

2016

STATE Legislative Program and Policy Guidelines



SOLANO
COUNTY

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Supervisors on November 10, 2015

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SOLANO COUNTY 2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

PRIORITY ISSUES

The ability of Solano County to serve its residents 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 2016 Legislative Session. The County's top priorities (Listed Alphabetically) include:

1. **Affordable Care Implementation** – Support healthcare policy implementation efforts that do not have an adverse financial impact to the County. 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. **Children, Youth, and Families** - Support legislation and budget efforts that support children, youth, and families, including restoring and expanding quality child care and preschool opportunities, increasing funding for homeless youth, promoting safety for all children, and supporting mental and developmental health prevention and early intervention activities. Advocate for dedicated funding streams for child abuse and youth violence prevention efforts.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh** - Support legislative and administrative efforts to protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and County's interests relative to land use, agricultural viability, 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 a strong and equal voice with other stakeholders in setting Delta policy, and in project development and implementation.
7. **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.

8. **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 Alphabetically by Policy Area):

Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Water

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that protect and enhance the County's significant agricultural, water, and natural resources. The County opposes any efforts to cut funding streams for critically important state resource programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support funding via the regulatory authority of the Agricultural Commissioner/ Sealer of Weights and Measures, and extend sunsets where applicable, including a cost share from the livestock industry for USDA Wildlife Services. Oppose allowing industry self-certification of devices.
2. Support legislation or 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 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. Support efforts to maintain local control/involvement in allocation of water resources.
6. Support an increase in California General Fund allocations to High Risk Pest Exclusion programs.
7. 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.
8. Support changes to the California Constitution to expand the exemption from the majority property owner 2/3rds electorate vote requirement to include stormwater, flood protection/drainage fees, and permit "lifeline rates" for water and stormwater projects to benefit low-income residents.

General Government

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that protect and enhance the general welfare and quality of life of the County's residents. The County opposes unfunded State mandates and State actions that would preempt local decision-making authority. Specific principles include:

1. Support funding for new technology to increase accountability and efficiency of local governments.
2. Support funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state funds while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources.
3. Support funding (based on objective criteria) for the preservation, rehabilitation, and maintenance of historically and/or architecturally significant buildings and structures.
4. Support the ongoing recognition of PACE bonds as assessments.
5. Support cost recovery for the County regarding services provided to other governmental entities.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Support equitable tax sharing agreements for annexation, incorporation, and development projects.
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.
10. Support funding and regulatory efforts to expand broadband services to all County residents.

Health and Human Services

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that promote the health and welfare of the County's most vulnerable residents. The County opposes any efforts to cut funding streams for critically important health and human services-related programs, such as Medi-Cal, and opposes efforts to reduce local flexibility in the implementation of such programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support changes relative to the client intake process and case maintenance process, to improve system performance and outcomes.
2. Support increased funding for prevention, intervention, and treatment services for youth and adults with substance abuse issues.
3. Support sufficient funding for local CalWORKS programs and support services. Support legislation to align CalWORKS regulations for single parents with children under 6 to match federal requirements.
4. Support enhanced funding for quality child care services (that also provide employment and education opportunities for County residents), and for early learning opportunities.
5. Support efforts that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency.
6. Support new or increased funding for mental health programs. Specifically support efforts to allow for flexibility for all appropriately licensed individuals to bill for provided mental health services.
7. 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.
8. Support legislative and budgetary efforts to reduce obesity in Solano County.
9. 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.
10. Support legislative and budgetary efforts to improve protections and services to prevent physical, mental, and elder abuse and neglect. Support restorations for programs such as Ombudsman, Linkages, In-Home Supportive Services, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers and Adult Day Health Care. Support efforts to improve and promote safety and aging in place initiatives for seniors. Support legislation that eliminates service gaps between the various systems supporting older and disabled adults.
11. Support independent living services for foster youth including housing and educational support.
12. Support grants and funding for programs to address homelessness and related issues.
13. Support legislation that promotes prevention-focused policies and interventions.
14. Support full state funding and cost of living increases for state programs operated by the County.
15. Support legislation that increases the reliability of child support payments.
16. Support expansion of early intervention and developmental services for infants and children, child care and pre-school funding.
17. Support legislation that would require the state maximum State Supplementary Payment (SSP) grant for individuals to be readjusted and increased so that the state SSP and the federal Restore Social Security Income (SSI), when combined equal 112 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) supplements to previous levels adjusted for cost of living.
18. Support expansion and funding of Medi-Cal services to increase reimbursement to providers and to fund dental, vision and other services for older adults.
19. Support legislation and efforts to allow for billing two different services on the same day in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), and for implementation of prospective payment systems based on a capitation model (per-member, per-month) rather than an encounter-based financing model.
20. Support legislation and efforts to regulate the distribution and sale of powdered alcohol.
21. Support legislation and efforts to promote and implement "whole person care" and to address social determinants of health.
22. Advocate for legislation and budget action that would support and enable data integration and sharing between the State, county, and local government agencies for the purpose of supporting seamless delivery of critical health and safety services to the public.

