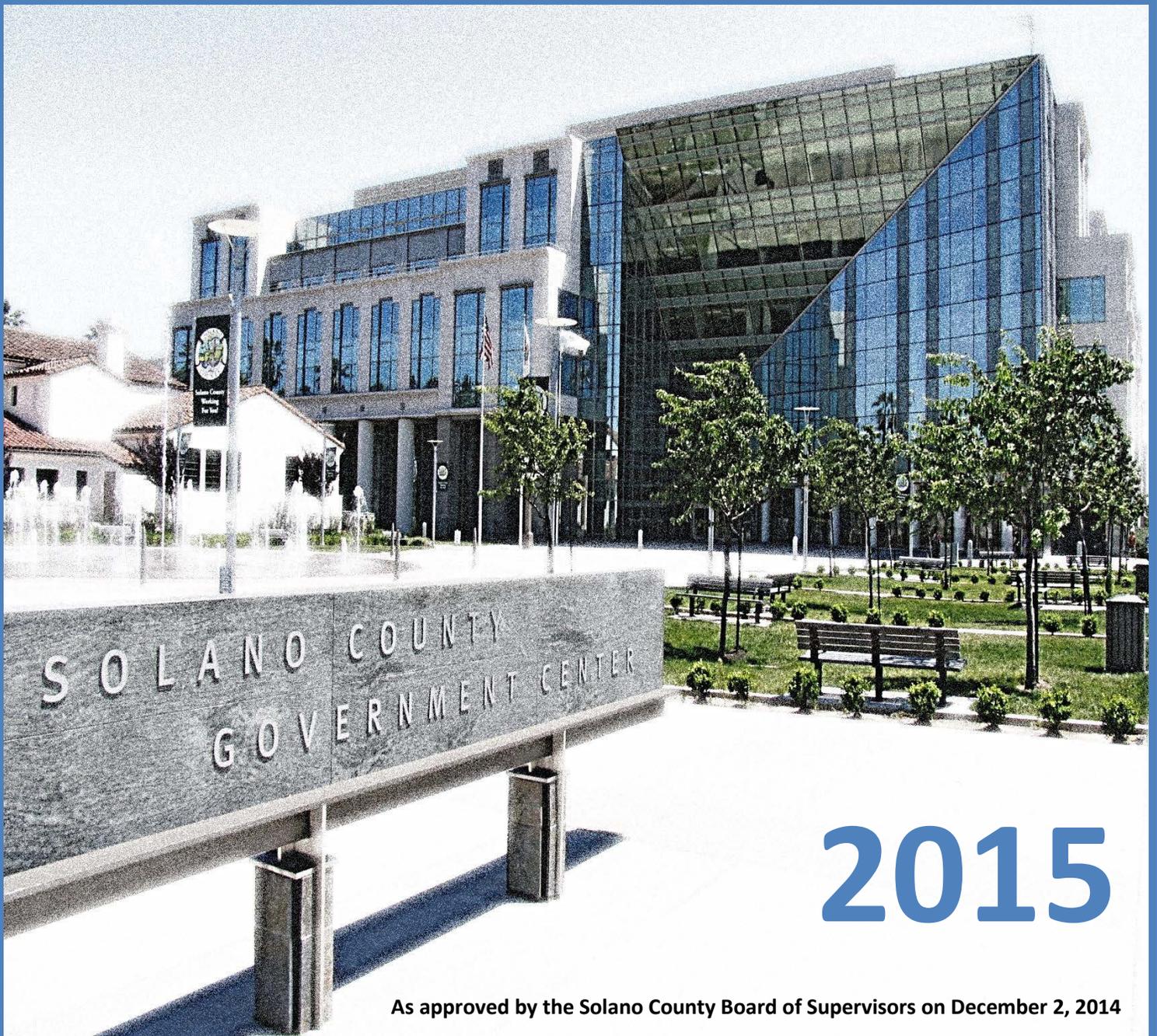




# SOLANO COUNTY

# FEDERAL

## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AND POLICY GUIDELINES



# 2015

As approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors on December 2, 2014

# Solano County Board of Supervisors

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## SOLANO COUNTY 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### PRIORITY ISSUES

