



SOLANO COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM & POLICY GUIDELINES



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2014

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SOLANO COUNTY 2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

PRIORITY ISSUES

The ability of Solano County to serve the residents of the County (County) and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. The State of California's (State) actions and ongoing fiscal uncertainties continue to threaten the County's ability to provide vital services to the public. In order to fulfill the County's commitment to the community, State resources should be sought to support the County's mission to enrich the quality of life in the County. To this end, the County Board of Supervisors supports the priorities and the legislative principles set forth below.

Priority issues are those that have a significant impact on County business and on which County staff, including the County's State legislative advocates, will concentrate their legislative efforts during the 2014 Legislative Session. The County's top priorities (Listed Alphabetically) include:

1. **Affordable Care Implementation** – Support healthcare policy implementation efforts that do not financially impact the County in a negative way. Examples of impacts may include unfunded or under-funded mandates, or reallocation of existing County funding that result in an increased General Fund obligation. Support ongoing and new efforts related to increasing the number of insured persons and to providing and expanding primary care services and public health prevention services and activities.
2. **County Revenue Sources** - Oppose efforts to decrease, restrict, eliminate, seize, divert, supplant or otherwise restrict local autonomy of local revenues. Oppose any efforts at the state level to eliminate or redirect revenues currently dedicated to local government for state purposes to other agencies and/or districts. Advocate for timely, full state funding for state programs operated by the County, which include appropriate cost of living increases, as well as costs associated with increases in population and caseload growth.
3. **County Strategic Plan** - Support efforts that further the goals outlined in the County's Strategic Plan as follows: (a) improve the health and well-being of those who live and work here; (b) ensure responsible and sustainable land use; (c) maintain a safe community; and (d) invest in and for the future.
4. **Environmental and Open Space** – Encourage and seek legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County. Support funding and regulatory efforts to preserve open space and agricultural viability.
5. **Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta** - Support legislative and administrative efforts to protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and County's interests relative to land use, agricultural stability, economic development, police or emergency response mandates, environmental preservation, flood protection, levee stability, habitat conservation, recreation, water supply, water quality, and water rights. Support governance structures that give local government an equal voice with other stakeholders in setting Delta policy.
6. **State Realignment & Cost-Shifts** - Oppose proposals to restructure, realign, or otherwise shift the cost of state programs to local government, without commensurate compensation and a legislative ability for counties to draw down available federal funding. Support efforts to distribute public safety realignment funds using an equitable formula based on population. Support efforts to improve the stability of current County revenue sources. Oppose any realignment initiatives, which fail to fully fund services shifted to the County.

7. **Voting and Election Efficiencies** - Support efforts to modernize election administration to increase voter turnout, reduce the local cost of elections, reduce waiting time at polling places, increase convenience for voters, and improve voting opportunity for overseas and military voters.

Furthermore, the Solano Board of Supervisors adopts the following legislative principles (Listed by Policy Area Alphabetically):

Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Water

1. Support efforts to maintain, enhance or more fully fund the regulatory authority of the Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights and Measures. Support renewal and possible increases in annual fees that may be charged by County Weights and Measures for registering weighing and measuring devices for use within the County.
2. Support legislation or administrative rulemaking to allow growers to take feral hogs without a depredation permit or hunting license when the hogs are damaging crops or agricultural infrastructure.
3. Support legislation to collect a statewide cost share from the livestock industry to support USDA Wildlife Services in California counties. Support funding for an alternate intake to the North Bay Aqueduct;
4. Support efforts to protect the County's Farm Gate, including, but not limited to, full mitigation of agricultural and other economic impacts associated with habitat restoration efforts.
5. Oppose bills that allow for industry self-certification of weighing and measuring devices.
6. Support legislation that would authorize the Environmental Protection Agency to provide funding to state and local agencies for projects aimed at advancing the goals and objectives of the comprehensive conservation and management plan for the San Francisco estuary.

General Government

1. Support fiscal reform efforts that assure the County the financial independence necessary to provide services to its residents and meet its mandated responsibilities.
2. Support funding in order to improve the delivery of services, including technology acquisitions and upgrades, and make government more accountable and efficient to the people of California.
3. Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state funds while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources.
4. Support increased appropriations to the County for mandated programs, including capital acquisition costs and regulatory relief to save on costs.
5. Support legislation that provides grants and funding programs for the preservation, rehabilitation, and maintenance of historically and/or architecturally significant buildings and structures.
6. Seek out, develop, and support legislative and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local governments' revenues, maximize the County's access to state funding sources, and/or increases local funding flexibility.
7. Support the enactment of legislation to allocate statewide bond funding based on objective criteria developed with local input.
8. Support legislative action to ensure the ongoing recognition of PACE bonds as assessments and support the innovative County Energy Independence Program.
9. Support legislation that will allow the County to ensure full cost recovery for services provided to other governmental entities.
10. Support legislation that encourages mutually respectful relationships between tribal and local governments including reform to both fee-to-trust process and off-reservation gaming provisions to insure that the impacts of tribal development are fully mitigated and jurisdictional issues resolved.

