

CITY OF GRASS VALLEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

4 8 2025

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT SIGN IN SHEET

WELCOME to the City of Grass Valley City Council meeting! Public Comments provide an opportunity for the public to address the City Council on any subject which is not on the agenda but in the jurisdiction of the council. If you wish to speak, please indicate in the appropriate box when you sign in and take the number corresponding to your name. Each individual can have up to 3 minutes of public comment. At the beginning of the meeting, there will be an allotted 30 minutes of general public comments and the remainder of comments will be heard at the end of the agenda. Speakers will be called in order of the numbers given.

When you are recognized by the mayor:

- 1. Please stand before the podium and give your name and address. (optional)
- 2. Please limit your comments to three minutes per speaker.

3. If previous speakers have made the same point, you may simply indicate your support or disagreement, unless you have new information.

Thank you for your participation.

| | #'s | Print Name or N/A | Address (optional) | Self/Business (optional) |
|---|-----|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • | 1 | Shurley Freizik | 144 Surre Blance | |
| • | 2 | Don Frazer | | - |
| • | 3 | JOHN MAC YOUNG | PO BOX 403 GV, (A 95945 | NEVADA COUNTY GO |
| • | 4 | Afrey Sottesman | NC | PJCNC |
| • | 5 | Jediclich Watson | Gross Valley | |
| • | 6 | Aly Mane mora | Grass Valley | Self. |
| | 7 | ROBIN DAVIES | 5 | GUDA/CHANSER |
| 7 | 8- | Trend Holman | Nevalle Com | |
| | .9 | 2.64 | | 0 |
| | -10 | Free on Cal | alliada City | Self- |
| | 11 | | | 0 |
| | 12 | 19 is Howing 18 's Gran | to the is no cantake greaking | |
| | 13 | | | |
| | 14 | | | |

CITY OF NEVADA CITY

CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

MEETING OF: April 9, 2025

Agenda Item No. 13

| Subject: Consideration of 1) the Introduction of Draft | Date: March 28, 2025 | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ordinance 2025-04: An Ordinance of the City Council of the | | | | | | |
| City of Nevada City, State of California, Adding Chapter 8.38 | | | | | | |
| of the City of Nevada City Municipal Code, Regarding | Reviewed & Approved: | | | | | |
| Foodware and Food Packaging, and 2) Calling for a Public | 9.00 M / | | | | | |
| Hearing for First Reading of the Ordinance April 23, 2025. | City Manager: | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | City Attorney: | | | | | |
| From: Sean Grayson, City Manager | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

Recommended Action: Review the ordinance and set the public hearing.

ISSUE STATEMENT AND DISCUSSION:

In April of 2024 the City Council provided direction for the City to develop an ordinance similar to Town of Truckee's Single-Use Foodware Reduction Ordinance with the intention to ensure compliance with various recycling and solid waste laws; to ban Styrofoam (polystyrene) in single-use to go containers; and to require the use of reusable foodware for onsite dining. On March 10, 2025, the Economic & Community Development Committee reviewed a draft ordinance and recommended the ordinance be considered for adoption by the City Council with revisions. The attached draft ordinance includes the recommendations of the committee.

City staff have been working with the Nevada City Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) on the topic since 2023. The Chamber hosted Town of Truckee staff to present their ordinance progression and has conducted a survey of local restaurants. The Chamber Board took a support position for such an ordinance in March of 2024. A number of local food vendors have voluntarily eliminated Styrofoam since the initial discussions while most have not used Styrofoam. There appears to be support from the restaurant community for such an ordinance with many Nevada City restaurants already leading in this space. The city learned of several unique issues that make compliance impractical in certain circumstances. Those specific circumstances have been identified as exemptions in the draft ordinance and a process for others to seek exemption has been included as well.

As our food vendor landscape changes, City staff and Chamber of Commerce staff have reconnected with impacted businesses to identify any new challenges. The City and Chamber are co-hosting a Restaurant meeting on April 8, 2025, immediately prior to this City Council meeting where the ordinance will be presented, and input solicited. The input will be provided by staff in the presentation of this item.

The following is a synopsis of the key provisions of the ordinance:

• The ordinance applies to "**Prepared Food Vendors**" which means any establishment located within the City of Nevada City, including a bakery, cafeteria, drive in, food products store, food service establishment, restaurant (carry out, quick service, full service), drugstore, theater, bar, food truck, food cart, food stand, communal or shared kitchens, food sold at City of Nevada City permitted special

events; and all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage vendors including but not limited to breweries, distilleries, and kombucharies, or other similar establishment, selling prepared food to be consumed on and/or off its premises.

- Effective August 1, 2025, expanded polystyrene will be prohibited for food packaging, except coolers or ice chests, and food packaged outside of Nevada City.
- Effective August 1, 2025, a restaurant or other food vendor, shall not provide any single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment packaged for single use to a customer unless the single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment is requested by the customer.
- Effective March 1, 2026, prepared food served for consumption on the premises of a prepared food vendor shall only be served using reusable foodware.

Staff requests that the City Council provide any input on the draft ordinance and set the public hearing for the first reading on April 23, 2025. If approved the second reading would occur on May 14, 2025, and the ordinance would go into effect June 14, 2025 giving staff from May 14 until August 1 to work with all impacted local businesses to ensure compliance and smooth transition.

FINANCIAL AND/OR POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This action is consistent with the strategic initiative of Business: Business, industry, and cannabis support. This ordinance specifically addresses goal #11, "Implement a multi-phase approach to compliance with food waste and edible food diversion. programming to include composting with the first phase including a ban on styrofoam single use to go containers. This action is also aligned with the embedded strategic initiative of Climate: Planning for and building resilience through adaptation to climate change.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

None.

LEGAL REVIEW:

City Attorney Pucci has reviewed this item and finds that the recommended action complies with the law.

ATTACHMENTS:

Ordinance 2025-04

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEVADA CITY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, ADDING CHAPTER 8.38 OF THE CITY OF NEVADA CITY MUNICIPAL CODE, REGARDING FOODWARE AND FOOD PACKAGING

WHEREAS, the City of Nevada City has the police power to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community, including the ability to protect and enhance the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, Nevada City's plastic bag ban enacted in 2014 was the City's first waste reduction policy exemplifying a history of environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, City of Nevada City 2022-2027 Strategic Plan includes the embedded strategic initiative of Climate: Planning for and building resilience through adaptation to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the production and disposal of single-use foodware has major environmental impacts, including street litter, water pollution, wildlife harm, depletion of resources, greenhouse gas emissions, and clean-up and end of life management costs; and

WHEREAS, food and beverage packaging comprise approximately one quarter of California's disposed waste stream annually, according to CalRecycle, and an estimated 67% of street litter, according to the Clean Water Fund; and

WHEREAS, expanded polystyrene products are of distinctive concern because they can break into small pieces and may easily be picked up by the wind even when they have been disposed of properly, making it extremely difficult to recover as litter, polluting the environment and waterways; and

WHEREAS, regulating the use of disposable foodware products will minimize greenhouse gas emissions from production, transportation, and packaging of those disposable products, maximize the operating life of landfills, and reduce impacts to the environment and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, reusable foodware products are more environmentally sound because their multiple uses reduce the upstream impacts per item, and can save businesses money; and

WHEREAS, single-use foodware accessories, including napkins, straws, condiments, forks, spoons, sporks, knives and other disposable flatware create waste and environmental hazards, and California Public Resources Code Section 42270 et seq. requires that such accessory items shall only be made available upon request;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEVADA CITY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The above recitals are true and incorporated into this ordinance.

SECTION 2. Chapter 8.38 of the Nevada City Municipal Code is hereby added to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8.38 FOODWARE AND FOOD PACKAGING

8.38.010 - PURPOSES

The Council of the City of Nevada City finds and declares as follows:

- A. The production and disposal of disposable food and beverage packaging has significant environmental impacts, including the contamination of the environment, the depletion of natural resources, use of non-renewable fossil fuels, and greenhouse gas emissions.
- B. Food and beverage packaging makes up 25% of all waste produced in California and comprises the majority of street litter.
- C. Disposable expanded polystyrene products and packaging are a distinctive concern because this type of litter is lightweight and can easily break down and spread into the natural environment.
- D. It is in the interest of the health, safety, and welfare of all who live, work, and recreate in the City of Nevada City that the amount of litter on public streets, parks, outdoor recreation areas, and other public spaces be reduced.
- E. Most disposable foodware is not recyclable after use because it becomes contaminated with food and grease.
- F. Many types of disposable foodware are not accepted in commercial compost facilities because they cause contamination and lower the quality and value of compost.
- G. Eliminating solid waste and litter at its source meets the City of Nevada City's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, embedded strategic initiative of Climate: Planning for and building resilience through adaptation to climate change.
- H. Reducing disposable packaging by eliminating unnecessary items and transitioning to reusable products provides greater environmental benefits than managing the products that become waste, even when recycled or composted.

8.38.020 - DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter, the terms set forth below shall have the following meanings:

"Disposable takeout container" means a container meant to package and store food from a restaurant or other prepared food vendor, which is designed for a single use rather than designed and manufactured to be washed and sanitized and to be used repeatedly over an extended period of time, including without limitation any container, bowl, plate, tray, carton, or box provided to the customer which does not meet the definition of "reusable foodware" set forth herein.

"Disposable cup" means a beverage cup designed for single use to serve beverages, such as water, cold drinks, hot drinks and alcoholic beverages provided to the customer which does not meet the definition of "reusable foodware" set forth herein.

"Expanded polystyrene" means blown polystyrene and expanded and extruded foams (including without limitation the form of expanded polystyrene insulation which is known as 'Styrofoam', a trademark of Dow Chemical Co.) which are thermoplastic petrochemical materials utilizing a styrene monomer and processed by various techniques, including without

limitation fusion of polymer spheres (expandable bead polystyrene), injection molding, foam molding, and extrusion blow molding (extruded foam polystyrene). Expanded polystyrene does not include clear or solid polystyrene (oriented polystyrene).

