

# What do they know in San Jose and San Diego that we don't know in L.A.?

## Nothing.

Voters in San Jose and San Diego sent a powerful message last week with their votes on local government pension reform: Core services in our cities have been cut too deeply, they said. We have to get the cost structure of government under control to provide services at a reasonable cost, and that includes sustainable pension systems.

In Los Angeles, many public employees have deferred raises and agreed to higher pension contributions, which is very much appreciated. But significant hurdles remain to getting the city on solid financial ground, including Police and Fire pensions (where some collect more than 100% of their salaries in retirement), and the cost of pensions for highly compensated city employees.

Much of the savings from pension reform could go right back into the same departments ... to help pay for banked Police overtime, and to invest in the Fire Department with improved dispatch and other technology, more recruits, and more equipment. These investments are critical to providing basic services in our city.

What do they know in San Jose and San Diego that we don't know in Los Angeles? Nothing. We all have to do our part. It's time for L.A. to lead again.



Cary Brazeman  
Founder

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