Welcome and Introductions
Supervisor Erin Hannigan, Solano County, Chair
Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County, Co-Vice Chair
Supervisor Chuck Washington, Riverside County, Co-Vice Chair

Policy Platform Updates – ACTION ITEM
Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative, CSAC
Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst, CSAC

State Budget Update and Fiscal Forecast
Lourdes Morales, Principal Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

2020 U.S. Census – County Engagement and Funding Opportunities
Roberto Garcia, Partnership Specialist, U.S. Census Bureau
Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative, CSAC

Federal Issues Update
Joe Krahn, President, Paragon Government Relations
Hasan Sarsour, Senior Associate, Paragon Government Relations

Supreme Court Decisions & PERB Rulings – An Overview of the Legal Landscape for Public Agency Employers
Frances Rogers, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

CalPERS Update
Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative, CSAC

2019 GFA Work Plan Priorities – ACTION ITEM
Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative, CSAC
Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst, CSAC

2018 Year in Review & Key Legislative Outcomes – No presentation

Adjournment
ATTACHMENTS

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Attachment One.......................Memo on California County Platform Updates
Attachment Two....................Chapter 5 – Government Operations
Attachment Three..................Chapter 8 – Public Employment & Retirement
Attachment Four....................Chapter 9 – Financing Services
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2020 U.S. Census – County Engagement and Funding Opportunities
Attachment Seven..................Fact Sheet for County Officials
Attachment Eight....................U.S. Census Bureau PowerPoint Presentation

An Overview of the Legal Landscape for Public Agency Employers
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CalPERS Update
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2019 GFA Work Plan Priorities
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2018 Year in Review and Key Legislative Outcomes
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California County Platform Updates

Attachment One
Memo on California County Platform Updates
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November 14, 2018

To: CSAC Government Finance and Administration Policy Committee

From: Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative
       Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst

Re: California County Platform Updates – ACTION ITEM

Recommendation. Staff recommends that the Government Finance and Administration Policy Committee approve the recommended changes to the CSAC policy platform as drafted and forward to the CSAC Board of Directors.

Background. The California County Platform is a statement of basic policies on issues of concern and interest to California’s counties. CSAC’s policy committees and Board of Directors review the platform regularly, amending and updating when necessary. In addition, the CSAC policy committees recommend updates to their relevant platform chapters every two years, with action taken by the respective committee and Board of Directors.

As part of the bi-annual process, in mid-October the committee was provided with recommended edits and was invited to provide additional comments and suggestions. This memo provides a summary of proposed changes and the attachments reflect the suggested markups to the platform chapters themselves.

Chapter 5 – Government Operations
Section 4: Library Services – Deleting an irrelevant cross-reference

Chapter 8 – Public Employment and Retirement
Minor rewording throughout the document to create consistency with other chapters
Section 2: Public Retirement – Incorporating language regarding CSAC’s opposition of divestment mandates (pursuant to action taken by the CSAC Board of Directors in May 2017)

Chapter 9 – Financing County Services
Minor formatting changes

Chapter 12 – State Mandate Legislation
Minor formatting changes

Chapter 13 – Economic Development Policy Committee
Minor formatting changes

Action Requested. Staff requests approval from the committee to advance the proposed changes to the CSAC Board of Directors.
Attachments. Marked up copies of the following platform chapters to illustrate the proposed changes:

Chapter 5 – Government Operations
Chapter 8 – Public Employment and Retirement
Chapter 9 – Financing County Services
Chapter 12 – State Mandate Legislation
Chapter 13 – Economic Development Policy Committee

Contacts. Please contact Dorothy Johnson (djohnson@counties.org or 916/650-8133), or Tracy Sullivan (tsullivan@counties.org or 916/650-8124) for additional information.
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Chapter Five

Government Operations

Local control is the primary policy cornerstone of CSAC. Counties should determine the scope and extent of the government services that it will render in response to the needs and desires of the local community. While counties do act as agents of the state and federal government in performing services in some policy areas – and do so with substantial state or federal financing – these activities should be distinguished from areas of local interest or state, federal and local interest when determining the basis for applying statewide standards and supervision.

Section 1: General Principles

Scope of Services
Counties should have full discretion over the scope and extent of government services offered. Each county should further examine its ability to support such services, always subject to the requirement to provide mandated services as state agents.

Uniformity in Services
When performing mandated duties, the degree of uniformity required should be carefully determined, with emphasis on the purpose of each requirement with the goal of uniformity to serve a specific beneficial purpose. This will enable progress through the application of a variety of administrative approaches and methods.

Freedom to Devise Program Operating Policies
Counties should be free to devise their own operating policies for all government programs not financed wholly or substantially by federal or state funds.

Whole Responsibility with Board of Supervisors
To be directly responsible to the people, general control of county government should be placed wholly with the board of supervisors.

Non-Partisan Nature of County Government
The office of county supervisor should continue to be nonpartisan, enabling the people to vote on the basis of local issues and to enable supervisors to solve local problems without binding allegiances to political parties.

Section 2: Electronic Data Processing (EDP)

Utilizing technology and automation can provide for the improvement of government function and accessibility, and counties pledge cooperation to the state and federal governments in developing the means to fully utilize electronic resources.
Differences in state and local applications of EDP must be fully recognized in order that efforts at excessive standardization will not reduce the effectiveness of the total system.

Section 3: Local Government Organization

Different government organizational structures exist throughout the state; legal constraints and time-consuming restrictions have severely limited the use of the charter as a method of obtaining local control. The State Constitution and statutes should be revised to provide authorization for counties to independently organize by local control.

The principle of local control also applies to the issue of elected “ministerial” officials. The board of supervisors should have authority to submit proposals for appointment of elected officials to the voters. Also, counties should be allowed to submit to their electorate the questions of whether elected non-legislative officials, except District Attorney, should be appointed by the board of supervisors.

Counties should be allowed maximum flexibility to structure their organization through the process of "local option control."

Section 4: Library Services

The continued vitality of our free and democratic society and the effective operation of government at all levels is dependent on an informed and knowledgeable citizenry. Therefore, it is the responsibility of all levels of government, including county government, to assure that all people have access to sources of knowledge and information that affect their personal and professional lives and society as a whole.

The public library is a supplement to the formal system of free public education and a source of information and inspiration to persons of all ages, as well as a resource for continuing education. As such, public libraries deserve adequate financial support from all levels of government.

Counties are among the traditional providers of library and information services to the people. Counties form a natural region for the provision of this service. Citizens expect free library services that are responsive to local needs.

Intergovernmental Relationships

The state is urged to recognize public libraries as part of the system of public education and should continue providing financial assistance to support their operation.

The state should also continue and strengthen funding for the interjurisdictional library cooperatives established under Education Code Sections 18700 through 18766.

Privacy and Censorship

Recognizing the right of an individual to privacy, circulation records and other records identifying the names of library users with specific materials, including Internet usage, are to be confidential in nature.
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Chapter Eight

Public Employment & Retirement

Section 1: Public Employee Relations

Counties are committed to an employment system that provides public employees with protection against arbitrary and capricious loss of jobs, unfair hiring practices, and preferential promotions or job assignments. Counties believe in and support merit systems. For this purpose, they have provided personnel services, grievance procedures, health and safety protection, retirement and pension plans. Foremost, however, counties have a fundamental obligation to all citizens to exercise the peoples’ sovereign power in determining what government will do, at what cost to the taxpayer, and under what circumstances. Thus, the basic principle of county employer-employee relations is one of balancing the legitimate desires and needs of employees against the publics’ right to economical, efficient, effective and stable government.

Collective Bargaining

Counties support collective bargaining legislation that:

1) Recognizes the right of each employee to join or not join organizations and bargain collectively or individually.

2) Recognizes the responsibility of local elected officials to govern and manage the organization and to implement public policy.

3) Minimizes conflict over procedural matters.

4) Provides an acceptable method of resolving impasse resulting from negotiations. CSAC opposes compulsory, binding arbitration.

Political Activity by Employees

Employees whose job security is protected by civil service or merit systems or by agreement between the county and an employee organization cannot be permitted to engage in any political activity during times when they are paid to be performing the duties of their employment.
Nepotism Restriction
CSAC supports nepotism restriction policies that are consistent with applicable state statutes. Specifically, CSAC supports policies that prohibit employment of immediate family members by county officers, or participation of county officers or employees in employment decisions affecting immediate family members. No person should be employed in a position where that position will be directly supervised by a member of the immediate family or where it is reasonable to believe and it can be shown that employment of immediate family members in the same department, division or facility involves potential conflicts of interest.

