



CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599

www.cityoflaverne.org

March 18, 2024

Honorable Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee
1020 N Street, Room 153
Sacramento, CA 95814

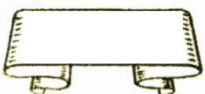
Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

**RE: Opposition to Assembly Bill 2561 (AB 2561) Local Public Employees:
Vacant Positions**

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, I am writing to express strong opposition to Assembly Bill 2561, which would impose significant burdens on public agencies by mandating a detailed process for addressing bargaining unit vacancy rates. While there are several challenges facing local governments, this bill is unnecessary, overly burdensome, and ultimately counterproductive to the efficient functioning of local government.

First and foremost, AB 2561 would impose unnecessary costs on local governments already struggling with budgetary constraints. Implementing the proposed plan to fill vacant positions within a strict timeline would require additional resources, including staff time and funding, which many agencies simply cannot afford. This increased financial burden would only exacerbate existing challenges faced by local governments in providing essential services to their communities. Moreover, the bill fails to address the root causes of high vacancy rates in public sector jobs and fails to mention key items such as increased unfunded liabilities from the public pension system which would only be exacerbated by this bill. Many vacancies arise not due to a lack of effort on the part of public agencies, but rather as a result of broader systemic issues such as limited funding and resources, higher employer mandated pension costs, and State diversions of local revenues through legislative means (by-right housing in commercial zones and unfunded mandates such as proposed by this bill). By imposing rigid requirements for filling vacancies without addressing these underlying issues, AB 2561 only increases the fundamental challenges faced by public agencies in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel.




Furthermore, the proposed mandate to meet and confer with employee representatives and hold public hearings adds unnecessary layers of bureaucracy and administrative overhead. This bureaucratic red tape would divert valuable time and resources away from essential tasks, hindering the ability of public agencies to effectively serve their constituents.

In conclusion, Assembly Bill 2561 is an ill-conceived measure that would impose significant financial burdens and administrative hurdles on public agencies without addressing the root causes of high vacancy rates in public sector jobs. Instead of creating more barriers to recruitment and retention, we should focus on developing comprehensive solutions that address the underlying challenges faced by local governments.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hepburn
Mayor

C: City Council
Ken Domer, City Manager