



® **Government Finance & Administration (GFA) Policy Committee Meeting**
CSAC 131st Annual Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, 2025 • 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
San Jose McEnery Convention Center • Room LL20B
150 W San Carlos St, San Jose, California • Santa Clara County

Supervisor Mani Grewal, Stanislaus County, Chair
Supervisor Angela Curro, San Benito County, Vice Chair
Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, Vice Chair

Agenda

- 2:00 p.m. I. Welcome and Introductions**
Supervisor Mani Grewal, Stanislaus County, Chair
Supervisor Angela Curro, San Benito County, Vice Chair
Supervisor Anne Cottrell, Napa County, Vice Chair
- 2:05 p.m. II. County Veterans Service Officers: Veterans' Local Lifeline**
Senator Bob Archuleta, Chair, Senate Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs
Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo, Chair, Assembly Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs
David West II, Veterans Services Officer, Nevada County & President, California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
Jim Zenner, Director, Military & Veterans Affairs, Los Angeles County & Legislative Chair, California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
- 2:45 p.m. III. Big Brother or Better Governing? The debate over public data in 2025**
Evan White, Executive Director, California Policy Lab
Charles Loudon, Legislative Director, Assemblymember Chris Ward
Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer, Santa Clara County
- 3:15 p.m. IV. Unlocking Local Dollars: Creative Revenue Solutions for Counties**
Bobby Young, Director of Client Services, HdL Companies
Karen Lange, Partner, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, & Legislative Advocate, California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors
- 3:50 p.m. V. 2026 GFA Legislative Advocacy Priorities – ACTION ITEM**
CSAC GFA Team
- 3:55 p.m. VI. 2025 GFA Legislative Year in Review – INFORMATIONAL ITEM**
CSAC GFA Team
- 4:00 p.m. VII. Closing Comments and Adjournment**

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December 3, 2025

To: CSAC Government Finance & Administration Policy Committee

From: Emma Jungwirth, Senior Legislative Advocate
Eric Lawyer, Senior Legislative Advocate
Julissa Ceja Cardenas, Legislative Analyst

Re: County Veterans Service Officers: Veterans' Local Lifeline

Summary: California veterans are one of the state's most vulnerable populations, facing disproportionate rates of homelessness, food insecurity, behavioral health challenges, and service-connected disabilities. Today's panel will explore the importance of County Veterans Services Officers (CVSOs) and the resources they provide to veterans and highlight both state and local efforts to improve services for veterans in our communities. The panelists will also discuss how legislation can help support the benefits claims process and ensure that veterans are protected from predatory practices.

Guest Speakers:

- The Honorable Bob Archuleta, Senator, California State Senate
- The Honorable Pilar Schiavo, Assemblymember, California State Assembly
- David West II, Veterans Services Officer, Nevada County, and President, California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
- James (Jim) Zenner, Director, Military & Veterans Affairs, Los Angeles County, and Legislative Committee Chair, California Association of County Veterans Service Officers

Background: The increasing demand for access to veterans' benefits highlights the critical role of CVSOs that provide trusted assistance at no cost to veterans navigating the complex claims process. CVSOs are county employees who assist veterans, servicemembers, and their families within the county to obtain their earned federal veterans' benefits and connect them to other state and county benefits. The services they provide are free to veterans and their families. By helping veterans, servicemembers, and their families access their federal benefits, CVSOs can help reduce the demand on county-level resources to support these individuals, shifting the responsibility to the appropriate federal channels.

While some nonprofit or state service providers receive additional federal and state funding through grants for initiatives to support veterans, CVSOs operate with limited financial

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support. Individual counties establish the size and extent of their own CVSO operations based upon local needs and their ability to fund the program.

The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers reports that in the 2023-24 fiscal year, CVSOs statewide received a total of \$49.5 million to fund their operations, with 72 percent coming from county funding, 22 percent from the state's General Fund, and about 6 percent from other state sources. CVSOs receive upfront funding from the county, subject to partial reimbursement through various local assistance appropriations from state funds, including the General Fund, Veterans Service Office Fund, Mental Health Services Fund, and Federal Funds (in the form of Medi-Cal cost avoidance reimbursements). The state's General Fund appropriation is primarily distributed on a pro rata basis using performance measures established by the California Department of Veterans Affairs, and other funding is distributed based upon implementation of specific types of programs related to the intended use of these specialized funds.

