 legislative proposals at the State and federal levels. “Chaptered” refers to bills that made it through the entire legislative process and were signed by the Governor, whereas “Vetoed” bills passed the Legislature but did not receive the Governor’s signature. The California Legislature convenes in two-year sessions and bills are introduced in both years. Under the State Constitution, bills introduced in the first year of Session (the odd-numbered year) can be carried over to the second year of the Session (the even-numbered year). As a result, bills that were not successful through the entire legislative process are listed as “Two-Year Bill”. The City’s positions on federal legislation are also included in the table below.

Bill No.	Author	Title	Position	Outcome
Cannabis				
SB 51	Bradford	Cannabis Provisional Licenses for Local Equity Applicants	Support	Chaptered
SB 508	Laird	Cannabis Licenses California Environmental Quality Act	Support	Two-Year Bill
Finance				
Initiative #21-0042A1	N/A	The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act	Oppose	November 2024 Ballot Measure
Housing				
ACA 1	Aguiar-Curry	Local Government Financing for Affordable Housing and Public Infrastructure	Support	Chaptered
AB 1734	Jones-Sawyer	Local Government Surplus Land Act	Support	Chaptered
SB 734	Rubio	Property Tax Possessory Interests	Support if Amended	Chaptered
SB 91	Umberg	California Environmental Quality Act	Support	Chaptered
AB 1657	Wicks	The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024	Support	Two-Year Bill
SB 37	Caballero	Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act	Support	Two-Year Bill
S. 24	Feinstein	Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act	Support	Introduced

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Public Health				
AB 1166	Bains	Liability for Opioid Antagonist Administration	Support	Chaptered
AB 1701	Weber	California Perinatal Equity Initiative	Support	Chaptered
SB 407	Wiener	Foster Care Resource Families	Support	Chaptered
AB 33	Bains	Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force	Support	Chaptered
AB 1057	Weber	California Home Visiting Program	Support	Vetoed
AB 1215	Carrillo	Pets Assistance With Support Grant Program	Support	Vetoed
AB 1536	Juan Carrillo	Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Immigrants	Support	Vetoed
AB 1645	Zbur	Enhanced Consumer Protections for Preventive Care	Support	Vetoed
SB 90	Wiener	Insulin Affordability Act	Support	Vetoed
SB 339	Wiener	HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis and Postexposure Prophylaxis	Support	Two-Year Bill
AB 1738	Carrillo	Mobile Homeless Connect Pilot Program	Support	Two-Year Bill
AB 67	Muratsuchi	Homeless Courts Pilot Program	Support	Two-Year Bill
AB 963	Schiavo	The End the Foster Care-to-Homelessness Pipeline Act	Support	Held in Committee
Public Safety				
SB 498	Gonzalez	Alcoholic Beverage Control Violations	Support	Chaptered
AB 1046	Lowenthal	Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act	Support	Chaptered
AB 1403	Garcia	Public Safety Fireworks Enforcement Funding	Support	Chaptered
AB 40	Rodriguez	Emergency Medical Services	Support	Chaptered
AB 296	Rodriguez	911 Public Education Campaign	Support	Two-Year Bill
AB 21	Gipson	Peace Officers Training	Support	Two-Year Bill
Transportation				
AB 645	Friedman	Speed Safety System Pilot Program	Support	Chaptered
AB 824	Calderon	The Highway Greening Act	Support	Two-Year Bill
H.R. 3468	Barragan	The EVs for All Act	Support	Introduced

Cannabis

Support for SB 51 (Bradford) Cannabis Provisional Licenses for Local Equity Applicants
The legislation authorizes the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), until January 1, 2031, to issue a provisional license to a local equity applicant, as defined, for retailer activities if specified conditions are met. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 8, 2023.

Support for SB 508 (Laird) Cannabis Licenses California Environmental Quality Act
This legislation establishes conditions under which the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) is not required to serve as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for a project if all of the following conditions are met:

- The local jurisdiction, acting as lead agency under CEQA, has filed either of the following with the Office of Planning and Research upon a decision to carry out or approve a commercial cannabis activity for which the applicant is seeking a license from DCC.
- The commercial cannabis activity for which the applicant is seeking a license from DCC is the same project as the commercial cannabis activity analyzed by the local jurisdiction acting as the lead agency under CEQA.

This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Finance

Opposition to Initiative #21-0042A1 The Taxpayers' Protection and Government Accountability Act

This measure would amend the State Constitution to change the rules for how the state and local governments can impose taxes, fees, and other charges. In summary, it expands the definition of what is considered a tax, requires voter approval of state taxes, and increases the requirements for approving local taxes. On February 1, 2023, California Secretary of State Shirley Weber issued a memo to all county clerks/registrars of voters announcing that proponents of Initiative 21-0042A1 had filed the necessary number of valid signatures to make it eligible for the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot. Proponents now have until June 27, 2024 to consider withdrawing the initiative before the Secretary of State officially certifies it for the ballot. Governor Newsom, Assembly Speaker Rivas, and Senate Pro Tem Atkins filed a request with the State Supreme Court to remove the measure from the November 2024 ballot. On August 15, 2023, the City Council voted to oppose this measure.

Housing

Support for ACA 1 (Aguiar Curry) Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval

ACA 1 is the second attempt by Assembly Member Aguiar Curry, having failed to receive the requisite number of votes in 2022. The bill passed and will appear on the November 2024 ballot. The measure does the following:

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- Lowers the voting threshold to 55% to allow local governments to incur bonded indebtedness or impose specific taxes to fund projects for affordable housing or public infrastructure.
- In the event that ACA 1, the TPA or ACA 13 appear on the same ballot, the TPA and ACA 13 shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure.
- If ACA 1 receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be null and void.

ACA 1 was Chaptered and will appear on the November 2024 ballot.

Support for AB 1734 (Jones-Sawyer) Local Government: Surplus Land Act

The bill creates, until January 1, 2034, a specific process under the Surplus Lands Act (SLA) for the disposition of land in the City of Los Angeles for affordable housing and low barrier navigation centers. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 11, 2023.

Support if Amended for SB 734 (Rubio) Property tax: possessory interests

Current law requires that all property subject to tax be assessed at its full value and includes certain possessory interests among those property interests subject to tax. Current law defines a taxable possessory interest to be a possession of, claim to, or right to the possession of land or improvements that is independent, durable, and exclusive of rights held by others in the property, except as provided. Current law authorizes the state or any local public entity of government, when entering into a written contract with a private party whereby a possessory interest subject to property taxation may be created, to include, or cause to be included, in that contract, a statement that the property interest may be subject to property taxation if created, and that the party in whom the possessory interest is vested may be subject to the payment of property taxes levied on the interest. This bill would provide that, for the purpose of defining “possessory interest,” a tenancy in a residential unit of a publicly owned housing project by a low-income household leased at affordable rents does not create independent possession or use of land or improvements by the tenant. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 11, 2023.

Support for SB 91 (Umberg) California Environmental Quality Act

This bill eliminates the January 1, 2025, sunset date on a provision of state law that exempts from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) certain projects that convert a motel, hotel, residential hotel, or hostel to supportive or transitional housing; and it extends CEQA streamlining provisions for “environmental leadership transit projects” (ELTPs) located within the County of Los Angeles that meet certain specified requirements. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 10, 2023.

Support for AB 1657 (Wicks) The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024

This bill would enact the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024, which authorizes the sale of \$10 billion in general obligation bonds, upon approval by voters on the March 5, 2024, statewide election. This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

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Support for SB 37 (Caballero) Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act

Current law establishes various programs to address homelessness, including requiring the Governor to create an Interagency Council on Homelessness and establishing the Homeless Emergency Aid program for the purpose of providing localities with one-time grant funds to address their immediate homelessness challenges, as specified. Current law commits to the Department of Housing and Community Development the administration of various housing assistance programs, including provisions relating to residential hotel rehabilitation and tasks the department, in consultation with each council of governments, with the determination of each region's existing and projected housing need. This bill would, upon an appropriation by the Legislature for this express purpose, require the Department of Housing and Community Development, commencing January 1, 2024, to begin developing the Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Program. This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Support for S. 24 (Feinstein) Fighting Homelessness Through Services and Housing Act

This legislation proposes to authorize \$1 billion annually for five years to fund supportive housing models that provide comprehensive services and intensive case management.