"**Pre-packaged food**" means food that arrives at the premises of the restaurant or other food vendor in a container or wrapper and is not removed from the container or wrapper before its sale or distribution.

"**Prepared Food**" means foods or beverages which are prepared on the vendor's premises by cooking, chopping, slicing, mixing, freezing, squeezing, or other processing and which require no further preparation to be consumed. Prepared Food does not include raw uncooked whole fruits or vegetables which are not chopped, squeezed, or mixed, or raw uncooked meat products.

"**Prepared Food Vendor**" means any establishment located within the City of Nevada City, including a bakery, cafeteria, drive in, food products store, food service establishment, restaurant (carry out, quick service, full service), drugstore, theater, bar, food truck, food cart, food stand, communal or shared kitchens, food sold at City of Nevada City permitted special events; and all alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage vendors including but not limited to breweries, distilleries, and kombucharies, or other similar establishment, selling prepared food to be consumed on and/or off its premises.

"Reusable foodware" means all foodware, including plates, bowls, cups, trays, glasses, straws, stirrers, condiment cups and utensils, that is manufactured of durable materials and that is specifically designed and manufactured to be washed and sanitized and to be used repeatedly over an extended period of time, and is safe for washing and sanitizing according to applicable regulations.

"Single-use foodware accessory" means single-use items provided along with ready-to- eat food, including without limitation napkins, forks, knives, spoons, sporks, chopsticks, condiment cups and packets, straws, stirrers, splash sticks, cocktail sticks, cup sleeves, and cup lids.

"Standard condiment" means relishes, spices, sauces, confections, or seasonings that require no additional preparation and that are usually used on a food item after preparation, including ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, soy sauce, hot sauce, salsa, salt, pepper, sugar, and sugar substitutes.

8.38.30 - PROHIBITED FOOD PACKAGING AND CONTAINERS

- A. Effective August 1, 2025, except as set forth herein, no restaurant, retail store, food vendor, or other business or person shall sell, distribute, or provide to customers expanded polystyrene, including without limitation by selling food which is packaged partially or entirely in expanded polystyrene, nor shall any business purchase, obtain, keep, or otherwise use in its business any expanded polystyrene product.
- B. The prohibition set forth in subsection A of this section shall not apply to: (i) expanded polystyrene products which are wholly encapsulated or encased within a more durable material, such as coolers or ice chests which encase expanded polystyrene in rigid plastic;

or (ii) the sale of food packaged outside Nevada City, provided that this exception shall not apply to egg cartons and trays for meat, fish, and fruit or vegetables sold in grocery stores.

C. For a period of one year from the effective date of this section, a restaurant, retail store, food vendor, or other business or person may apply to the City of Nevada City for a one-year hardship exemption to be permitted to continue using one or more specific expanded polystyrene items for which the requirements of this section present an undue hardship or practical difficulty because there are no available non-polystyrene alternatives or such alternatives are not affordable to the restaurant, retail store, food vendor, or other business or person.

8.38.040 - REUSABLE FOODWARE FOR ON-PREMISES DINING

- A. Effective March 1, 2026, except as set forth herein, prepared food served for consumption on the premises of a prepared food vendor shall only be served using reusable foodware.
- B. The requirement of subsection A of this section shall not apply to disposable paper food wrappers; aluminum foil food wrappers; paper napkins; straws; paper tray or plate liners; non-plastic stirrers, cocktail sticks, and toothpicks; popcorn tubs or other containers for popcorn or similar snacks; ice cream cups or other containers for ice cream or similar frozen foods; or pre-packaged food packaged outside the premises of the prepared food vendor.
- C. The requirements of subsection A of this section shall not apply to Mobile Food Facilities or Temporary Food Facilities as defined by CA Health and Safety Code Sections 113831 and 113930 and as amended.
- D. A restaurant or other food vendor may apply to the City of Nevada City for a one- year hardship exemption to be permitted to continue using foodware which is not reusable foodware. Each application for a hardship exemption shall provide evidence of the conditions which make it impossible for the restaurant or other food vendor to comply with the reusable foodware requirement, such as insurmountable space constraints, undue financial hardship and/or other extraordinary, insurmountable circumstances.
- E. Prior to the City of Nevada City issuing a land use permit or building permit for new construction or conversions, any restaurant or other prepared food vendor shall submit to the City a plan demonstrating ability to comply with this section. Installation and/or maintenance of appropriate dishwashing capacity to allow compliance with this section shall be included as a specific condition of approval for such permits.

8.38.050 - RESERVED

8.38.060 – REUSABLE CUSTOMER FOODWARE

A. Customers may provide their own reusable foodware for beverage and food service in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code.

- B. Food Vendors shall keep all customer provided reusable foodware separated from the food facility's foodware to prevent any cross-contamination.
- C. Food Vendor staff filling customer provided foodware shall prevent cross-contamination of food contact surfaces or utensils used for food dispensing (e.g. customer foodware should be placed upon surfaces that are not used for food preparation and on surfaces that can be sanitized immediately).
- D. Food vendors may refuse, at their sole discretion, any customer-provided reusable foodware that is cracked, chipped or corroded, appears inappropriate in size, material, or condition for the intended beverage or food item, or that appears to be excessively soiled or unsanitary.
- E. If the customer provided reusable foodware is rejected, the food vendor may instead require use of reusable foodware for consumption on the premises of the food service establishment, or use of a disposable foodware item for a beverage or food item to be consumed off the premises of the food service establishment, together with the charge required pursuant to Section 8.38.050.

8.38.070 - SINGLE-USE FOODWARE ACCESSORIES

- A. Effective August 1, 2025, except as set forth herein, a restaurant or other food vendor, shall not provide any single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment packaged for single use to a customer unless the single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment is requested by the customer.
- B. Single-use foodware accessories and standard condiments packaged for single use provided by restaurants or other food vendors for use by customers shall not be bundled or packaged in a manner that prevents a customer from taking only the type of single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment desired without also having to take a different type of single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment.
- C. A restaurant or other food vendor may ask a to-go consumer if the consumer wants a single-use foodware accessory if the single-use foodware accessory is necessary for the customer to consume ready-to-eat food, or to prevent spills of or safely transport ready-to-eat food.
- D. A third-party food delivery platform shall provide customers with the option to request single-use foodware accessories or standard condiments from a restaurant or other food vendor serving ready-to-eat food.
- E. If a restaurant or other food vendor uses any third-party delivery platform for ready-to-eat food, the restaurant or other food vendor shall customize its menu with a list of available single-use foodware accessories and standard condiments, and only those single-use foodware accessories or standard condiments selected by the customer shall be provided by the food facility. If a customer does not select any single- use foodware accessories or standard condiments, no single-use foodware accessory or standard condiment shall be provided by the restaurant or other food vendor for delivery of ready-to-eat food.

- F. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a restaurant or other food vendor from making unwrapped single-use foodware accessories available to a customer using refillable selfservice dispensers that dispense one item at a time to allow for single-use foodware accessories to be obtained.
- G. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a food facility from making standard condiments available to a consumer using refillable self-service dispensers to allow for standard condiments to be obtained. A food facility that offers standard condiments is encouraged to use bulk dispensers for the condiments rather than condiments packaged for single use.

SECTION 3. ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION. The project has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines, and the City's environmental procedures, and has been found to be not a project under Section 15378 (b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

SECTION 4. INCONSISTENCIES. Any provision of the Nevada City Municipal Code or appendices thereto inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance, to the extent of such inconsistencies and/or further, is hereby repealed or modified to the extent necessary to affect the provisions of this ordinance.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any provision or clause of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or clauses or applications of this ordinance which can be implemented without the invalid provision, clause or application; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect commencing thirty (30) days after its final adoption and a summary hereof shall be published once within fifteen (15) days in The Union, a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the County of Nevada and circulated in the City of Nevada City and hereby designated for that purpose by the City Council.

SECTION 7. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this ordinance and shall cause the same to be published in the manner and form provided by law in The Union, a newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the City of Nevada City, State of California, which said newspaper is hereby designated for that purpose.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council on the 23rd day of April, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

MOTION:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Passed and approved at the regular meeting of the City Council on the 14th day of May, 2025, by the following roll call vote:

MOTION:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

ATTEST:

Gabrielle Christakes, Deputy City Clerk

Gary Petersen, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Dean J. Pucci, City Attorney

City of Grass Valley

City Council Regular Meeting, Capital Improvements Authority and Redevelopment "Successor Agency"

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Comments on Agenda Item 6 (Measure E Street Rehabilitation Project) and item 16, Downtown Street Rehab Project

Comments from-Katherine Thompson, kathompson111@gmail.com, 916-835.1541

- .
- President, Sierra Express Bicycle Club of Nevada County (Sierra Express), 7,700 Bicycle commuter between Grass Valley and Nevada Citand shopping Grandchilder •
- Grandchildren that go to school and play sports in Grass Valley. .
- Sierra Express performed a street survey related to bike safety in late 2024 and provided • specific recommendations for improving bike safety on streets in Grass Valley including East Main Street, Brunswick, and Sutton Way. The recommendations were provided to the Nevada County Transportation Commission and the city.
- •
- Sierra Express would like to see a bike friendly "town-to-town" route from Grass Valley to Nevada City that is safe for recreational cyclists, visitors, commuters, and youth. ...Perhaps something like bike route #1 from the Fairgrounds to Nevada City. A safe cycling route between towns likely includes Main Street, Nevada City Highway, Brunswick and Sutton Streets in addition to the designated route on Church Street.

