



# Council Compensation Committee

## Agenda Report

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**For Agenda of:** 9/4/2025  
**Item Number:** 3b  
**Estimated Time:** 15 Minutes

**FROM:** Greg Hermann, Deputy City Manager  
**Prepared By:** Greg Hermann, Deputy City Manager

**SUBJECT:** OVERVIEW OF THE BROWN ACT, CITY 101 AND CITY BUDGET

### RECOMMENDATION

Receive a presentation on the Brown Act, City 101 and the City's Budget.

### DISCUSSION

#### The ABCs of Open Government Laws

*The ABCs of Open Government Laws* (Attachment A) is published by the Institute for Local Government and provides an overview of two key California laws that promote transparency and accountability in local government:

- **The Ralph M. Brown Act**, which governs open meetings of local legislative bodies, requiring that meetings be properly noticed, accessible to the public, and conducted openly, with limited exceptions.
- **The California Public Records Act (CPRA)**, which affirms the public's right to access records and information held by government agencies, subject to certain exemptions.

Staff will review these laws as they apply to the Committee to ensure Committee members understand their legal obligations regarding public access to meetings and records.

#### City 101

Staff will provide a *City 101* presentation which includes an overview of the structure, functions, and operations of cities in California, with a focus on the City of San Luis Obispo. The discussion will include key characteristics of a city, including governance, essential systems, and community identity. In California, there are 483 cities, organized as either General Law cities or Charter cities, and governed through models such as Council-Manager, Mayor-Council, or Town Meeting forms of government.

The presentation will highlight the City's charter, municipal code, and numerous Advisory Bodies that guide policy on various topics including planning, transportation, cultural heritage and financial oversight.

**City Budget**

Staff will provide an overview of the City's budget (Attachment B) including the City's biennial Financial Plan, which includes fiscal policies, departmental budgets, and capital improvement projects.

The City Council adopted a balanced Fiscal Year 2025–26 budget totaling \$217.6 million, which marks the first year of its two-year 2025–27 Financial Plan. Of this, approximately \$117.6 million is allocated to the General Fund.

Despite slowing revenue growth and rising operational costs, the adopted budget closed a funding gap without cutting services for the current year, but a gap remains in future years that will need to be addressed.

**ATTACHMENTS**

A – The ABCs of Open Government Laws

B – Budget in Brief