



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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July 30, 2024

The Honorable Tina McKinnor
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5520
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mayor

Will O'Neill

Mayor Pro Tem

Joe Stapleton

Council Members

Brad Avery

Noah Blom

Robyn Grant

Lauren Kleiman

Erik Kenneth Weigand

**RE: AB 2561 (McKinnor): Local Public Employees: Vacant Positions
City of Newport Beach – Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assembly Member McKinnor,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express our respectful opposition to AB 2561 (McKinnor), which imposes significant burdens on public agencies by mandating a detailed process for addressing bargaining unit vacancy rates. While there are several challenges facing local governments, this bill is unnecessary, overly burdensome and ultimately counterproductive to the efficient functioning of local government.

Implementing the proposed plan under AB 2561 to fill vacant positions within a strict timeline would require additional resources, including staff time and funding, which many agencies simply cannot afford. This increased financial burden would only exacerbate existing challenges faced by local governments in providing essential services to their communities. Moreover, AB 2561 fails to address the root causes of high vacancy rates in public sector jobs and fails to mention key items such as increased unfunded liabilities from the public pension system which would only be exacerbated by this bill.

By imposing rigid requirements for filling vacancies without addressing these underlying issues, AB 2561 only increases the fundamental challenges faced by public agencies in recruiting and retaining qualified personnel. Instead of creating additional barriers to recruitment and retention, we believe that the State should focus on developing comprehensive solutions that address the underlying challenges faced by local governments.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach opposes AB 2561.

Sincerely,

Will O'Neill

Mayor

cc: Senator Janet Nguyen
Assemblymember Diane Dixon
Newport Beach City Council