(UVENT)

- atown-to-town water We acknowledge that much of the proposed route does have bike lanes but then the bike lanes disappear and usually at the most dangerous areas. We need to address these dangerous areas as part of these projects.
- Town-to-town routes for both recreation and <u>transportation</u> are a priority of the new Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan.

- Given our 2024 survey and current MUTCD (Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices), . we are concerned that the planned projects appear to largely perpetuate the unsafe cycling conditions on Main Street and high traffic intersections (Dorsey/Sierra College, Brunswick, Sutton). In several cases, the striping plans appear to not meet MUTCD standards. Examples: Sharrows too close to cars, bicycle lane in a right turn lane, and busy intersections without any traffic control for bicycles.
- Additionally, signage needs to be added such as "bikes may use full lane," "begin right turn, yield to bikes," and so on. In some cases, bike lanes are not 48" wide.
- The MUTCD prescribes ways to make these intersections much safer and should beused . to address dangerous areas.
- We want to emphasize the safety changes the Manual recommends can be accomplished with paint and signage.
- The proliferation of e-bikes has made it easier to transverse Grass Valley and created . more bike traffic. Visitors are coming to Grass Valley with e-bikes to explore the area. More residents, parents with children, and youth are getting e-bikes to use as transportation.

IN SUMMARY in the immediate future, we are talking about paint and signs --which is part of these projects. - and meeting current design standards

Document: SEBC-GVRoad rehab comments 8 April 2025

Thongyon + we hope to to surfat collaborate meres/surfat adoress adoress

SEBC Transportation Committee October 23, 2024 Roadway Assessment Popular Cycling & Connector Roads

Request. At the conclusion of our meeting on August 28, 2024, Nevada County Transportation Commission requested that we provide a list of three to five frequently-used cycling roadways that are narrow and could benefit by a minimal investment in additional widening. We were asked to "Identify the top 3-5 roadway segments that need to be addressed due to lack of a shoulder or an unsafe shoulder, or the like. (very small projects)." (Reference our email to NCTC, 8/28/24.) To address this question, we did a roadway assessment as described below.

Methodology of Identifying Areas Needing Pavement and Signage. To address the NCTC request, the SEBC Transportation Committee performed a drive by assessment on 10/23/24 of roadways frequently used by our cyclists and for town-to-town commutes. All four members of the SEBC Transportation Committee performed observations. We also considered whether there was signage communicating roadway rules.

We identified many areas that could benefit from additional pavement. Also, in both Grass Valley and Nevada City, main streets that cyclists share would benefit from signage (e.g. bicycles may use full lane, sharrows). A federal study found that "Concern about the safety of bicycling on roadways is frequently cited as a deterrent to increasing bicycle use in the USA." Effective signage (specifically 'Bicycles May Use Full Lane') "was the most consistently comprehended device for communicating the message that bicyclists may occupy the travel lane and also increased perceptions of safety" and help increase awareness of roadway rights and responsibilities. (https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4552809/)

1. **Ridge Road.** Ridge Road is a popular cycling and town-to-town corridor as it connects Grass Valley with Nevada City. Nevada Union High School is on Ridge Road. It is also part of the popular recreational cycling LeMond Loop and the annual Gold Country Challenge Bicycle event; both attract many out-of-town cyclists.

The following sections had a narrow shoulder but it appeared additional pavement could be added without interfering with ditches, driveways, etc.

- a. More Pavement: From Rough and Ready Highway to Ridgeview Dr. (A to Z Supply). Both sides of road need additional shoulder. There are areas with no shoulder.
- b. More Pavement: From Ridgeview Drive to Alta Street several places need a shoulder or widening. There are short sections with no shoulder.
- c. Cleaning and vegetation removal from shoulder: Nevada City Cal Fire to the High School
 - 2. Rough and Ready Highway. This is another popular cycling route and part of the LeMond Loop and annual Gold Country Century. Busy narrow sections need signage indicating bicycles may use full lane.

a. Additional Pavement. There is a small section between Twin Cities Church and Ridge that could benefit from additional pavement. (Little to no shoulder)b. Family Center to Bitney Springs Road- Areas with no pavement

- c. From Bitney Springs Road in the uphill direction to West Drive-additional areas of additional pavement would create safer cycling access.
- d. Ridge Road to Squirrel Creek Road.

. .

3. **Bitney Springs Road** at and north of the Rough and Ready Highway Intersection. Due to ditches, it appears adding shoulder may be a more difficult project. "Bicyclists May Use Full Lane" signage would help make it safer for cyclists. Note that this is a popular recreational cycling route, known as the LeMond Loop. It is also part of the Gold Country Century. Safe cycling protocols recommend that cyclists use the full lane as they go south (uphill) on Bitney Springs Road toward Rough and Ready Highway (approximately a ¼-mile section). However, without signage (e.g. "Bicycles May Use Full Lane,") this is likely to (and has) engender close passes and harassment from motorists.

Most **of Bitney Springs Road** could benefit from this signage. We are aware of one SEBC member hit by a truck because of the narrow roadway and many close calls. Many cyclists have complained about motorists passing too fast and closely on this.

4. Main Street/Nevada City Highway (town to town route)

- a. **Downtown Grass Valley**: Needs clear signage and "sharrows" (bicycle arrows); optimal signage indicates bikes may use full lane. Also striping on edge of roadway in this section is missing. Sharrows in the East Main traffic circle would be beneficial. The traffic circle has no signs saying where cyclists should ride.
- b. Dorsey Intersection. Signage and sharrows would create a safer environment.
 c. Brunswick Intersection. Signage and sharrows would create safer environment.
 There is no striping east from intersection to Speedway Gas Station.

d. Lumberjack to 20/49 Overpass: Fog line striping missing.

e. Overpass to Zion: Insufficient or missing striping.

5. Brunswick Road (town to town route – Grass Valley to Greenhorn/Cedar Ridge area)

 a. East Bennett to Town Talk Road, heading north toward Brunswick Basin:

Several areas without a shoulder compounded by fast moving traffic. Due to heavy traffic, high vehicle speeds and narrow travel lanes, signage indicating cyclists may use full lane would be highly advisable to improve cycling safety.

b. Whispering Pines area. Narrow shoulder to no shoulder for part of area on west side.

c. From Sutton to Cedar Ridge, heading south. Area near the Sutton intersection has no striping or signs for cycling traffic. From Loma Rica Rd. east there is no shoulder in places.

d. **Greenhorn area of Brunswick:** Needs some striping and widening on the north side of Greenhorn.

6. Idaho Maryland Road (town-to-town route)

a. East Main Traffic Circle to Sutton (towards Sutton). Shoulder covered with vegetation in spots so unclear if it is adequate. Shoulder striping missing in some sections, specifically Main Street to Railroad. Shoulder missing pavement in small section.

7. Sutton Way (town-to-town route) At the time of our assessment the following were identified.

- a. **Dorsey Dr. to Idaho Maryland (general area).** No lane/fogline identified. Although road is wide, no bike lanes identified.
- b. Dorsey Dr. to approximately 265 Sutton Way. Additional shoulder is warranted.

Since the time of our assessment, Sutton Way has just been rerouted and paved at the new road to the Loma Rica the development. It appears wide enough but needs bike lane striping and new signage.

8. Nevada City

• • • •

- a. **Ridge Road/Gold Flat Road:** Insufficient bike lane in front on Cashin's Field (new development).
- b. **Nevada City Highway.** Vegetation (berry bushes, pine needles, etc.) in shoulder from Ridge to Banner Lava Cap overpass.
- c. **Zion Street.** No outside lane striping. Sections of poor pavement. Town-to-town route and recreational cycling route.
 - d. Pine Street: Needs striping, signage, and sharrows. Recreational cycling route.

SEBC Transportation Committee Members:

Richard Drace, Chair Reed Hamilton Bill Lawrence Katherine Thompson

Document: Oct 23 Assessment final 11_25_24

How Can I Participate in "Our" Democracy? Local? State? Federal?

1. What is my Political Passion?

- Peacebuilding / Justice / Human rights supporting Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Economic & Environmental rights
- Health, Mental Health and Reproductive rights
- Education and Housing rights
- · Labor, Consumer and Small Business rights
- Food Security and Regenerative Agriculture rights
- Protection of National Forests, Parks, Recreation
- Protection Freedom of Speech, Elections Integrity and the Arts
- Protection of Homeland & National Security
- Technology & Equitable Government Spending
- Other:

2. What are my personal values, skills, talents, abilities and life/ work experiences that I can apply to creating a Democracy that works for everyone?

3. How can I focus my energy to create the changes that are needed to have a Democracy that, functions to empower the individual and works for the "Common Good," not just the corporations?

Be a Student / Teacher-Education yourself and others on history and current issues

Be an Active Voter - Assist in voter registration and election integrity actions

Be a Leader-For a cause, a political or other type group / organization, be a candidate

Be a Communicator -Verbal, Print, Social Media, Technology / Internet, Support a Campaign

Be a Activist / Organizer- Develop support networks-Petition, March, Protest, Boycott

Be an Advocate / Lobbyist / Collaborator ---Contact elected officials, support policy / legislation

4. What is my "Plan" to participate in "Our" Democracy and whom will I ask to join me?

Tips for Writing to Your Elected Officials

Communicating with your elected officials through <u>handwritten</u> letters can be very effective. Many legislators see a single letter as representing not only the writer's view but also that of many other constituents who didn't write.

Here are some tips to make your letter more impactful:

1. Keep It Short

Limit your letter to **one page** and focus on a **single issue**. Legislative aides read many letters daily, so being concise is crucial.

2. Identify Yourself and Your Issue

In the first paragraph, mention that you are a constituent, explain your connection to the area and/or your expertise, and specify the issue you're addressing. (If your letter concerns a particular piece of legislation, include its bill number {e.g., H.R. _____ or S. _____})

3. Highlight Key Points

Choose the three most compelling points to persuade your legislators and elaborate on them.

