

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. The County sponsors a dynamic program of legislative actions through its annual Board-adopted Legislative Platform. The Committee, with the assistance of county departments and legislative advocates in Washington, DC and Sacramento, develops and tracks the Legislative Platform each year. 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.

The Legislative Platform includes prioritized legislative principles, specific issues, projects and programs (priorities) that warrant targeted advocacy, funding requests and/or legislation. The Committee recommends the proposed Legislative Platform to the Board of Supervisors for subsequent review and approval. Once the Board adopts the Legislative Platform, the Committee, advocates and County staff use a variety of advocacy strategies to advance the identified principles and Legislative Platform Planks with regular reporting to the Legislative Program Committee. The legislative advocates, the Legislative Program Committee and the Board of Supervisors track and update the status of pending legislation continuously.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2020 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.