Employee Benefits Legislation
Counties strive to develop employee benefit plans that are affordable, responsive to the needs and desires of county employees, and reflect the values of the community. CSAC is opposed to the state legislating salary, wages, or employee benefits for county employees. These issues must be determined only at the local bargaining table; otherwise the foundation of the collective bargaining process is undermined.

Workers’ Compensation
CSAC supports preserving the original intent of the Workers’ Compensation Act and legislation that would prevent or correct abuses within the system. CSAC believes that timely and unprejudiced benefits should be provided to employees who suffer from work-related injuries or illnesses at a reasonable cost to county employers. CSAC opposes state policy which would erode the original intent of the Workers’ Compensation Act or result in excessive costs to county employers and increased litigation.

CSAC supports:

1) Reasonable measures to assist employees in returning to suitable employment.

2) Promoting medical care treatment guidelines that are based on evidentiary medicine and designed to cure or relieve the effects of employment-related injury or illness.

3) The concept of apportionment for disability that is the result of other industrial or non-industrial injuries or conditions.

4) Maintaining objectivity in evaluating permanent disability standards.

5) The concept that tax exemptions on temporary disability should extend only to the statutory maximum, as outlined in Labor Code 4453.

6) Ensuring that the Workers’ Compensation Appeals Board remains a forum for efficient resolution of claim issues.
CSAC opposes:

1) Extending workers’ compensation benefits to any person other than the employee as defined by law, except in the case of dependent death benefits.

2) Injury presumptions for only certain employee classifications.

Coordination of Governmental Employers
Counts, cities, and local governmental management are strongly encouraged to freely exchange information of a timely nature on employee demands over wages and employee benefits as well as settlements reached. In this manner, each employer can deal more effectively with its own "meet and confer" process.

While multi-employer bargaining is not possible now, there are many real benefits available if governmental units would keep adjoining and comparable agencies promptly informed of employer positions on salaries, employee demands and employee benefits. Governmental entities are continuously used for comparison of employee benefits sometimes at an "anticipated" rather than actual level.

Closed Sessions for Negotiation Discussions
Successful negotiations depend upon meaningful discussions at the bargaining table. Under no circumstances should closed sessions of the Board of Supervisors and its designated management representatives be required to be opened to the public.

National Labor Relations Legislation
Counts oppose the intrusion of the federal government into the field of state and local public labor relations legislation. States should be free to experiment with new legislative approaches and to adopt procedures tailored to meet the needs of their constituents.

However, should national labor relations legislation become inevitable, counties should encourage adoption of legislation which parallels their positions on state legislation.

Section 2: Public Retirement
Public retirement systems should be established and maintained on actuarially sound principles and be fiscally responsible. Public pension reform has garnered widespread interest and has generated significant debate among policy leaders about the appropriate remedy for actual and perceived abuse, rising costs, and accountability to taxpayers. CSAC welcomes this discussion and approaches the concept of reform with the overarching goal of ensuring public trust in public pension systems, and empowering local elected officials to exercise sound fiduciary management of pensions systems, as well as
maintaining a retirement benefit sufficient to assure recruitment and retention of a competent local government workforce. The guiding principles are intended to apply to new public employees in both PERS and 1937 Act retirement systems.

Local elected officials should be able to develop pension systems that meet the needs of their workforce, maintain principles of sound fiduciary management, and preserve their ability to recruit and retain quality employees for key positions that frequently pay less than comparable positions in the private sector. CSAC opposes efforts to remove board of supervisor authority to determine retirement benefits since they are responsible for funding benefit changes. For 1937 Act county retirement systems, we are opposed to any legislation which would transfer authority now vested with the county board of supervisors to the county board of retirement. Such transfer could include, but is not limited to, adoption of salaries for retirement board members or employees, the extension of benefits, or decisions related to funding of the system.

Public pension systems provide an important public benefit by assisting public agencies to recruit and retain quality employees. Any fraud or abuse must be eliminated to ensure the public trust and to preserve the overall public value of these systems.

Public pension systems boards have a constitutional duty to:

(a) Protect administration of the system to assure prompt delivery of benefits and related services ensure benefits are available to members and their beneficiaries; and
(b) Minimize employer costs; and,
(c) Diversify the investments of the system so as to minimize the risk of loss and to maximize the rate of return.

To protect the long-term sustainability of public pension systems and promote responsible fiduciary management, CSAC opposes state-imposed divestment mandates that would harm investment performance, compromise investment strategies, or contradict the constitutional duties outlined above.

Public pensions should adhere to the following principles:

1) Protect Local Control and Flexibility
   a. Local elected officials should be able to develop pension systems that meet the needs of their workforce, maintain principles of sound fiduciary management, and preserve their ability to recruit and retain quality employees for key positions that frequently pay less than comparable positions in the private sector. A statewide mandated retirement system is neither appropriate nor practical, given the diversity of California’s communities. Further, a mandated defined contribution retirement system could force a
reconsideration of the decision of local governments not to participate in Social Security.

2) Eliminate Abuse
   a. Public pension systems provide an important public benefit by assisting public agencies to recruit and retain quality employees. Any fraud or abuse must be eliminated to ensure the public trust and to preserve the overall public value of these systems.

3) Reduce and Contain Costs
   a. Public pension reform should provide for cost relief for government, public employees, and taxpayers.

4) Increase Predictability of Costs and Benefits for Employee and Employer
   a. Responsible financial planning requires predictability. Employers must be able to predict their financial obligations in future years. Employees should have the security of an appropriate and predictable level of income for their retirement after a career in public service.

5) Strengthen Local Control to Develop Plans with Equitable Sharing of Costs and Risks Between Employee and Employer
   a. Equitable sharing of pension costs and risks promotes shared responsibility for the financial health of pension systems and reduces the incentive for either employees or employers to advocate changes that result in disproportionate costs to the other party, while diminishing the exclusive impact on employers for costs resulting from increases in unfunded liability.

6) Increase Pension System Accountability
   a. Public pension systems boards have a constitutional duty to both protect administration of the system to ensure benefits are available to members and minimize employer costs. The constitutional provisions and state statutes governing such boards should promote responsible financial management and discourage conflicts of interest.

Section 3: Industrial Disability Retirement (IDR)

CSAC has traditionally supported the principle of provision of IDR to safety employees who are unable to continue their safety employment due to a bona fide job-connected disabling injury or illness. CSAC also has traditionally recognized that IDR can be extremely expensive, and that responsible reforms may be warranted to limit the cost to truly legitimate claims.

Section 4: Occupational Safety and Health Standards
The occupational safety and health standards and practices for counties should comply with the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA).

Safety Member Category
The safety member classification is intended to provide a retirement system for the class or classes of public employees whose duties consist of physically active functions in the protection and safety of the public. The purpose of such classification is to ensure that persons so employed will be agile, and active, and possess a high degree of physical alertness and stamina, and it is designed to provide an opportunity for career employment and, at the same time, provide for and ensure separation from such service without financial hardship at a relatively younger age than other employees. The term “safety,” as used in the retirement law, refers to the safety of the public.

Personal risk or the hazardous nature of job functions are not elements of the classification and shall have no bearing in determining the establishment of or eligibility for safety membership.

Coordination of Personnel Functions with Central Administration
Counties recognize the success or failures of local government rests heavily on the quality of its personnel, and therefore support the close organizational ties between the central administration and the personnel function. Counties are encouraged to establish and maintain effective partnerships between central administration and the personnel functions and to link activities directly related to those functions.

Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is committed to the concept of equal employment opportunity (EEO) in public service as a basic merit system principle. Acceptance of this principle does not end with mere prohibition of discriminatory practices. CSAC recognizes the obligation of counties to develop practical plans for specific steps to be taken to achieve more fully the goal of equal employment opportunity in county government. This includes positive efforts in recruitment, examination, selection, promotion, pay, job restructuring and due process protection so that appropriate numbers of protected group members achieve positions in county government and are provided promotional opportunities at all job classification levels.

Testing, Selection, and Promotion
Counties believe initial selection and promotional devices used should eliminate artificial barriers, be job related and ensure job success. Special consideration should be given to facilitate the transfer and promotion of qualified employees and full utilization of human resources particularly in protected classes.

Licensing and Certification
The Counties urge a review of all requirements for licenses or certificates for county employment to...
ensure they are realistically related to job performance. Counties should strive to prevent the requirement of licenses or certificates when those requirements create artificial barriers to employment and/or upward mobility.

**State Duplication of Federal Law and Reporting Requirements**

Counties are opposed to the adoption of state laws which duplicate, are inconsistent or conflict with federal law or regulations.

