

Legislative Program Administrative Policies

Adopted
November 1999

2001 Committee Members

Supervisor Joni Gray
• Fourth District

Supervisor Susan Rose
• Second District

Michael F. Brown
• County Administrator

Robert W. Geis
• Auditor-Controller

Stephen Shane Stark
• County Counsel



Legislative Objective

The goal of the Santa Barbara County Legislative Program is to promote effective and efficient local government through the legislative process.

To achieve this goal, the County seeks to sponsor and/or support legislation of benefit to the County. The County also works to oppose legislation that would adversely impact the County and its residents.

Legislative Program Guidelines

Legislative Program guidelines constitute the legislative policy of the County of Santa Barbara.

The guidelines are designed to allow flexibility while assuring consistency in conveying official positions of the Board of Supervisors on legislative matters.

Legislative Platform

Annually, the Board of Supervisors shall consider adopting a Legislative Platform.

The Legislative Platform shall be focused on State Legislative issues and designed to coincide with the two-year State legislative session, but shall be reviewed annually to assure it remains current and consistent with Board policy.

The Platform is intended to be a broad declaration of Board supported positions on issues of

importance to the County. It shall be used to guide staff in communicating with legislators.

The Platform will identify proposed legislation to be sponsored by the County in the upcoming year. The Platform will also be used to identify issues, establish legislative policies, and communicate positions on legislation expected to receive consideration during the upcoming legislative session to our legislative delegation.

The Legislative Platform is developed as follows:

- The County Administrator will seek input from Department Directors and the County's Legislative Advocate in developing the Legislative Platform.
- Legislative program staff will review and coordinate departmental input and will present recommendations for the Legislative Platform to the Legislative Program Committee.
- The Legislative Program Committee will forward a recommended Legislative Platform to the Board of Supervisors.

When urgent or immediate communication on behalf of the County is required, the County Administrator, Department Directors, and the County's Legislative Advocate may represent County positions on legislation that is consistent with the Legislative Platform.

Board approval is required for any new legislation sponsored on behalf of the County.

To allow sufficient time to secure authors for County legislative proposals, recommendations for county sponsored legislation should be submitted to the Board of Supervisors on or before January 15, of each year.

“The Goal of Santa Barbara County’s Legislative Program is to Promote Effective and Efficient Local Government through the Legislative Process”

consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

elected officials shall be transmitted over the signature of the Board Chair or County Administrator.

- Department Directors may also sign and send letters reflecting the County’s position on a particular piece of legislation, provided the letters specifically references the Board’s adoption of the policy position on the bill.

Positions on Pending Legislation

Except as noted, pending legislation, which may have a significant impact on the County, shall be analyzed and placed on the agenda for consideration by the Legislative Program Committee.

- All requests for the Legislative Committee or Board action on legislative issues shall be reviewed by and coordinated with legislative program staff in the County Administrators Office.
- County departments shall assist legislative program staff in the identification, analysis, and tracking of potentially significant legislation in their program areas.
- If a bill potentially affects more than one department, legislative program staff will seek to achieve a consensus position among the impacted departments before presenting the item to the Legislative Program Committee.
- In general, recommended action on legislative issues shall be approved by the Legislative Program Committee prior to

- If urgent or immediate action on pending legislation is required, or upon the recommendation of a Board Member, the Board of Supervisors may consider acting on legislation without a recommendation from the Legislative Program Committee.
- Legislative program staff shall coordinate the communication of Board positions to the legislature.
- Legislative staff will monitor the status of bills acted on by the Board, and will inform the Legislative Program Committee and the Board of any substantive changes that may impact the Boards position on a bill.

Communication of Legislative Positions

The Board of Supervisors has authorized the Chair of the Board, the County Administrator, and the Legislative Advocate to express official positions of Santa Barbara County.

- Official positions are defined as Board adopted positions that are included in the Legislative Platform, or positions the Board has taken on a specific bill.
- Correspondence communicating official legislative positions to

Legislative Advocacy

Advancing the county’s position on legislative issues may take many forms including: written or verbal communication with members of the legislature, Legislative Committees, the State or Federal Administration, State and Federal Agencies, participation in statewide or federal organizations (i.e. CSAC, NaCo, etc.) and regional or local governmental decision making bodies.

- No communication or action may be taken to imply the County’s support or opposition to any legislation that is inconsistent with adopted Board positions or policies.

Other Legislative Positions

- Elected officials are not required to obtain Board approval to adopt or communicate legislative positions, but are encouraged to communicate positions to legislative program staff and to the Board of Supervisors
- County Commissions or advisory groups may adopt and communicate positions on legislative issues. These

positions should be transmitted over the signature of the Chair of the Commission or advisory group and shall specifically state that the position is that of the Commission or advisory group, not the County.

Legislative Program Committee

The Legislative Program Committee was established by minute order of the Board of Supervisors on September 3, 1991. The Committee is comprised of the following five members:

- Two Members of the Board of Supervisors
- County Administrator
- County Auditor-Controller
- County Counsel

The Legislative Program Committee is charged with the following duties:

- Recommending County legislative Policies, Platforms, and positions and County-sponsored legislation to the Board of Supervisors.
- Recommending proposed resolution to interdepartmental disagreements on legislative positions to the Board of Supervisors.
- Evaluating the Legislative Program

The Legislative Program Committee meets on an ad hoc basis during the legislative session.

Elected Representative

Senator Jack O’Connell -18th District

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| <u>Capitol Office:</u> State Capitol Room 5035 Sacramento, CA. 95814 (916) 445 5405 (916) 322 3304 Fax Senator.Oconnell@sen.ca.gov | <u>District Office:</u> 228 W. Carrillo St., Ste. F Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805) 966 2296 (805) 966-3707 Fax |
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Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson – 35th District

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| <u>Capitol Office:</u> State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249-0001 (916) 319 2035 (916) 319 2135 Fax Assemblymember.Jackson@assembly.ca.gov | <u>District Office:</u> 101 W. Anapamu St., Ste. A Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805) 564 1649 (805) 564 1651 Fax |
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Assemblyman Abel Maldonado – 33rd District

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| <u>Capitol Office:</u> State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 319 2033 (916) 319 2133 | <u>District Office:</u> 1302 Marsh Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 (805) 549 3381 (805) 549 3400 |
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Congresswoman Lois Capps – 22nd District

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| <u>Washington Office</u> 1118 Longworth Bldg. Washington, DC 20515-0621 (202) 226-3801 Lois.capps@mail.house.gov | <u>District Office</u> 1428 Chapala Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805) 730 1710 (805) 730 9153 |
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Senator Barbara Boxer

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| <u>Washington Office</u> 112 Hart Senate Office Bldg. Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224 3553 Senator@boxer.senate.gov | <u>District Office</u> 312 N. Spring St., Ste. 1748 Los Angeles, CA 90012 (213) 894 5000 (213) 894 5012 Fax |
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Senator Dianne Feinstein

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| <u>Washington Office</u> 331 Hart Senate Office Bldg. United States Senate Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224 3841 (202) 228 3954 Fax Senator@feinstein.senate.gov | <u>District Office</u> 525 Market St., Ste 3670 San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 536-6868 |
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