



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R26-0501
AUGUST 28 2026

REPORT RE:

TORT REFORM COALITION WITH LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

The League of California Cities (League) is leading a Coalition that, as of July 31, 2026, includes **more than 200** cities, counties, school districts, public agencies, and public-sector associations to “urge the Legislature to enact meaningful tort reform for civil actions against public entities.” (See Attachment 1). *The League has invited the City of Los Angeles to join the cities of Long Beach, Pasadena, Glendale, Downey, Sacramento, Riverside, and the other 81 cities in this Coalition.*

According to the League, new data released by the California Association of Joint Powers Authorities (CAJPA) confirms that “public-entity liability costs have tripled in the last seven years, now exceeding \$7 billion in known exposure”, and “costs are on pace to grow another 70 percent by 2027-28.” The League added that “the fiscal trajectory is unsustainable, the structure of liability is fundamentally unfair to taxpayers, and the consequences are now measured in billions of dollars diverted away from classrooms, fire stations, roads, mental health services, and the essential programs Californians depend on every day.”

The Coalition's Goals

The Coalition is urging the California Legislature “to advance a comprehensive tort reform package for civil actions against public entities that, at minimum, includes the following:

Defined benefits including caps on noneconomic damages in civil actions against public entities, ensuring survivors and other injured parties are made whole while preserving the capacity to deliver essential public services.

Proportional (several) liability for economic damages in civil actions against public entities, so that taxpayers pay only for the share of harm actually attributable to the public agency. This way the perpetrators bear the cost of their own conduct and not taxpayers.

Heightened evidentiary and procedural standards for claims where witnesses, records, and evidence archives are absent or insufficient to assign culpability.”

The Coalition notes that it stands ready to work with the Legislature, the Governor’s Administration, and the survivor community (including the plaintiff’s bar) to craft a balanced, durable solution so that necessary action can be taken now. The Coalition points to detailed findings and supporting data that is available in CAJPA’s recent report, *Protecting Public Funds: The Rising Cost of Claims Against California Public Entities*.

<https://www.cajpa.org/page/tort-reform-coalition>
https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cajpa.org/resource/resmgr/files/20260406_Final_Public.pdf

Recommendation

We recommend that the City Council resolve and formally authorize this Office to cause the City of Los Angeles to formally join the “Coalition for Comprehensive Tort Reform to Protect California Taxpayers, Survivors, and Essential Public Services” that is currently being formed by the League of California Cities for the upcoming California Legislative year and authorize our Office to work to bring other public entities into the Coalition.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned. The City Attorney or another member of this Office will be available to answer any questions you may have.

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Hydee Feldstein Soto", written over a horizontal line.