

Council Action Advised by August 28, 2023

DATE: Wednesday, June 21, 2023

TO: Mayors, Council Members, City Clerks, and City Managers

**RE: DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES
League of California Cities Annual Conference and Expo, Sept. 20-22, 2023,
Sacramento SAFE Credit Union Convention Center**

Every year, the League of California Cities convenes a member-driven General Assembly at the [Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo](#). The General Assembly is an important opportunity where city officials can directly participate in the development of Cal Cities policy.

Taking place on Sept. 22, the General Assembly is comprised of voting delegates appointed by each member city; every city has one voting delegate. Your appointed voting delegate plays an important role during the General Assembly by representing your city and voting on resolutions.

To cast a vote during the General Assembly, your city must designate a voting delegate and up to two alternate voting delegates, one of whom may vote if the designated voting delegate is unable to serve in that capacity. Voting delegates may either be an elected or appointed official.

Please complete the attached voting delegate form and email it to Cal Cities office no later than Monday, August 28.

New this year, we will host a pre-conference information session for voting delegates to explain their role. Submitting your voting delegate form by the deadline will allow us time to establish voting delegate/alternate records prior to the conference and provide pre-conference communications with voting delegates.

Please view Cal Cities' [event and meeting policy](#) in advance of the conference.

Action by Council Required. Consistent with Cal Cities bylaws, a city's voting delegate and up to two alternates must be designated by the city council. When completing the attached Voting Delegate form, please attach either a copy of the council resolution that reflects the council action taken or have your city clerk or mayor sign the form affirming that the names provided are those selected by the city council.

Please note that designating the voting delegate and alternates **must** be done by city council action and cannot be accomplished by individual action of the mayor or city manager alone.



Conference Registration Required. The voting delegate and alternates must be registered to attend the conference. They need not register for the entire conference; they may register for Friday only. Conference registration is open on the [Cal Cities](https://calcities.org) website.

For a city to cast a vote, one voter must be present at the General Assembly and in possession of the voting delegate card and voting tool. Voting delegates and alternates need to pick up their conference badges before signing in and picking up the voting delegate card at the voting delegate desk. This will enable them to receive the special sticker on their name badges that will admit the voting delegate into the voting area during the General Assembly.

Transferring Voting Card to Non-Designated Individuals Not Allowed. The voting delegate card may be transferred freely between the voting delegate and alternates, but *only* between the voting delegate and alternates. If the voting delegate and alternates find themselves unable to attend the General Assembly, they may *not* transfer the voting card to another city official.

Seating Protocol during General Assembly. At the General Assembly, individuals with a voting card will sit in a designated area. Admission to the voting area will be limited to the individual in possession of the voting card and with a special sticker on their name badge identifying them as a voting delegate.

The voting delegate desk, located in the conference registration area of the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center in Sacramento, will be open at the following times: Wednesday, Sept. 20, 8:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 21, 7:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. On Friday, Sept. 22, the voting delegate desk will be open at the General Assembly, starting at 7:30 a.m., but will be closed during roll calls and voting.

The voting procedures that will be used at the conference are attached to this memo. Please share these procedures and this memo with your council and especially with the individuals that your council designates as your city's voting delegate and alternates.

Once again, thank you for completing the voting delegate and alternate form and returning it to Cal Cities office by Monday, Aug. 28. If you have questions, please contact Zach Seals at zseals@calcities.org.

Attachments:

- General Assembly Voting Guidelines
- Voting Delegate/Alternate Form
- Information Sheet: Cal Cities Resolutions and the General Assembly

General Assembly Voting Guidelines

1. **One City One Vote.** Each member city has a right to cast one vote on matters pertaining to Cal Cities policy.
2. **Designating a City Voting Representative.** Prior to the Cal Cities Annual Conference and Expo, each city council may designate a voting delegate and up to two alternates; these individuals are identified on the voting delegate form provided to the Cal Cities Credentials Committee.
3. **Registering with the Credentials Committee.** The voting delegate, or alternates, may pick up the city's voting card at the voting delegate desk in the conference registration area. Voting delegates and alternates must sign in at the voting delegate desk. Here they will receive a special sticker on their name badge and thus be admitted to the voting area at the General Assembly.
4. **Signing Initiated Resolution Petitions.** Only those individuals who are voting delegates (or alternates), and who have picked up their city's voting card by providing a signature to the credentials committee at the voting delegate desk, may sign petitions to initiate a resolution.
5. **Voting.** To cast the city's vote, a city official must have in their possession the city's voting card and voting tool; and be registered with the credentials committee. The voting card may be transferred freely between the voting delegate and alternates but may not be transferred to another city official who is neither a voting delegate nor alternate.
6. **Voting Area at General Assembly.** At the General Assembly, individuals with a voting card will sit in a designated area. Admission to the voting area will be limited to the individual in possession of the voting card and with a special sticker on their name badge identifying them as a voting delegate.
7. **Resolving Disputes.** In case of dispute, the credentials committee will determine the validity of signatures on petitioned resolutions and the right of a city official to vote at the General Assembly.