The ability of the County to serve its residents and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. Federal legislative policy and funding decisions affect the County's ability to deliver services. In order to fulfill the County's commitment to the community, Federal resources should be sought to support the County's mission to enrich the quality of life in 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 Federal legislative advocates, will concentrate their legislative efforts during the 2015 Legislative Session. The County's top priorities (Listed Alphabetically) include:

1. **Child Welfare Services** - Support increased federal funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care. Support increased financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, and access to health care. Support retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and elimination of outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances. Support federal funding to address the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.
2. **Funding for Key Infrastructure Projects** - Support efforts in Congress to authorize and fund infrastructure projects in Solano County, including key water infrastructure initiatives such as dredging and is pursuant to the newly authorized Army Corps' project selection process under the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).
3. **Housing, Economic Development, and Transportation Programs** - Support the highest possible funding level for key federal housing and economic development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Support legislation and funding to restore and revitalize property impacted by prior realignment or closure of military installations. In the area of transportation, support efforts to protect the Highway Trust Fund and support programs that provide funding for local roads, bridges, transit initiatives, and aviation.
4. **Military Presence** - Support efforts to secure Travis Air Force Base from budget reductions, downsizing, and advocate for new and/or alternative missions to be directed to the base. Support additional assets/missions such as C-17, KC-46 squadrons, modernization of existing aircraft, and gaining other aviation and non-aviation missions. Oppose efforts to eliminate an entire fleet or program. Support infrastructure investments, including military construction projects and housing upgrades and enhance use of underutilized property on base. Support efforts implement and maintain public-public/public-private partnerships with Travis Air Force Base and other community organizations/agencies.
5. **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness** - Support funding for programs that assist Solano County with efforts aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public safety through community partnerships and multi-jurisdictional efforts, such as the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. In addition, support funding for programs that assist the County with disaster response and preparedness and homeland security-related needs, including efforts aimed at achieving communications interoperability.

6. **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, water rights, and dredging activities. Support governance structures that give local government a strong and equal voice with other stakeholders in setting Delta policy.

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

### **Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Water**

1. Support efforts to strengthen inspections at borders and ports of entry to safeguard against invasive pests and diseases.
2. Support efforts to continue the provisions and existing funding levels provided in the implementation of the Farm Pest and Disease Management Program (Section 10201 of the 2008 Farm Bill) and similar efforts to eradicate invasive pests.
3. Support legislation or rulemaking to facilitate/expedite inspection of US Postal packages profiled by detector dogs to contain fruit or plant material.
4. Support legislation to indemnify growers for losses due to Plant Quarantine.
5. Support passage of a Farm Bill that includes pest prevention provisions (such as Section 10201 of the previous Farm Bill), increases for specialty crop support and adequate financial support for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
6. Support legislation reducing redundant enforcement of aquatic herbicide/pesticide use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act. (The Board took a position on this last year in a special item brought by Mosquito and Vector Control.)
7. Support, through legislation or appropriation, a more equitable distribution of USDA funds for Wildlife Services provided to California counties.
8. Support efforts to protect the Suisun Marsh consistent with the Suisun Marsh Preservation Act and the Suisun Marsh Plan;
9. 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.
10. Support funding for local mapping of flood hazard areas and advocate for the US Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies to protect the County from these hazards.
11. Support legislation to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area to protect and promote the economic vitality and cultural, historical, and natural assets of the region.
12. Support legislative efforts to preserve the Berryessa Snow Mountain region as a National Conservation Area or Landmark.

### **General Government**

1. Support efforts to realign government services with necessary 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.
2. Seek out, develop, and support legislative, regulatory, and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local governments' revenues, maximize the County's access to Federal funding sources, and/or increases local funding flexibility.
3. Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas and regulations for the equitable distribution of Federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources.
4. Support Federal legislative and budget action that will provide robust funding for domestic infrastructure, public safety, community development, and environmental programs, which support County efforts to maintain and enhance quality of life.

## General Government Continued

5. Support any expansion, continuation, and/or increased flexibility in the bidding/procurement, delivery, and management of construction projects.
6. Support legislation that provides grants and funding programs for the preservation, rehabilitation, and maintenance of historically and/or architecturally significant buildings and structures.
7. Oppose legislative or administrative actions that would create Federal unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority.
8. Oppose attempts to restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities.
9. Support budgetary efforts for outstanding Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) funding that is owed to the County and support legislative and budgetary efforts to reinstate ongoing future PILT funding.