Public Health

Support for AB 1166 (Bains) Liability for Opioid Antagonist Administration

This bill provides qualified immunity to those administering or providing, in good faith, emergency opioid antagonists, as defined, at the scene of an overdose, or suspected overdose. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on July 21, 2023.

Support for AB 1701(Weber) California Perinatal Equity Initiative

This bill expands the definition of local health jurisdictions eligible to apply for the California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) to include a city or city and county, which now allows the City of Long Beach to apply for program funds. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on September 8, 2023.

Support for SB 407 (Wiener) Foster Care Resource Families

This bill requires resource families to demonstrate an ability and willingness to meet the needs of a child, regardless of the child's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression and adds specified responsibilities to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and counties related to ensuring that foster youth will be placed with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or another diverse identity (LGBTQ)-affirming resource families. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on September 23, 2023.

Support for AB 33 (Bains) Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force

This bill establishes a statewide task force comprised primarily of medical professionals to develop recommendations. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 13, 2023.

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Support for AB 1057 (Weber) California Home Visiting Program

This bill would have codified and established parameters regarding the existing California Home Visiting Program (CHVP), a program administered by the Department of Public Health (DPH) to support pregnant people and parents with young children who are at risk of poor maternal and child health outcomes. This bill was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Newsom on October 8, 2023.

Support for AB 1215 (W. Carrillo) Pets Assistance with Support Grant Program

This bill would have required the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to establish a grant program to provide funding to homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters to provide shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by individuals experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence. This bill was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Newsom on October 7, 2023.

Support for AB 1536 (J. Carrillo) Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind and Disabled Immigrants

This bill would have expanded eligibility for the Cash Assistance Program to aged, blind, and disabled individuals regardless of immigration status if the individual meets the eligibility criteria for the program and is not eligible solely due to their immigration status. This bill would exempt individuals who are not qualified immigrants, as specified, from having to apply for SSI in order to receive benefits. The bill would also delete several inoperative provisions. This bill was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Newsom on October 8, 2023.

Support for AB 1645 (Zbur) Enhanced Consumer Protections for Preventative Care

This bill would have prohibited a large group health plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, or an individual or small group contract or policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025, from imposing a cost-sharing requirement for office visits of specified preventive care services and screenings and for items or services that are integral to their provision. It would have required a health plan or insurer to directly reimburse specified nonparticipating providers or facilities of STI screening, specified rates (unless otherwise agreed to by a nonparticipating essential community provider (ECP) and the health plan or insurer, the greater of its average contracted rate or 125% of the amount Medicare reimburses on a fee-for-service basis for the same or similar items or services in the general geographic region in which the items or services were rendered) for screening tests and integral items and services rendered, and prohibits the nonparticipating provider from billing or collecting a cost-sharing amount for a STI screening from an enrollee or insured. This bill was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Newsom on October 7, 2023.

Support for SB 90 (Wiener) Insulin Affordability Act

This bill would have prohibited a health plan contract or disability insurance policy that is issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, or plan or policy offered in in the individual or small group market on or after January 1, 2025, from imposing a copayment, deductible, coinsurance, or any other out-of-pocket expense on an insulin prescription drug that exceeds \$35 for a 30-day supply. This bill was passed by the Legislature but was vetoed by Governor Newsom on October 7, 2023.

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Support for SB 339 (Wiener) HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis and Post Exposure Prophylaxis

This bill requires a health plan and health insurer to cover preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) furnished by a pharmacist, including the pharmacist's services and related testing ordered by the pharmacist, and to pay or reimburse pharmacist services at an in-network pharmacy or a pharmacist at an out-of-network pharmacy if the health plan or insurer has an out-of-network pharmacy benefit. Precludes a health plan or insurer from covering all of the therapeutically equivalent alternative versions without prior authorization or step therapy, if at least one therapeutically equivalent alternative version is covered without prior authorization or step therapy and if the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved one or more therapeutic equivalents alternatives of a drug, device, or product for the prevention of AIDS/HIV. Excludes Medi-Cal managed care plans contracting with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), as specified, from the coverage provisions of this bill. Includes PrEP furnished by a pharmacist as pharmacist services on the Medi-Cal schedule of benefits. Authorizes a pharmacist to furnish up to a 90 day course of PrEP, or beyond a 90 day course (existing law allows for a 60 day supply). This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Support for AB 1738 (Carrillo) Mobile Homeless Connect Pilot Program

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a Mobile Homeless Connect Pilot Program in specified areas to assist persons experiencing homelessness obtain an identification card. This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Support for AB 67 (Muratsuchi) Homeless Courts Pilot Program

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Homeless Courts Pilot Program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be administered by the Judicial Council as a grant program for the purpose of providing comprehensive community-based services for homeless individuals who are involved with the criminal justice system. This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Support for AB 963 (Schiavo) The End the Foster Care-to-Homelessness Pipeline Act

The bill intends to create confidence in the private lending market in order to expand the number of affordable units available to former foster youth struggling with housing security by requiring the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) to establish one or more programs to guarantee qualified loans for the construction, acquisition, and renovation for housing for current or former foster youth who are 18 to 25 years of age and qualify for specified housing programs, with preference given to counties with high housing inelasticity and high rates of foster youth. This bill was held in Appropriations Committee.

Public Safety

Support for SB 498 (Gonzalez) Alcoholic Beverage Control Violations

This bill modifies guidelines for calculating the applicable amount of the offer in compromise the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) may make to a licensee in lieu of license suspension. Additionally, this bill authorizes ABC to consider as a factor, in determining the level of discipline for specified provisions relating to the sale

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of alcohol, whether there is a subsequent death or great bodily injury to the individual provided the alcoholic beverage or to any other person. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 8, 2023.

Support for AB 1046 (Lowenthal) Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

This bill was sponsored by the City and aims to clarify provisions of the Alquist-Priolo Act and to align it with the California Building Standards Code. The bill provides more clarity for local permitting agencies and applicants and ensures that improvements to the overall safety and resiliency of existing seismically vulnerable buildings in earthquake fault zones can move forward. This bill also updates the Alquist-Priolo Act to expand the list of seismically vulnerable buildings within earthquake fault zones that can be retrofitted without being capped at 50% of the value of the property. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 13, 2023.

Support for AB 1403 (Garcia) Public Safety Fireworks Enforcement Funding

This bill requires the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), by January 1, 2025, to collect and analyze data about firework-related fires, damages, and arrests; submit a workload analysis to the relevant committees of the Legislature and train local authorities on relevant regulations related to fireworks, as specified. Additionally, authorizes local agencies, as specified, to adopt an ordinance for the actual and reasonable costs associated with safe and sane and illegal fireworks; and requires the OSFM to develop training for the proper management of seized fireworks. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 7, 2023.

Support for AB 40 (Rodriguez) Emergency Medical Services

This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to adopt emergency regulations to develop an electronic signature for use between emergency department and emergency medical personnel, a statewide 30 minute standard for patient offload times, and an audit tool to improve the accuracy of such data. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 7, 2023.

Support for AB 296 (Rodriguez) Office of Emergency Services: 9-1-1 Public Education Campaign

This bill establishes the 911 Public Education Campaign, to be administered by the Office of Emergency Services (OES), for the purposes of educating the public on when it is appropriate to call 911 for assistance, as specified. This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Support for AB 21 (Gipson) Peace officers: training

Current law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to require field training officers who are instructors for the field training program to have at least 8 hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training to better train new peace officers on how to effectively interact with persons with mental illness or intellectual disability. This bill would require the commission to revise that training to include instruction on how to effectively interact with persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The bill would specify that a field training officer who completed the training prior to January 1, 2025, or who is exempt from completing the training, is not required to take the updated training, but would require a field training officer who has not completed

the training on or after January 1, 2025, or who is not exempt from completing the training, to complete the revised training. The bill would exempt jurisdictions that, prior to January 1, 2024, develop a training that meets the same requirements. This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Transportation

Support for AB 645 (Friedman)

This bill will establish a five-year pilot program to give local transportation authorities in the cities of Long Beach, San Jose, Oakland, Los Angeles, Glendale, and the City and County of San Francisco the authority to install speed safety systems. This bill was approved by Governor Newsom on October 13, 2023.