4. Make It Personal

Explain why the issue/legislation matters to your community and/or the district. Share a personal story if you have one, illustrating how the issue affects you and your family. Personal stories can be very persuasive.

5. Mention Your Connection

If you've voted for the elected official, contributed to their campaign, or **know them through any business or personal relationship, mention it**. For example, maybe they also belong to the same organization that you do, or maybe you saw them speak at a meeting. The closer your legislator feels to you, the stronger your argument will be.

6. Make Two Asks

Ask them to take a specific action on the issue you mention AND ask them to send their position on the issue in writing. The specific action might be... "speak out against", "write a letter against", "communicate to the President", and/or "hold a town hall in the district."

Letter Writing Outline

The Honorable Kevin Kiley 1530 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515-3201

OR 6538 Lonetree Blvd., Suite 200 Rocklin, CA 95765 (916) 724-2575 (888) 406-3855

Dear Representative Kiley:

(Cover the points above including:)

- Introduction and personal information
- Explain issue and what you are asking for
- Mention any connection you might have
- Highlight 3-5 key points
- Add a personal story
- Reiterate your ASK
- Ask them to contact you with their position. "I look forward to understanding more about your position on this specific issue. I urge you to set up an in-person town hall.... etc...."

Sincerely,

[Your signature]

[Your Name]

[Your Mailing Address]

[Email]

[phone]

| Representative Tom McClintock | Representative Doug LaMalfa | |
|---|---|--|
| 2256 Rayburn House Office Building | 408 Cannon House Office Building | |
| Washington, DC 20515-0001 | Washington, DC 20515-6601 | |
| Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne and Mariposa counties, western El Dorado County, eastern Stanislaus, Madera and Fresno counties. Cities in district include most of Modesto, north Turlock, north Fresno, Oakdale, Hughson, Riverbank, Sonora, Jackson, and Placerville | Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Sutter, and Tehama, and most of Yuba County. Largest cities in the district are Chico, Redding, and Yuba City, Marysville, Wheatland, and Plumas Lake. | |

Letter Writing Points

March 17, 2025

Public Land in Congressional District 3: Rep. Kevin Kiley

- Rep. Kiley's district has a significant amount of public land managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Approximately 70% of the district is composed of national parks, national forests, and other public lands.
- These areas provide recreational opportunities, environmental benefits, and important economic contributions to these regions.
- National Parks include Death Valley, Yosemite, Kings Canyon, Sequoia, and Lassen. The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the district.

USFS cuts impact wildfire risk, environmental restoration, recreation, and community safety

- In the last four years, USFS wildfire treatments have resulted in reduced wildfire risk to \$700 billion worth of housing and critical infrastructure; including approximately 550 at-risk communities, 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, and 1,800 acres of watersheds that provide drinking water, as well as many other values that people depend on and care about. The USFS ensures that critical infrastructure and natural and cultural resources Americans rely upon are becoming safer.¹
- In FY 2024, the USFS invested \$500 million in wildfire projects (including \$179 million for projects in California²) to confront the wildfire crisis.
- In 2025 alone (in the last 2.5 months), the USFS treated over 50,000 acres (or 78 square miles) in California to reduce wildfire risk.
- Because of DOGE cuts, 3,400 employees were fired, roughly 10% of their workforce, affecting critical activities such as wildfire mitigation, forest thinning permits, avalanche forecasting, and research. Seasonal firefighters and support crews are left in limbo, impacting wildfire response and community safety. The cuts also halt the hiring of trail crews, recreation technicians, and campground staff, which are essential for maintaining public access to trails and campgrounds. While a judge has ordered employees to be reinstated, the Administration says it will appeal.³

¹ Confronting the Wildfire Crisis | US Forest Service

² USFS Invests \$179M to Confront Wildfire Crisis - California Wildfire & Forest Resilience

³ Second federal judge orders Trump administration to rehire fired probationary government workers - CBS News March 13, 2025

While some USFS personnel have been reinstated, it is reported that they have been sent home on administrative leave.⁴

- Cuts also impact the Lake Tahoe Basin, where the USFS manages 78% of the land. The hiring freeze and recent firings have gutted the agency, putting critical work in water quality, environmental restoration, and forest fuels reduction projects on hold. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit lost a third of its recreational staff, including the lone permanent wilderness ranger position in Desolation Wilderness. The cuts diminish the forest service's capacity to manage the millions of visitors to Lake Tahoe.⁵
- USFS lands offer hiking, biking, fishing, and skiing. The USFS manages over 160,000 miles of trails, including historic and recreation trails. They manage over 800 wilderness areas (covering over 111 million acres.) Outdoor recreation on USFS lands generates \$887 billion in spending annually. In addition, these activities support job creation for 7.6 million Americans, contributing \$65.3 billion in federal tax revenue and \$59.2 billion in state and local tax revenue.⁶
- Grant funding freezes have caused numerous project cancellations including wildfire prevention, environmental restoration, and trail repair projects. Work on these projects has been halted.
- While some employees may be reinstated, the loss of experienced staff has led to a significant reduction in institutional knowledge and expertise.

Cuts threaten dam maintenance and public safety

- Approximately two-thirds of California's dams are over 50 years old. Given that our state has nearly 1,500 dams, this means around 1,000 are over the age of 50. Many of these older dams require significant upgrades so that they can handle an increasing number of flood events and atmospheric storms. We need to be fixing and retrofitting these dams now.
- California has approximately over 600 high hazard dams.⁷ These structures are considered high hazard due to the potential for loss of life and significant property damage that could occur if the dam fails.
- The Oroville Dam (located in Rep. LaMalfa's district) is a high hazard dam. In 2017 there was rainfall and a large flow event that damaged the main spillway to the dam. Over 188,000 people living downstream were evacuated. The incident highlighted the need for better infrastructure maintenance.

⁴ Nevada County Town Hall, 3/20/25, Indivisible Nevada County

⁵ 'There is literally no one': Forest service in Lake Tahoe is gutted

⁶ Managing for Recreation | US Forest Service

⁷ CMUA

- Federal funding for dam safety supports efforts ensuring that California's dams are regularly inspected, maintained, and upgraded to meet modern safety standards. Dam safety efforts are critical to protect human life, property and our water supply.
- The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) is a partnership between states, federal agencies, and other stakeholders aimed at promoting effective dam safety programs -- It provides grants for state dam safety programs and the rehabilitation of high hazard potential dams.⁸
- FEMA's National Dam Safety Program has faced budget cuts, impacting its ability to provide necessary funding and support. The program received \$185 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding allocated significant funds for dam safety, including \$185 million for the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams program⁹¹⁰ States rely on federal assistance for dam safety programs and dam removal projects.
- Historically, habitat projects have funded dam removals. The reduction in dam safety funds complicates efforts to remove aging dams and address environmental concerns

Cuts to our National Parks threaten our local economies, tourism, and land protection

- In 2024, a record-breaking 331.9 million people visited national parks in the United States¹¹
- A recent poll shows that 76% of Americans see the National Park Service favorably. ¹²
- National parks contribute significantly to the economy, with recreation-based revenues supporting a **\$646 billion recreation economy**
- Approximately 1,000 National Park Service (NPS) employees were laid off. Reduced staff leads to longer visitor wait times, fewer ranger-led programs, and delays in campground reservations.
- In 2023, 3.9 million people¹³ visited Yosemite National Park and visitor spending amounted to \$526.57 million¹⁴, supporting local businesses and contributing significantly to the economy.
- California's National Parks are a vital economic driver for gateway communities generating job creation and local spending. Every dollar invested in these areas generates nearly \$10 in economic activity. There are significant economic benefits to maintaining and enhancing our parks.

⁸ Grant Assistance to States | FEMA.gov

⁹ Biden-Harris Administration Awards \$33 Million in National Dam Safety Grants | FEMA.gov

¹⁰ Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Provides Historic Levels of Funding for Resilience Projects Nationwide | FEMA.gov

¹¹ DOGE Cuts Elevate Wildfire Risk at National Parks, Rolling Stone Mach 14,2025

¹² How Americans see federal departments and agencies | Pew Research Center

¹³ Yosemite National Park visitors 2023 | Statista

¹⁴ Yosemite National Park Statistics | How Many Tourists Visit?

- In 2018, over 4 million visitors to Yosemite National Park spent \$500 million in communities near the park. That spending supported 6,184 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$624 million.¹⁵
- Lassen Volcanic National Park offers volcanic landscapes, hot springs, and beautiful mountain scenery. The park has approximately half a million visitors annually who then spend \$16 million in the park and in nearby communities, creating over 200 jobs in the local area.¹⁶
- In 2020, visitors to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks spent \$96.7 million, with that spending supporting 1,228 jobs in the local area and contributing \$68.9 million to the local economy.¹⁷

Pacific Crest Trail cuts impact maintenance, volunteers, and funding¹⁸

- The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) runs through areas in CD3 including transversing the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and the Plumas and Lassen National Forests.
- The PCT is used by **hundreds of thousands**¹⁹ of people each year. This includes day hikers, weekend backpackers, and long-distance hikers. The trail runs through USFS lands and wilderness areas.
- **Trail Maintenance**: Over a year's worth of trail maintenance projects (56 weeks) have been canceled.
- Staff Reductions: Six seasonal trail crew leaders will likely not be hired due to the cuts.
- Safety Concerns: The absence of back-country rangers raises serious safety concerns for hikers.
- Volunteer Efforts: In 2024, volunteers donated more than 57,500 hours of labor, valued at \$1.9 million, but volunteers alone cannot replace federal crews.
- Funding and Stability: The shared stewardship model relies on fully staffed federal agencies and consistent funding, both of which are now in jeopardy.
- **Economic Impact**: Over the past decade, volunteers and private donors have contributed \$47.8 million to care for the trail, highlighting the importance of community-driven conservation.