Counties are greatly concerned with the multitude of varying EEO reporting requirements coming from state and federal government. The time required to gather and report EEO data from the many different state and federal agencies, each requiring its own data, greatly reduces the time available to accomplish the objective of EEO. Counties urge state and federal government reporting requirements that are realistically related to necessary monitoring and evaluation activities.

Counties support the consolidation and integration of federal agencies with responsibilities for the monitoring, auditing or regulating of local affirmative action plans and activities. The federal government should initiate efforts to increase standardization and uniformity of their practices in these areas.

**Section 5: Workforce Development**

CSAC recognizes and endorses the principles of prime sponsorship and accountability of county officials in the planning, administration and supervision of comprehensive local systems of workforce training and employment--with a minimum of federal regulation.
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California County Platform Updates

**Attachment Four**

Chapter 9 – Financing Services
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Chapter Nine

Financing County Services

California counties are the unit of government best suited to deliver public assistance, public protection, and some public works services, but counties have limited ability to adequately finance these responsibilities. In order to meet each community's unique needs, counties must be given greater financial independence from the state and federal budget processes, including the authority to collect revenues at a level sufficient to provide the degree of local services the community desires. Counties will seek a level of financial independence that provides for the conduct of governmental programs and services, especially discretionary programs and services, at an adequate level.

Section 1: State Policy Objectives

Program Realignment
Reforms of county finances need to involve agreement between the state and the counties on a realignment of responsibilities to provide social services, income maintenance, health care, justice services, or any other service that the county is best suited to provide. Counties must be given realistic and adequate revenue sources to pay for ongoing program and service responsibilities. The CSAC Realignment Principles appear in the Realignment chapter within this Platform.

Financial Independence
Counties have neither the financial resources to both operate state programs and also meet local needs, nor the ability to predict service levels beyond each legislative session. Therefore, counties advocate for aligning revenue authority with service responsibility, and also support other measures that grant counties financial independence.

1) Protection of local government revenues: Counties strongly support the provisions of Proposition 1A (2004), which provides constitutional protection of local governments’ property tax, sales tax, and Vehicle License Fee revenues. It also requires the Legislature to fully fund or else suspend reimbursable local mandates.

2) Mandate funding: Counties continue to advocate for guaranteed state appropriations of sufficient funds prior to requiring counties to provide new or increased services. (Also see Chapter XII: STATE MANDATE LEGISLATION.) Counties also seek a guarantee that programs and services that are funded wholly or partially by the state will annually receive full adjustments for the increased cost of providing them, including inflation and population changes.

3) State Borrowing of Property Tax Revenues: Counties will firmly oppose any attempt by the state to borrow property tax revenue from counties under the provisions of Proposition 1A. Such borrowing would cause counties increased costs in several areas, including the cost of.
borrowing and lost investment income. Furthermore, borrowing to cover ongoing state costs is fiscally unwise, and would put negative pressure on state funding of county-provided services in the out-years.

4) Local Authority: Counties should be granted enhanced local revenue-generating authority to respond to unique circumstances in each county to provide needed infrastructure and county services. Any revenue raising actions that require approval by the electorate should require a simple majority vote.

Furthermore, counties should have the ability to adjust all fees, assessments, and charges to cover the full costs of the services they support.

5) State Payments: Counties seek a guarantee that the state will pay reimbursements and subventions promptly, with the payment of interest to counties when it fails to do so.

Existing Revenue Sources

1) Property Tax Revenue: Counties oppose erosion of the property tax base through unreimbursed exemptions to property taxes. The state should recognize that property tax revenues are a significant source of county discretionary funds. Any subventions to counties that are based upon property tax losses through state action should be adjusted for inflation annually.

2) Property Tax Administration: Counties incur significant costs in administering the property tax system and in maintaining financial records for other government entities and jurisdictions, and should receive full reimbursement from all recipients – proportional to their benefit – for actual administrative costs upon distribution of property tax proceeds.

3) 1991 Realignment: In 1991, the state and counties entered into a new fiscal relationship known as realignment. Realignment affects health, mental health, and social services programs and their funding. The state transferred control of certain programs to counties, altered program cost-sharing ratios, and provided counties with dedicated tax revenues from the sales tax and vehicle license fee to pay for these changes. Counties support full continuation of all dedicated realignment revenues. Counties also urge the state to pay counties for the full, current, actual costs of administering programs on its behalf, which is currently frozen at 2001 levels.

4) Incorporation, Annexation, and Dissolution: Counties support the provisions of revenue neutrality and encourage enhancements and improvements to new city incorporation law. Property tax transfers resulting from municipal incorporations, annexations, or dissolutions should be generally negotiated.

5) Sales Tax Distribution and Exemptions
   a. Distributions: Any distribution formula for new sales tax revenue growth should
not be limited to a situs-only distribution. Other options for distribution of new sales tax revenue growth should be fully explored.

b. Sales Tax Exemption: Counties oppose unreimbursed sales tax exemptions enacted by the state including exemptions of the local portion and state portions dedicated to counties for county administered services

Efficient Government
The state should facilitate the efficient use of taxpayers' dollars by:

1) Streamlining or eliminating unnecessary planning, reporting, and administrative requirements in state-county partnership programs.

2) Reducing or eliminating regulations that seek to control the implementation of state-mandated programs and services.

3) Granting counties greater flexibility to manage county programs in a more efficient and effective manner and tailored to a community's individual needs.

4) Allowing counties to use the least costly methods of providing services while meeting operational needs.

Equal Treatment
The allocation of new financial resources or needed reductions should treat all counties equally, based on service needs.

Counties should engage in ongoing efforts to discuss and negotiate equitable resolutions of conflicts between counties and other units of local government.

Aligning Revenue Authority with Service Responsibility
The passage of Proposition 13 and implementing legislative and judicial decisions, along with myriad other actions since, have eliminated most connections between the payment of taxes and the benefits received by the individual or business taxpayer. Counties support aligning revenue authority with the level of government responsible for providing services.

Master Settlement Agreement
Under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the state, California counties receive forty percent of proceeds from the Master Settlement Agreement between the tobacco industry and a number of states. The MOU specifies that these funds are discretionary. Counties oppose any effort to diminish their share of the tobacco settlement or to impose restrictions on its expenditure. Additionally, counties oppose any effort to lower or eliminate the state’s support for programs with the expectation that counties will backfill the loss with tobacco settlement revenue.

Section 2: Federal Policy Objectives
Adequate compensation must be made available to local governments to offset the costs of providing services as required by federal law. Additionally, any revenue sharing or payment in-lieu of taxes should be equitable, predictable, and sustainable.

**Basic Service Levels**
The federal government should finance a basic level of health, social service, and income maintenance services, including resultant county administrative costs. It must provide flexibility to adjust to local needs and circumstances and it must provide for long-term program planning and program stability.

**Adequately Finance Specific Program Objectives**
Federal efforts to address certain domestic needs as partners with counties must adequately provide for county administrative costs, provide flexibility to adjust to local needs and circumstances, provide for long-term program planning, and provide for program stability.

**Shared Revenues**
The federal government should continue to share the benefits of its greater and more equitable taxing ability with state and local government in a non-restrictive manner. When possible, the shared revenues should be provided in the form of block grants.

**Encourage Public Investment**
The maintenance and development of state and local infrastructure must be facilitated with federal tax exemptions for state and municipal debt and by special taxing and expenditure programs to meet priority needs.

**Payments In Lieu Of Taxes**
Payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) should be made in full whenever the federal government removes or withholds otherwise productive property from the property tax rolls. PILT payments should receive full cost of living adjustments annually.

**Taxation Of Remote Sales**
The federal government should endeavor to approve a nationwide system for sales taxation that ensures fairness between remote (online) and brick-and-mortar retailers.

**Telecommunications**
Counties endorse promoting competition among telecommunications providers and treating like services alike. Any effort to reform the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 must maintain local management of the public rights-of-way, encourage investment in all communities and neighborhoods, preserve support funding for public education and governmental (PEG) channels and institutional networks (I-NET), and hold local governments fiscally harmless for any loss of fees or other revenue that result from franchise agreements.
California County Platform Updates

Attachment Five

Chapter 12 – State Mandate Legislation
Chapter Twelve

State Mandate Legislation

The state is constitutionally required through Proposition 4 (1979) and Proposition 1A (2004) to pay for new or higher levels of service it mandates counties and other local agencies provide. However, the issue of mandate reimbursement remains contentious, since mandates reside at the intersection of local control and the reality that counties are providers of state services.