Support for AB 824 (Calderon) Highway greening: statewide strategic plan

This bill would enact the Highway Greening Act, which would require the department to complete a statewide strategic plan, as specified, to work to achieve at least a 10% increase of green highways, as defined, in urban areas, disadvantaged communities, and low-income communities by 2035. The bill would require the Department of Transportation to submit the plan to the Legislature and specified committees of the Legislature on or before June 30, 2025. This bill was turned into a two-year bill.

Support for H.R. 3468 (Barragan) The EVs for All Act

This legislation would develop a grant program for local governments, public housing agencies, and non-profit organizations to support electric vehicle car sharing services at public housing projects. The legislation would authorize up to \$50 million in annual appropriations from Fiscal Year 2024 to 2033 to support EV accessibility for low-income community members.



City of Long Beach **Legislative Overview: 2023 Legislative Session**

October 30, 2023

This report provides a detailed overview of the first half of the 2023/24 State Legislative Session. It includes a summary of the State Budget for FY 2023/24 pertaining to local government revenue as well as specific allocations to the Long Beach region. It also includes legislation on which the City took positions, as well as those being closely monitored that may affect or change the way the City provides certain local services.

The report is categorized by key issue areas, with a synopsis of major actions taken by the Legislature with relevance to the City's guiding principles and practices. To the greatest extent possible, this report strives to provide the City with a review of the actions taken by the Legislature and Governor as well as a conjecture of what policy and budget issues may surface in 2024.

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

Every Legislative Session is punctuated by unique circumstances, challenges, and events that define the year. Budget deficits, leadership changes, a large class of new Legislators, and a near record number of bills (and bonds) introduced are the unique factors of the 2023 Legislative Session. Despite this, many of the issues remain familiar, including an ongoing focus on housing and homelessness, public safety, mental health, education, and climate and energy issues.

Looking strictly at the numbers, there were almost 3,000 measures introduced in total this year between the Assembly and the Senate. This marks the highest total in over a decade, and a near record amount of bills in one year. For the City, that meant tracking a total of 789 bills across all issue areas. Of those tracked, 375 were held over until next year and await further action, 293 were chaptered into law, and 48 were vetoed by the Governor.

One reason for the large number of bills were the 33 new Legislators, each who came into office with aggressive legislative platforms and ambitious ideas. This large Freshman class is due to

turnover created by new term limits, as well as the high number of resignations we saw through the end of the pandemic.

This year we also saw the third longest-standing Assembly Speaker in California history finally step down from his position. Former-Speaker Anthony Rendon was replaced with new Speaker, Robert Rivas. Speaker Rivas represents a significant shift in Assembly leadership, both in style and in background. Speaker Rivas comes from the Salinas Valley, a more moderate rural district than the Los Angeles area represented by Assemblymember Rendon.

Similarly, we found out in the final weeks of session that Senator Mike McGuire had collected enough votes to succeed current Pro Tem of the Senate, Toni Atkins. While Senator Atkins will remain in her leadership position into the start of the 2024 session, we expect to see a smooth transition early in the year.

All of the policy debates this year were underscored by the State's first budget deficit in almost a decade, which ended at \$31.5 billion. Despite this, the State Budget still totaled \$310 billion. Major funding priorities centered on housing and homelessness, healthcare, education, workforce development, and energy/climate.

Among the policy debates, we saw ongoing pushes to address housing needs, public safety concerns, access to higher education, workforce development, the fentanyl epidemic, and mental health needs. This includes the introduction of 10 bond bills, two of which dealing with mental health passed and are set to be voted upon on the 2024 March ballot.

The major budget and policy actions taken during the 2023 Legislative Session impacting the City are highlighted below in further detail.

GENERAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

After two years of unprecedented State General Fund revenue growth, California faces a downturn in revenues driven by a declining stock market and persistently high inflation in 2022, rising interest rates, and job losses in high-wage sectors—all of which have led to slower revenue growth than previously projected. As a result, the State budget deficit for fiscal year 2022/23 was \$31.5 billion.

With a total budget of \$310 billion, general fund spending was \$225.9 billion, down from \$234.6 billion last fiscal year.

Despite largely agreeing on the framework of the State budget by July 1, 2023, the State's constitutional deadline, negotiations continued over the Governor's sweeping infrastructure reforms that the Legislature resisted. Eventually, a deal was crafted that avoided major cuts to critical services, while utilizing alternative strategies such as delays, claw-backs of funding for programs and projects yet to be implemented and the consideration of bonds to be placed on next year's ballots.

The State's budget avoids new significant ongoing commitments and maintains fiscal discipline by setting aside a record \$37.8 billion in total budgetary reserves. Together, these factors put California on strong fiscal footing to better withstand future economic downturns or revenue declines. The Budget preserves investments in the programs essential to the State. It protects investments in ongoing programs in education, health care, climate, public safety and social services. Additionally, it is paired with the streamlining proposals that accelerate construction of water, transportation, and clean energy projects to advance the state's economic, climate, and social goals.

Housing, homelessness, health care, transportation, public safety, education and climate change continued to be a focus of this year's budget. Below is a summary of those funding allocations based on priorities. For details on the full 2023-24 budget, please visit [California Budget](https://ebudget.ca.gov) at ebudget.ca.gov.

1. Homelessness Budget

California is no stranger to committing large investments to homelessness abatement. However, it is the effectiveness of the investments that is the most glaring issue at hand.

From 2018-2022, California has spent over \$17 billion combatting the state's homelessness crisis, funneling funds through a variety of programs aimed at directly building more housing, converting hotels and motels to long-term housing options, incentivizing developers to incorporate affordable living units in new developments and bolstering mental health and other healthcare resources for the unhoused population.

However, despite the vast economic resources devoted to the issue, California's homeless population has only risen over that timeframe, with the number now towering over 170,000 individuals.

The Governor's office has repeatedly stated that the largest barrier to solving homelessness in California remains the fact that there simply is not enough housing to accommodate this growing population. As such, the state has continued to prioritize housing and homelessness funding in the budget, allocating \$20.6 billion through 2024 to continue a number of programs previously established in past budget deals.

Specifically, the below details a few of the larger allocations that might benefit local jurisdictions:

- \$1B into round five of the state's Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program
- \$400M one-time General Fund for local encampment resolution grants
- \$265M one-time for the Mental Health Services Fund in 2023-24
- \$235 million General Fund in 2024-25 for bridge housing for people experiencing homelessness with serious mental illness.

2. Housing Budget

Recurrently linked to the homelessness crisis, housing production in California has lagged well behind population increases in recent years. The Governor's office and legislative leaders have

made new housing construction (especially projects with emphases on low-income developments) a major priority, linking funding for local governments to new housing construction, and earmarking billions of dollars for utilization.

2023 is no different, and the enacted budget largely maintains prior allocated funding for affordable housing development. It provides an additional \$500 million for the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit program and supplemented \$100 million for the Multifamily Housing program for a total of \$325 million. The budget sustained \$500 million one-time General Fund for the Dream for All program. It also reduced the CalHome program to \$300 million one-time General Fund in 2023-24. Both of these programs promote first-time homeownership for low- or moderate-income Californians.

Additional allocations are found here:

- \$250M for adaptive reuse of underutilized commercial spaces
- \$225M for infrastructure for infill housing
- \$82.5M (for a total of \$330M over four years) to help preserve affordable housing and promote residential property ownership

3. Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax Budget

One of the most significant deals struck this budget cycle was the monumental renewal of the state's Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax, which secured the largest Medi-Cal rate increase in California history and will generate roughly \$20 billion for the state from 2023-2026.