NOAA Cuts Threaten Weather Forecasting, Safety, Fisheries, and our Economy²⁰

¹⁵ <u>Tourism to Yosemite National Park Creates \$624,129,000 in Economic Benefits - Yosemite National Park (U.S.</u> National Park Service)

¹⁶ Lassen Impacts Local Economy - Lassen Volcanic National Park (U.S. National Park Service)

¹⁷ Quick Fact Sheet - Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks (U.S. National Park Service)

¹⁸ "Recent federal layoffs threaten the future of nation's beloved Pacific Crest Trail" March 9, 2025 by Megan Wargo https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article301575314.html#storylink=cpy

¹⁹ PCT visitor use statistics - Pacific Crest Trail Association

²⁰ Federal cuts to NOAA could have major implications

- Reduced Staffing: NOAA has already dismissed 586 employees, including 108 from the National Weather Service (NWS)²¹
- NOAA tracks atmospheric rivers, severe weather events, and climate patterns affecting California. In CA there are forecast offices that issue critical weather alerts such as flood warnings, high wind warnings, and winter storm warnings. Fewer staff could delay the issuance of critical weather warnings and advisories, such as red flag warnings for wildfires.
- NOAA's forecasting is critical for our economy and commerce because cargo ships rely on their minute-to-minute updates for daily operations and to function.²²
- Incident Meteorologists: Availability of personnel to serve as incident meteorologists at wildfires could be impacted, compromising the safety of fire crews and the effectiveness of wildfire management.²³
- Fisheries Management: At least five NOAA fisheries employees were fired from the Central Valley office, impacting endangered species management. In mid-March it was announced that all 3 California offices of NOAA will be closed.
- **Research and Monitoring**: Reduced staff may hinder NOAA's ability to conduct essential environmental research and monitoring
- The cuts could affect the government's ability to protect communities during natural disasters, impacting public safety.
- Avalanche sentences needed
- NOAA's work supports various sectors, including agriculture, fisheries, and tourism, which could suffer economic consequences due to reduced services

Cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) impacts our clean water and environmental protection

- DOGE proposed to cut 65% of EPA spending. This could include the loss of 122 clean water enforcement staff (out of 188 total), loss of 112 emergency response staff (out of 172), and the loss of 79 safe water staff (out of 122.)
- These cuts would severely impact the EPA's ability to enforce clean water regulations, respond to environmental emergencies, and ensure safe drinking water.

²¹ How job cuts at NOAA could impact weather forecasting - ABC News

²² As NOAA braces for more cuts, scientists say public safety is at risk | PBS News, KQED, March 13, 2025

²³ NOAA Incident Meteorologists prepare for another busy fire year

• The cuts can severely limit water quality monitoring, making it harder to detect and address pollution in rivers, lakes, and drinking water sources.

Cuts hurt local farmers, food banks, and school lunch programs

- \$2 billion in funding for already obligated funds has been frozen.
- Tens of thousands of farmers and support organizations have been affected by a freeze on federal payments. Programs impacted include the Regional Energy for America Program (REAP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Regional Conservation Partnerships (RCP), and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).
- The USDA announced the termination of funding for the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement and the Local Food for Schools Cooperative Agreement. These programs were designed to support local farmers by helping them supply fresh food to schools and food banks, by helping them purchase food directly from local farms. These agricultural programs are important for local communities and families.²⁴
- Nonprofit School Nutrition Association said the change would pull free meals away from 12 million U.S. students.²⁵
- In California, the Farms Together Program, which was part of the Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement, supported 533 small farmers and supplied food to 55 food banks and community partners, with about 100 of those farmers being from the San Joaquin Valley.²⁶
- On March 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture notified the State of North Carolina that it was canceling an agreement for its Local Food for Schools and Child Care Cooperative program, effective 60 days from that date. The agreement, made with North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, would have provided the state nearly \$19 million in federal funding over three years to help school systems and childcare facilities purchase unprocessed, or minimally processed, food from local farmers and small businesses.²⁷

²⁴ USDA Cuts School Food Program: List of States Impacted - Newsweek

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Federal funding cuts for California farms programs impacts Stanislaus food banks, schools

²⁷ Western NC farms, schools and food bank take hit from Trump administration funding cuts

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

•

THE



Council on American-Islamic Relations Community Toolkit:

abraces diversity values

HEREAS, incidents of anti-Azab, e rise within our country, posing a sign minimities and all Americans, and

VHEREAS, we express profound sorrow and co ms, including children and the elderly, in the terro

WHEREAS, we also express profound sorrow at the heldren and elderly and denounce the indiscriminate re esulted in the collective punishment upon the civilian p

HEREAS, we find it deeply troubling that a binary nar irationalize acts of war that indiscriminately cause the c inflict, and

HEREAS, [NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY] sup a every community regardless of what crimes any govern plomacy and mutual understanding is the only way to a

HEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targetin inhibition of country of origin is a violation of Internati

WHEREAS, between October 7 and December 10, he lives of over 17,000 Palestinians in Gaza and t mericans, and thousands more have been work

WHEREAS, over two million lives are at a ind continuous humanitarian aid is not

HEREAS, the United States polomatic, military, and be eace, in our time

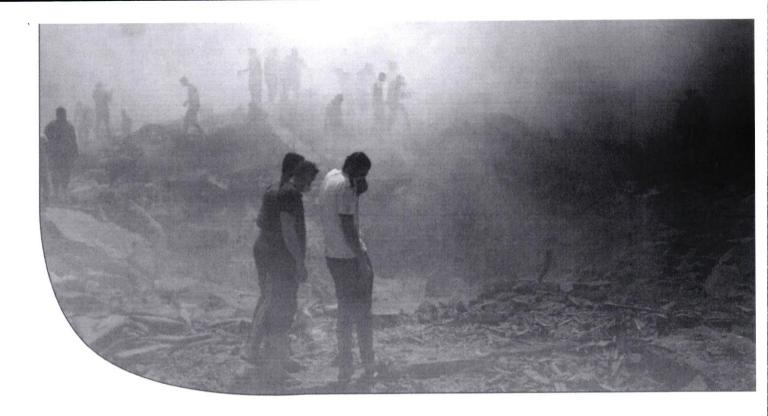
January 2024

Direct questions about this publication to:

Council on American-Islamic Relations 453 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20003 Tel: 202-488-8787, Email: info@cair.com, Website: www.cair.com

To obtain copies of this publication or to offer comments or feedback, please write to info@cair.com

FAIR USE NOTICE: This publication may contain copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. It is being made available in an effort to advance the understanding of political, human rights, democracy, and social justice issues. It is believed that this constitutes a "fair use" of any such copyrighted material as provided for in Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law. In accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the material in this report is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving the included information for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material in this report for purposes of your own that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. The material in this report is provided for educational and informational purposes only and is not intended to be a substitute for an attorney's consultation. Please consult your own attorney in order to get counsel on your situation. The information in this publication does not constitute legal advice.



INTRODUCTION

The Gaza genocide is an urgent humanitarian disaster that requires immediate international attention. After enduring a 16-year economic blockade imposed by the Israeli government, the people of Gaza now face the open threat of ethnic cleansing and genocide.

As U.S. citizens and residents, our tax contributions fund this crisis, imparting upon us a direct responsibility to implore our elected officials to refrain from financing Israel's continuing pursuits of genocide, apartheid, and occupation. As global citizens, it remains our moral duty to consistently advocate for peace and justice wherever they are needed in the world.

This toolkit developed by CAIR is to equip you with comprehensive resources for engaging with local city, county, school board, and state legislative representatives. It aims to facilitate meetings where you can educate these officials about the violence against civilians in Gaza and advocate for adopting declaratory statements and resolutions promoting a permanent ceasefire and the pursuit of a just, lasting peace. Covering everything from understanding the roles and functions of state and local governments to offering practical tips for organizing meetings, attending town hall sessions, and effectively utilizing factsheets to support resolutions, this resource serves as a thorough guide for active civic engagement.

Participating in these local actions and dialogues ensures that our community's needs and values are being considered in decision-making processes, fostering a more responsive and accountable governance structure at the grassroots level.

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1



Understanding State and Local Government

Gain insights into the intricate workings of state and local governments, exploring their roles, responsibilities, and impact on community life. This section equips you with the knowledge needed to understand the complexities of governance structures at the local level. **Page 3**

Requesting Meeting With State/District/County Representative

Describes how to initiate meaningful dialogue with your representatives. This section offers guidance on effectively requesting meetings, ensuring your voice is heard, and fostering direct communication channels with state, district, or county officials. **Page 5**

Sending Your Template Message to Your State/District/County Representative

This section outlines tips for sending messages to your state representative or elected officials, offering a step-by-step guide to streamline your communication process effectively. **Page 6**

Tips on Meeting with Members of State Legislature and Local Officials

Navigate meetings with state legislators and local officials effectively. This section offers practical tips on preparation, communication strategies, and engagement to maximize the impact of your interactions. **Page 8**

SECTION

Attending Town Hall, Council, and School Board Meetings: Advocating for a Ceasefire in Israel-Gaza

Participate actively in civic discourse by attending town hall, council, and school board meetings. This section guides you on the essentials of attending these forums, making your voice heard, and contributing constructively to community discussions. **Page 9**



The Power of Resolutions: A Call for Ceasefire Now

Describes the role of resolutions in addressing the Israel-Palestine crisis. This section underscores the broader impact resolutions can have at different governance levels, emphasizing their significance in conveying unified stances, guiding actions, and fostering peace in local communities and beyond. **Page 11**



Factsheet for State/District/County Resolutions

A detailed factsheet covering State/District/County resolutions concerning the Palestine-Israel crisis offering crucial insights into the persistent conflict and its far-reaching implications. This resource includes sample resolutions, offering a practical blueprint for addressing this intricate issue on a local level. **Page 17**

Please also consider reaching out to CAIR or your local CAIR Chapter to help schedule legislative or council/committee meetings if there is one in your state or area. **Click here** to find your nearest CAIR chapter.







