



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

November 26, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

## STATE AGENDA FOR THE 2009-10 SESSION

On November 18, 2008, the Board of Supervisors adopted the revised 2009-10 State Agenda. These revisions, which include new policies, additions to existing principles, and the deletion of others, were incorporated into the State Agenda in addition to clarifications and technical changes consistent with existing Board policy.

The attachment contains a copy of the body of the letter to the Board and the updated State Agenda, including previous policies and positions adopted by the Board.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Manuel Rivas at (213) 974-1464 or via email at [mrivas@ceo.lacounty.gov](mailto:mrivas@ceo.lacounty.gov).

WTF:GK  
MAL:er

### Attachment

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Association

Memos 2008/state agenda 2009-10\_cvr

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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November 18, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**STATE AGENDA FOR THE 2009-10 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

The following recommendations represent the updated policies and proposals for the State Agenda for the 2009-10 Session of the State Legislature, which were developed in coordination with your Board Offices, County departments, the Legislative Strategist, and the Sacramento advocates. This package, together with other positions previously adopted by your Board, will guide our State advocacy efforts. In general, these changes seek to minimize the adverse impact of State actions on the County, achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, and promote the growth of the State and local economy.

**THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve the attached additions, deletions, and changes to existing Board-adopted policies and positions for inclusion in the 2009-10 State Agenda.
2. Instruct the Chief Executive Officer, affected departments, the Legislative Strategist, and the Sacramento advocates to work with the Los Angeles County delegation, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to pursue these policies and positions in the State Legislature and with the Administration and its agencies.

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## **ECONOMIC AND FISCAL OUTLOOK**

As the State begins to prepare its FY 2009-10 Proposed Budget, it is faced with a current year budget that is already out-of-balance based on estimates of State revenues that assume an early economic recovery, instability in the financial markets, substantial court-imposed funding for prison health care and overcrowding, and the possibility that the voters may reject a proposal next year to securitize future lottery earnings, funds which could be part of any budget solution for next year. In addition, employment in nine of the State's 11 major sectors has fallen, and median housing prices continue to decline. The Governor and Legislative leaders have been meeting regularly to discuss a new special session on the budget which will begin on November 5, 2008.

Three months have passed in the current fiscal year and State revenues are \$1.1 billion below estimates according to the State Controller. Estimated tax payments, a barometer of the strength of personal income and corporate taxes, were significantly below last year's levels. Furthermore, this year's budget includes an estimated \$6 billion of new revenue from a combination of earlier collection of some taxes, postponement of some corporate tax reductions, and increased penalties on companies that underpay taxes. Most of these sources are one-time in nature. Early collection this year means less of these revenues will be available next year.

Early newspaper accounts and various analyses forecast a budget deficit of at least \$3 billion by the end of the fiscal year in June 2009. More recent accounts indicate a continuing economic slowdown and a stronger likelihood that the economy will slide into a recession increasing the potential budget shortfall to \$10 billion.

This year's \$15.2 billion budget shortfall resulted in a County loss of approximately \$128.6 million in State funding as documented in a Sacramento Update of September 24, 2008. Subsequent analysis by County departments of the programmatic impact of these reductions indicated a slightly larger impact. The County avoided suspension of Proposition 1A and Proposition 42, which would have increased the adverse impact on the County by an additional \$199 million. Given the State's bleak economic outlook, its limited ability to continue to rely on borrowing and accounting changes to help close its budget deficits, and the absence of substantial legislative support for additional revenues, the County may not be so fortunate next year because the State is likely to confront another substantial budget deficit.

In this uncertain economic environment, the County will continue to focus generally on the restoration and preservation of State funding, working primarily through the budget process. While the current budget outlook will make it very difficult to obtain additional funding, the County will seek to restore funding for a number of programs and secure

additional funding where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues.

### **RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE COUNTY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The changes in the Attachment represent requests from County departments and commissions to add or modify policy statements consistent with their operational goals and plans. New policy statements represent emerging programs and issues for which we are seeking your Board's concurrence to guide future advocacy efforts. Some policies are no longer applicable and were deleted because County-supported legislation was enacted as in the case of reimbursement of the cost of special elections. There are recommended modifications to policy statements for various items including emissions credits for employees commuting in hybrid vehicles, the setting of water rates to encourage water conservation, a series of proposals to improve collections for child support, recommendations to promote development of a Statewide trauma care system, and increase the availability of immunizations for County residents.

All other previously adopted State Legislative Agenda policies and positions remain in effect; and as such, advocacy will continue on these matters. The revised State Agenda, which incorporates Board actions adopting the State Agenda for the 2009-10 Legislative Session on November 18, 2008, is contained in Attachment I. In addition, consistent with existing Board policies, there are three attachments which bring together the County's policies on Climate Change (Attachment II), Health Care Reform (Attachment III), and Water Supply and Reliability (Attachment IV).