The MCO Tax was originally created in 2009 as a temporary tax, and the Legislature has renewed it several times over recent years. This version took effect on April 1, 2023, and will run through 2026. Once the tax is collected, California will be able to receive the applicable federal matching dollars.

More than 15 million Californians currently utilize the Medi-Cal program, but many of them have a difficult time using their benefits because of providers' hesitancy to accept Medi-Cal patients. There are a multitude of factors affecting the availability of care for the Medi-Cal population, but one of the most critical is the fact that California's Medi-Cal reimbursement rates are among the worst in the country.

The MCO Tax will raise a total of \$19.4 billion, with much of it being spent on the state's health care infrastructure. Starting in 2024, Medi-Cal provider rates will be increased to at least 87.5% of Medicare for primary care, maternity care and non-specialty mental health services. Starting in 2025, the MCO Tax will also provide an additional \$6 billion for the Medi-Cal program and the health care workforce.

More details on specific allocations below:

- This year the state will receive \$4.4B from the MCO tax, of which \$3.4B will go to the General Fund.
- The remaining \$1B will go toward:
 - Reimbursements for Medi-Cal providers
 - Payments to help rural hospitals come into compliance with seismic mandates

- Payments to the distressed hospital loan program and payments to the UC to expand its graduate medical education program
- Additionally, the state can expect an annual appropriation of \$1.38 billion in primary care rate increases
- \$1.15 billion in specialty care rate increases
- \$700 million to increase emergency department access (including \$200 million for emergency department physicians)
- At least \$500 million for family planning and reproductive health care
- \$600 million for behavioral health facilities, including increasing inpatient psychiatric beds

4. Medi-Cal and General Healthcare Budget

In the face of significant cost pressures and a substantial budget deficit, healthcare proponents feared budget cuts to critical programs and services in the 2023-24 budget. Instead, the Newsom Administration largely avoided funding reductions, and instead worked to make significant investments in healthcare in general and Medi-Cal in particular.

Over the past few years, legislators, stakeholders, and the Governor have made it a priority to expand Medi-Cal eligibility to all Californians, remove barriers to care and ensure coverage for the state's most vulnerable populations. This trend continued as this year's budget provides an expansion of full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility to undocumented immigrants ages 26 to 49 starting January 1, 2024. This marks the largest expansion of Medi-Cal since the Affordable Care Act and will allow stakeholders to now turn their attention to fixes in the delivery system for enrollees and their families.

In addition to the difficulties associated with Medi-Cal coverage, many Californians have struggled with the increasingly unaffordable cost of healthcare in general. Skyrocketing costs have put strains on households across the state, even with workplace health plans or other commercial insurance.

As a result, policymakers included funds to address premiums, deductibles and other cost-sharing components of doctor visits, lab work, medications and other services that leave individuals and families with costs they cannot afford (even when they are enrolled in Covered California plans).

Specifically, the budget allocates:

- \$82.5 million in the 2023-24 budget to lower copays and deductibles of Covered California plans beginning January 1, 2024.
- \$1.2B in 2023-24, and \$3.4 billion (\$3.1 billion General Fund) at full implementation, inclusive of In-Home Supportive Services costs.

5. Transportation Budget

Transportation funding has been an area of great debate in 2023, and Newsom's proposed budget in January reflected his office's supposition that if California were to recover from its economic downturn and neutralize its \$30 billion deficit, cuts would have to be made in the transportation arena.

As a result, the Governor's proposed January budget proposed a delay of \$2 billion to public transit for construction projects. However, after intense lobbying pressure by urban transit agencies and Democratic lawmakers (largely in the San Francisco and Los Angeles areas), a new deal was struck to maintain transit funding and help local transit agencies recover from ridership decreases dating back to the pandemic.

In the deal, Newsom and state legislative leaders agreed on \$5.1 billion for public transit, which will allow transit agencies the flexibility to invest in capital projects or operations as needed and will help the state meet ambitious climate and equity goals.

This funding follows nearly \$3.5 billion in state funding aimed at expanding transit and passenger rail services across the state. The package also includes accountability measures and the creation of a new Transit Transformation Task Force

In addition, the budget maintains the \$15 billion multiyear transportation infrastructure package agreed upon in the 2022-23 state budget, with no changes in the overall funding. Of the \$5.1 billion allocated for public transit, \$4 billion will be funneled through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program, with the remaining \$1.1 billion earmarked for a new Zero-Emission Transit Capital Program. These funds will help address short-term operations and capital needs.

The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) will develop and administer an accountability program to govern these funds' distribution. CalSTA will also establish a Transit Transformation Task Force to develop policy recommendations to increase transit ridership, enhance the transit experience, and address long-term operational needs.

6. Public Safety Budget

In California, law enforcement funding mainly comes from local sources. In 2021, California cities spent more than \$14.4 billion on policing, while counties spent \$7.8 billion, and the state spent \$2.7 billion on the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Police funding is typically the largest spending area for cities, accounting for over 15% of all city spending statewide. However, there is substantial variation across communities. City and county police protection is funded by property, business, and sales taxes; federal and state grants; local fees and fines; and voter-approved general and special sales taxes.

However, the state also invests in building safer communities, and in recent years allocations have gone towards positive policing strategies, resources to support peace officer wellness and training and investments in programs to reduce organized retail theft, gun violence, illegal drugs, and other crimes, which are maintained in the budget.

Specific allocations are as follow:

- \$113M for the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Fund (Proposition 47 of 2014) to help reduce recidivism, support truancy and dropout prevention programs, and fund services for crime victims.
- Nonprofit Security Grant Program—\$20 million one-time General Fund to provide security assistance to nonprofit organizations at risk of hate-motivated violence.

- Reducing gun violence—reallocates \$21 million one-time General Fund to the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to work directly with local law enforcement agencies to expedite targeted, coordinated gun buybacks.
- The Budget also includes \$4 million one-time General Fund for OES to conduct outreach and educate members of the public, law enforcement personnel, and others on how to obtain protective orders, such as gun violence restraining orders or domestic violence restraining orders to protect themselves and others from gun violence.
- Grants for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons—\$12 million General Fund over three years for the Board of State and Community Corrections to establish a competitive grant program to help California tribes identify, collect case-level data, publicize, investigate, and solve cases involving missing Indigenous persons.
 - The Budget includes an additional investment of \$12 million one-time General Fund for these purposes.
- Public Defense Pilot Program—Restores \$40 million one-time General Fund to provide counties with funding for indigent defense providers, including public defenders, alternate defenders, and other qualifying entities.
 - This funding is for the third year of a three-year pilot program, bringing the total three-year amount to \$140 million one-time General Fund.
- Proposition 47 Savings—\$112.9 million General Fund in savings for Proposition 47, which invests savings from reduced prison utilization into prevention and support of community programs, and funds are allocated according to the formula specified in the voter-approved measure.
- Post Release Community Supervision—\$9.3million General Fund for county probation departments to supervise the temporary increase of individuals on Post Release Community Supervision as a result of Proposition 57 credit-earning opportunities.

7. Climate Budget

Some of the largest cuts in the 2023-24 budget are found in the environmental/climate program sectors—but it could have been much worse. At least that is the narrative the Governor’s office stood by as the final budget agreement was announced.

The biggest hit was a \$2.9 billion reduction in multiyear climate change funding that was established in the 2021-22 budget. Programs aimed at climate resilience — making the state capable of withstanding some of the impacts of changing conditions — took some of the biggest cuts, losing \$964 million. Sustainable agriculture and drought and water resilience also saw cuts.

However, this \$2.9 billion reduction is much less than was proposed both in January and in the June 15 budget proposal approved by the Legislature. Those proposals saw cuts of \$6 billion and \$5 billion respectively.

Overall, the deal retains \$51.4 billion in climate projects out of \$54.3 billion that was initially established in the 2021 and 2022 state budgets, and about \$10 billion in programs that will help the state reach its zero-emission vehicle mandate — which Newsom originally proposed cutting — remain in the new budget agreement. There is also an additional \$888M for climate-related projects outside of the original climate budget included.

