

# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE

## PURPOSE

Established in 1991, the Legislative Program Committee is an advisory body to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors. A dynamic program of County sponsored legislative actions is developed and tracked by the Committee with the assistance of county departments and legislative advocates in Washington, DC and Sacramento. The Committee meets almost monthly and public comment is welcome. Committee membership includes two members of the Board of Supervisors appointed by the Board, County Executive Officer, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller.

Each year, the Committee drafts a Legislative Platform of prioritized legislative principles, specific issues, projects and programs (priorities) that warrant targeted advocacy, funding requests and/or legislation. The proposed Legislative Platform is recommended to the Board of Supervisors for subsequent review and approval. Once the Legislative Platform is adopted by the Board, a variety of advocacy strategies are used to advance the identified principles and Legislative Platform Planks with regular reporting to the Legislative Program Committee. Pending legislation of interest to Santa Barbara County is tracked and updates of the status are provided continuously by legislative advocates to the Legislative Program Committee and the Board of Supervisors.

## 2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Legislative Program for Santa Barbara County, in conjunction with its State and Federal advocates, successfully advanced the 2018 Platform Principles, including, but not limited to the following:

### Federal:

- Reauthorization of the Children’s Health Insurance Program through FY 2027;
- A two-year extension of funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers;
- Enactment of FY 2018 Supplemental Appropriations for disaster response and allocation of \$212,374,000 in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for projects in the State of California related to the 2017 fires;
- FY 2018 funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program resulting in \$1.86 million coming directly to the County;
- FY 2018 funding to the County of \$1,190,279 from HUD’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and \$1,038,021 the HOME Investment Program, an increase of more than 40 percent;
- \$1.6 million in competitive Continuum of Care (CoC) awards for ongoing projects in the County serving the homeless;
- Enactment of H.R. 6, the *Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act*, to strengthen prevention and public health efforts to address the opioids crisis; and
- Enactment of H.R. 302, the *Disaster Recovery Reform Act*, to reauthorize disaster preparedness grant programs and increase funding for pre-disaster hazard mitigation.

**State:**

- *Property Tax Backfill* – The January Budget included only \$23.7 million in backfill to northern counties for lost property taxes resulting from the October 2017 fires, and did not include Southern California because the Thomas Fire began in December of 2017, with massive flooding and mudslides in the County, which began in January 2018. We worked closely with the Governor’s Office and the Department of Finance to include the property tax backfill for the County in the May Revision, which contained property tax backfill for Santa Barbara County and other Southern California Counties that were affected by the Thomas Fire. Specifically, we secured \$2.62 million that was added for FY 17-18 and \$5.64 million in property tax backfill for FY 18-19 for Santa Barbara County.
- *Debris Removal Cost Share Waiver* – The May Revision included \$29.1 million General Fund to waive the local match for only Northern California counties’ costs of debris removal but did not include Southern California counties. The County was successful in receiving the waiver for debris removal that equates to \$3.2 million for the County in the final budget. The total for Southern California was \$5.5 million, which was based on CalOES’ latest estimates.
- *Elimination of the 340B Program: Rejected* - The Governor’s January 2018-19 budget proposal eliminated the use of the 340B Drug Pricing Program in Medi-Cal. The elimination of the program would have directly affected the County because it could reduce revenues in the County’s Public Health Department by \$5 million to \$6 million, effective July 1, 2019. We were successful in the rejection of 340B Program when both houses of the Legislature rejected the Governor’s proposal to discontinue the state’s administration of the federal Medicaid 340B Discount Drug Pricing program.
- *AB 1775 (Muratsuchi)/ SB 834 (Jackson)* Successfully supported AB 1775 and SB 834, which prohibits the State Lands Commission (SLC) or a local trustee from entering into any new lease authorizing new construction of oil-and-gas-related infrastructure upon tidelands and submerged lands within state waters associated with Pacific Outer Continental Shelf (POCS).
- *AB 3248 (Committee on Judiciary)* Successfully included the Santa Barbara County Department of Child Support Services’ recommended clarifying amendments to AB 3248. The bill establishes parentage and enforcing child support orders by providing better access to the local departments of child support services.
- *SB 827 (Wiener)* The County successfully opposed SB 827, which would have required the County to grant housing development projects, in key transit corridors, a “bonus” by exempting the project from certain local development requirements such as density, maximum floor area, parking requirements and height restrictions. The bill died in the Senate policy committee.
- *SB 901 (Dodd)* Successfully worked with CSAC and the author’s office to remove any language in the bill that would make a change to inverse condemnation in the bill, and supported the legislation in its final form.
- *AB 1965 (Limon)* Successfully supported AB 1965 by Assemblymember Limon, which creates a local assistance grant program to improve fire prevention in California and ensure that fire prevention activities happen year-round.
- *SB 212 (Jackson)* Successfully supported SB 212, which requires entities that sell drugs or sharps in the state to individually, or with other entities, develop and implement a statewide home-generated drug stewardship plan.
- *SB 821 (Jackson)* Successfully supported SB 821, which allows a county to enter into an agreement to access the contact information of resident accountholders through the records of a public utility or other agencies, for a property address for the sole purpose of enrolling county residents in a county operated public emergency warning system.
- *SB 917 (Jackson)* Supported SB 917, which provides that if loss or damage results from a combination of perils, one of which is a landslide, mudslide, mudflow, or debris flow, an insurer shall provide coverage if an insured peril is the efficient proximate cause of the loss or damage and coverage would otherwise be provided for the insured peril.

