



City and County of San Francisco

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January 22, 2025

Honorable Mike McGuire
President, California State Senate

Honorable Scott Wiener
Chair, Senate Budget Committee

Honorable Robert Rivas
Speaker, California State Assembly

Honorable Jesse Gabriel
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee

Re: Civil Prosecutors Coalition Budget Request, FY 2025-26

Dear Legislative Leaders,

On behalf of most of the largest City Attorney and County Counsel offices in California, representing over 40 percent of California's population, we appreciate your leadership in passing a special session budget which prepares for potential federal challenges by allocating \$50 million to support the California Department of Justice and legal aid services related to immigration defense – both critical investments to defend our state against actions by the new Trump Administration.

As the Legislature moves into the regular budget cycle, we respectfully reiterate our request for the inclusion of \$10 million of funding for local City Attorney and County Counsel offices, which serve as a critical third pillar in California's legal defense strategy—partnering with the Attorney General and community-based organizations to protect our state's policies and residents from federal overreach.

The Trump Administration will create enormous challenges for our local jurisdictions, policies and protections. The allocation of dedicated resources to local public law offices is critical to ensure we can defend ourselves alongside our state counterparts. This support, particularly in light of significant budget challenges at the local level, is essential for strengthening our ability to respond effectively and uphold California's values in the face of federal attack.

As local civil prosecutors, we have a unique and important role to play in this fight. During Trump's first term, local governments took on a significant role in upholding the rule of law. Our collective efforts helped to protect billions of dollars of critical



federal funding for our cities and counties. Our offices spent tens of thousands of hours, and millions of dollars on dozens of legal matters, including investigating and litigating cases, drafting and filing amicus briefs, and submitting comments to federal rulemaking.

Part of the reason local governments were central to California's Trump 1.0 legal defense was because many of the Trump Administration's efforts were directed at government services provided by local governments: healthcare, jail services, contract and grant funded programs, etc. In those instances, we were best situated to provide the relevant facts and articulate the specific harms stemming from the Trump Administration's policies on our local communities in successful litigation.

In the coming months, we expect the Trump Administration to use all tools at its disposal to threaten, cajole, and coerce local governments into doing its bidding. A few examples of what we expect include:

- Attempts to withhold federal funding: If the President issues act to strip federal funds from jurisdictions that have immigration-related laws that he dislikes, our cities and counties will need to bring legal action once again to protect our funds.
- Increased ICE enforcement: If ICE agents or military troops are sent into our cities and counties under the Insurrection Act to carry out mass deportations, it would create chaos and require a coordinated state and local response.
- Threats of criminal prosecution: Local jurisdictions such as Los Angeles and San Diego have already received letters from a Trump-affiliated group referencing sanctuary jurisdictions and threatening local and state officials with criminal prosecution.
- Imposing unacceptable conditions on healthcare providers: If Trump allows health care professionals to refuse to provide care based on one's personal beliefs, we will need to again bring action to protect local funding and ensure critical health care, including reproductive and gender-affirming health care.
- Slashing public benefits: The Trump Administration could move to reinstate a wealth test on a variety of social services, the so-called "public charge" rule that we previously challenged successfully.

As the regular budget process unfolds, we urge you to prioritize funding for City Attorney and County Counsel offices to defend California against the new Administration. Our legal work dovetails with many of the Legislature's priorities of standing up for immigrants, our LGBTQ+ community, students, health care, reproductive rights, the environment, and federal funding for local jurisdictions. And we know a small investment could protect billions of dollars of federal funding. We stand ready to work with you to ensure our state, cities, and counties are equipped to respond swiftly and effectively to the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

San Francisco City Attorney
Chair, Civil Prosecutors Coalition

Cc: Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
All Members of the California State Legislature