

# ALBANY CALIFORNIA



CITY OF ALBANY  
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[www.AlbanyCA.org](http://www.AlbanyCA.org)

April 30, 2020

Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
VIA E-mail: [ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov](mailto:ExternalAffairs@gov.ca.gov)

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Albany thanks you for your leadership and efforts to protect and support Californians during this unprecedented public health crisis. Cities remain on the front line helping residents stay safe and in their homes, delivering emergency services, and supporting local businesses and community organizations. However, as emergency costs continue to grow, city revenues to fund local services are plummeting. COVID-19 is having devastating impacts on city budgets and services statewide.

Based on the League of California Cities analysis, California cities are projecting a nearly **\$7 billion general revenue shortfall** over the next two fiscal years. This shortfall will grow by billions of dollars if stay-at-home orders to protect public health extend into the summer months and beyond.

The City of Albany projects that these shortfalls will impact our core city services, including public safety, community development, environmental stewardship, and services to our senior citizens and other vulnerable community members including those who are unhoused. A majority of the cities surveyed anticipate lay-offs or furloughs, which will further impact core city services for residents, as well as our employees.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the City of Albany has stepped up to protect and serve our community. We have increased the number of meals and food delivered to those in need and installed sanitation facilities in strategic locations. Staff has worked tirelessly with our local small businesses to help them access aid they so desperately need while updating communication on COVID-19 to our entire community. The necessary measures our city has taken are costly. In order to continue to be a full partner with the state in saving lives, protecting our communities, and ultimately recovering from this crisis, **we need your help.**

The City of Albany is calling on you to immediately support the following actions:

- Establish at least a \$7 billion city revenue stabilization fund for direct aid to all cities to address the general revenue shortfall over the next two fiscal years;
- Allocate a share of the State's \$8.4 billion CARES Act funding for cities with populations under 500,000, including small cities under 20,000 residents, to support COVID-19 expenses; and
- Create a COVID-19 financing vehicle that all cities can access to support immediate cash flow needs.

The City of Albany appreciates your consideration of our requests and look forward to further discussing in the coming days how together we can continue to best protect Californians and reopen our economy. Thank you again for your leadership and partnership during these uncertain times.

Sincerely,



Nick Pilch  
Mayor  
City of Albany

Cc: Senator Nancy Skinner, [senator.skinner@senate.ca.gov](mailto:senator.skinner@senate.ca.gov)  
Assembly Member Buffy Wicks, [assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.wicks@assembly.ca.gov)  
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