UNDERSTANDING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The process of passing policies and resolutions at the local government level involves several key steps. While the specifics can vary based on the structure and regulations of each local government, the following is a general breakdown of the common stages:

Introduction or Proposal:

The process typically begins with introducing or proposing a policy or resolution. This can be initiated by elected officials, government staff, community members, or advocacy groups.

Committee Review:

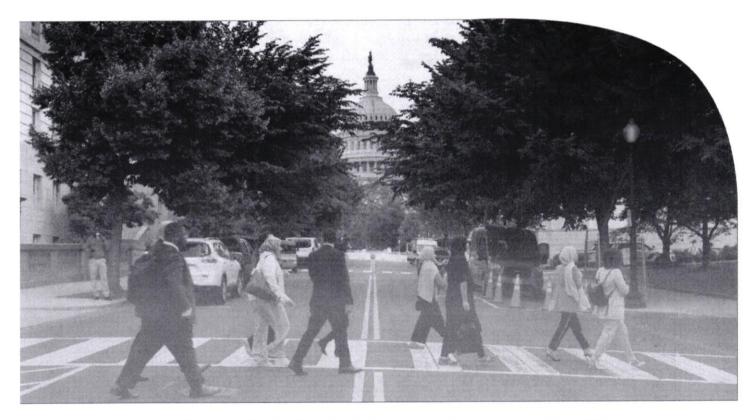
Many local governments have committees or subcommittees responsible for reviewing proposed policies and resolutions. These committees conduct a detailed examination, gather information, and may make recommendations or modifications.

Public Input:

Public input is a crucial part of the process. Local governments often hold public hearings or meetings to allow community members to express their opinions, voice concerns, and provide feedback on the proposed policy or resolution.

Revisions and Amendments:

Based on committee reviews and public input, the proposed policy or resolution may undergo revisions or amendments. Elected officials or committee members may modify the content to address concerns, improve clarity, or incorporate new information.



PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Committee Approval:

After revisions, the policy or resolution returns to the relevant committee for approval. The committee evaluates the changes and decides whether to recommend it for further consideration by the full legislative body.

Full Legislative Body Consideration:

The proposed policy or resolution is presented to the full legislative body (city council, county board, etc.) for consideration. Elected officials discuss, debate, and vote on whether to adopt the proposal.

Voting:

A formal vote is taken by the legislative body. The policy or resolution may require a simple majority or a supermajority to be adopted, depending on local rules.

Implementation and Enforcement:

Once adopted, the policy or resolution enters the implementation phase. Government agencies or departments responsible for enforcement begin incorporating the new rules into their operations.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Local governments often establish mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of implemented policies or resolutions. This includes assessing whether the intended goals are being achieved and making adjustments if necessary.

NOTE: Specific steps and requirements can vary widely between different local governments, and the level of public involvement and transparency can also differ. The structure and hierarchy of local governments can also vary depending on the state.



REQUESTING MEETING WITH STATE/DISTRICT/COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

The process of passing policies and resolutions at the local government level involves several key steps. While the specifics can vary based on the structure and regulations of each local government, the following is a general breakdown of the common stages: <u>Find and contact elected officials | USAGov</u>

Obtaining Local Office Contact Information

1. Visit the Official USA Government Website: Navigate to the "Find and contact elected officials" page on the official USA Government website.

2. Locate Your State and County Elected Officials' Contact Information: Based on your address, the website provides contact information for your State and Local officials.

3. Contact Your School Board Members: Visit your school district's official website or the school board section to find the names and contact information of the board members. Usually, the board has a dedicated section with their contact details.

Contacting the State Legislature or Local Government Office

4. Dial the Phone Number Provided: Call the phone number provided for your State/ District/County office.

5. Request Email Addresses: Politely inquire about the email addresses of the office scheduler and foreign affairs staffer, who can facilitate your meeting request to "discuss on discussing the crisis in Gaza."

6. Clarify Your Purpose: Explain that you wish to request a meeting to discuss the ongoing crisis in Gaza and believe an email would be the most effective way to make the request.

Maintaining Courtesy and Respect

7. Be Respectful: Maintain a respectful tone throughout the conversation.

8. Accept Limitations: If the staff member is unable to provide you with the specific email address of a staff member, express gratitude for their assistance and proceed with the general email address if available or an online form.

Taking Notes and Following Up

9. Note Down Email Addresses: If you obtain the email addresses, ensure that you accurately transcribe them.

10. Send a Follow-Up Email: Subsequently, dispatch an email to the provided email addresses, adhering to the template message and guidelines provided in this toolkit.

Persistence and Demeanor

11. Be Persistent: Offices receive a high volume of requests. Persistence and a courteous demeanor can significantly increase your chances of securing a meeting.



SENDING YOUR TEMPLATE MESSAGE TO YOUR STATE/DISTRICT/COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

Once you've secured the necessary information to request your congressional meetings, it's crucial to send your email meeting request effectively. In addition to drawing from CAIR's template congressional meeting request below, follow these instructions for sending the template message:

- Personalize the Template Message: Before sending the message, ensure it is personalized with the recipient's name and the specific office you are addressing. Research to see if a resolution has already been introduced in your state/district/county.
- Email Subject Line: When sending an email, craft a concise and informative subject line. For example, " Meeting Request to Discuss Gaza Crisis' Impact on Our Community."
- Proofread Your Message: Ensure your message is free from typos, grammatical errors, and other issues. A well-written message demonstrates professionalism and commitment.
- Send the Message: Click the "Send" button on your email platform or send the physical letter via mail, following any guidelines provided by the congressional office for physical correspondence.
- Keep a Record: Maintain a record of the date and time you sent your message and any responses you receive. This will help you stay organized and follow up effectively.
- Follow Up: If you don't receive a response within a reasonable timeframe, consider sending a polite follow-up email or making a courteous phone call to inquire about the status of your meeting request.

Again, persistence and respectful communication can be key in ensuring your message is heard and acted upon by your elected representatives.

Emai

Subject: Meeting Request to Discuss Gaza Crisis' Impact on Our Community

Dear [State/District/County Official],

I am writing to express my deep concerns about the ongoing violence in Israel and Palestine and my conviction that the United States has a critical role to play in promoting peace and justice in the region. Given the urgency of the situation, I kindly request an in-person or virtual meeting with **[Name of Representative or Elected Official]** and interested staff in the coming days to address the concerns of **[State/District/County]** residents.

During our meeting, I hope we can discuss the following three crucial topics:

• **[IF NO RESOLUTION HAS ALREADY BEEN INTRODUCED]** Introducing a permanent Ceasefire Resolution for the State/District/County (See Sample Resolutions Below)

• **[IF THERE IS ALREADY A PROPOSED RESOLUTION]** Supporting the proposed resolution already introduced in the State/District/County

• Acknowledging the loss of lives and recognizing humanity on both sides.

• Urging the United States to reassert its leadership role as a negotiator, addressing the root causes of violence, and ending Israel's occupation and apartheid policies.

I sincerely appreciate your attention to these critical matters and look forward to the opportunity to meet and discuss how we can work together for a just and lasting peace.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



TIPS ON MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF STATE LEGISLATURE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

By following these tips, you can increase your chances of having a successful congressional meeting and making a positive impact.

Be prepared and on time:

- Research the member of the State Legislature or elected official you are meeting with. This includes knowing their background, role in your state/district/county, and position on the issues you want to discuss.
- Prepare talking points for your meeting. This will help you stay focused on the message.
- Arrive for your meeting on time or a few minutes early.

State the issue and the solution:

- Be clear and concise about the issue you want to discuss and the solution you are proposing.
- Use personal stories and real-life examples to illustrate your points.
- Be prepared to answer questions about your proposal.

Be polite and listen carefully:

- Be respectful of the official or staffer's time.
- Be open to hearing their views on the issue, even if they differ from your own.
- Ask clarifying questions and take notes to ensure that you understand their position.

Additional tips:

- Be professional and courteous.
- Dress appropriately.
- Be yourself and be genuine.
- Thank the official or staffer for their time.

Follow up after the meeting:

- Within a few days of your meeting, send a thank-you note to the official or staffer.
- If you promised to provide any additional information, like any data or factsheet, promptly follow through on that promise.
- Stay in touch with the official or office by attending events, sending emails, and making phone calls.

By following these tips, you can increase the chances of having a successful meeting with a local official.



ATTENDING TOWN HALL, COUNCIL, AND SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS: ADVOCATING FOR A CEASEFIRE IN ISRAEL-GAZA

A town hall, city/county council, or school board meeting, organized by local government officials, community leaders, or elected representatives, serves as a powerful platform for advocating for a ceasefire in Israel-Gaza. These gatherings provide an opportunity for community members to:

- Voice their opinions about the conflict and urge elected officials to take action.
- Ask questions to gain a deeper understanding of the situation and the potential role of local government.
- Directly express their concerns to those in positions of influence and demand action for peace.

This guide outlines how to prepare for and actively participate in a town hall, council, or school board meeting to advocate for a ceasefire resolution.

1. Research and Prepare:

- Gather information about the agenda, topics to be discussed, and public comment procedures.
- Research the current situation in Israel-Gaza, including the humanitarian toll of the conflict.
- Review the ceasefire resolution provided in this toolkit and prepare key points to emphasize.
- Identify your local representatives and any relevant committees focused on foreign affairs or human rights.