Section 1: Mandate Suspension
The ongoing suspension of established mandated programs or services is problematic. The state should either fund a mandate annually or repeal it completely. Continually suspending mandates merely burdens counties with either funding the service out of its own general funds or absorbing the cost of repeatedly resetting service levels.

Section 2: Need for Mandates
Mandates are particularly burdensome for counties because of the severe restrictions on raising county revenues to pay for new requirements. State mandates should only be imposed when there is a compelling need for statewide uniformity.

Section 3: Timing of Mandate Payments
All state mandates should be funded prior to delivery of the new or higher level of service. The current policy of reimbursing established mandates following a Commission on State Mandates determination constitutes a loan from counties to the state. The state should not require counties to provide a service for which it is unwilling to timely pay. Bills mandating new or increased levels of service should include a direct appropriation.

Section 4: Mandate Alternatives
Local agencies and the state should endeavor to take advantage of Reasonable Reimbursement Methodology and Legislatively Determined Mandates. These processes will provide budgetary certainty to the state and counties, and help to decrease the extraordinary time and cost involved with determining reimbursement levels through the traditional Commission on State Mandates process.

Section 5: Mandate Reforms
The current mandate determination and processes must be reformed. The reforms must make the determination process more efficient, in terms of both time and cost, and less biased against local agencies. State audits of local claims must be timely, consistent, reasonable, and predictable.

It should not take several years to determine whether the state has required a new or higher level of service. State Controller audits should not be able to cut reasonable claims by half or more based on technicalities or unreasonable records requirements.
Constitutional amendments should not exempt additional categories of state mandates from cost reimbursement. Also, voter approval of requirements or programs similar to those already established as reimbursable mandates should not be cause for the state to cease reimbursements.
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Economic Development

To maintain a vital economy in California, counties support an economic development process that retains, expands, and recruits businesses while reducing regulatory barriers to such businesses. For example, regulatory barriers may include permitting issues, fees and taxes on business in California, and streamlining government.

Section 1: Economic Development Program Retention

Counties believe that existing state economic development programs should be retained within existing resources. Job creation is important to counties and should help guide policy on such issues as investment in infrastructure and the allocation of state resources.

Currently, counties continue to advocate for the following programs to be retained within existing resources as budgeted by the State of California:

1) Office of Military Base Retention and Reuse. This office provides ongoing assistance and support to communities with closed bases, as well as communities with active installations, in an effort to ensure the continued viability and retention of the remaining bases in California.

2) Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (iBank). The iBank is authorized to issue tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds, provide financing to public agencies, provide credit enhancements, acquire or lease facilities, and leverage State and Federal funds. The Bank also provides low-cost financing to public agencies for a wide variety of infrastructure projects that help create jobs in California.

3) Marketing Programs. These programs include Team California, which is a network of economic development professionals actively involved in business attraction, retention, expansion, and job creation efforts throughout the state.

4) Small Business Development Centers (SBDC). The SBDC program links federal, state, educational, and private resources designed for small businesses. They provide one-stop access to free business counseling, planning, marketing and training programs.

5) Tourism. The California Office of Tourism supports efforts to attract tourist dollars to the Golden State, and CSAC supports efforts to promote agricultural, historic, and natural resources tourism throughout the state.
6) Film Industry. The California Film Commission works to retain film production in the state, and CSAC supports partnerships and continued collaboration between the state and the efforts of regional and county film commissions.

7) Manufacturing Retention and Expansion Programs. Support tools to create and expand manufacturing jobs and capacity throughout California.

Section 2: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Counties recognize the importance of the Community Development Block Grant Program, which provides funding to small communities for economic development. This program is administered by the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Counties maintain that this program is very important to rural counties and provides significant investment in the rural economy.

Within the economic development portion of the CDBG program, counties believe that there should be less paperwork, more flexibility, more emphasis on economic development issues, and an increase in the availability of technical assistance provided by HCD.

The state should provide more guidance and technical assistance to those counties in need of additional resources in order to apply for these funds.

Key priorities for reform in the CDBG Program include the following:

1) Model the state Economic Development CDBG program to the greatest extent possible after the current federal entitlement community in order to streamline the program.

2) Renew HCD focus on technical assistance, specifically to those jurisdictions with limited resources. This could include assistance from CALED and Economic Development Corporations located throughout California.

3) Increase the focus on economic development including the possibility of having an economic development advocate within HCD.

4) Improve communication between HCD and rural counties. This would include providing counties with new directives from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and alerting counties to best practices and funding provided by the CDBG program. Counties also maintain that this should also include better guidance on the re-monitoring and auditing of grant recipients.

5) Increase the flexibility in the CDBG program to enable smaller jurisdictions to limit the amount of paperwork and regulation that currently make this program difficult to implement.
Section 3: Military Base Retention and Reuse

Counties support funding for and the retention and sustainability of military installations and their inextricably linked sea, air, and land operating areas in California. The Department of Defense (DoD) generates billions for the economy in California, providing thousands of quality jobs with real benefits and career advancement opportunities. Counties believe that California is uniquely positioned to support military missions and operations and that the DoD provides a substantial economic benefit to the state. Therefore, counties vow to continue efforts to support, preserve, and enhance the military mission capabilities of areas throughout the state.

In the area of military base reuse, counties support programs and efforts to attract high quality technological businesses that can maximize existing facilities to further the economic development goals of local governments. Counties further affirm that flexibility at the local level to help communities develop reuse areas in a timely manner is critical to the successful reuse of former military installations.
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Census Overview

Purpose and Impact
The United States Constitution mandates that every 10 years the federal government count all persons living in the country through the decennial census. This information is used to determine how many federal dollars flow to each state for a variety of critical programs, including:

- Health Care
- Social Services
- Transportation
- Public Safety
- and more

California receives over $76 billion dollars for more than 70 programs based on 2010 Census data. In addition, Congressional seats are allocated based on census information. Other stakeholders rely on the census data to understand demographics and changing service needs.

Timing
While the next census won’t begin collecting responses until the spring of 2020, action is already underway at the federal, state, and local level to ensure local communities are ready and motivated to participate. In California, the State has dedicated nearly $100 million to support 2020 Census outreach and implementation.

Role of Federal and State Government
Each level of government has unique and distinct roles in the census. While the federal government determines the content, timing, and methodology for collecting information, the State has flexibility in conducting outreach, engaging with stakeholders and targeting critical areas.

Role of Counties
Counties are not mandated by state or federal statute to complete specific actions as part of the census. However, given the significant amount of programmatic funding determined by the outcome, it is imperative that counties find meaningful ways to engage with their local communities to ensure an accurate and complete count of all residents. Counties serve as:

- **EDUCATORS** about the importance of the census for securing funding for local services and needs.
- **CONVENORS** of other local stakeholders (cities, schools, and community-based groups) through the establishment of formal Complete Count Committees and by holding community gatherings and events.
- **MESSENGERS** who are trusted to relay critical information to stakeholders and community members about the role of the census, the use of the data, and safety of personal information.
- **ADMINISTRATORS** of funding made available by the state to achieve the complete count goal, working in coordination with community-based organizations and targeted media.
Challenges for California
California faces major challenges given the large “hard to count” (HTC) population in counties throughout the state and changes to the methodologies set forth by the federal Census Bureau to conduct the census. The State and local governments are working to overcome these obstacles and avoid an undercount that could lead to diminished funding and even a lost Congressional seat. Challenges include:

- **Hard to Count (HTC) Communities** – California has one of the highest hard to count populations in the nation. These are individuals who are historically undercounted including but not limited to Latinos, African Americans, immigrants, children, and renters.

- **Citizenship Question** – The 2020 Census will include a question about citizenship, which could deter immigrants regardless of status or deter entire households who may have family members of varied documentation status from participation.

- **Digital Census** – The federal government is relying more heavily on digital resources to offset rising administrative costs. However, this could create issues for rural counties who may not have reliable internet connectivity or for households who do not have online access.

- **Language Barriers** – The online Census form and telephone Census assistance will be provided in 12 languages other than English while the paper form will be in English and Spanish only. In California there are more than 200 non-English languages spoken.

- **Data Security** – While significant steps are taken to protect the privacy of data collected, doubt may remain among some participants about personal information being used for non-census related purposes or accessed by other agencies, such as law enforcement.

Resources Available
CSAC is working with state agencies, legislative leadership, and other stakeholders to provide resources and information to assist counties in their local census efforts.

**Funding**
The Budget Act of 2018 provides $90.3 million in Census funding for the fiscal year with allocations for each county based on total population and percentage of hard to count residents. Counties are allocated nearly $27 million for their efforts with additional indirect regional support from community-based organizations, coordinated media, and state regional managers throughout California.