## Health and Human Services

1. Support a reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program that would restore state and Solano County flexibility in operating a program focused on services leading to outcomes that stabilize families and lead to employment, including federal incentives for subsidized jobs.
2. Support ongoing, increased, and/or reauthorization of funding for existing programs such as the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grants, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Oppose efforts to reduce or divert funding away from these programs.
3. Support eliminating the Federal health benefits "inmate exception" for persons in County jails and detention centers who are in custody pending disposition of charges.
4. Federal Grants. Support efforts to ensure competitive equity for suburban areas (on par with urban and rural areas) for Federal grant opportunities.
5. Support legislation and budget action that would protect and enhance funding for subsidized child care services and child development programs including school readiness for all children.
6. Support legislation and budget action that would provide funding for programs and activities that support the special needs of elderly and persons with disabilities. Support legislative efforts to increase Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for elderly and persons with disabilities.
7. Support legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act to provide in-home services to the elderly.
8. Support any budget, legislative, or administrative action to increase Title IV-D Child Support Program funding.
9. Oppose cuts, block grants, and other measures that will shift Medicaid costs to counties. Support efforts to allow for utilizing billing codes for brief intervention services for alcohol and drugs and for two different services on the same day in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).
10. Support legislation that increases taxes on combustible tobacco products, tobacco-based inhalation devices, and electronic cigarettes, and uses the revenue for children and family programs, including smoking cessation programs.
11. Support legislation that requires specific bills to undergo a health impact assessment of current and predicted effects, possibly completed by a nonpartisan body.
12. Support all health equity efforts at various institutional and sectoral levels, and ensuring a broader equity strategy within institutions and sectors. Applying metrics to identify equity gaps and measuring gains in intervention areas is a key priority.
13. Expand the current list of billable medical expenses to include valuable services (Promotoras, chronic disease self-management programs, healthy food purchasing, etc.) which are part of a broader menu of efforts to combat chronic disease.

## Health and Human Services Continued

14. Support legislation and strategic efforts to reduce intake of high fat, sugar, sodium foods and beverages which may contribute to higher risk for developing specific chronic diseases.
15. Support policy for evidenced-based home visiting services as a preventive service, therefore eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement such as California's Medicaid 1115 Waiver.
16. Support eliminating the cutoff of funding for individuals that are incarcerated but not convicted and the cost of medical care for these inmates' defaults to the County upon arrest and detention of these individuals.

## Housing, Community and Economic Development, and Workforce Investment

1. Support increased and continued funding for existing programs including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8, permanent, transitional housing, and Rental Assistance Programs. Oppose efforts to reduce funding and operational flexibility for these programs.
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 legislation that encourages job growth and the success of the business community.
4. Support legislation that provides a stable national-level appropriation for workforce development programs as a longer-term investment strategy for the nation's economy.
5. Support legislation that enhances a public/private, performance-driven block grant program that provides positive investments in the nation's workforce, including both the unemployed and those in need of skills training.
6. Support or seek federal grant funding opportunities that advance and improve housing, community and economic development, and workforce investment opportunities and legislative principles.
7. Support legislation for increased HUD Section 202 funding for supportive housing for the elderly. Support legislative and regulatory efforts to connect health care and housing options for elderly and persons with disabilities to ensure Affordable Care Act home and community based services are effective.
8. Oppose Federal legislation that would reduce U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds and support the expanded eligibility and access to these funds.

## Public Safety and Emergency Disaster Preparedness

1. Support the preservation of funding levels for existing public safety programs such as the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, and the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Oppose efforts to reduce or divert funding away from these programs.
2. Support continued or new funding for emergency disaster preparedness programs such as FEMA - Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), and emergency disaster preparedness and infrastructure damage recovery programs. Oppose efforts to reduce or divert funding away from these programs.
3. Support funding to address emergency preparedness needs, particularly those that include communications equipment, training/exercises, or ongoing operations and maintenance costs.
4. Support the preservation of existing funding levels for the Juvenile Accountability Block Grants (JABG) program to help offset the cost of monitoring juvenile offenders through electronic means to ensure compliance with court orders and/or terms of probation, thereby holding them accountable.
5. Support any budget, legislative, or administrative action to increase Title IV-E Juvenile Probation Services funding.

