



HURST+BROOKS+ESPINOSA

2025 State Advocacy Accomplishments

Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC – October 1, 2025

It has been our honor to represent the County of Santa Barbara before the California State Legislature and administrative agencies this year. Below we summarize highlights of our engagement in Sacramento on the County's behalf in 2025.

Legislative Advocacy

- On the County's behalf – at the direction of the Legislative Program Committee (LPC), in coordination with CEO staff, and consistent with the Legislative Platform and Priorities – actively engaged on consequential bills ranging from those that address battery energy storage, housing development, cannabis, solid waste, oil and gas operations, product stewardship programs, sidewalk vending, public safety, and CEQA streamlining, among others. Advocacy activities included the following:
 - Conducted information and intelligence gathering to advise and position on a variety of measures;
 - Drafted legislative bill letters for and provided testimony before relevant committees;
 - Assisted CEO staff in preparation of subject-matter memos and updates on topics of interest before the LPC, including homelessness legislation (SB 16, Blakespear and SB 606, Becker); battery energy storage (AB 1285, Committee on Emergency Management and SB 283, Laird); and response to federal enforcement activities (SB 627, Wiener and SB 805, Pérez);
 - Recommended engagement with advocacy coalitions, where appropriate and advantageous; and
 - Worked in collaboration with the county associations and other local agency advocates on advocacy tactics and approach.
- Advocated on the County's behalf on key issue areas that would affect counties statewide, including SB 635 (Durazo) related to sidewalk and street vendors.
- While the Governor has not yet completed action on the bills before him, below we summarize the measures on which the County engaged directly during the 2025 legislative year and the status on those measures at the time of this writing:

Position	# of bills	Final outcomes
Support	20	– 13 were approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor

Position	# of bills	Final outcomes
		– 7 died during legislative process (i.e., did not advance to Governor's desk)
Concerns	1	– 1 was approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor
Active watch	15	– 6 were approved by the Legislature and sent to the Governor – 9 died during legislative process
Oppose	3	– 3 died during legislative process
TOTAL	39	

Budget Advocacy

- Prepare detailed written summaries of Governor's proposed 2025-26 January budget, Governor's 2025-26 May Revision, and all budget bills and trailer bills comprising the final 2025-26 budget package.
- Tracked key budget issues and briefed CEO legislative staff on potential impacts.

Other Advocacy/Engagement

- Undertook a two-day in-person visit in January to meet with members of the Board of Supervisors and department staff to discuss policy and budget issues as well as to plan and prioritize advocacy activities for 2025, including a presentation before the Board of Supervisors;
- Attended weekly meetings with CAO staff regarding legislation, as well as participated in monthly Legislative Program Committee meetings;
- Provided weekly (during the legislative session) written updates on high-profile politics and policy matters in Sacramento;
- Coordinated with newly hired Legislative Analyst to provide information regarding legislative process, timeline, and procedures;
- Assisted Santa Barbara County Water Resources and Flood Control District in preparation, scheduling, and hosting seven southern California counties infrastructure agencies' Sacramento advocacy visits in February 2025 and provided follow up as requested;
- Advocated for and tracked Clerks of the Board of Supervisors Association omnibus proposal regarding wet signature requirements;
- Preparation of summary of California's important historical ballot measures that most significantly affect county governments, their operation, and associated funding;
- Continue discussions with CEO staff on emerging state hospitals court decisions and programs impacting county operations;

- Attended the Elected Leaders Forum and provided a presentation on federal and state housing and homelessness funding and policy impacts;
- Began discussions on potential, future 9-1-1 redundancy fiscal and/or legislative needs;
- Prepared and presented a report detailing housing-related measures before the Legislature, including the permit streamlining legislative package and housing-related budget trailer bills;
- Prepared subject matter-specific bill reports, as requested;
- Prepared a comprehensive chart detailing the timeline of H.R. 1 implementation;
- Undertook independent research and responded to other requests for information on a range of policy and budget topics as requested, with a commitment to the production of detailed, timely, and accurate information; and
- Maintained strong and collaborative relationships with members of the Santa Barbara County legislative delegation and their staffs.