**Resources**
More information about the 2020 Census can be found online at:

- [California State Association of Counties](http://www.counties.org/2020-census)
- [California Complete Count – 2020 Census](https://census.ca.gov/)
- [U.S. Census Bureau](www.census.gov)
The Road to 2020

Roberto Garcia
Partnership Specialist
U.S. Census Bureau
San Diego Regional Census Office
November 29, 2018

2020 Census

Count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.
Why We Do a Census

- Article 1, Section 2 of the US Constitution
  
  *The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.*
  
- Key Purpose is Apportioning the US House of Representatives

Why does the 2020 Census matter?

**Power**
- Congressional representation
- Reapportionment & redistricting

**Money**
- $675 Billion distributed annually
- Funding distributed based on population

**California**
- Over $76 Billion each year to the State
- $2,000 approx. per Californian counted*
Federal Funding

Census data informs how $675 billion is distributed annually among local, state, and tribal governments for programs like:

- Transportation
- Job training centers
- Schools (Title 1 Grants, National School Lunch Program, Head Start/Early Head Start)
- Senior and Foster Care Centers
- Housing (Section 8 housing choice vouchers)
- Medical Assistance Programs (Medicaid, Medicare)

Goals for the 2020 Census

- Maintain Quality
- Reduce Costs
- Four Areas of Innovation
  - Efficiency in Building an Address List
  - Easier Ways to Respond
  - Better Use of Information We Already Have
  - More Efficient Field Operations
New Ability to Self Respond
Starting March 23, 2020

Internet | Phone | Paper Form | In-person

*13 languages including English will be supported

Impact to California
Impact to California

73%
California Census Mail Participation Rate in 2010

76%
California Census Mail Participation Rate in 2000

10,000,000 Californians
Requiring follow-up by Census enumerator in 2010

Impact to California

280,000
Estimated net undercount in 2020 based on 2010 Census

$ 1,950*
Potential per person Federal funds available

$ 560 Million
Amount of Money California stands to gain or lose over the next decade
Impact to California

- California has 10 of the most populous counties in the nation with a population of 28 million
- Participation rate is lower than 70% in hard-to-count census tracts

Hard-to-Count Populations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communities of Color</th>
<th>Children under 5</th>
<th>Persons who do not speak English fluently</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LGBTQ+</td>
<td>Undocumented Immigrants</td>
<td>People with disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People experiencing homelessness</td>
<td>Tribal members</td>
<td>Rural Communities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

50
How can we work together to ensure a complete count in 2020?

Where you can help

- Identify community organizations in your county that work directly with hard-to-count populations and who we can partner with to conduct outreach
- Incorporate census outreach and education efforts into your existing community engagements
- Collaborate with California’s diverse stakeholders to deliver tried and tested messages
- Utilize and leverage existing County infrastructure and resources
Recruiting

- Recruiting Information for All Positions
  - [www.census.gov/fieldjobs](http://www.census.gov/fieldjobs)
  - [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)
  - [www.2020census.gov/jobs](http://www.2020census.gov/jobs)
  - 1-888-658-5564 (RCC recruiting hotline)

Contact Partnership Specialist to attend recruitment events in your area

---

Community Partnership and Engagement Program (CPEP)

*Enroll* community partners to increase participation in the 2020 Census of those who are less likely to respond or are often missed.

- **Educate** people about the 2020 Census and foster cooperation with enumerators
- **Encourage** community partners to motivate people to self-respond
- **Engage** grass roots organizations to reach out to hard to count groups and those who aren’ t motivated to respond to the national campaign
Complete Count Committees

- Background and Structure of Complete Count Committees (CCCs)

- Tribal, state and local governments work together with partners in their communities to form CCCs to promote the 2020 Census to their constituents. Community-based organizations also establish CCCs that reach out to their members.

- Committee members are experts in the following areas:
  - Government
  - Media
  - Workforce development
  - Business
  - Education
  - Community Organizations
  - Faith-Based Community
  - Other, Based on Needs
Timeline – Key Communications

- The 2020 Census Phases
  - Education Phase – 2018-2019
  - Awareness Phase – April 2019
  - Motivation Phase – March – May 2020
  - Reminder Phase – May – July 2020
  - Thank You Phase – Starts July 2020

- Local governments and community leaders throughout California participate in activities highlighting the message that the 2020 Census is imminent and that it is easy, important and safe to participate.
Contact Information

Roberto Garcia
Partnership Specialist, San Diego Region
Roberto.Garcia@2020census.gov
619-701-2098

References

Hard to Count Tracts:
https://www.census.gov/roam

Participation Rate:
https://www.census.gov/censusexplorer/2010ratemap.html?

Population:
https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ca/PST045217

Congressional districts undercount:
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Supreme Court Decisions & PERB Rulings – An Overview of the Legal Landscape for Public Agency Employers

11/29/2018

Presented by:
Frances Rogers
Supreme Court Decisions & PERB Rulings – An Overview of the Legal Landscape for Public Agency Employers
California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Government Finance & Administration (GFA) Policy Committee Meeting | November 29, 2018
Presented by: Frances Rogers

Labor Relations

- U.S. Supreme Court ruled that mandatory agency shop fees are unconstitutional
- Agency fee payers are no longer mandated by law or agreement to continue paying agency shop service fees to the exclusive representative


Immediately following Janus, Governor Brown signed SB 866 into law, which requires public agencies to:
- Direct employees who request to cancel or change deductions to the union
- Rely on union certifications that the union has and will maintain member dues deduction authorizations
- Honor union requests to deduct voluntary union membership dues and initiation fees from employee wages
- Meet and confer with union before sending mass communication to employees about joining/supporting or refraining from joining/supporting the union
- Keep new employee orientations confidential
Labor Relations

A public agency must meet and confer with the union before placing a citizen’s initiative on the ballot if the initiative affects the terms and conditions of employment and the public agency’s chief bargaining agent lends official support to the initiative.

5 Cal.5th 898, reh’g denied (Oct. 10, 2018).

Labor Relations

PERB changed its prior rule about employee use of email for protected communications during nonwork time:

- Employee use of an agency’s email system, during nonwork time, will be protected if it relates to subjects such as wages, hours of work, and other terms and conditions of employment
- An agency’s restrictions on employee use of its email system during nonwork time should be no more restrictive than needed


Labor Relations

PERB decided that County’s surveillance of, and denial of access to unrecognized employee organizations were unfair labor practices:

- Employees do not have a meaningful right to select their representative unless non-incumbent employee organizations have reasonable access to worksites
- County manager’s photographing of union organizers she reasonably believed were violating County policy caused slight harm to employee’s MMBA rights and was not legitimately justified

SEIU v. County of San Bernardino (2018) PERB Decision No. 2556-M.
Supreme Court Decisions & PERB Rulings – An Overview of the Legal Landscape for Public Agency Employers
California State Association of Counties (CSAC) Government Finance & Administration (GFA) Policy Committee Meeting | November 29, 2018

Presented by: Frances Rogers
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November 14, 2018

To: CSAC Government Finance and Administration Policy Committee

From: Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative
       Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst

RE: CalPERS Update – INFORMATIONAL

Recommendation. This is an informational item only. This serves as an update on key issues before CalPERS (California Public Employees’ Retirement System).

Tools to Address Unfunded Pension Liabilities.

Several issues before the CalPERS Board have been discussed in light of growing cost pressures to employers attributed to their unfunded accrued liability (UAL) – or the benefits that employers will owe to current employees and retirees in present and future years. Following notice from a handful of cities that could be facing financial hardship due to growing pension costs, CalPERS worked with local agency employer representatives, including CSAC, to provide alternatives that can benefit any and all public employers, regardless of their possible fiscal strain created from the UAL. These benefits are summarized in a CalPERS webinar “Proactively Managing Your Unfunded Liability” available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhPxGjreVrl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jhPxGjreVrl). The resources detailed include:

1) Ad Hoc Additional Discretionary Payments (ADP) – Multiple or one-time payments
2) IRS Section 115 Trust – Prefunding UAL
3) Fresh Starts – Consolidation of amortization schedules and/or reduction of amortization periods


In February 2018, the CalPERS Board adopted modifications to the amortization policy which mainly included a substantive change in the time period to pay down the unfunded accrued liability from 30 years to 20 years. However, the financial necessity section, also known as the “hardship provision” was not modified at that time. In general, the adopted changes result in faster amortization of future increases or decreases in unfunded liability. The changes will be effective for the June 30, 2019 actuarial valuations. Unfunded liability created prior to June 30, 2019 will be amortized under the previous rules. Given the changes to the Amortization Policy and some concern among stakeholders that the new policy could result in required amortization payments that would present financial difficulties, a review of the financial necessity section was performed. Significant stakeholder feedback and input was gathered through this process with informal comments and formal testimony. As a result, the Board considered a new policy that is largely agreeable to the terms set forth by CSAC and other employee stakeholders. More information including the current draft policy is available at: [www.calpers.ca.gov/page/about/board/board-meetings/financeadmin-201811](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/about/board/board-meetings/financeadmin-201811)

Healthcare Regions Mapping.