Legislation for which the County will seek sponsorship, consistent with existing Board policies and positions, was provided in the October 31, 2008 Sacramento Update. Summaries of budget and legislative initiatives, which also are consistent with existing Board policies and positions for pursuit by the Sacramento advocates in the upcoming State Legislative Session, will be included in an upcoming Sacramento Update.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

The proposed policies and proposals in the State Legislative Agenda are consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goals of Organizational Effectiveness and Fiscal Responsibility. Organizational Effectiveness is achieved by providing timely advocacy on proposals that could significantly affect the County. Fiscal Responsibility results from efforts by the CEO, Sacramento advocates, and County departments pursuing new funding sources and opposing reductions in program funding or new unfunded mandates on County government.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
November 18, 2008  
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**CONCLUSION**

The recommended general policies and updated proposals in the Attachment are submitted for your Board's consideration as the guiding principles for the County's advocacy efforts in the upcoming 2009-10 State Legislative Session. The policies and proposals contained in this package are in addition to, and are not intended to be exclusive of, other positions your Board may adopt. As in the past, the State Agenda will be updated to reflect subsequent Board actions.

Respectfully submitted,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:GK:MAL  
MR:er

Attachment

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
All Department Heads

RECOMMENDED STATE POLICIES ADDRESSING ISSUES OF MAJOR COUNTY INTEREST

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## **General State Legislative Principles**

The County will seek to maximize State revenues; full funding for the costs of State programs; additional funding for programs where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues; funding formulae which ensure an equitable allocation of State funding; minimize the adverse impact of State actions; achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds, secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, preserve the County's property tax, sales tax, locally-imposed taxes or fees, or Vehicle License Fee revenue base; oppose: the shift of programs unless control is also shifted and State funding is guaranteed; and new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority; and

1. Oppose any legislation or regulation that would transfer to Los Angeles County or its residents any costs or revenue losses incurred by another jurisdiction.
2. Support or sponsor a constitutional amendment to reallocate to local school districts the property tax revenue derived from State-assessed properties in exchange for reallocation of non-ERAF property tax revenues derived from the local roll.
3. Support proposals to restructure State and local service responsibilities if they: create a nexus between authority, responsibility, accountability, and revenues; promote program effectiveness and cost containment; and recognize the limited fiscal capacity of counties by transferring sufficient revenue in the first and subsequent years.
4. Oppose legislation to change the definition of revenue neutrality in special cases, unless other entities are protected from unintended legal precedents by language narrowly justifying the need for special legislation.
5. Support a constitutional amendment to provide that the State budget and related bills can be approved by a majority vote.
6. Oppose legislation that would constitute State unfunded land use and general plan-related mandates on local governments.

### **1. Children and Families**

#### **1.1 Child Welfare Services**

1. Support increased funding for family preservation programs.
2. Support legislation to maintain the full Child Welfare Services allocation independent of actual caseload for up to five years to cover the increased costs of implementing new programs to improve outcomes for children by allowing them to remain safely at home, shorten their length of stay in care and reduce re-abuse.

3. Support proposals to ensure full funding for the Child Welfare Services program, including increased funding to cover all mandated services, pursuant to the SB 2030 Workload Study and the fully loaded costs of a social worker.
4. Oppose proposals that would reduce protections for child welfare workers in the legitimate exercise of their discretion in the performance of their duties, thereby increasing liability to the County.
5. Oppose unfunded mandates that do not enhance child safety or expedited permanence.
6. Support proposals to enhance adoptions by increasing funding for adoption activities and post-adoption services, and expanding to out-of-state private adoption agencies the payments currently authorized to California private adoption agencies for the unreimbursed costs of placing children for adoption.
7. Support funding of forensic medical examinations in child abuse cases.
8. Support funding for parenting programs aimed at teens and child care services for teen parents.
9. Support legislation that increases funding for the use of family group conferencing and team decision-making to develop an individualized plan for the care of each child.
10. Support legislation to clarify that agencies providing services to a family may share case information.
11. Support legislation to streamline Dependency Court procedures while ensuring the safety and best interests of children.
12. Support proposals that simplify the Welfare and Institutions Code statutes regarding notice of dependency hearings.
13. Support proposals that promote collaboration between child welfare, parks and recreation and law enforcement agencies to enhance the County's ability to establish partnerships and develop programs that improve the quality of life for children.
14. Support proposals to clarify and provide for social workers' access to dependent children's medical, counseling, and education records.
15. Support proposals to fund Child Welfare Services outcome improvements included in the County's Self-Improvement Plan (SIP), including Point of Engagement, the State's AB 636 Outcomes and Accountability System and the Federal Children and Family Services Review (CFSR).