2. Craft Your Message:

- Develop concise and impactful statements urging your elected officials to introduce or support a resolution calling for a ceasefire.
- Focus on the human cost of the conflict and the importance of international pressure for peace.
- Share personal stories or experiences to personalize the issue and connect with the audience.
- Practice your delivery beforehand to ensure clarity and confidence.

3. During the Meeting:

- Follow established procedures for public comment and be respectful to all attendees.
- Clearly state your name and address the officials present.
- Deliver your prepared statement concisely and emphasize key points.
- Offer a copy of CAIR's sample ceasefire resolution included in this toolkit.
- Respond to any questions posed by officials respectfully and stay focused on your message.

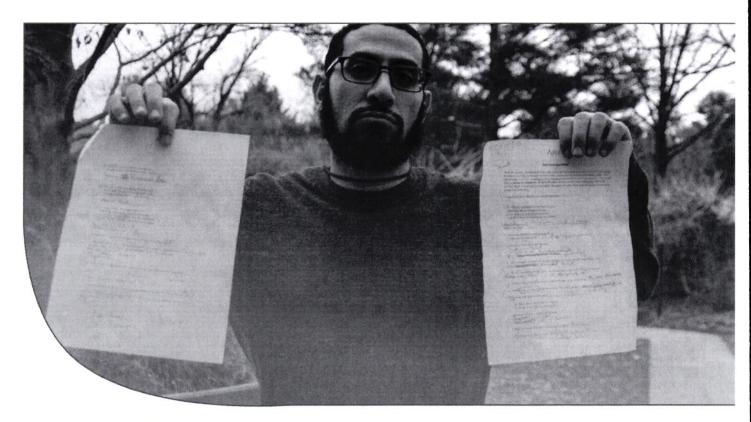
PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4. Additional Strategies:

- Present a petition signed by community members supporting the ceasefire resolution.
- Organize other attendees to speak out on the issue.
- Share your message on social media using relevant hashtags and tagging local officials.
- Follow up with your representatives after the meeting to express continued support and track progress.

By attending town hall, council, and school board meetings and speaking out, you can make a significant impact in urging your local government to take a stand for peace in Israel-Gaza.

REMEMBER, YOUR VOICE MATTERS. USE IT TO ADVOCATE FOR A CEASEFIRE AND HELP END THE SUFFERING.



PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



THE POWER OF RESOLUTIONS: A CALL FOR CEASEFIRE NOW

In the face of the ongoing crisis in Israel and occupied Palestine, the Ceasefire Now Resolution (H.Res.786) introduced in US Congress offers a beacon of hope. This resolution urges an immediate ceasefire and essential humanitarian aid, paving the way towards de-escalation and peace.

Yet, the call for peace must transcend the confines of congressional chambers. A powerful amplification lies within local governance, communities, and their leaders through the medium of resolutions at various echelons. Delve deeper into the resolution process:

State Legislative Resolutions:

- Purpose: These mirror city council resolutions but resonate with the voice of entire state legislatures, championing the interests of the entire state.
- Content: They encompass statewide concerns, advocating federal actions, endorsing state policies, commemorating significant events or figures, and expressing support or opposition on national issues.
- Examples: From urging Congress toward specific actions to honoring remarkable figures, establishing recognition days, or addressing pivotal statewide policy concerns, the breadth of these resolutions is expansive.

City and County Council Resolutions:

- Purpose: Formally encapsulating the council's stance on multifarious issues impacting the municipality.
- Content: Ranging from local policies, regulations, budget allocations, proclamations, to actionable requests, these resolutions reflect a wide spectrum of local governance.
- Examples: They might extend support for community events, allocate funds for new projects, endorse policy reforms, commend outstanding individuals, or vocally oppose state or federal actions.

While not legally binding, both city council and state legislative resolutions embody the unified position or sentiment of the governing body, serving as authoritative statements guiding actions or indicating the official stance of the local or state government.

School District Resolutions:

- Purpose: Essential in formalizing decisions, articulating positions, and instituting policies to steer the district's trajectory and commitments.
- Content: These encompass declarations of intent, policy assertions, budgetary allocations, and strategic plans, constituting a holistic framework addressing pertinent issues and steering the district's course.
- Example: A school resolution might herald the district's unwavering dedication to nurturing diversity, delineate specific policies targeting disparities, and earmark funds for training initiatives.

Resolutions wield a subtle yet compelling force, encapsulating the collective voice of governance at various levels. They not only voice opinion but guide the trajectory of action, serving as pivotal instruments in steering communities, states, and institutions toward harmony and progress. The Ceasefire Now Resolution is a clarion call — its echo must resound through resolutions at every level, resonating the urgency for peace and humanitarian aid amidst turmoil.

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SAMPLE STATE/COUNTY/CITY RESOLUTION Resolution

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA

WHEREAS, **[NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY]** is dedicated to fostering a community that embraces diversity, values all life, and upholds the principles of equality and human rights; and

WHEREAS, incidents of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic bigotry and violence are on the rise within our country, posing a significant threat to the well-being and safety of our diverse communities and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, we express profound sorrow and condemnation for the tragic loss of Israeli civilians, including children and the elderly, in the terrorist attack on October 7th by Hamas; and

WHEREAS, we also express profound sorrow at the loss of innocent Palestinian lives including children and elderly and denounce the indiscriminate retaliation by the State of Israel, which has resulted in the collective punishment upon the civilian population of Gaza; and

WHEREAS, we find it deeply troubling that a binary narrative and dehumanization is being used to rationalize acts of war that indiscriminately cause the death of civilians, within this ongoing conflict; and

WHEREAS, **[NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY]** supports the dignity and safety of residents in every community regardless of what crimes any government may commit, and that peaceful diplomacy and mutual understanding is the only way to achieve these permanent goals; and

WHEREAS, all human life is precious, and the targeting of civilians, no matter their faith or ethnicity, or country of origin is a violation of International humanitarian law; and

WHEREAS, between October 7 and December 10, 2023 war and armed violence have claimed the lives of over 17,000 Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and 1,200 Israelis, including Americans, and thousands more have been wounded; and

WHEREAS, over two million lives are at imminent risk if a permanent cease-fire is not achieved and continuous humanitarian aid is not assured; and

WHEREAS, the United States Federal Government and Members of Congress hold immense diplomatic, military, and financial power to save Palestinian and Israeli lives, and seek a lasting peace, in our time and for all time; and

SAMPLE STATE/COUNTY/CITY RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the [NAME OF STATE/COUNTY/CITY] calls for the

United States Federal Government to facilitate and demand:

- (1) an immediate permanent cease-fire to urgently end the current violence; and
- (2) the immediate release of all hostages and political prisoners; and
- (3) an immediate end to the blockade and siege of Gaza; and

(4) the prompt provision of humanitarian assistance to Gaza including supplying food, water, fuel, and medical supplies which are indispensable for the survival of the civilian population of Gaza; and

(5) all parties to fully comply with their obligations under international law; and

(6) continue to condemn the rising antisemitism and Islamophobia that has been seen in the United States and worldwide.

ABOUT THIS RESOLUTION

The language for this resolution is derived from the resolution introduced by Commissioner Ted Terry of DeKalb County, GA.

The resolution was revised to incorporate the updated death toll and other pertinent figures from the timeline of events provided by Al Jazeera on the Israel-Hamas war.

Al Jazeera English: The 'collapse of services and communications at hospitals in the north of Gaza' is delaying the Palestinian Ministry of Health from updating the latest numbers of people injured and killed, says UN report. Link: https://twitter.com/AJEnglish/status/1723552937602158834

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PERMANENT CEASE-FIRE IN ISRAEL AND GAZA, UPHOLDING FREE SPEECH

WHEREAS, the **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** expresses profound concern about the escalating incidents of Islamophobia, violence and anti-Palestinian racism, particularly in schools and among students, leading to targeted harassment and violent attacks against Muslim students nationwide; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the fundamental importance of free speech at [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT], ensuring a campus/school environment that fosters open discourse and diverse perspectives; and

WHEREAS, in alignment with this commitment, **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** upholds the principle that the free exchange of ideas should not be suppressed, even when opinions are considered offensive, unwise, immoral, indecent, disagreeable, conservative, liberal, traditional, radical, or wrong-headed, as outlined in [Name of School District]'s Campus/school Free Speech Policy; and

WHEREAS, **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** acknowledges the imperative to distinguish between protected free expression and harassment, as per the **[SCHOOL POLICY ON HARASSMENT]**, defining harassment as conduct and/or expression that is **[FOR EXAMPLE:** unwelcome, severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive, thus denying an individual equal access to their education program or activity]; and

WHEREAS, it is affirmed that open criticism of any government, including the government of Israel, does not violate **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]**'s [FOR EXAMPLE: Campus/ School Free Speech Policy or Policy on Harassment]; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to emphasize that criticism of the Israeli government is not inherently anti-Jewish or antisemitic, and it is imperative to maintain a clear distinction between anti-Zionism and anti-Jewish sentiments; and

WHEREAS, conflating critique of Israel with antisemitism can have detrimental effects on the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim communities within **[NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT]** and can delegitimize individuals, including Jewish advocates, who express concerns about Israeli policies; and

WHEREAS, international humanitarian law recognizes the rights of all people, including Palestinians, to life, security, and political and economic self-determination; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that Israel has been recognized as an occupying power in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza, since 1967; and

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

15

SAMPLE RESOLUTION: SCHOOL DISTRICT/BOARD

WHEREAS, the official policy of the United States and international law acknowledges that the Israeli government is the occupying power in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza due to its blockade; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to avoid punishing free speech based on false claims that criticism of the Israeli government or disagreement with Zionism are inherently antisemitic; and

WHEREAS, a historical record indicates that Israel has voted against numerous peace settlements with Palestine in the United Nations General Assembly since 1947; and

WHEREAS, the Students and Parents of [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT] recognizes the need for an accurate understanding that Hamas does not represent the entirety of the Palestinian people; and

WHEREAS, grave concerns are raised regarding reported violations of international laws by Israel, including but not limited to collective punishment, use of prohibited weapons, displacement of populations, and imposition of blockades; and

WHEREAS, expressing deep distress over the reported civilian casualties, particularly among children, women, men, and the elderly, resulting from ongoing conflicts; and

BE IT RESOLVED that [NAME OF SCHOOL DISTRICT] expresses:

(1) Concern about reported actions and policies contributing to the suffering of innocent civilians and calls for an immediate ceasefire, urging all parties involved to pursue diplomatic and peaceful resolutions to conflicts.

