



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Kelly Jennings
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Council Member Gene Johns
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September 12, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 1637 – Local Government: Internet Websites and Email Addresses

Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Laguna Niguel, regrettably, must oppose Assembly Bill 1637 (Irwin), which would require cities and counties to secure and utilize their website through a new .gov or ca.gov domain no later than January 1, 2029. It would also require all our employee email addresses to reflect the updated domain within the same time frame.

While we appreciate the intended goal of this measure and the perceived benefits that some believe utilizing a new domain may provide, we remain deeply concerned about the added costs associated with migrating to a new domain and corresponding email addresses that will adversely impact core principal programs and activities; confusion and frustration that will be created by forcing a new website to be utilized; the lack of any resources to better assist local agencies of varying sizes and capabilities with complying; and the absence of any study, review or report of capability gaps for the state to evaluate, adopt and share best practices. These recommendations were outlined in the Department of Homeland Security Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for State and Local Cybersecurity grant Program but failed to be included in AB 1637.

The cost to transition cities and counties to a new .gov or ca.gov domain would not be the most beneficial use of taxpayer dollars, especially as the state continues to face an unprecedented budget deficit. For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel respectfully must oppose AB 1637 (Irwin).

Sincerely,

Kelly Jennings
Kelly Jennings
Mayor