CITY: _____

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE/ALTERNATE FORM

Please complete this form and return it to Cal Cities office by Monday, August 28, 2023. Forms not sent by this deadline may be submitted to the Voting Delegate Desk located in the Annual Conference Registration Area. Your city council may designate one voting delegate and up to two alternates.

To vote at the General Assembly, voting delegates and alternates must be designated by your city council. Please attach the council resolution as proof of designation. As an alternative, the Mayor or City Clerk may sign this form, affirming that the designation reflects the action taken by the council.

Please note: Voting delegates and alternates will be seated in a separate area at the General Assembly. Admission to this designated area will be limited to individuals (voting delegates and alternates) who are identified with a special sticker on their conference badge. This sticker can be obtained only at the voting delegate desk.

1. VOTING DELEGATE

Name: _____

Email: _____

Title: _____

2. VOTING DELEGATE - ALTERNATE

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

3. VOTING DELEGATE - ALTERNATE

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

ATTACH COUNCIL RESOLUTION DESIGNATING VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATES OR

ATTEST: I affirm that the information provided reflects action by the city council to designate the voting delegate and alternate(s).

Name: _____ Email: _____

Mayor or City Clerk: _____ Date: _____ Phone: _____
(circle one) (signature)

Please complete and email this form to votingdelegates@calcities.org by Monday, August 28, 2023.

How it works: Cal Cities Resolutions and the General Assembly

Developing League of California Cities policy is a dynamic process that engages a wide range of members to ensure that we are representing California cities with one voice. These policies directly guide Cal Cities advocacy to promote local decision-making, and lobby against statewide policy that erodes local control.

The resolutions process and General Assembly is one way that city officials can directly participate in the development of Cal Cities policy. If a resolution is approved at the General Assembly, it becomes official Cal Cities policy. Here's how Resolutions and the General Assembly works.

Prior to the Annual Conference and Expo

General Resolutions



Sixty days before the Annual Conference and Expo, Cal Cities members may submit policy proposals on issues of importance to cities. The resolution must have the concurrence of at least five additional member cities or individual members.



Policy Committees



The Cal Cities President assigns general resolutions to policy committees where members review, debate, and recommend positions for each policy proposal. Recommendations are forwarded to the Resolutions Committee.



During the Annual Conference and Expo

Petitioned Resolutions



The petitioned resolution is an alternate method to introduce policy proposals during the annual conference. The petition must be signed by voting delegates from 10% of member cities, and submitted to the Cal Cities President at least 24 hours before the beginning of the General Assembly.



Resolutions Committee



The Resolutions Committee considers all resolutions. General Resolutions approved¹ by either a policy committee or the Resolutions Committee are next considered by the General Assembly. General resolutions not approved, or referred for further study by both a policy committee and the Resolutions Committee do not go the General Assembly. All Petitioned Resolutions are considered by the General Assembly, unless disqualified.²



General Assembly



During the General Assembly, voting delegates debate and consider general and petitioned resolutions forwarded by the Resolutions Committee. Potential Cal Cities bylaws amendments are also considered at this meeting.

Who's who

Cal Cities policy development is a member-informed process, grounded in the voices and experiences of city officials throughout the state.

The **Resolutions Committee** includes representatives from each Cal Cities diversity caucus, regional division, municipal department, policy committee, as well as individuals appointed by the Cal Cities president.

Voting delegates are appointed by each member city; every city has one voting delegate.

The **General Assembly** is a meeting of the collective body of all voting delegates — one from every member city.

Seven **Policy Committees** meet throughout the year to review and recommend positions to take on bills and regulatory proposals. Policy committees include members from each Cal Cities diversity caucus, regional division, municipal department, as well as individuals appointed by the Cal Cities president.

What's new in 2023?



- Voting delegates will receive increased communications to prepare them for their role during the General Assembly.
- The General Assembly will take place earlier to allow more time for debate and discussion.
- Improvements to the General Assembly process will make it easier for voting delegates to discuss and debate resolutions.

¹ The Resolution Committee can amend a general resolution prior to sending it to the General Assembly.

² Petitioned Resolutions may be disqualified by the Resolutions Committee according to Cal Cities Bylaws Article VI. Sec. 5(f).