Environmentalists have voiced their concerns with the cuts, noting that California is already struggling to meet emissions reductions and greenhouse gas targets, and any reductions in funding would only exacerbate the problem. As a result, the Senate in April proposed removing some of the climate cuts, but the Governor's office rejected that plan for fear of raising taxes and/or suspending corporate tax credits.

The final budget agreement also allows fluidity with funding, encouraging regional transit agencies to use funds slated for energy infrastructure and the purchase of zero-emission buses for general operations instead.

It is clear that California will need to find different funding sources if it is to meet its climate change goals, and Newsom has said he is seeking federal climate funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to help do so.

LONG BEACH BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

Funding for California cities in 2023-24 is a very different prospect than it was in previous fiscal years. As noted before, a \$30 billion budget deficit puts a damper on the amount of funds available for local projects, but the outlook did improve marginally as the year went on.

When the projected budget deficit was first announced in the Governor's January budget, his office made it clear that local funding programs would, in all likelihood, not be approved. As a result, legislative offices which typically champion these budget asks, relayed to our firm and many others that they might not be accepting city budget priorities at all this year, and that the old system which typically netted an office around 3 asks per year for local purposes, would be put on hold as long as this deficit remained.

However, as the year went on, offices became a bit more optimistic. According to Newsom's office, he wanted legislators to continue fielding local budget asks and compiling their lists in case the budget outlook shifted throughout the year, and funds did become available to fulfill city needs. Then as budget negotiations heated up post-May Revise, the legislature pushed hard to have the fulfillment of local asks included in the final budget deal.

The results were a bit of a hybrid approach. Not nearly as many project funds were approved as compared to budget surplus years, but localities did find some success, and the capital outlays earmarked for Long Beach below note this reality.

Below are the specific allocations secured for the City:

- \$4 million to maintain and renew Rancho Los Cerritos and Rancho Los Alamitos facilities;
- \$1.25 million to bolster the City's homelessness emergency activities, prevention efforts, and services for community members at risk of or experiencing homelessness; and,
- \$750,000 to support the City Prosecutor's Reentry Services Program, providing services to formerly incarcerated community members and their families.

BONDS AND INITIATIVES

This year was met with a record number of bonds introduced on a whole host of statewide issues – housing, climate change, education infrastructure, the fentanyl crisis, behavioral health and several others. Of the ten bond bills introduced, only one addressing behavioral health will appear on the March, 2024 ballot. AB 531 (Irwin) and its accompanying reform bill, SB 326 (Eggman) were negotiated by the Legislature and Governor and subsequently signed to appear on the next statewide ballot. *Please refer to the Behavioral Health section of this report for more information on these two bills.*

Because we are ending the first year of a two-year session, there are several bonds that remain alive as “two-year” bills and discussions surrounding those will resume in January. Based on our intel from capitol insiders and experts, the Governor’s office and Legislature will resume negotiations on the remaining bonds in an attempt to put a few on the November, 2024 ballot.

The question state finance experts must ask is how much debt can California incur in bond indebtedness. Political experts must also determine through polling which bonds may likely pass with voters.

Three high priority bonds that were shelved until January are highlighted below:

AB 1657 (Wicks): The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024

This bill would enact the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024, which authorizes the sale of \$10 billion in general obligation bonds, upon approval by voters at the March 5, 2024 statewide election.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-year bill*

AB 1567 (E. Garcia) Climate/Resources Bond Act of 2024

This bill would place a \$15.955 billion climate resilience general obligation bond on the ballot for projects in the following areas: Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Clean Energy, and Workforce Development

City Position: *Watch*

Status: *Two-year bill*

SB 867 (Allen) Climate/Resources Bond Act of 2024

This bill would place a \$15.5 billion climate resilience bond on the ballot for projects in the following areas: Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy.

City Position: *Watch*

Status: *Two-year bill*

In other ballot related actions, a grassroots effort was made in 2022 by California's business community to place a Taxpayers' Protection and Government Accountability Act (TPA) on the November, 2024 ballot. This measure amends the State Constitution to change the rules for how the state and local governments can impose taxes, fees, and other charges. In summary, it expands the definition of what is considered a tax, it requires voter approval of state taxes and increases the requirements for approving local taxes.

Many statewide labor associations and local governments vehemently oppose the TPA and the City of Long Beach was one of them. Many state elected leaders believe it ties the hands of the government to function adequately. In fact, Governor Newsom, Assembly Speaker Rivas & Senate Pro Tem Atkins filed a request with the State Supreme Court to remove the TPA from the Nov 2024 ballot.

Meanwhile, at the end of this year's session, the Legislature overwhelmingly passed ACA 1 and ACA 13 which are two competing measures to the TPA. Both measures were supported by those same labor organizations and local governments who oppose the TPA. A summary of both measures is below. *Note: the Governor's signature is not required to place constitutional amendments on the ballot. They require two-thirds vote of both the Assembly and the Senate.*

ACA 1 (Aguiar Curry) Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval.

ACA 1 is the second attempt by Assembly Member Aguiar Curry having failed to receive the requisite number of votes in 2022. The bill passed and will appear on the November, 2024 ballot. The measure does the following:

- Lowers the voting threshold to 55% to allow local governments to incur bonded indebtedness or impose specific taxes to fund projects for affordable housing or public infrastructure.
- In the event that ACA 1, the TPA or ACA 13 appear on the same ballot, the TPA and ACA 13 shall be deemed to be in conflict with this measure.
- If ACA 1 receives a greater number of affirmative votes, the provisions of this measure shall prevail in their entirety, and the provisions of the other measure or measures shall be null and void.

City Position: Support

Status: Chaptered and will appear on the November, 2024 ballot

ACA 13 (Ward) Voting Thresholds

ACA 13 received the requisite number of votes in both legislative houses but it is not chaptered. It is being held until November 1st to determine how the State Supreme Court will rule on the filing to remove the TPA from the November ballot.

ACA 13 does the following:

- Retains the majority vote requirement for passage of state and local initiatives.
- Would require proposed initiatives that seek to increase vote thresholds on future ballot measures to pass with the same proportional higher vote threshold.
- This is in direct conflict with the TPA.

City Position: Support

Status: Held in Assembly until November 1, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

The City’s Government Relations Department and advocacy firm, Arc Strategies were actively engaged in several legislative efforts this year. We collectively lobbied the passage of several bills the City supported, sought amendments of which the City would benefit, and provided expert testimony in policy and appropriations committees. The efforts and outcomes are detailed below. Each bill listed below is summarized in detail under the relevant and corresponding subsections below. For additional details on any of the bills in this report, please visit the link to the City’s matrix: <https://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=23&id=b76a4dfd-d750-4789-b350-44885ff9c1f5>.

CITY SPONSORED LEGISLATION

During the first half of the 2023-24 legislative session, the City sponsored two pieces of legislation which were subsequently signed into law by Governor Newsom and will take effect on January 1, 2024. The City’s Government Relations Department and advocacy firm, Arc Strategies were actively engaged in these two efforts along with several other legislative efforts this year. We collectively lobbied the passage of these bills by preparing fact sheets, legislator authors’ statements, working tirelessly with committee consultants and chairs, and testifying at all policy committees. In many instances, we considered amendments from capitol experts that improved these legislative proposals, and worked members of both the Senate and Assembly for their “aye” votes. We also met with the Governor’s team when these bills passed both houses and made their way to the Governor’s desk. A summary of those sponsored bills are below:

AB 1046 (Lowenthal) Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act

This bill was sponsored by the City and aims to clarify provisions of the Alquist-Priolo Act and to align it with the California Building Standards Code. The bill provides more clarity for local permitting agencies and applicants and ensures that improvements to the overall safety and resiliency of existing seismically vulnerable buildings in earthquake fault zones can move forward.

This bill also updates the Alquist-Priolo Act to expand the list of seismically vulnerable buildings within earthquake fault zones that can be retrofitted without being capped at 50% of the value of the property.

City Position: *Sponsor/Support*

Status: *Signed*

SB 498 (Gonzalez) Alcoholic Beverage Control Violations

This bill modifies guidelines for calculating the applicable amount of the offer in compromise the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) may make to a licensee in lieu of license suspension. Additionally, this bill authorizes ABC to consider as a factor, in determining the level of discipline for specified provisions relating to the sale of alcohol, whether there is a subsequent death or great bodily injury to the individual provided the alcoholic beverage or to any other person.