General Government - Continued

11. Support legislation or regulatory reform that allows flexibility in the County's pension plan formula to ensure the County remains a competitive employer in the current market
12. Oppose attempts to restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities. Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexation, incorporation, and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide services to its residents.
13. Oppose legislative or administrative actions that would create state unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority.
14. Oppose any effort to balance the state budget through the taking of local government resources.
15. Support or seek alternative legislation to extend existing provisions to allow design-build bidding and construction manager-at risk options on construction projects.

Health and Human Services

1. Oppose efforts to eliminate, seize, divert, supplant or otherwise restrict local autonomy of local revenues.
2. Advocate for changes relative to the client intake process to improve system performance and outcomes.
3. Support efforts to support and provide increased funding for prevention, intervention, and treatment services for youth and adults with substance abuse issues.
4. California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS). Oppose efforts to eliminate funding for CalWORKS programs and support services. Support efforts to streamline program requirements for counties. Support legislation to align CalWORKS regulations for single parents with children under 6 to match federal requirements. Support legislation to allow drug felons to access CalWORKS grants to stabilize families and assist with funding and obtaining needed mental health and substance abuse services.
5. Support legislation and budget action which would protect and enhance funding for subsidized child care services, which in turn provides employment and education opportunities for residents of County.
6. Support legislation that promotes and funds services to meet the needs of current and former foster children, their families, and caregivers. Eliminate civil penalties for foster care homes since the children are removed until corrective action is taken and this policy could be a detriment to recruiting and retaining foster homes.
7. Support legislation and budget action that would protect and enhance funding for subsidized child care services which in turn provide employment and education opportunities for residents of the County, and for child development programs including Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten for all children.
8. Support sufficient funding to meeting needs of all the children in our care until they are ready for independence.
9. Support efforts that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training and employment, access to health care and other social services and transitional and permanent housing.
10. Support new or increased funding for mental health programs. Support efforts that allow for maximum flexibility in funding decisions for counties to meet the needs of their community and mental health consumers and decrease regulatory mandates that hinder the ability of local mental health agencies from providing effective services. Support efforts to allow for flexibility for all appropriately licensed individuals to bill for provided mental health services.
11. Support prevention and public health goals including surveillance and community health.

Health and Human Services -Continued

12. Support eliminating the cutoff of funding for individuals that are eligible but are categorically defunded and the cost of medical care for these inmates defaults to the County upon arrest and detention of these individuals.
13. Support legislative efforts to increase awareness and promote public health issues within the County. Support enhanced training to handle pandemic disease outbreaks. Support efforts to allow for flexibility for all appropriately licensed individuals to bill for provided health services.
14. Support legislation to add e-cigarettes, menthol and smokeless tobacco products containing nicotine to the list of tobacco related products to be regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
15. Support legislative and budgetary efforts to improve protections and services to prevent physical, mental, and elder abuse and neglect. Support efforts to improve and promote safety for seniors.
16. Support continued and protected funding for independent living services for foster youth including housing and educational support.
17. Support legislation that provides grants and funding for programs to address homelessness and related issues, including efforts to create tools for establishing affordable housing and transitional treatment programs.
18. Support legislation that promotes prevention–focused policies and interventions.
19. Advocate for timely, full state funding for state programs operated by the County that include appropriate cost of living increases, as well as costs associated with increases in population and caseload growth.
20. Support legislation that increases the reliability of child support payments.
21. Support any budget, legislative, or administrative action to increase funding for Local Child Support Agencies.

Housing, Community and Economic Development, and Workforce Investment

1. Support Housing Element reform that provides a streamlined certification process for jurisdictions that have small housing allocation.
2. Encourage and seek legislation to facilitate orderly economic expansion and growth, and increase the opportunity for discretionary revenues, programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
3. Support funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.
4. Support and strengthen the federal/State/local delivery system for workforce development programs by assuring that State-level initiatives complement local delivery efforts that add value for these business-led efforts.

Public Safety and Emergency Disaster Preparedness

1. Support continued and protected funding for all 2011 Public Safety Realignment programs, including Post-Release Community Supervision (PRCS), Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG), and Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA).
2. Support legislation and regulations that mitigate liabilities of longer-term inmates as a result of realignment in areas such as health, mental health, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other areas of concern.
3. Support legislation that mitigates the impacts of long-term confinement in county jails and redirects inmates with sentences in excess of three years to state prisons.
4. Support efforts to maximize opportunity to get reimbursement for inmate medical care from federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).
5. Support legislation to protect existing or increased funding for local public safety programs, including COPS, Juvenile Justice Programs, Cal-MMET, Rural Sheriffs, Booking Fees, Vertical Prosecution, and other critical programs.