CalPERS has had regions and regional pricing of basic health care premiums for its public agency and school employers since 2005. Regions allow CalPERS to provide high quality
health plans with rates that are competitively priced and aligned with the market. In 2018, CalPERS is assessing regions to determine if changes would benefit employers and members. The assessment includes a comprehensive analysis of health care costs throughout the state, employer and stakeholder outreach, and development of various regional scenarios. The history and background on the development of public agency and school health rate regions were presented at the January 2018 Offsite Board Meeting. Then, at the July Offsite Board Meeting, experts from Milliman, an actuarial consulting firm, provided a market scan of regional pricing, comparing CalPERS with Covered California and Medicare. In September, preliminary findings were shared for cost relativities by county, as well as, feedback from stakeholder outreach efforts. In order to remain competitive, CalPERS assesses and adapts changes in regional costs over time. More information about the proposed changes to the health care regions is available at: www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/board-agendas/201811/pension/item-7a_a.pdf

Contacts. Please contact Dorothy Johnson (djohnson@counties.org or 916/650-8133), or Tracy Sullivan (tsullivan@counties.org or 916/650-8124) for additional information.
2019 GFA Work Plan Priorities

Attachment Eleven
Memo on 2019 GFA Work Plan Priorities
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November 14, 2018

To: CSAC Government Finance and Administration Policy Committee

From: Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative
       Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst

Re: 2019 GFA Work Plan Priorities – ACTION

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Committee approve the work plan that addresses anticipated priority issues, which will guide the advocacy staffs’ activity in complement to the association-wide policy priorities. (Note: The association-wide state and federal policy priorities will be adopted by the Board of Directors in early 2019.)

Proposed 2019 Government Finance and Administration Legislative Priorities

Census Resources to Achieve a Full and Complete Count
The decennial census is of critical importance to county programs and funding – over $11 billion in direct allocations plus additional state subventions. In the coming census California faces unique challenges due to the large percentage of “hard to count” communities – or populations that historically have been undercounted. In addition, the heavy reliance on digital data collection could create hurdles for rural areas or individuals lacking online access. CSAC will:

- act as a communications conduit between state and local agencies;
- disseminate timely information from regional and statewide stakeholder groups;
- provide platforms for peer to peer sharing between counties and best practices; and
- advocate for adequate resources, including financial support.

Preserving County Governance and Board of Supervisors’ Authority. This priority speaks to a core tenet of CSAC as an organization. Several bills have directly challenged county authority and sought to weaken Boards of Supervisors’ discretion and decision-making power on behalf of their constituents, such as AB 1250 (2017). Charter county models have also been called into question. CSAC will:

- advocate for protecting Board authority for budget approval, redistricting, and rights granted through charter adoption and amendments; and
- protect existing mechanisms that reflect local voter will for changes to the board size, district boundaries, or funding levels for local service needs.

Partnership with Employee Representatives Fall out from the US Supreme Court decision Janus v. AFSCME resulted in several statutory changes to the administrative relationship between counties and union representatives. Some unintended consequences related to information sharing under the Public Records Act (PRA) will need correction to limit local agency exposure to litigation. CSAC will:
• advocate for clean-up legislation to remove confusion about what employee information is subject to PRA requests; and
• find partnerships as appropriate with labor union advocates that have worked collaboratively on several issues including most recently property tax revenue protection and the In-Home Supportive Services MOE.

**Economic Development**

Many economic development tools, including the former redevelopment agencies, relied heavily on property tax increment financing. Newer proposals continue to rely on this resource with varying degrees of accountability and oversight. Other state and federal tax credits and incentives to grow and attract business interests may prove helpful with further refinement. CSAC will:

• advocate against any non-authorized use of county property tax increment or other dedicated county funding streams;
• support proposals that stimulate economic development, regional job growth, increase small business creation, create well-paying jobs for workers of all skill levels, including high poverty and high unemployment areas; and
• support research and development in high growth and emerging industries, including but not limited to, life science, arts, culture, entertainment/sport and film and digital media, as well as the job training and educational opportunities that train the workforce to support these industries.

**Sales Tax Revenue Protection for Online Retail Activity.** The recent court decision (*South Dakota v. Wayfair*) authorizing the collection of sales tax from online (or remote) retail activity resulted in quick action by the California Department of Tax and Fee Authority to begin collecting and remitting sales tax revenues for state and local agencies. Legislative efforts could alter the developing regulatory scheme to the detriment or benefit of local agencies. CSAC will:

• advocate for the fair and equitable allocation of county sales and use tax/transaction and use tax from online retail activity; and
• oppose efforts that erode or redirect the revenue stream to other purposes.

**Technology and Public Records.** Interest in expanding requirements under the California Public Records Act (PRA) and the sharing of public data on local agency websites continued to build last year as anticipated. With the new Administration, the good government practices could readily become extensive mandates – which under the PRA are not reimbursable and may create significant financial burdens. CSAC will:

• continue to educate the Legislature about existing practices and requirements under the PRA and other good government statutory requirements; and
• engage in proposals to expand technology based solutions that create efficiency and not administrative burdens on county agencies.

**Data Protection Clean-Up to Assist County Services.** Sweeping consumer data privacy laws were passed in 2018 (AB 375, Chau; SB 1121, Dodd) that change the way vendors may collect and store personal information. However, an unintended consequence of the legislation was the interruption of data shared with counties for a
variety of services ranging from foster care and child protective services to fraud
detection and fiscal audits. To correct any unintended consequences CSAC will:

- co-sponsor legislation with the League of California Cities, the California Special
  Districts Association, and/or other like-minded local government and school
  associations to ensure privacy regulations do not interfere with necessary local
government functions.

Restoring Mandate Claiming Eligibility. Administrative actions by the Commission on
State Mandates in 2018 resulted in new test claim periods for local government agencies
that arbitrarily reduce the possible time frame to seek reimbursement. CSAC will work
with local government association partners to pursue corrective action that restores the
original time frame adopted by the Commission on State Mandates, either through
legislation or regulatory changes.

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2018 Year in Review and Key Legislative Outcomes

**Attachment Twelve**

Memo on 2018 Year in Review and Key Legislative Outcomes
November 14, 2018

To: Members, Government Finance and Administration Committee

From: Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative
       Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst

RE: 2018 Legislative Session Key Outcomes – INFORMATIONAL

The 2018 legislative year included many high-priority bills for the Government Finance and Administration Policy Committee. The Legislative Matrix provides a summary of final outcomes on individual bills in the realm of government finance and administration that CSAC advocated for or against. Staff appreciates the comments received from committee members throughout the year that assisted greatly with lobbying efforts.

**2018 Year in Review**

**County Governance Authority Protected.** CSAC priority-opposed legislation, AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer), stayed a lingering threat throughout the 2018 legislative year as the bill remained held in Senate Rules Committee. The bill sought to create a *de facto* ban on service contracts between counties and nonprofits, community based organizations, and private provider partners in nearly all service areas, including health care, behavioral health, public safety, housing, environmental stewardship, and even basic county administration. CSAC stayed ever vigilant and kept the 500-member strong coalition current of any movement. The bill officially failed passage with the adjournment of the 2017-18 Legislative Session.

Additional efforts to limit county discretion and resource management were posed by SCA 12 (Mendoza), which created costly mandates on elected bodies in high population counties and required an elected CEO position. This measure was successfully held in the Assembly. CSAC also stopped legislation that undermined county board of supervisors’ efforts to create efficiency through consolidated county offices, as proposed by AB 2558 (Brough). This measure failed on the Senate Floor after rapidly moving through policy committees.

**Neutralized Ballot Initiative on Limiting Local Tax Authority.** As counties well know, CSAC’s advocacy efforts extend to ballot initiatives and the list of problematic proposals included a major threat to local tax authority. The California Business Roundtable sponsored an initiative that would have required a two-third approval requirement for nearly every local tax and fee. Making matters worse, it would have retroactively invalidated taxes already approved by voters in 2018, including general sales taxes and cannabis taxes. CSAC was part of a coalition effort that negotiated the deal to stop the initiative from being placed before the voters in the final hours before the ballot deadline.

