



Chief Executive Office.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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November 20, 2023

To: Supervisor Janice Hahn, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
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From: Fesia A. Davenport FAD
Chief Executive Officer
FAD (Nov 20, 2023 16:40 PST)

SACRAMENTO UPDATE – SUMMARY OF 2023 COUNTY ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Executive Summary

On October 13, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom completed action on legislative measures for the first year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session. This year, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors (Board) and in collaboration with County departments, the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) Branch advocated in sponsorship, co-sponsorship, support, or in opposition of more than 125 County-related bills and State budget proposals.

The County's advocacy work in 2023 focused on proposals aimed at protecting, supporting, and/or enhancing County operations, programs, funding, and the well-being of constituents. This report summarizes these strategic advocacy efforts and the Attachment highlights some of the County's major advocacy wins.

County-Advocacy Legislation

The County actively advocated in sponsorship, co-sponsorship, support, or in opposition of 86 County-related bills. Of these, 53 bills were acted on in this first year of the session, with 39 acted on consistent with the County's advocacy position. The remaining bills may continue as two-year bills in the second year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session. Advocacy successes for the County include



measures that will: allow the County to fund local homeless services and affordable housing; help expedite the development of housing for people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness; strengthen protections for County tenants; and expand housing units to low-income veterans experiencing homelessness; among others. The Attachment provides further information on these advocacy efforts.

The CEO-LAIR worked closely with Board offices and impacted departments to review legislative proposals and to identify legislation that had the potential to impact County operations and programs. Overall, this office reviewed over 2,600 introduced State bills, and more closely tracked over 1,220 bills this session. A summary of bills which the County actively advocated on and bills that the County closely monitored in 2023 can be found at: [County of Los Angeles Bills of Interest](#). In addition, details for individual bills can be found on the County's tracking system at: [County of Los Angeles Legislative Tracking System](#).

County-Advocacy on State Budget Proposals

The County advocated in support of 40 State Budget proposals, of which 25 proposals were enacted in the 2023 State Budget Act. This includes proposals that provide critical funding to: improve Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card technology and security; implement a housing supplement for foster youth; and maintain vital funding for the County's Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department's pretrial services; among others. For additional details, please see Attachment. For information on all State budget positions, please refer to [County Positions on State Budget Items](#).

Other Legislative Efforts

Throughout the course of the Legislative Session, CEO-LAIR coordinated more than 1,538 meetings in support of the County's programs and funding priorities, including: over 744 advocacy meetings that the Sacramento Advocates led and/or participated in to advance the County's legislative priorities; 794 legislative briefings and/or presentations led by the Sacramento and Los Angeles-based offices; and monitored and/or attended over 664 legislative hearings in support of the County's advocacy efforts. CEO-LAIR staff also partnered with various organizations like the California State Association of Counties, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, labor, and community partners on legislative and budget proposals to support County service-related programs and resources. Finally, CEO-LAIR's Government Relations staff continued to coordinate individual meetings between members of the State and federal delegation and County Department Heads, as well as held virtual and in-person legislative briefings attended by legislators, legislative staff and agency leaders, in an ongoing effort to enhance State and local collaborations.

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The second year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session is expected to begin on January 3, 2024. CEO-LAIR will continue to work with Board offices and departments to advance the County's priorities.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Samara Ashley, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, at (213) 974-1464 or sashley@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:SA
PC:sy

Attachment

c: All Department Heads



COUNTY-ADVOCACY: SACRAMENTO 2023



In 2023, the County actively advocated in sponsorship, co-sponsorship, support, or in opposition of 86 County-related bills. Of these, 53 bills were acted on in this first year of the session, with 39 acted on consistent with the County's advocacy position. In addition, the County advocated in support of 40 State Budget proposals, of which 25 proposals were acted on consistent with the County's advocacy position.

This year's effective advocacy efforts focused on proposals that protect, support and/or enhance County operations, programs, and the well-being of constituents, including but not limited to the following:

HOMELESSNESS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

County-supported AB 785 (Santiago) - Affordable Housing and Transitional Housing: Exempts from the California Environmental Quality Act certain activities undertaken by the City of Los Angeles and the County of Los Angeles related to interim, supportive and affordable housing until January 1, 2030. This will facilitate the production of new temporary and permanent affordable housing in the unincorporated areas of the County and in the City of Los Angeles.

County-supported AB 1679 (Santiago) - County of Los Angeles: Homelessness: Allows the County of Los Angeles to impose a local sales tax of up to 0.5 percent, subject to statutory requirements, to fund local homeless services and affordable housing. This will provide authority for the Board of Supervisors and the residents of Los Angeles County to approve a new revenue stream to fund prevention, supportive services and affordable housing for people at-risk and experiencing homelessness.

County-supported SB 567 (Durazo) - Tenant Protections: Revises the no-fault just cause eviction provisions of the Tenant Protection Act of 2019 and provides enforcement mechanisms for violations of restrictions on residential rent increases and no-fault just cause evictions. This will strengthen protections for Los Angeles County tenants, especially for those not covered by any local rent stabilization and just cause eviction ordinances.