Public Safety and Emergency Disaster Preparedness - Continued

6. Support efforts to secure appropriate funding for gang-related issues.
7. Support legislation that establishes a presumptive limit for driving under the influence of marijuana.
8. Support continued and protected funding for adult probation services. Support efforts for the provision of additional resources to reduce criminal recidivism and increase the supervision and management of felony offenders on probation.
9. Support legislation to provide state offset to recover outstanding restitution ordered to the victims of crimes and other delinquent court ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. Support new legislation that would increase the collection term from 3 years to between 10 and 20 years, thereby avoiding having to seek civil judgments against clients.
10. Support legislation and grants that provide new and increased funding for prevention, intervention, victim support and services for families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking, elder abuse and human trafficking.
11. Support legislation and funding for flood protection, particularly as it pertains to locations where governmental and municipal buildings that play a role in local emergency response.

Resource Management, Environmental Health, and Sustainability

1. Support legislation and administrative action that further the goals of the County's climate protection efforts, including the ability for a local agency to take greenhouse gas reduction credit for the permitting of utility scale green energy facilities.
2. Support legislative efforts to keep State Parks open in the County.
3. Support efforts to seek ongoing funding mechanisms that sustain operations, maintenance and repair of dated infrastructure in County and local park agencies.
4. Advocate resolution of the "no fish stocking" ruling by Fish & Game at Lake Solano Park.
5. Closely monitor updates to Stormwater rules that may have adverse effects on local communities.
6. Minimize proposed changes to Building Codes made by the legislative process. Focus code changes on established procedures through the Building Standards Commission.
7. Support the appeal of the \$150 per building fee applicable to rural State Responsibility areas. Strive for repeal or return of some of fee revenues to local fire districts.
8. Oppose CalEMA's proposals to require local jurisdictions to purchase repetitive loss properties.
9. Support efforts to reinstate the state subvention for the Williamson Act program, which was eliminated in FY2011/12.
10. Oppose legislation that would have the effect of circumventing the County's ability to require mitigation of the conversion of agricultural lands, including mitigation to enhance existing agricultural lands.
11. Support sensible and meaningful CEQA reform that both streamlines processes and serves to reduce meaningless litigation, while maintaining strong analytic and mitigation requirements for large projects that clearly have significant environmental consequences at a regional or statewide level.
12. Support any budget, legislative, or administrative action that improves environmental health regulatory program implementation that improves the County's ability to provide a responsive, efficient, and effective County environmental Health program.
13. Support legislation and grants that provide funding for implementation of environmental health programs such as food protection, recreational health, solid waste, liquid waste, water supply and hazardous materials programs.
14. Support any legislation that reduces or simplifies reporting requirements for local environmental health programs to the state, including revisions to Chapter 6.95 to streamline hazardous materials program reporting.

Resource Management, Environmental Health, and Sustainability - Continued

15. Support regulatory processes that are not a one-size-fits-all approach and maintain flexibility for the County to determine the best means of achieving water conservation mandates.
16. Seek to reverse the current diversion of the Off Highway Vehicle funding so that it returns to local agencies.
17. Support legislation to improve access to healthy foods via community gardens, school gardens, CSA's and other methods while also establishing criteria that ensures public health.

Transportation

1. Support legislation and budget action which provides additional and continuing funding for local infrastructure, including local roads, bridges, and transit priorities, as well as continued funding of the California Aid to Airports Program (CAAP) for capital projects.
2. Ensure that existing transportation funding sources are retained.
3. Seek to reverse the current diversion of the Off highway vehicle funding so that it returns to local source.
4. Seek funding from the Cap and Trade measure to pay for road maintenance including green roads and other enhancements to the transportation network that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
5. Support or sponsor legislation that provides for the imposition, extension, or increase of a special tax for the purpose of providing funding for local transportation projects and lowers the threshold for voter approval to 55%.

Veterans and Veterans Affairs

1. Support efforts that provide enhanced benefits for veterans and active duty, reserve and National Guard members that are cost-neutral to counties, including expanded mental health services.
2. Support legislative, regulatory or policy changes that would create a federal/state/local government partnership to reduce the VA veteran's claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans.
3. Support legislation and funding to improve existing and construct new local veteran's facilities.
4. Support state legislation to permit the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to collect data on incarcerated veterans and to give that data to the Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) for purposes of connecting those incarcerated veterans and their families with the benefits they are still entitled to while incarcerated, as well as assist the veteran upon release from incarceration.
5. Support legislation that would make it a criminal offense to intentionally misdirect or mislead a veteran, or anyone acting on the veterans behalf, concerning benefits or entitlements.
6. Support legislation that would establish priority enrollment and registration for veterans in community colleges, state colleges, and universities.

Other Agency Interests

1. Travis Community Consortium – Support the mission of all military organizations located within the County. Support the 2014 state legislative priorities adopted by the Travis Community Consortium. Furthermore, encourage the State to adopt proactive measures regarding the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and convene an office at the State level to work with each community that has a military installation or defense contractors to protect California's interest with the decline in defense spending and the probable realignment of missions and closure of bases.
2. Solano Transportation Authority – Support the 2014 legislative state priorities and programs as outlined and adopted by the Solano Transportation Authority.
3. Delta County Coalition - Support the principles developed collectively by the Delta Counties Coalition.