



DRAFT PROPOSED 2010 LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES

The Legislative Program adheres to the County's legislative principles, which serve as a guide for the County in developing a position on any forthcoming federal and state legislation.

*** EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY/OPERATIONS**

- Support efforts to promote greater authority and flexibility in designing and delivering services, including customizing services to the needs and preferences of the community.
- Support efforts to promote minimum caseload and performance standards, including ensuring funding necessary to achieve such standards.
- Support efforts to promote increased technology and other efficiencies as long as such efficiencies do not inadvertently jeopardize local control or negatively impact quality of services rendered at the local level.
- Support streamlining or eliminating unnecessary planning, reporting, and administrative requirements and the elimination of regulations that seek to control the implementation of state-mandated programs and services.
- Oppose legislation that creates undue administrative, fiscal, operational and regulatory burdens on departments without improving effectiveness or efficiencies.

*** FISCAL STABILITY**

- Support legislative and administrative actions to ensure the County is best positioned for funding for mandated programs; seek greater discretion in carrying out the County's responsibilities; and increase flexibility in the acquisition and expenditure of program funds.
 - Support efforts to ensure the federal and state government finance a basic level of health, social service, and income maintenance services, including resultant county administrative costs, and provide flexibility to adjust to local needs and circumstances and it must provide for long-term program planning and program stability.
 - Support efforts to increase reimbursement rates for mandated services (i.e. Medicare and Medi-Cal); tie reimbursement/funding to caseload growth, cost index and other criteria that will provide funding in line with the actual costs of service delivery; provide more local authority to adjust fees/assessments/charges for the cost of delivering mandated services.
 - Support efforts to guarantee prompt payments of reimbursements and subventions, payment with interest when payments are late and guarantee a date certain for reimbursement of mandated services (i.e. elections, SB90) and efforts that would reform the current mandate reimbursement process to be more cost efficient, predictable and fair.
 - Oppose state or federal mandates, or the transfer/realignment of state or federal programs to the county, unless adequate on-going revenues are provided.
 - Oppose efforts by the federal and state governments to pass fiscal sanctions to counties when inadequate federal and state funding hinders counties ability to deliver services in accordance with performance targets.
 - Oppose attempts to decrease, redirect, borrow, restrict or eliminate county revenue sources, or to restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities. In particular, monitor any efforts at the state level to retain additional local property tax funds for state purposes. Support Constitutional protection of all local revenues.
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✱ **INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

- Partner with neighboring cities on infrastructure and other large-scale projects when possible and mutually-beneficial.
- Support legislation and administrative actions which enable the County to partner with other counties and public agencies in mutually beneficial projects and programs.
- Support the advocacy efforts of such organizations as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the National Association of Counties (NACO), Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), First 5 Santa Barbara, the Kid's Network and other local and regional agencies in mutually beneficial projects and programs.
- Collaborate with the federal and state governments, other institutions and entities on regulatory and administrative issues and other issues of mutually beneficial projects while upholding the other legislative principles.

✱ **LOCAL CONTROL**

- Recognizes that differences exist throughout the State and that local governments should have the authority and flexibility to develop systems; implement policies and deliver services that reflect local needs and preferences.
 - Resist externally imposed systems that do not recognize the differences that exist within the State and local communities and that erode local control.
 - Support efforts to restore local control and oppose efforts that hinder or limit the County's ability to self-govern, including opposing legislation that infringes upon county board of supervisors' local land use decision-making authority.
 - Oppose attempts to decrease, restrict or eliminate county revenue sources, or to restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities.
 - Support legislation that ensures the federal and state government should finance a basic level of health, social service, and income maintenance services, including corresponding county administrative costs, and provide flexibility to adjust to local needs and circumstances and it must provide for long-term program planning and program stability.
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