(2) Full support for the First Amendment rights to free speech for all students and faculty, both on and off campus.

ABOUT THIS RESOLUTION

Some of the language in this sample resolution was adapted from a resolution previously passed by the University of Cincinnati. CAIR has made additional modifications and introduced new language tailored to better align with the context and needs of school districts.

Fuller, C. (2023, November 17). UC student government votes to advance controversial resolution. WLWT. <u>https://www.wlwt.com/article/university-cincinnati-student-government-middle-east/45867478</u>

NOTE: Feel free to make adjustments that suit the specific needs and requirements of your state, district, or county while ensuring the overarching message remains focused on advocating for a permanent ceasefire as a unified stance.

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

16



FACTSHEET FOR STATE/DISTRICT/COUNTY RESOLUTIONS

Fact sheets are powerful tools that provide concise and well-organized information about proposed legislation, current issues, or policy matters. They serve as essential resources for individuals and advocacy groups seeking to engage with their elected representatives during local, state, and federal meetings on policies with elected officials. Fact sheets offer a comprehensive overview of the key points, supporting data, and recommended actions related to specific bills or resolutions, helping you to navigate and guide your discussions effectively.

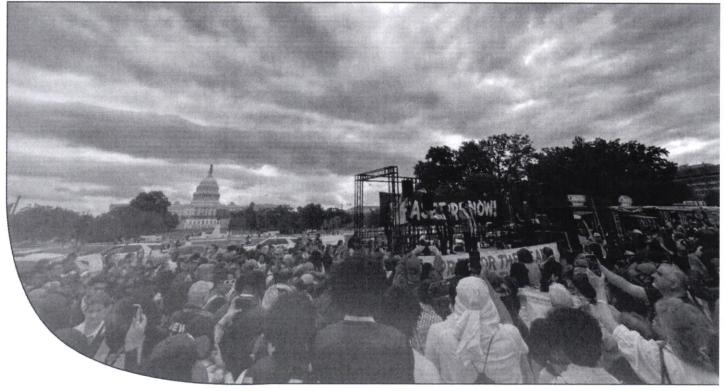
As an example, we have included below **CAIR's Ceasefire Now Factsheet**, which supports the introduction of cease resolutions at the local, state, and federal level. This fact sheet outlines the critical details of the resolution and the actions being requested from members of city and council councils, school boards, and state legislatures.

Using legislative fact sheets during meetings with elected officials and policymakers can be a game-changer. They enable you to present complex issues in a clear and organized manner, making it easier for you to convey your concerns and recommendations to your elected representatives. These fact sheets offer a structured framework for discussing key points, supporting data, and suggested actions, ensuring that you stay focused and articulate during your interactions with policymakers.

In the context of the CAIR fact sheet supporting ceasefire resolutions, you can see how it addresses the ongoing crisis in Israel and Palestine and outlines specific actions, such as introducing such resolutions, supporting humanitarian aid, and demanding U.S. leadership in pursuit of a lasting peace. This format helps ensure that your discussions are well-informed, concise, and impactful.

PROMOTING CEASEFIRE NOW RESOLUTIONS AT STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CAIR'S LEGISLATIVE FACTSHEET FOR STATES/DISTRICTS/COUNTIES



SUPPORTING A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE IN GAZA

What We Are Asking State Representatives or Elected Officials to Do:

1. Introduce local and state versions of the Ceasefire Now Resolution (Sample resolutions provided on page 12)

a. All State/District/County representatives are encouraged to support the introduction of a permanent Ceasefire Now Resolution.

b. If a "Ceasefire Now" resolution is already proposed in your State/District/County, raise awareness and support for it.

2. Send and Facilitate the Entry of Humanitarian Assistance into Gaza

a. This resolution plays a pivotal role in ending the violence and urges the Biden Administration to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza, ensuring the preservation of countless lives.

b. The humanitarian situation in Gaza necessitates immediate and substantial assistance. The existing aid flow through Egypt's border is insufficient to address the ongoing crisis.

c. As per the United Nations, approximately 35% of Gaza's agricultural land and 85% of its fishing areas are either entirely or partially unreachable due to actions taken by the Israeli military. Furthermore, over 90% of the water sourced from the Gaza aquifer is unsuitable for consumption.

d. Since the escalation of violence in Israel and Palestine, CAIR received a total of 2,171 requests for help and reports of bias from states, counties, and districts across America between October 7 and December 8, 2023. It shows a 172 percent increase over the previous year. These incidents span a

18

broad spectrum of hostility, including harassment, discrimination, and threats, affecting students who are visibly Muslim or who have spoken up for protecting civilians in Gaza.

3. Acknowledge the Loss of Lives and Recognize the Humanity on Both Sides

a. It is imperative to acknowledge the tragic loss of lives and recognize the humanity on both sides of the conflict, encompassing Israelis and Palestinians.

b. The death toll in Gaza has tragically surpassed 27,000, a harrowing number that includes nearly 11,000 innocent children, making it a heart-wrenching and urgent concern.

c. In the face of this escalating crisis and a deepening humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, Congress should unequivocally condemn Israeli attacks on Gaza, which many scholars constitute war crimes and violations of international law and genocide.

4. Demand U.S. Leadership in Pursuit of a Lasting Peace

a. The United States must reassume its leadership role as a mediator in pursuing lasting peace in the region.

b. This endeavor must encompass addressing the root causes of violence, including Israel's decades-long illegal occupation of Palestinian land and the denial of Palestinian human rights. The only way to permanently stop the violence is to end the occupation and dismantle systemic, racist oppression.

5. Understanding the Core Issue: Israel's Occupation and Denial of Palestinian Rights

a. Acknowledge that the central cause of recent violence is Israel's decades-long illegal occupation of Palestinian land, expansion of illegal settlements, and the discriminatory system of apartheid that denies Palestinian human and legal rights.

b. The only way to permanently stop the violence is to end the occupation, which kills hundreds of Palestinian civilians every year and subjects millions more men, women, and children to systemic, racist oppression.

6. Similar to Ukraine, Americans Should Be Siding with The Oppressed, Not the Oppressor

a. More and more Israeli leaders and advocates acknowledge Israel's occupation is like South African apartheid.

b. The former head of Mossad said recently: "There is an apartheid state here... In a territory where two people are judged under two legal systems, that is an apartheid state."

c. In July, South Africa's Foreign Minister, Naledi Pandor, asserted that the United Nations General Assembly should establish a committee to assess Israel's compliance with the necessary criteria to be designated an apartheid state. She stated, "The Palestinian narrative resonates with the historical experiences of racial segregation and oppression in South Africa."

d. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and Presbyterian Church USA have labeled Israel an apartheid state. The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing also recognized that Israel is committing apartheid against Palestinians.

19



Nevada County Republican Party PO Box 403, Grass Valley, CA 95945 info@nevadacountygop.org (530) 478-1467

April 2, 2025

Mayor Hodge and Members of the Grass Valley City Council:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Nevada County Republican Party to express our profound concern and disapproval regarding the adoption of Resolution No. 2025-03, which addresses the international conflict between Israel and Palestine. While we acknowledge the importance of promoting peace and condemning violence globally, we firmly believe that the City Council's engagement in international affairs oversteps its municipal mandate and diverts attention from the pressing local issues that directly impact the residents of Grass Valley.

The primary responsibility of the City Council is to address local matters such as public safety, infrastructure, economic development, and community well-being within Grass Valley. By adopting a resolution that delves into complex international conflicts, the Council risks polarizing our community and setting a precedent that may lead to further divisions among residents with diverse perspectives on global issues.

Furthermore, the language within Resolution No. 2025-03 appears to disproportionately criticize the State of Israel. For instance, the resolution states that "the City of Grass Valley stands unequivocally against apartheid and the construction and expansion of illegal settlements and illegal occupation of Palestinian territories, recognizing these actions as violations of international law." Such statements not only reflect a partial stance but also lack the nuance required to understand the multifaceted nature of the conflict. It is not the place of the City Council to make determinations on international legal matters that are beyond its expertise and jurisdiction.

The Nevada County Republican Party is also concerned about the potential implications this resolution may have on our city's relationships with various community groups and businesses. Taking a position on such a contentious international issue may alienate members of our community and hinder efforts to foster an inclusive and harmonious environment.



Nevada County Republican Party PO Box 403, Grass Valley, CA 95945 info@nevadacountygop.org (530) 478-1467

We urge the City Council to reconsider the adoption of resolutions that fall outside the scope of municipal governance and to focus its efforts on initiatives that directly benefit the citizens of Grass Valley. Addressing local challenges and enhancing the quality of life for our residents should remain the Council's foremost priority.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response and to a continued dialogue aimed at promoting the best interests of Grass Valley and its residents.

Sincerely,

ma ma

John "Mac" Young Nevada County Republican Party, Chairman Daniel Bingham Lisa Bingham Mogle Henne Susan Walsh Jeff Hanten Richard French JOH HALL

JOHN GIVENS KEUN VEUANG LEILANI VEVANG

Rich Lill Stephonie Leishnan

Judy Ballentine CANDER. - BIZONSON Bethany Denkers

reedle vara 2 of 2