City Position: *Support*
Status: *Signed*

PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION

When talking about public health-related legislation in 2023, one would be remiss to exclude SB 525, the healthcare minimum wage increase effort. Although the City did not take a formal position on the bill, it was one of the biggest fights of this first year of the 2023-24 legislative session, with billions of dollars on the line on both sides of the argument.

Originally introduced in February of this year, the bill raised the minimum wage of all healthcare workers to \$25/hr by 2024. The minimum wage was then tied to a consumer price index increase every year and salaried employees were to make no less than twice the monthly amounts of hourly employees. As a result of the broad stroke language, employees working in gift shops, gardening, receptionist offices, off-site laundry services and more would also be eligible for the wage hikes.

As a result, a large coalition of opposition formed to oppose the measure, centered around health care providers, hospitals, SNF's, dialysis providers, CMA, CHA, CRA, Cal Chamber and many more. A key addition to the opposition coalition was the California Nurses Association, who fought for exemptions for RN's for fear that nurses would lose negotiating power during collective bargaining, and they might be relegated downwards to the \$25/hr minimum wage instead of upwards.

The author of the bill, Senator Maria Elena Durazo, made a host of commitments to a number of Senators in order to get the bill off the Senate Floor and have it sent over to the Assembly. Once in the Assembly negotiations between the support and opposition coalitions continued until the final days of the legislative session, and eventually a deal was reached.

The deal meant a phased-in multi-tiered statewide minimum wage schedule for health care workers where rural hospitals and others would have additional time to ramp up to the full \$25/hr benchmark, giving them more time to reduce the impact of the added costs and avoid shutdown of services or total closures.

In addition, health care employers got behind the plan to raise the minimum wage for their industry, and unions agreed to a 10-year moratorium on sponsoring local ballot measures to force pay raises at hospitals and other medical facilities.

Kidney dialysis providers also reached a separate deal: for four years the Service Employees International Union will not push for legislation or ballot measures targeting dialysis centers. SEIU has gone after dialysis centers three times in the last five years via the ballot, with each one costing the health care industry tens of millions of dollars in political spending.

Outside of SB 525, the City supported several bills that sought to change public health statute provisions. A summary of those bills is indicated below.

AB 33 (Bains) Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force

This bill establishes a statewide task force comprised primarily of medical professionals to develop recommendations. This bill passed committee and was signed by Governor.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Chaptered*

AB 1166 (Bains) Liability for Opioid Antagonist Administration

This bill provides qualified immunity to those administering or providing, in good faith, emergency opioid antagonists, as defined, at the scene of an overdose, or suspected overdose.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Chaptered*

AB 1701 (Weber) California Perinatal Equity Initiative

This bill expands the definition of local health jurisdictions eligible to apply for the California Perinatal Equity Initiative (PEI) to include a city or city and county, which now allows Long Beach to apply for program funds.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Chaptered*

SB 407 (Wiener) Foster Care Resource Families

This bill requires resource families to demonstrate an ability and willingness to meet the needs of a child, regardless of the child's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression and adds specified responsibilities to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and counties related to ensuring that foster youth will be placed with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or another diverse identity (LGBTQ)-affirming resource families.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Chaptered*

AB 1057 (Weber) California Home Visiting Program

This bill would have codified and established parameters regarding the existing California Home Visiting Program (CHVP), a program administered by the Department of Public Health (DPH) to support pregnant people and parents with young children who are at risk of poor maternal and child health outcomes.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Vetoed*

Message: [Bill Status - AB-1057 California Home Visiting Program.](#)

AB 1215 (W. Carrillo) Pets Assistance With Support Grant Program

This bill would have required the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to establish a grant program to provide funding to homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters to provide shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by individuals experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Vetoed*

Message: [Bill Status - AB-1215 Pets Assistance With Support Grant Program: homeless shelters: domestic violence shelters: pets. \(ca.gov\)](#)

AB 1536 (J. Carrillo) Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind and Disabled Immigrants

This bill would have expanded eligibility for the Cash Assistance Program to aged, blind, and disabled individuals regardless of immigration status if the individual meets the eligibility criteria for the program and is not eligible solely due to their immigration status. This bill would exempt individuals who are not qualified immigrants, as specified, from having to apply for SSI in order to receive benefits. The bill would also delete several inoperative provisions.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Vetoed*

Message: [Bill Status - AB-1536 Cash Assistance Program for Aged, Blind, and Disabled Immigrants.](#)

AB 1645 (Zbur) Enhanced Consumer Protections for Preventative Care

This bill would have prohibited a large group health plan contract or health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, or an individual or small group contract or policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2025, from imposing a cost-sharing requirement for office visits of specified preventive care services and screenings and for items or services that are integral to their provision. Prohibits health plan contracts and insurance policies from imposing a cost-sharing requirement, utilization review, or other specified limits on a recommended sexually transmitted infections (STI) screening, and from imposing a cost-sharing requirement for any items and services integral to a STI screening, as specified. Requires a health plan or insurer to directly reimburse specified nonparticipating providers or facilities of STI screening, specified rates (unless otherwise agreed to by a nonparticipating essential community provider (ECP) and the health plan or insurer, the greater of its average contracted rate or 125% of the amount Medicare reimburses on a fee-for-service basis for the same or similar items or services in the general geographic region in which the items or services were rendered) for screening tests and integral items and services rendered, and prohibits the nonparticipating provider from billing or collecting a cost-sharing amount for a STI screening from an enrollee or insured.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Vetoed*

Message: [Bill Status - AB-1645 Health care coverage: cost sharing.](#)

SB 90 (Wiener) Insulin Affordability Act

This bill would have prohibited a health plan contract or disability insurance policy that is issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, or plan or policy offered in in the individual or small group market on or after January 1, 2025, from imposing a copayment, deductible, coinsurance, or any other out-of-pocket expense on an insulin prescription drug that exceeds \$35 for a 30-day supply.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Vetoed*

Message: [Bill Status - SB-90 Health care coverage: insulin affordability.](#)

SB 339 (Wiener) HIV Preexposure Prophylaxis and Post Exposure Prophylactic

This bill requires a health plan and health insurer to cover preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) furnished by a pharmacist, including the pharmacist's services and related testing ordered by the pharmacist, and to pay or reimburse pharmacist services at an in-network pharmacy or a pharmacist at an out-of-network pharmacy if the health plan or insurer has an out-of-network pharmacy benefit. Precludes a health plan or insurer from covering all of the therapeutically equivalent alternative versions without prior authorization or step therapy, if at least one therapeutically equivalent alternative version is covered without prior authorization or step therapy and if the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved one or more therapeutic equivalents alternatives of a drug, device, or product for the prevention of AIDS/HIV. Excludes Medi-Cal managed care plans contracting with the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), as specified, from the coverage provisions of this bill. Includes PrEP furnished by a pharmacist as pharmacist services on the Medi-Cal schedule of benefits. Authorizes a pharmacist to furnish up to a 90 day course of PrEP, or beyond a 90 day course (existing law allows for a 60 day supply)

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-year bill*

AB 1738 (Carrillo) Mobile Homeless Connect Pilot Program

This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a Mobile Homeless Connect Pilot Program in specified areas to assist persons experiencing homelessness obtain an identification card.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-year bill*

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS LEGISLATION

California's housing and homelessness crisis remains a top priority for Governor Newsom and Legislative leaders this year. As noted in the budget sections, over the past five years California has spent over \$17 billion combatting the state's homelessness crisis, and \$30 billion in affordable housing production, allocating funds through a variety of programs aimed at directly building/converting more housing, streamlining CEQA processes and incentivizing developers to build in the state. However, despite the vast economic resources devoted to the issue, California's homeless population has only risen over that timeframe, and the state is well behind the projected housing unit estimates needed to sustain population growth.