## Public Safety and Emergency Disaster Preparedness Continued

6. 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.
7. Support legislation and grants that provide for new and increased funding for programs for the prevention and enforcement of financial exploitation of vulnerable populations.
8. Support legislation to provide Federal 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 three years to between 10 and 20 years, thereby avoiding having to seek civil judgments against clients.
9. Seek support for legislation and funding opportunities to implement supervision strategies and evidence-based practices that consider the treatment and service needs of targeted probationers such as sexual offenders, domestic violence offenders, and/or those with mental illness, in order to improve outcomes for these populations.
10. Support legislation and funding for flood protection, particularly as it pertains to areas where governmental and municipal buildings that play a role in local emergency response are located.
11. Support legislation and administrative rulemaking to extend high urban threat areas delineation to include rural locations and sensitive areas adjacent to rail.
12. Support legislation that improves the availability, affordability and coverage for earthquake and flood insurance.
13. Support efforts to enhance capacity of local emergency responders to respond to potential emergency events resulting from hazardous materials releases from rail cars.

## Resource Management, Environmental Health, and Sustainability

1. Seek Federal-funding opportunities to pay for green road maintenance and other enhancements to the transportation network that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
2. Support funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.
3. Support measures and funding that further the goals of the County's climate protection and sustainability efforts as referenced in the Board-adopted Climate Action Plan.
4. 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.
5. Support measures and funding for County programs and projects that address sustainability issues such as air quality improvement, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, fuel efficiency, energy adequacy, and security while balancing the reduction of emissions with impacts on business.
6. Support legislation that modifies existing law to improve implementation of environmental health regulatory programs.
7. 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.
8. Support any legislation that reduces or simplifies reporting requirements for local environmental health programs to the state.
9. Oppose FEMA proposals to require local jurisdictions to purchase repetitive loss properties.
10. Support legislation and grant funding opportunities that improve land use planning for major economic drivers and infrastructure projects in the County.
11. Support legislation that fosters, establishes or expands regional purchasing capabilities and inter-jurisdictional infrastructure development to achieve local environmental and sustainability goals/requirements.

## Transportation

1. Support efforts to maintain existing or increased funding for transportation programs and projects within the County.
2. Support legislative efforts for Federal transportation reauthorization measures that reflect the needs of the County and project priority in funding streams.
3. Support consideration of an increase or the indexing of the Federal gasoline tax and alternative sources of funding.
4. Support legislation and budget actions that provides additional and continuing funding for local infrastructure, including local roads, bridges, and transit priorities, as well as continued funding of the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for Airport capital improvement projects.
5. Support legislation and administrative rule making that improves rail and rail car safety for transport of hazardous material including crude oil.
6. Seek funding and maximize opportunities to develop, support, and maintain a robust active transportation strategy, with particular attention to transportation and health equity issues.

## 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 federal legislation and regulatory changes that would provide increased access for County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) to VA information systems for use in developing and monitoring claims submitted on behalf of veterans, including but not limited to the federal Public Assistance and Reporting Information System (PARIS).
3. 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.
1. 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.
2. Support legislation, regulatory or policy changes which expand/ increase VA responsibility to educate veterans on their entitlements.
3. Support legislation that would establish priority enrollment and registration for veterans in community colleges, state colleges, and universities.
4. Support legislation and funding to improve existing and construct new local veteran's facilities.
5. Oppose legislative efforts to reduce, cap or otherwise negatively impact veterans, active duty, reserve and National Guard members' pay and compensation packages.
6. Support legislation that would eliminate the Means Test (Income limits) for veterans to qualify for VA medical care.
7. Support legislation that would authorize VA pharmacies to honor prescriptions written by non-VA physicians.
8. Support legislation that would expand the eligibility criteria for VA Dental Services for veterans eligible for VA Healthcare.
9. Support legislation that would provide CVSO's to send veteran claims electronically to the Veteran's Administration using D to D technology and the County's Vet Pro platform.

## Other Agency Interests

1. Travis Community Consortium – Support the mission of all military organizations located within the County. Support the 2015 federal legislative priorities adopted by the Travis Community Consortium.
2. Solano Transportation Authority – Support the 2015 federal legislative 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.