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**Date: October 22, 2014**

**To: Members of the California State Legislature**

**From: Dan Carrigg, Senior Director, Legislative Affairs**

**Re: League 2014 Legislative Vote Records on Key City Bills**

Please find enclosed a copy of the League of California Cities vote record report on key city bills for the 2014 legislative session. In 2014, the League focused on sponsoring and supporting legislation to help develop new community and economic development tools and funding options for city services. These efforts include addressing issues with redevelopment dissolution, economic development and infrastructure development.

The League also sponsored proactive legislation to improve the regulatory framework for medical marijuana and restore local authority over massage establishments. Several helpful bills made it through the process and were signed into law, while other proposals for new tools and resources stalled or were vetoed by the Governor. On other fronts, it was another busy year for defending local control on measures that unduly restricted local authority and flexibility or increased costs on financially struggling cities, some of which were vetoed by the Governor.

The League compiled the final floor actions on 16 bills in the Assembly and 15 bills in the Senate. These bills have been organized into subgroups focusing on economic development, redevelopment and local control. The votes for each subgroup are reflected then combined into a final percentage. The League also provided special thanks and recognition in the report for a number of members who provided critical assistance to the League during the legislative year. Members receiving such recognition are identified by a "SP.REC" sign next to the final vote percentage.

We appreciate that many legislators score well in the attached vote records. Thank you for your support on city issues. Some of this, no doubt, reflects the state's improved fiscal condition, providing everyone the opportunity to move forward rather than debating cuts to vital state or local programs and services. It also reflects that legislators carried many bills this year helpful to cities or worked to address local concerns with amendments on more contentious legislation. Finally, we also hope this result reflects an improved, more collaborative, working relationship developing between legislators and city officials.

City officials are by nature problem solvers more interested in improving their respective communities than rehashing the past. They want to move forward with economic development and infrastructure projects and grow jobs, and to continue to improve our environment and quality of life. Given that many cities are still facing significant fiscal difficulty they also appreciate it when their legislators remain sensitive to the diversity of local communities and understand the importance of retaining flexibility and authority to address local issues.

City leaders and the League welcome a continued dialogue with you in 2015 about how we can better collaborate to serve the people of California and our cities. We look forward to working in partnership to move California, its cities and residents forward.

Thank you for your public service. Please let me know if you have any questions about this report. I can be reached at (916) 658-8222 or [carriggd@cacities.org](mailto:carriggd@cacities.org).

## 2014 League Legislative Vote Records on Key City Bills

The 2014 Legislative Session was highlighted by continuing improvement in state budget conditions and legislative leadership on a number of important state and local priorities. Cap and trade revenues were dispersed for the first time, and funds were allocated for infrastructure, affordable housing and repayment of a decade-old debt for local mandates.

After three years of post-redevelopment stalemate, the Governor put a tax increment proposal on the table for local infrastructure and economic development, legislators advanced other tax increment and tax credit proposals to spur urban revitalization and attract and retain jobs, and a bi-partisan agreement was forged on a water bond. In many respects, it was a legislative session of exceptional progress.

The League supported several measures that would address various aspects of redevelopment dissolution, including a proposal to authorize a new tax increment financing option for disadvantaged communities and other bills to expand and improve local infrastructure. Consistent with its mission, the League also opposed measures that would have unduly restricted local authority and flexibility or increased costs on financially struggling cities.

For this report the League compiled the final floor actions on 16 bills in the Assembly and 15 bills in the Senate of significant importance to cities. These bills have been assigned to economic development, redevelopment or local control categories. Votes consistent with the League's position are marked with a "+" sign, and those in conflict with the League's position are marked with a "-." sign. Abstentions, which can be important, are reflected with either a "NV+" or "NV-" sign. Absences are noted with an "ABS" sign. While all votes are reflected, several members were assigned an incomplete "INC" for their total score because they were absent for five listed votes due to illness or other reasons. Three Senators were assigned "N/A" because they were suspended and not eligible to vote on the measures.

In the following section, the League also thanks and recognizes a number of members who authored important bills or provided other critical assistance to the League during the legislative year. Members receiving such recognition are identified by a "SP.REC" sign next to the final vote percentage on the vote record report.

### Special Legislative Thanks and Recognitions (In Alphabetical Order)

#### In the Assembly:

- *Assembly Member Katcho Achadjian* deserves special thanks for his consistent and strong support for local government both through his leadership as Chair of the Assembly Local Government Committee, as well as his excellent floor voting record on League priority bills.
- *Assembly Member Luis Alejo* deserves thanks for his continued partnership with the League through his authorship of AB 2280, a bill supported by a diverse coalition of stakeholders that would restore redevelopment authority for disadvantaged