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News Clerks Should Know:

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUMMIT HELD JULY 17-18, SACRAMENTO

Almost 400 local government officials from cities, counties, and school boards participated in a historic event in Sacramento over the weekend to explore reforming state governance. The two-day summit, Rebuilding California from the Ground Up, was the launch of a major local government effort to develop strategies for restoring a greater degree of local control over programs, taxation, and spending decisions.

The summit was hosted by the Cities Counties School Partnership, a joint effort of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and California School Board Association. The city, county and school leaders convened the summit because local government is the closest level of government to the people.

Over the two days, delegates focused on solutions to the state's chronic problems including deficits, late budgets and an inability to deal with critical issues such as water, energy, education and health services.

Friday's work wrapped up with delegates examining a set of common principles in a session featuring Chris McKenzie, League executive director, Paul McIntosh, CSAC executive director and Scott Plotkin, CSBA executive director. On Saturday delegates worked on priorities for reform and ratifying principles for the ongoing Rebuilding California—From the Ground Up project.

Rebuilding California—From the Ground Up is an on-going project. Delegates to the summit will be engaging residents in their communities and CCS' Reform Task Force will continue to meet to take the summit's results to the next level.