As a result, this year Legislators' bill packages were flooded with bills aimed at addressing the many facets of the issue at hand, and committees were tasked with sifting through the many different, and sometimes competing, legislative proposals. In fact, of the 762 bills we tracked for the City in the first year of this 2-year session, 188 of them (roughly 25%) dealt with housing or homelessness in one way or another.

Many of these housing and homelessness bills made their way through the Legislature to the Governor's Desk, and Newsom was charged with condensing the measures into a coherent and encompassing package that would ensure equitable housing and protected living conditions for all Californians.

On October 11th, Newsom made his decisions public, releasing a package of 56 bills aimed at simplifying and expediting the construction of new housing, protecting tenants, keeping housing affordable, incentivizing and reducing barriers to housing and supporting the development of more affordable homes. The legislation streamlines housing developments, allows institutions like colleges and religious organizations to use portions of their property to build housing, and continues a state statute used to hold local communities accountable for their fair share of housing.

Of primary importance to the bill package, Newsom signed into law two key housing bills by Bay Area housing expert Senator Scott Wiener: SB 4 and SB 423.

SB 4, dubbed the “Yes in God’s Backyard” bill, would clear the way for churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship, along with nonprofit colleges, to build designated affordable housing on their properties without having to conduct environmental reviews, receive approval from local governments or request changes to zoning.

SB 423, the most closely watched housing bill of the year, renews Wiener’s 2017 law that forces local governments to automatically greenlight apartments and other dense urban housing projects, so long as developers set a certain share of the units aside for lower income residents and abide by more stringent and costly labor standards. That means no lengthy environmental reviews or city council meetings. This year’s version tweaks the formula slightly by relaxing some of the labor standards and nixing a prior exemption for many coastal neighborhoods.

On the whole, support for these two bills included YIMBY activists, affordable housing advocates, some of the state’s biggest labor unions and a new addition: the state’s unionized carpenters. Supporters argued that the first iteration of SB 423 was used to fast-track the approval of more than 18,000 units in its first four years, and that SB 4 would open up tens of thousands of acres of land for shovel-ready affordable housing construction, leading to meaningful increases in housing supply, though a far cry from the state’s goal of 315,000 per year. Opposition largely came from local governments, building trade unions and environmental activists who argued for local control, better hiring standards and coastline exemptions, amongst other things.

More than what these two bills set to accomplish legislatively, what they truly represent is a paradigm shift for housing policy in California. When Senator Wiener was elected to the Legislature in 2016, the argument that the state should play an aggressive role in removing obstacles to more housing construction, even over the objections of local governments, was an issue of hot contention and fierce debate. Now it’s almost a given. SB 423 passed with overwhelming support in both houses. The margins on SB 4, two versions of which failed in prior years, were even higher. This shows just how powerful the pro-housing lobbying bloc has become in the Legislature, and just how dire the housing and homelessness problem continues to be in California.

In addition to SB 4 and SB 423 other bills dealt with ADU’s, limiting security deposits and the expansion of the legal definition of “gravely disabled.”

Since a number of bills were passed in 2016 and 2017 related to streamlining accessory dwelling units (ADU's), there has been an explosion of their construction across the state. According to the Department of Housing and Community Development, nearly one in five housing units built today is an ADU. AB 1033 by Assemblymember Phil Ting of San Francisco, allows property owners to sell those dwelling units separately from homes. Ting says this will create more rental units and open the door to affordable homeownership for many. Ting also pushed for another \$25 million in this year's budget for the ADU Grant Program, which helps homeowners with preconstruction costs for ADUs.

As it relates to California's increasing renter population, Newsom signed **AB 12**, which limits landlords from taking no more than a month's rent for security deposits. Currently, landlords may charge up to two months' rent for a deposit, or three months for furnished properties. As California's housing prices and mortgage rates continue to skyrocket, lawmakers have put an emphasis on rental agreements, ensuring that renters are able to overcome barriers to entry, and are granted access to housing affordability in every part of the state. AB 12 is the first substantial change to ensuring affordable security deposits since the 1970's.

Lastly, in a landmark decision that will alter involuntary treatment across the state, Governor Newsom signed **SB 43** into law, which changes the legal definition of "gravely disabled" to also consider whether a person faces a substantial risk of serious harm, by failing to provide for their own medical care or personal safety. It would include not just mental illness, but also severe substance use disorder and chronic alcoholism.

SB 43 was primarily supported by the Big City Mayors— a coalition of the state's 13 biggest cities— the California chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, psychiatric associations and more. It was opposed by civil rights groups, including Disability Rights California, Human Rights Watch and the ACLU, among others. It is also opposed by the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, a state advisory body.

Below are the housing/homeless-related bills for which the City had a position.

AB 67 (Muratsuchi) Homeless Courts Pilot Program

The purpose of this bill is to establish the Homeless Courts Pilot Program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to be administered by the Judicial Council as a grant program for the purpose of providing comprehensive community-based services for homeless individuals who are involved with the criminal justice system.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-Year bill*

AB 963 (Schiavo) The End the Foster Care-to-Homelessness Pipeline Act

The bill intends to create confidence in the private lending market in order to expand the number of affordable units available to former foster youth struggling with housing security by requiring the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank) to establish one or more programs to guarantee qualified loans for the construction, acquisition, and renovation for housing for current or former foster youth who are 18 to 25 years of age and qualify for specified

housing programs, with preference given to counties with high housing inelasticity and high rates of foster youth.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Held in Committee*

AB 1657 (Wicks) The Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024.

Would enact the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2024, which, if adopted, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law. Proceeds from the sale of these bonds would be used to finance programs to fund affordable rental housing and homeownership programs, including, among others, the Multifamily Housing Program, the CalHome Program, and the Joe Serna, Jr. Farmworker Housing Grant Program.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-Year bill*

AB 1734 (Jones-Sawyer) Local Government: Surplus Land Act

The bill creates, until January 1, 2034, a specific process under the Surplus Lands Act (SLA) for the disposition of land in the City of Los Angeles for affordable housing and low barrier navigation centers.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Signed*

SB 37 (Caballero) Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act

Current law establishes various programs to address homelessness, including requiring the Governor to create an Interagency Council on Homelessness and establishing the Homeless Emergency Aid program for the purpose of providing localities with one-time grant funds to address their immediate homelessness challenges, as specified. Current law commits to the Department of Housing and Community Development the administration of various housing assistance programs, including provisions relating to residential hotel rehabilitation and tasks the department, in consultation with each council of governments, with the determination of each region's existing and projected housing need. This bill would, upon an appropriation by the Legislature for this express purpose, require the Department of Housing and Community Development, commencing January 1, 2024, to begin developing the Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Program.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-Year bill*

SB 91 (Umberg) California Environmental Quality Act

This bill (1) eliminates the January 1, 2025, sunset date on a provision of state law that exempts from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) certain projects that convert a motel, hotel, residential hotel, or hostel to supportive or transitional housing and (2) extends CEQA streamlining provisions for SB 91 Page 2 "environmental leadership transit projects" (ELTPs) located within the County of Los Angeles that meet certain specified requirements.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Signed*

SB 734 (Rubio) Property tax: possessory interests

Current law requires that all property subject to tax be assessed at its full value, and includes certain possessory interests among those property interests subject to tax. Current law defines a taxable possessory interest to be a possession of, claim to, or right to the possession of land or improvements that is independent, durable, and exclusive of rights held by others in the property, except as provided. Current law authorizes the state or any local public entity of government, when entering into a written contract with a private party whereby a possessory interest subject to property taxation may be created, to include, or cause to be included, in that contract, a statement that the property interest may be subject to property taxation if created, and that the party in whom the possessory interest is vested may be subject to the payment of property taxes levied on the interest. This bill would provide that, for the purpose of defining “possessory interest,” a tenancy in a residential unit of a publicly owned housing project by a low-income household leased at affordable rents does not create independent possession or use of land or improvements by the tenant.

City Position: *Support if Amended*

Status: *Signed*

TRANSPORTATION LEGISLATION

Although the big story around transportation this year may have been the budget retentions secured by the Legislature and approved by the Governor, there were a number of high-profile bills that were intensely debated throughout the first year of the 2023-24 legislative session.