Housing, Community and Economic Development, and Workforce Investment

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that promote local housing and community development programs and activities, workforce development programs, and programs aimed at encouraging local job and business growth. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for these critically important programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in the administration of such programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support Housing Element reform that provides a streamlined certification process for jurisdictions that have small housing allocation, limited urban services and city centered development policies.
2. Support housing opportunities for low-income individuals and families such as permanent and transitional housing, and Rental Assistance Programs.
3. 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.
4. Support the federal/State/local delivery system for workforce development programs with State-level initiatives that complement local delivery efforts and add value for these business-led efforts.
5. Support efforts to increase employment opportunities and link training programs to local available employment, including efforts to increase summer employment opportunities for youth.
6. Support appropriate resources to support safe, accessible and affordable housing to targeted low-income seniors.

Public Safety and Emergency Disaster Preparedness

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that promote funding for key justice, public safety, and emergency preparedness programs. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for such programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in program administration. Specific principles include:

1. Support continued and protected funding for all 2011 Public Safety Realignment programs.
2. Support actions to 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; also efforts to mitigate the impacts of long-term confinement in county jails and redirects inmates with sentences in excess of three years to state prisons.
3. Preserve Title IVE funding and obtain fiscal support from the State to implement the requirements imposed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).
4. Support legislation that provides funding to comply with the additional financial burden of the Prison Rape Elimination Act.
5. Support maximizing reimbursement for inmate medical care from federal Affordable Care Act (ACA).
6. Protect funding for local public safety programs, including COPS, Juvenile Justice Programs, Cal-MMET, Rural Sheriffs, Booking Fees, Vertical Prosecution, and other critical programs.
7. Support efforts to secure appropriate funding for gang-related issues.
8. Support legislation that establishes a presumptive limit for driving under the influence of marijuana.
9. Support continued and protected funding for adult probation services.
10. Support a 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; specifically allow the collection term from 3 years to between 10 and 20 years.
11. Support increased funding for prevention, intervention, and victim services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking, elder abuse and human trafficking.
12. Support funding for flood protection of buildings that play a role in local emergency response.
13. Support efforts to improve safety of hazardous materials transported by rail, including crude by rail and enhance capacity of local emergency responders to appropriately respond to potential emergency events resulting from derailment or releases.
14. Support legislation for the availability and affordability of earthquake and flood insurance.

Resource Management, Environmental Health, and Sustainability

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that promote the environmental health and sustainability of the County, including funding for key programs. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for such programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in program administration. Specific principles include:

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 obtain greenhouse gas reduction credits.
2. Support funding to sustain operations, maintenance and repair of dated infrastructure in County and local park agencies. Support legislative efforts to keep State Parks open in the County.
3. Closely monitor updates to Stormwater rules that may have adverse effects on local communities.
4. Minimize proposed changes to Building Codes made by the legislative process. Focus code changes on established procedures through the Building Standards Commission.
5. Support repeal of the \$150 per building fee applicable to rural State Responsibility areas and/or return of some of fee revenues to local fire districts.
6. Oppose CalEMA's proposals to require local jurisdictions to purchase repetitive loss properties.
7. Support reinstatement of the Williamson Act program, which was defunded in FY2011/12.
8. Oppose legislation to diminish the County's ability to require mitigation of the conversion of agricultural lands, including mitigation to enhance existing agricultural lands.
9. 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.
10. Support actions for a responsive, efficient, and effective County environmental health program.
11. Support any legislation that simplifies reporting for local environmental health programs to the state, including revisions to Chapter 6.95 to streamline hazardous materials program reporting.
12. Support legislation and initiatives that ban single use plastic bags.
13. Support allowing the County to locally determine how to achieve water conservation mandates.
14. Support legislation to improve access to healthy foods via community gardens, school gardens, etc.
15. Support actions to sustain and expand a countywide parks system.
16. Support legislation that fosters regional purchasing capabilities and inter-jurisdictional infrastructure development to achieve local environmental and sustainability goals/requirements. Support actions for source reduction, recycling and composting, including legislation and grants to support extended producer responsibility.

Transportation

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that promote and protect the transportation needs of our community. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for key transportation programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in the administration of such programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support legislation and budget actions which provide 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. Ensure that existing transportation funding streams are retained. Seek to reverse the diversion of Off Highway vehicle funding.
2. 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.
3. Support legislation for the establishment, extension, or increase of a special tax for the purpose of local transportation projects and lowers the threshold for voter approval to 55%.
4. Support efforts to improve rail and rail car safety, including positive train control (PTC) technologies, for transportation of hazardous materials including crude oil.

Veterans and Veterans Affairs

Solano County supports state legislative and regulatory actions that promote and protect the health and general welfare of veterans in our community. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for key veterans' programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in the administration of such programs. Specific principles include:

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 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.
7. Support legislation that would provide state income tax relief to retirement pay of military retirees. Support making permanent the recent increase in funding to California Veteran Service Officers.

Other Agency Legislative Priorities

1. Delta County Coalition - Support the principles developed collectively by the Delta Counties Coalition.
2. Solano LAFCo – Support the 2016 legislative priorities and programs outlined and adopted by Solano LAFCo.
3. Solano Transportation Authority – Support the 2016 legislative state priorities and programs as outlined and adopted by the Solano Transportation Authority.
4. Travis Community Consortium – Support the mission of all military organizations located within the County. Support the 2016 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.