## 2019 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Legislative Platform aligns with the County’s legislative principles. These principles serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

❖ **JOB GROWTH AND ECONOMIC VITALITY:** Continue to support the development of employment opportunities, and support efforts to promote local business and job growth in an endeavor to decrease the unemployment rate and heighten individual and community economic vitality. Foster interaction and dialogue with public, private, and nonprofit sectors, with a focus on the pursuit of and advocacy for economic vitality and innovation. Support necessary infrastructure development projects as a job creator and economic engine that increases economic vitality across multiple industries and markets.

❖ **EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY AND OPERATIONS:** Striving to balance the diversity of needs countywide, support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments’ missions and core services, including disaster prevention & response, by thoroughly evaluating legislation, and if warranted, consider opposition to legislation that creates undue fiscal and operation burdens on individual departments.

❖ **FISCAL STABILITY:** Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels and oppose the loss of, or redirecting of, existing revenue and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County. Such efforts also include supporting a majority state budget vote requirement and a timely adoption of the state budget before the new fiscal year begins.

❖ **INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION:** Partner with neighboring cities on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible. Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the: California State Association of Counties (CSAC), National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, and other local and regional agencies. Collaborate with other jurisdictions, institutions and entities on mutually beneficial issues such as disaster prevention, response and recovery, transportation, housing, protection of children, the elderly and other “at risk” populations while upholding the principles of efficient service delivery and operations, fiscal stability and local control.

❖ **LOCAL CONTROL:** Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to the community’s preferences. Secure where appropriate, direct distribution of federal funds to local governments rather than a state pass-through. Support efforts to maximize local control to ensure safe and effective speed limits.

❖ **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES:** Support efforts to maintain and enhance “safety net” services that protect the most vulnerable within a community, including children, the elderly, homeless and other “at risk” populations. Such services in the area of health and human assistance include, but are not limited to, preventive and emergency health care to the uninsured and underinsured; HIV/AIDS programs; maternal and children health; adult protective services; supportive housing; dependent care; child welfare services; adoptions and foster care; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and unemployment assistance and workforce development. The County supports collaboration between the federal, state and local governments in the delivery and funding of such services. The County opposes the further erosion in federal and state funding of these vital services.

❖ **COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:** Support efforts to foster communitywide sustainability by promoting economic stability and environmental protection and stewardship through participation in the growing green economy. Continue to engage in federal and state deliberations to ensure that local government receives the economic and financial benefits associated with new policies including disaster prevention, response and recovery. Support efforts to catalyze community renewal, redevelopment and reinvestment, incubate and support innovative businesses, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and incentivize energy efficiency, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. Recognize the need to promote mutually beneficial partnerships with public, private, and nonprofit sectors to maintain and protect agricultural and rural resources, housing, coastal areas, and bio-diversity. Support actions to secure sustainable water supplies throughout the region through ensuring both reliable quality and quantity, and promoting best practices for water conservation measures. Encourage actions to address climate change, reduce pollution, prevent & respond to disasters and protect the environment. These collective efforts aim to engender healthy communities by balancing social well-being, economic prosperity, and environmental responsibility.