Since 2013, thanks in part to increased investments from the state, the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers reports that the state's benefit utilization rate increased from 17.5 percent to 31.5 percent, about 129,000 more beneficiaries are receiving benefits, and total benefits paid annually to California's veterans has increased from \$5.4 billion to \$10.9 billion. While some of the increase in benefits paid may be attributed to increased payment rates, the increased number of beneficiaries played a role.

Additionally, there are growing concerns about unaccredited individuals and organizations, often referred to as "claim sharks," exploiting the federal VA claims process. In response, Senator Archuleta introduced [Senate Bill 694 \(2025\)](#), coauthored by Assemblymember Schiavo, to strengthen consumer protections for California veterans and ensure that only accredited individuals may charge for services related to filing benefits claims with the VA, helping protect veterans from exploitation. By reinforcing accreditation standards, this bill would preserve the integrity of CVSOs and affirm their role as a trusted resource for veterans.

Resources Referenced and Materials for Further Reading:

["2024 Annual Report."](#) California Association of County Veterans Service Officers.

["2024 Annual Report."](#) California Association of Veterans Services Agencies.

December 3, 2025

To: CSAC Government Finance and Administration Policy Committee

From: Eric Lawyer, Senior Legislative Advocate
Emma Jungwirth, Senior Legislative Advocate
Julissa Ceja Cardenas, Legislative Analyst

Re: Big Brother or Better Governing? The debate over public data in 2025

Summary: Government agencies collect and maintain massive troves of data for the communities we serve, including health records, financial information, and criminal history. Local initiatives, state law, and federal directives have led to innovations and efficiencies for core government programs, improving how services are delivered and heightening accountability through better reporting.

As the breadth of data collection by governments increases, so has the opportunity to improve outcomes for public programs. However, this has been tempered by heightened concerns: how does an individual's privacy rights interact with data sharing among governments agencies? How does state law interact with federal directives? How should agencies adapt to technological evolution?

This panel will investigate those tensions by highlighting advances in the use of government data. Speakers will discuss how the data have become the center of a fight over the rights to privacy, local control, and government efficiency.

Guest Speakers:

- Evan White, Executive Director, California Policy Lab
- Charles Loudon, Legislative Director, Assemblymember Chris Ward
- Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer, Santa Clara County

Background: Government agencies have a role in collecting and protecting personal and confidential information for our communities. As the source of these records, initiatives have been designed to use sharing of those records to improve coordination of services and improve reporting on outcomes, including possible gaps in services, demographic representation, or measuring effectiveness of state and local initiatives.

Programs like CalAIM and Medi-Cal for Justice Involved have been built to rely on data sharing and coordination across governments to provide wraparound services. Other

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programs can use existing application data to automatically qualify residents for services and facilitate enrollment across benefit programs.

Over the past several years, a variety of legislation has been proposed and enacted to both facilitate data sharing across agencies – and to limit it.

This panel will include several voices to speak to how data collection, sharing, and reporting can improve service delivery and accountability for government programs and the agencies that administer them. It will also highlight recent legislation designed to regulate how state and local agencies use, share, and report public data; including the privacy rights and concerns regarding federal actions that inspired it. Efforts to bolster privacy concerns and improve government efficiency are not limited to the debate at the state level. Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer for Santa Clara County will speak to local ordinances and efforts to protect personal information.

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To: CSAC Government Finance & Administration Policy Committee

From: Emma Jungwirth, Senior Legislative Advocate
Eric Lawyer, Senior Legislative Advocate
Julissa Ceja Cardenas, Legislative Analyst

Re: Unlocking Local Dollars: Creative Revenue Solutions for Counties

Summary: Counties are facing a range of budget deficits and fiscal challenges, driven by federal- and state-level funding reductions, declining revenues, and increasing costs. In response, county leaders are pursuing innovative strategies to address these shortfalls. Today's panel will explore potential pathways for counties to increase their revenue streams.

Guest Speakers:

- Bobby Young, Director of Client Services, HdL Companies
- Karen Lange, Partner, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, & Legislative Advocate, California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors

Background: Counties across California face mounting fiscal pressures and growing service demands, requiring some county leaders to investigate how to generate additional revenues to offset budget shortfalls. This panel will discuss different strategies to increase county revenues.