**Property Tax Threat Defeated in Legislature and Ballot Box**

Another significant threat to county revenue streams, specifically property taxes, was a series of legislative proposals sponsored by the California Association of Realtors. This included legislation introduced in the first month and also the final week of session as well as Proposition 5, that would have cost local government $1 billion in property tax revenues.
annually. In the Legislature, CSAC defeated each of the legislative proposals in their house of origin. CSAC engage heavily on the coalition effort to defeat Proposition 5 that failed handily.

**Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Pension Protection.** Following months of negotiation, CSAC and other local government partners were successful in brokering a compromise on a bill that would have jeopardized the financial stability of JPA member agencies. AB 1912 (Rodriguez), as originally drafted, would have imposed joint and several liability for all retirement related obligations to any current or former member of a JPA. Through persistent pressure and constant dialogue, CSAC and partners were able to secure amendments which eliminated the joint and several liability provisions in favor of a more equitable apportionment scheme. As amended, the bill also clarifies that it only applies when a JPA dissolves, ceases operations, or has its contract with the retirement system terminated.

**Supported Sexual Harassment Prevention.** Following numerous complaints and reports from Capitol staff and third-house lobbyists, the Legislature introduced dozens of bills in 2018 aimed to address sexual harassment and misconduct in the workplace. Some of the proposals narrowly targeted the Legislature’s internal claims processes, while others applied on a statewide basis to all employers. CSAC and other coalition partners were able to steer the conversation toward prevention, stressing the need for proactive approaches to reduce the prevalence of sexual harassment, rather than “after the fact” mandates. The end result was a widely supported bill – SB 1343 (Mitchell) – that focused on prevention trainings which many public agencies already offer. The last months of session were spent negotiating amendments to maximize the benefit of the trainings while minimizing the impact on local public resources. CSAC was successful in those efforts and moved to a support position along with a coalition of other public employer groups.

**Attachments.**
1) Legislative Matrix – Government Finance and Administration

**Contacts.**
Please contact Dorothy Johnson (djohnson@counties.org or 916-650-8133), or Tracy Sullivan (tsullivan@counties.org or 916-650-8124) for additional information.
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The following bill matrix reflects advocacy efforts by the Government Finance and Administration policy unit during the 2018 legislative year. More information, including position letters and full bill language, is available at [www.counties.org/legislative-tracking](http://www.counties.org/legislative-tracking) or please contact Dorothy Johnson, Legislative Representative, at (916) 650-8133, djohnson@counties.org or Tracy Sullivan, Legislative Analyst, at (916) 650-8124, tsullivan@counties.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>ISSUE</th>
<th>BRIEF SUMMARY</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB 216</td>
<td>Ballot Postage</td>
<td>Requires vote by mail ballots to include a return envelope with prepaid postage, imposing substantial costs on an already underfunded system.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Gonzalez</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fletcher)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 748</td>
<td>Body Cameras</td>
<td>Requires public agencies, effective July 1, 2019, to release recordings from body-worn cameras within 45 days of a critical incident, which is defined as the discharge of a firearm or use-of-force that causes death or great bodily harm. Contains different circumstances under which disclosure can be delayed or records can be withheld.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Ting)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1749</td>
<td>Workers’ compensation coverage for off-duty peace officers</td>
<td>Allow employers, at their discretion, to provide workers’ compensation benefits to their employee peace officers while they are off-duty if they are injured defending life or property, or in the course of arresting a suspect, out of state. Previous protections were only provided to off-duty officers while in the state of California.</td>
<td>Dropped Opposition/Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Daly)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1912</td>
<td>Pension Liability for Joint Powers Agencies</td>
<td>Establishes rules for a joint powers authority (JPA) to meet pension obligations for employees and retirees when terminating or dissolving. Specifically, the bill requires JPA member agencies to determine proportional liability and establishes arbitration proceedings with retirement systems when agreement cannot be reached.</td>
<td>Dropped Opposition/Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Rodriguez)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1976</td>
<td>Lactation Accommodation</td>
<td>Requires employers to provide a location other than a bathroom (under current law it’s a “toilet stall”) for their employees to express breastmilk. Also provides for a “hardship exemption” for employers in certain circumstances.</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Limon)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2095</td>
<td>Special Elections</td>
<td>Allows greater flexibility for election administration by permitting a special election to be consolidated with any regularly scheduled statewide or local election in which at least 50% of the voters in the special election are eligible to</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Quirk-Silva)</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
vote occurring with 180 days of a gubernatorial proclamation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB 2415</td>
<td>Calderon</td>
<td>CalPERS Compensation Authority Increases CalPERS’ competitive edge by authorizing the CalPERS Board to appoint and fix the compensation of the chief operating officer (COO) and the chief health director (CHD).</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2425</td>
<td>Berman</td>
<td>Transmission of Property Records Authorizes county assessors, upon written request, to require taxpayers to transmit requested information by mail or in an electronic format, if available.</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2540</td>
<td>Mullin</td>
<td>Vote Centers Helps facilitate the successful implementation of the California Voter’s Choice Act by authorizing governing bodies with jurisdiction over public buildings to allow these buildings to be used as vote centers beginning up to ten days prior to an election day.</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 3068</td>
<td>Daly</td>
<td>Independent Legal Counsel for Auditor-Controllers Requires county boards of supervisors to obtain independent legal counsel to assist a county auditor-controller if a county counsel or district attorney would have a conflict of interest in representing the auditor-controller.</td>
<td>Dropped Opposition/Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 3122</td>
<td>Gallagher</td>
<td>Payment of Deferred Taxes Clarifies deadlines for property tax payments when taxpayers apply for payment deferral due to a disaster.</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 866</td>
<td>Budget Committee</td>
<td>Employment Trailer Bill Requires that new employee orientations be confidential. The bill also contains language regarding how public agencies and unions manage membership dues and membership-related fees and how public agencies can communicate with employees about their rights to join unions.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 946</td>
<td>Lara</td>
<td>Sidewalk Vendors Establishes statewide requirements for the local regulation of sidewalk vending. It prohibits local agencies from restricting sidewalk vendors to designated areas or limiting the overall number of available permits, among other prohibitions. However, local agencies may impose certain restrictions if they are directly related to objective health, safety, or welfare concerns (including parks protection and restrictions parallel to other commercial activity).</td>
<td>Dropped Opposition/Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 1022</td>
<td>Pan</td>
<td>CalPERS Termination Notification Requires CalPERS employer agencies that are considering termination to notify their current employee, former employees, and retirees within 30 days of adopting a resolution of intent. The language in the bill ensures that employer agencies have access to the information necessary to contact those individuals and holds them harmless if the information provided by CalPERS is incorrect or incomplete.</td>
<td>Dropped Opposition/Neutral</td>
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<td>Bill</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SB 1085</strong> (Skinner)</td>
<td><strong>Employee Lost Time</strong> Requires public agency employers to provide union employees with “reasonable” leaves of absence to serve as union stewards or officers. Procedures for requesting/granting leave are to be collectively bargained. While on the leave of absence, employees are entitled to their regular compensation, the same benefits (including retirement accrual), and job reinstatement without loss of seniority, rank, or classification. The bill specifies that the union must reimburse the public employer for all compensation paid to the employee within 30 days. Additionally, employers are shielded from liability for any act or omission of, or an injury suffered by, an employee while on leave.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 1086</strong> (Atkins)</td>
<td><strong>Workers’ Compensation Death Benefits</strong> Deletes the sunset date on a law that provides an extended statute of limitations for workers’ compensation death benefits payable to the survivors of public safety officers who die as a result of work-related cancer or other specified diseases. CSAC requested the study on impacts to the program be published before repealing the sunset date.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>Unless Amended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 1121</strong> (Dodd)</td>
<td><strong>Consumer Privacy Act of 2018</strong> Makes a number of changes to the California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 to correct some of the unintended consequences of Assembly Bill 375 (Chapter 55, Statutes of 2018), including addressing some local agency programming needs.</td>
<td>Concerns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 1153</strong> (Stern)</td>
<td><strong>Withdrawal of Local Initiatives</strong> Allows the proponent of a county, municipal, or special district initiative to withdraw an initiative at any time prior to the 88th day before the election, aligning the local process with the state process under SB 1253 (Chapter 679, Statutes of 2014).</td>
<td>Watch</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 1244</strong> (Wieckowski)</td>
<td><strong>Public Records</strong> Clarifies that the Public Records Act is intended to allow attorney fees to a prevailing plaintiff only when the plaintiff is the requester of the records.</td>
<td>Dropped</td>
<td>Opposition/Neutral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 1300</strong> (Jackson)</td>
<td><strong>FEHA Claims</strong> Eliminates the “severe or pervasive” legal standard, so that a single incident of harassment is sufficient to create a triable issue of fact. Also reduces the burden of proof, which will make it easier for plaintiffs to file and litigate harassment claims against California employers.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SB 1343</strong> (Mitchell)</td>
<td><strong>Sexual Harassment Training</strong> By January 1, 2020, requires employers with at least five employees to provide at least one hour of sexual harassment prevention training to all non-supervisory employees within six months of assuming the position, every two years. Separate rules apply to temporary or seasonal employees based on total number of hours</td>
<td>Support</td>
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Employers may develop their own training platforms or use the online training courses provided by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 1412</td>
<td>Criminal History</td>
<td>Requires employers to only consider convictions relevant to the job which they are applying for when screening job applicants. Specifically exempts positions where background checks are required by state, federal, or local law.</td>
<td>Dropped Opposition/Neutral</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1413</td>
<td>Pension Prefunding</td>
<td>Provides CalPERS with the authority to establish a Pension Prefunding Trust Program so that local agencies can prefund their future annual pension contributions and/or pay down their unfunded liability.</td>
<td>Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1498</td>
<td>Omnibus Bill</td>
<td>Clarifies parcel tax notification requirements under Government Code Section 54930 and updates county purchasing agent authority, among other technical changes in statutes impacting local government agencies.</td>
<td>Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 553</td>
<td>Return-to-Work Program</td>
<td>Would have required the Department of Industrial Relations to distribute $120 million annually to injured workers from the Return to Work Program and shift administration of the program from the state to employers.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1597</td>
<td>CalPERS Divestment</td>
<td>Would have prohibited CalPERS and CalSTRS from investing in the government of Turkey, if the U.S. government sanctions Turkey for failing to acknowledge the Armenian Genocide.</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1870</td>
<td>DFEH Complaints</td>
<td>Would have increased the filing period with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) for complaints of unlawful employment practices from one year to three years.</td>
<td>Oppose Unless Amended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2258</td>
<td>LAFCO Grant Program</td>
<td>Would have authorized the Strategic Growth Council to administer a grant program to finance certain local agency commission (LAFCO) activities</td>
<td>Support</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2732</td>
<td>Workers’ Bill of Rights</td>
<td>Would have required all employers to provide all employees with a copy of the “Workers’ Bill of Rights,” have them sign it, given them a copy of the signed document, and keep the original for three years, as well as post a notice.</td>
<td>Oppose Unless Amended</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 3081</td>
<td>Retaliation Claims</td>
<td>Would have provided, amongst other things, a rebuttable presumption of unlawful retaliation for the 30 days after an employer learns that an employee has been the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual harassment or</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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stalking, if an employer takes an adverse employment action against an employee.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 899 (Pan)</td>
<td>Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>Would have explicitly excluded race, gender, and national origin as apportionable factors under workers’ compensation law.</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 937 (Wiener)</td>
<td>Lactation Accommodation</td>
<td>Would have imposed very onerous requirements on employers to provide lactation accommodation for employees who need to express milk while at work. Under this bill, lactation rooms would be required to contain a surface to place a breast pump and personal items as well as a place to sit, have access to electricity, running water, and a refrigerator, not be a bathroom, and be in proximity to the employee’s work area, shielded from view and free from intrusion.</td>
<td>Oppose Unless Amended</td>
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**FAILED PASSAGE (in Committee or from Floor)**

