



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Executive Office
Department No.: 012
Agenda Date: December 16, 2025
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Brittany Odermann, Deputy CEO

DocuSigned by:

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SUBJECT: 2025 Annual Report and Accomplishments from Federal and State Legislative Advocates and 2026 Legislative Platform Adoption

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file annual report and accomplishments for 2025 from the County's State legislative advocates, Hurst, Brooks, Espinosa, LLC., and Federal legislative advocate, Thomas Walters and Associates;
- b) Adopt the County of Santa Barbara 2026 Legislative Platform as approved by the Legislative Program Committee at its December 8, 2025 meeting; and
- c) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), because pursuant to sections 15378(b)(4) and 15378(b)(5) the recommended actions consist of organizational, administrative or fiscal activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

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Summary Text:

During the December 16, 2025 Board hearing, representatives from the County's federal advocacy firm, Thomas Walters & Associates, and state advocacy firm, Hurst, Brooks, Espinosa, LLC (HBE), will provide an overview of the past year's accomplishments and preview of the likely legislative issues for 2026. These annual reports recap the 2025 accomplishments through the legislative sessions. Staff recommends the Board receive and file the 2025 Annual Reports from State and Federal advocates as well as review and adopt the 2026 Legislative Platform.

In [December 2019](#), the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution establishing the Legislative Program Committee (Committee) as a standing committee of the Board. The Committee approved the Draft 2026 Legislative Platform at their December 8, 2025 meeting. Once adopted by the full Board of Supervisors, the 2026 Legislative Platform will be used to communicate key legislative needs and overall priorities to federal and state government.

Background:

Legislative Annual Reports

At the November 4, 2025 Board meeting, the Board approved one-year extensions to the contracts with both federal and state legislative advocates with terms from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026. The agreements include a provision for the advocates to present an update on legislative activity for the year. Each year, our legislative advocates provide an annual report to your Board that summarizes key legislative activity and accomplishments over the past year. The attached reports provide annual accomplishments (Attachments A and B).

2026 Legislative Platform

For the 2026 Platform, the County Executive Office proposed a goal to further redesign and reorganize to create a more streamlined document that aligns with the Board's priorities (Attachments C and D). The process began by reviewing and making any necessary revisions to the 2025 Legislative Principles for accuracy and relevance. While there were no additions to the legislative principles, the *Health and Human Services* principle was renamed to *Health and Human Services Stability* and departments provided updated language. The Legislative Principles for 2026 are as follows:

- ❖ Job Growth and Economic Vitality
- ❖ Efficient Service Delivery and Operations
- ❖ Fiscal Stability
- ❖ Inter-Agency Collaboration
- ❖ Local Control
- ❖ Health and Human Services Stability
- ❖ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- ❖ Climate Sustainability, Resilience, and Adaptation

Staff then worked with departments to review and articulate issues of interest to the County. The proposed Platform includes forty-eight (48) individual issues under ten different topic areas that align with the legislative principles listed above. The Legislative Program Committee approved the newly formatted 2026 Legislative Platform on October 7, 2025. In addition, public input was solicited for a

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period of two weeks on the Draft Platform to encourage public input on the proposed planks and principles. Staff sent out a press release and posted the draft to the public website. The review period for public feedback was open from October 10 - 24. Staff received one public comment from Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) which was incorporated into the Legislative Platform. Additionally, six County departments provided comments which have been incorporated appropriately. The Legislative Program Committee approved the updated 2026 Legislative Platform on December 8, 2025.

Staff works closely with the County's state and federal advocates, County departments, and legislative partners to develop effective strategies to address countywide needs and issues. The strategies to promote the legislative principles involve funding requests, creating new or amending existing legislation, and advocacy.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Santa Barbara 2025 Annual Report (Federal) – Thomas Walters & Associates

Attachment B – Santa Barbara 2025 Annual Report (State) – Hurst, Brooks, Espinosa

Attachment C – 2026 Legislative Platform - Redline (Approved by LPC on 12/8/2025)

Attachment D – 2026 Legislative Platform - Clean (Approved by LPC on 12/8/2025)

Authored by:

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cc: Don Gilchrest, Thomas Walters and Associates, Inc.
Jean Hurst, Hurst, Brooks, Espinosa, LLC