A key measure this year was **AB 645** (Friedman), a bill the government relations team worked diligently to get passed and signed. AB 645 will establish a five-year pilot program to give local transportation authorities in the cities of Long Beach, San Jose, Oakland, Los Angeles, Glendale, and the City and County of San Francisco the authority to install speed safety systems.

These speed safety systems are used in countries around the world, and in over 150 communities in the United States. Opponents of the bill argue that these camera installations would lead to government overreach, too much data collection, and they note that other less invasive measure can be deployed, such as roundabouts, speed humps or tables and traffic circles.

There were several news articles throughout the country that highlighted AB 645’s passage. A few links can be found here:

New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/10/07/us/california-speed-cameras-pedestrians.html>

Long Beach Post: <https://lbpost.com/news/speed-cameras-long-beach-la-glendale-governor-signs-law/>

The City took a formal position on one transportation-related bill this year, and it is noted below:

AB 824 (Calderon) Highway greening: statewide strategic plan.

Would enact the Highway Greening Act, which would require the department to complete a statewide strategic plan, as specified, to work to achieve at least a 10% increase of green highways, as defined, in urban areas, disadvantaged communities, and low-income communities by 2035. The bill would require the Department of Transportation to submit the plan to the Legislature and specified committees of the Legislature on or before June 30, 2025.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-Year bill*

CANNABIS LEGISLATION

It has almost been a decade since the Legislature passed the legislation establishing a regulatory framework for medicinal cannabis (AB 266 in 2015), which was followed by the legalization of adult use of cannabis a year later by Proposition 64. Despite the thousands of hours that went into the crafting of these laws, followed by state and local regulations/ordinances, there are still significant issues lingering at the statewide and local level. In broad categories, the top issues remain centered around enforcement (or lack thereof), access and business opportunities, and expungement and penalty reform.

Below are summaries of two bills the City actively supported through the legislative process:

SB 51 (Bradford) Cannabis Provisional Licenses for Local Equity Applicants

This bill authorizes the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC), until January 1, 2031, to issue a provisional license to a local equity applicant, as defined, for retailer activities if specified conditions are met.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Signed*

SB 508 (Laird) Cannabis Licenses California Environmental Quality Act

This bill establishes conditions under which the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) is not required to serve as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for a project if all of the following conditions are met:

- The local jurisdiction, acting as lead agency under CEQA, has filed either of the following with the Office of Planning and Research upon a decision to carry out or approve a commercial cannabis activity for which the applicant is seeking a license from DCC.
- The commercial cannabis activity for which the applicant is seeking a license from DCC is the same project as the commercial cannabis activity analyzed by the local jurisdiction acting as the lead agency under CEQA.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-Year bill*

PUBLIC SAFETY LEGISLATION

From retail theft to the fentanyl epidemic, the Legislature dealt with a large number of bills dealing with the public safety issues facing California. Additionally, we saw a number of bills seeking to limit local law enforcement's functions. In total, more than 500 bills were referred to the Senate and Assembly Public Safety Committees this year, one of the highest totals of any policy committees.

Below are summaries of bills the City actively supported through the legislative process and were signed into law:

AB 21 (Gipson) Peace officers: training

Current law requires the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) to require field training officers who are instructors for the field training program to have at least 8 hours of crisis intervention behavioral health training to better train new peace officers on how to effectively interact with persons with mental illness or intellectual disability. This bill would require the commission to revise that training to include instruction on how to effectively interact with persons with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The bill would specify that a field training officer who completed the training prior to January 1, 2025, or who is exempt from completing the training, is not required to take the updated training, but would require a field training officer who has not completed the training on or after January 1, 2025, or who is not exempt from completing the training, to complete the revised training. The bill would exempt jurisdictions that, prior to January 1, 2024, develop a training that meets the same requirements.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-Year bill*

AB 40 (Rodriguez) Emergency Medical Services

This bill requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to adopt emergency regulations to develop an electronic signature for use between emergency department and emergency medical personnel, a statewide 30 minute standard for patient offload times, and an audit tool to improve the accuracy of such data

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Signed*

AB 296 (Rodriguez) Office of Emergency Services: 9-1-1 Public Education Campaign

This bill establishes the 911 Public Education Campaign, to be administered by the Office of Emergency Services (OES), for the purposes of educating the public on when it is appropriate to call 911 for assistance, as specified.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Two-Year bill*

AB 1403 (Garcia) Public Safety Fireworks Enforcement Funding

This bill requires the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), by January 1, 2025, to collect and analyze data about firework-related fires, damages, and arrests; submit a workload analysis to the relevant committees of the Legislature and train local authorities on relevant regulations related to

fireworks, as specified. Additionally, authorizes local agencies, as specified, to adopt an ordinance for the actual and reasonable costs associated with safe and sane and illegal fireworks; and requires the OSFM to develop training for the proper management of seized fireworks.

City Position: *Support*

Status: *Signed*

Additional Public Safety Bills

AB 1637 (Irwin) Local Government: internet websites and email addresses

Would, no later than January 1, 2029, require a local agency, as defined, that maintains an internet website for use by the public to ensure that the internet website utilizes a “.gov” top-level domain or a “.ca.gov” second-level domain and would require a local agency that maintains an internet website that is noncompliant with that requirement to redirect that internet website to a domain name that does utilize a “.gov” or “.ca.gov” domain. This bill, no later than January 1, 2029, would also require a local agency that maintains public email addresses to ensure that each email address provided to its employees utilizes a “.gov” domain name or a “.ca.gov” domain name. By adding to the duties of local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

City Position: *Watch*

Status: *Chaptered*

AB 742 (Jackson): Police canine restrictions

As introduced, this bill would have banned the use of police canines for arrest, apprehension, and crowd control. As amended, B 742 would prohibit the use of an unleashed police canine by law enforcement to apprehend a person unless the person is being pursued for a felony that threatened or resulted in the death of or serious bodily injury to another person and the person poses an imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or to another person and any use of a police canine for crowd control. The bill would prohibit a police canine from being used to bite unless there is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person by the person against whom the canine is used. The bill would attribute the death of or serious bodily injury to a person caused by a police canine to the canine’s handler as constituting deadly force. The bill would prohibit law enforcement agencies from authorizing any use or training of a police canine that is inconsistent with this bill.

City Position: *Watch*

Status: *Failed to pass Assembly Floor*

SB 19 (Seyarto): Fentanyl task force

Would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, establish the Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force to undertake various duties relating to fentanyl misuse including, among others, collecting and organizing data on the nature and extent of fentanyl misuse in California and evaluating approaches to increase public awareness of fentanyl misuse. The bill would require the task force to be co-chaired by the Attorney General and the State Public Health Officer or their designees and would specify the membership of the task force. The bill would require the first meeting of the task force to take place no later than June 1, 2024, and would require the task force to meet at least once every 2 months. The bill would require the task force to submit an interim report on its findings and recommendations to the Attorney General, the

Governor, and the Legislature by July 1, 2025, and submit a final report by December 1, 2025. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2026.

City Position: *Watch*

Status: *Chaptered*

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024

This year saw more than 30 new lawmakers, we expect a similar number of new Legislators, if not more, following the 2024 election.

Moving into next year, there will be major changes to the policy committees and leadership position, as Speaker Rivas looks to take a much more hands on approach to the leadership position than his predecessor Rendon. Similarly, Senator Mike McGuire will succeed current Pro Tem of the Senate, Toni Atkins, however he will only have a short tenure as President of the Senate, as he terms out in 2026.

As it relates to the budget, we expect a similar fiscal outlook for fiscal year 2024-25. Through Friday, October 20, the Franchise Tax Board has collected \$17.3 billion of personal income tax and corporation tax receipts this month. This is far below the \$44.9 billion of FTB collections projected for the entire month of October 2023. This is in part explained by the recent decision to delay tax filing for a second time, but it still puts California in an uncertain budget position, making it difficult for the LAO and Department of Finance to give accurate budget forecasts in the coming months. As a result, the Governor's January budget might need to be curtailed to account for continually reduced tax receipts.