CHILDREN & FAMILIES



County-supported SB 407 (Wiener) - Foster Care: Resource Families: Requires resource families (foster families) to demonstrate the ability and willingness to meet the needs of a child regardless of the child’s sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression and adds specific responsibilities to the State and counties related to ensuring that foster youth will be placed with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or another diverse identity (LGBTQ)-affirming resource families. This will ensure that LGBTQ foster youth receive essential support by requiring LGBTQ acceptance be considered in the resource family approval process.



County-supported State Budget Item - Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Fraud Mitigation: \$50.0 million to improve EBT card technology. Beginning May 2024, EBT cards are set to be issued with Chip Europay, Mastercard and Visa (EMV)/Tap Pay technologies, which provide improved fraud protection over magnetic stripe technology. This will strengthen the protections for CalWORKs and CalFresh recipients by ensuring they can access their benefits freely and uninterrupted.

County-supported State Budget Item - Reducing Homelessness for Youth in Foster Care: \$909,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 for first-year State operations and automation funding to implement a housing supplement for foster youth living in Supervised Independent Living Placement at an ongoing cost of \$25.5 million beginning in FY 2025-26. This will help reduce placement instability and homelessness for youth in extended foster care.

HEALTH



County-supported AB 360 (Gipson) – Accurate Death Records: Prohibits excited delirium from being recognized as a valid medical diagnosis or cause of death in California and would prohibit a coroner, medical examiner, physician, or physician assistant from stating on the certificate of death or in any report that the cause of death was excited delirium. This will ensure that excited delirium is not used to rationalize excessive use of force and explain deaths that occur in the context of police restraint.



County-Opposed AB 1168 (Bennett) - Emergency Medical Services (EMS): Would have required a city to be treated as if it had retained its authorities regarding, and the administration of, prehospital EMS if specified requirements were met. The County opposed this bill, which got held on the Senate Floor, on the grounds that it would have created unnecessary inconsistency in statewide policies for the provision of EMS in California; and would have established a foundation upon which cities could break apart and effectively dismantle well established emergency ambulance response areas commonly known as Exclusive Operating Areas across the State.



JUSTICE

County-sponsored State Budget Item - Extending Pretrial Services

Funding (SB 129 Rollover): Carries over up to \$28.2 million in unspent SB 129 pretrial funding allocated to Los Angeles County in FY 2021-22 and FY 2022-23. Without this rollover of funding to 2024, unspent funds for the County’s Justice, Care, and Opportunities Department’s pretrial services would have reverted back to the State.

County-supported SB 749 (Smallwood-Cuevas) - Records Relief:

Eliminates the time limitation for Proposition 47 relief for retrospective cases in which persons convicted of a qualifying felony may file a petition to the court to have their sentence reduced to a misdemeanor. Proposition 47 has been instrumental in helping this population obtain housing, jobs and other resources. In the County, SB 749 may benefit as many as 1.2 million cases for Proposition 47 reclassification relief.

County-supported Strengthening Firearm Regulations: Collectively, these measures will help strengthen and enhance requirements related to access to firearms and training.

- **AB 28 (Gabriel) – Excise Tax:** Enacts an excise tax on firearms and ammunition sold in the State of California to fund evidence-based gun violence prevention programs, school safety measures, and other initiatives that will help end gun violence.
- **AB 732 (Fong) – Relinquishment of Firearms:** Strengthens the process for removing firearms from people who are prohibited from owning them due to a criminal conviction.
- **SB 2 (Portantino) – Firearms:** Sets a minimum age requirement of 21 years of age to obtain a concealed carry weapon license, and adds stronger training requirements.
- **SB 241 (Min) – Dealer Requirements:** Requires a licensee and employees that handle firearms to annually complete specified training.

ENVIRONMENT

County-supported Priorities - Climate Bonds: County Delegation Adoption:

This office coordinated discussions with various County Departments to craft the County’s advocacy priorities for the multi-billion-dollar climate and resource bonds being developed by the Legislature. Subsequently, the Sacramento Advocates met with legislators to emphasize the County priorities, and as a result the Los Angeles County Delegation adopted the County’s priorities as their priorities for negotiations on the climate bonds.



VETERANS

County-supported AB 1386 (Gabriel)- Veterans Housing: Expands availability for housing units funded by the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program and other specified housing units to low-income veterans experiencing homelessness who did not previously qualify, while ensuring that extremely-low-income veterans are still prioritized. This will help ensure available housing units for homeless veterans do not go unused.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

County-sponsored AB 562 (Carrillo) - Local Government Finance: The County of Los Angeles: Repeals an outdated and unnecessary requirement for Los Angeles County to submit its budget to the Governor, Legislature, and State Auditor each year. By repealing these outdated reporting requirements, AB 562 brings what the State requires of Los Angeles County in line with the requirements from other counties.



County-supported AB 400 (Rubio) and SB 706 (Caballero) – Public Works Project Delivery Methods: Collectively these bills will allow the County to use the design-build and the progressive-design build procurement processes for specified public works projects. These new authorities will allow counties to deliver complex projects more efficiently and at less cost than traditional delivery methods.



EDUCATION

County-supported State Budget Item - Juvenile Court and Community Schools: \$80 million in ongoing Proposition 98 State General Fund to support county court and community school operations. Revises the alternative education grant to increase the base grant component, revises the calculation of average daily attendance and establishes funding add-ons for each county office of education that operates a juvenile court school or community school. This will establish an important base funding level to support the unique staffing and programming necessary to serve students who are facing barriers to academic achievement and social-emotional well-being.