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<tr>
<td>AB 1250 (Jones-Sawyer)</td>
<td>County Contracting</td>
<td>Would have imposed strict and onerous requirements on a county (with the exception of San Francisco) before it may enter into a contract or renew or extend an existing contract for personal services. <em>(As amended 9/5/17)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1596/ACA 12 (Gloria)</td>
<td>Base Year Value Transfers</td>
<td>The sum of these two measures would have expanded the authorized use of base year value transfers to parents or guardians of a severely and permanently disabled child. <em>(As amended 4/18/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose Unless Amended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1748/ACA 20 (Steinorth)</td>
<td>Base Year Value Transfers</td>
<td>The sum of these two measures would have allowed a person of any age to transfer their property tax bill to a new home once until they reach the age of 55 and allow persons aged 55 or older or with a severe disability to transfer their property tax bill as many times as desired. It would also allow the transfer to replacement dwellings of greater value and intercounty transfers statewide. <em>(As amended 4/24/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1778 (Holden)</td>
<td>Transit-Oriented Redevelopment Law of 2018</td>
<td>Would have allowed cities to keep and use all tax increment funds incurred by a property to develop affordable housing mixed-use developments. <em>(As amended 4/10/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 1922 (Fong)</td>
<td>Homeowners’ Exemption</td>
<td>Would have doubled the homeowners’ exemption from $7,000 to $14,000 and also required the county assessor, beginning in fiscal year 2020-21, to adjust the amount of the exemption by the percentage change in the House Price Index for California. <em>(As amended 3/1/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2069 (Bonta)</td>
<td>Medicinal Cannabis:</td>
<td>Would have provided that the medical use of cannabis by a qualified patient or person with an identification card is</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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<td>Bill Number</td>
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<td>AB 2558</td>
<td>Consolidation of County Offices</td>
<td>Would have prohibited a county board of supervisors from independently consolidating elective officers of auditor, controller, treasurer, tax collector, and director of finance. The matter would need to be placed on the ballot for voters to decide, undermining the authority of every county board of supervisors. <em>(As amended June 27, 2018)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2571</td>
<td>Divestment: Race &amp; Gender Pay Equity</td>
<td>Would have created a restriction for California pension systems from making a new, additional, or renewed investment in an alternative investment vehicle if it is managed by an investment manager that has not adopted nor committed to comply with a race and gender pay equity policy. <em>(As amended 4/11/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2613</td>
<td>Failure to Pay Wages: Penalties</td>
<td>Would have made an employer who fails to pay specified wages on time subject to a $200 penalty payable to the affected employee. The penalty is per each pay period during which wages are not paid on time. <em>(As amended 5/29/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2812</td>
<td>Data Storage and Protection</td>
<td>Would have created a new office within the California Department of Technology to promote the use of technologies amongst local governments, including but not limited to, cloud-based computing and data storage. <em>(As amended 5/9/18)</em></td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2841</td>
<td>Sick Leave</td>
<td>Would have increased the number of paid sick days employers are required to provide from 3 days to 5 days. <em>(As introduced 2/16/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 2946</td>
<td>Division of Labor Standards Enforcement: Complaint</td>
<td>Would have increased the time for an employee to file a retaliation claim with the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (from six months to three years) and provided that a prevailing plaintiff in a whistleblower action shall be entitled to reasonable attorney’s fees. <em>(As introduced 2/16/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 3000</td>
<td>Exemption: Retail Hydrogen Vehicle Fuel</td>
<td>Would have established an sales and use tax exemption for “retail hydrogen vehicle fuel” until January 1, 2024. <em>(As amended 5/8/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose Unless Amended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB 3037</td>
<td>Community Redevelopment Law of 2018</td>
<td>Would have established property tax increment financing mechanism for community redevelopment that includes a 30% set-aside for affordable housing. CSAC asked for amendments to ensure county agreement to any use of property tax increment. <em>(As amended 4/30/18)</em></td>
<td>Oppose Unless Amended</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Number</td>
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<td>AB 3121</td>
<td>Evidentiary Privileges</td>
<td>Would have created a new evidentiary privilege for communications between union agents and represented employees. (As amended 3/22/18)</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Kalra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB 3170</td>
<td>Exemption: Water Efficiency</td>
<td>Would have provided a three-day sales and use tax exemption for certain qualified water efficiency products for years 2019 through 2023. (As amended 4/16/18)</td>
<td>Oppose Unless Amended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Friedman)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCA 12</td>
<td>County Governance</td>
<td>Would have required a county with a population of five million or more after the 2020 census to expand the number of supervisorial districts and create a directly elected county executive officer. (As amended 06/27/17)</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Mendoza)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB 1166</td>
<td>CalPERS: Employer Contributions: Notification</td>
<td>Would have required an employer agency to notify current and retired employees if the agency fails to pay their employer’s contributions required by their contact. (As amended 6/18/18)</td>
<td>Oppose</td>
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<td>(Pan)</td>
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