



# CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

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[www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org)

April 15, 2025

Senate Judiciary Committee  
1021 O Street, Room 3240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## **RE: Opposition to SB 707 (Durazo) – Open Meetings: Meeting and Teleconference Requirements**

Dear Honorable State Judiciary Committee Members:

The City of La Verne strongly opposes SB 707, which proposes an extensive and rigid set of mandates on how local agencies conduct public meetings. While we remain fully committed to transparency and public participation, this bill introduces a level of operational complexity that will result in significant costs and administrative burden, without delivering proportional improvements in civic engagement.

A key concern lies in the requirement to translate agendas into every language spoken by 20% or more of the population in the county where a city is located. Applying this standard at the county level ignores the vast demographic differences between jurisdictions within the same county. Los Angeles County alone includes 88 cities, each with distinct populations and service needs. Imposing a blanket translation requirement based on aggregated county data creates an inefficient and burdensome process for cities like La Verne, where the affected language groups may not be present in meaningful numbers. This approach fails to recognize local realities and would direct resources toward compliance efforts that may not result in meaningful community benefit.

Additionally, the bill's directive for jurisdictions to 'make a good faith effort' to encourage participation—particularly from underrepresented and non-English-speaking communities—lacks sufficient clarity and guidance. The bill lists broad outreach expectations, such as providing meeting information to media and advocacy organizations, maintaining a dedicated public meetings website, publishing notices in multiple languages, and offering live translation with request procedures. While these goals are laudable, the legislation does not define what constitutes a "good faith effort," how compliance will be measured, or how cities with limited budgets and personnel can reasonably meet such expansive criteria.

SB 707 is sweeping in scope and would affect nearly every aspect of how local agencies operate. While the intent may be to enhance transparency, the bill risks paralyzing local governance with unfunded mandates, overly broad language, and a one-size-fits-all framework that disregards the nuanced realities cities must navigate daily. Effective public access must be tailored to local conditions, not mandated through overly generalized countywide metrics.

For these reasons, the City of La Verne opposes SB 707 and urges the Legislature to pursue more targeted and collaborative reforms that support—not hinder—local governments in their efforts to serve the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "T" and "H".

Tim Hepburn  
Mayor