One option for counties is to propose increases to their local sales taxes—also known as district or transactions and use taxes. These taxes are “added on” and administered in tandem with the statewide sales and use tax. State law generally caps the combined rate of these local taxes at two percent per county. Because this cap applies countywide, when one agency adopts a district tax, it can limit other agencies in the same county from adding additional taxes. The Legislature has granted exceptions to this two percent cap in several counties—such as Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Mateo, and Santa Clara—as well as in certain cities. These jurisdictions may exceed the cap, subject to voter approval.

In addition, counties could consider changes to the transient occupancy taxes (TOT) administration and collection process related to short-term rentals. TOTs are taxes applied to hotels, motels, inns, and other types of lodging, such as rental properties, that are occupied for 30 days or less. Revenues from these taxes are used to fund essential local public services. Chapter 346, Statutes of 2025 ([SB 346, Durazo](#)) establishes the Short-Term

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Rental Facilitator Act of 2025, which allows local agencies to request the addresses of short-term rentals listed on rental platforms. This information helps counties track and regulate short-term rentals and ensure proper TOT collection, supporting revenue recovery.

Resources Referenced and Materials for Further Reading:

[2025 Issue Brief: Sales and Use Tax](#), California State Association of Counties. 2025.

["The Rise of Local Add-On Sales."](#) The California Local Government Finance Almanac. 2017.

December 3, 2025

To: CSAC Government Finance & Administration Policy Committee

From: Emma Jungwirth, Senior Legislative Advocate
Eric Lawyer, Senior Legislative Advocate
Julissa Ceja Cardenas, Legislative Analyst**Re: 2026 Legislative Priorities – ACTION ITEM**

Summary: Staff recommend the committee adopt the following advocacy priorities for the Government Finance and Administration team in 2026.

Proposed 2026 Government Finance and Administration Legislative Priorities***Protecting Counties from Runaway Legal Liability***

Counties and other local agencies have been the subject of giant “nuclear” settlements for decades. These trends have been heightened by recent laws that have reopened statutes of limitations, placing counties in a position of defending themselves for claims for which records, witnesses, and memories may no longer exist. CSAC will continue to prioritize legislation that will strike a more appropriate balance for legal liability ensuring that survivors have an avenue for justice without causing counties and other local agencies to face fiscal crisis.

Pursue Meaningful Workers’ Compensation Reform

Counties and all employers have seen mounting workers’ compensation costs over the past decade. These are due to statutory changes and trends that tipped the scales towards more generous benefits and favorable assumptions. While employees who suffer from work-related injuries and illnesses clearly deserve compensation, the current state of the workers’ compensation system has led to runaway costs and fiscal uncertainty for counties. CSAC believes it is critical that the state pursue broader reform efforts in 2026 that will strike a more appropriate balance for workers and employers.

Public Records Act

While the California Public Records Act (CPRA) serves as a fundamental right for the public to access the decision making of their government, changes to law and the way we conduct government business has imposed massive administrative burden and costs on every form of government in California. CSAC will continue strategic efforts to advocate for PRA reform

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that reduces impacts while maintaining public access and focus on educating the legislature and public about the strains placed on public agencies due to existing CPRA law.

State-Imposed Mandate Reimbursement Reform

Counties are required to comply with a wide range of state mandates, but only a limited number are reimbursed—and only after a lengthy, complex process. Determining whether a law qualifies for reimbursement can take years, with additional delays in establishing a process and rate for reimbursement. In the meantime, counties must fund these programs using local revenues, often for years, without certainty of repayment. Furthermore, even after a mandate is approved for reimbursement, the state can suspend it to avoid paying counties. While suspended, the law remains in statute but counties are not required to comply with the law in that fiscal year and the state has no reimbursement obligation, creating confusion for the public and operational challenges for counties. To maintain service continuity, counties often continue providing these programs at their own expense. This cost-shifting—where the state acknowledges responsibility, builds public reliance, and then withdraws funding—has strained county budgets and complicated service delivery for years. To this end, CSAC will work with counties and local partners to review and reform the current process from test claim to audit, focusing on finding ways to streamline and improve the process, reducing the administrative burdens on counties.

Regulating the Use of Artificial Intelligence and Related Technologies

Artificial intelligence technologies are evolving at an unprecedented pace, and the legislative landscape surrounding their regulation is expanding and shifting year by year. CSAC will continue to advocate on behalf of counties to ensure that any legislation or state guidance regulating the use of artificial intelligence and related technologies provides practical best practices without imposing implementation and cost burdens on counties, overriding local control in how counties decide to use these tools, or interfering with county operational policies and procedures, inclusive of employment practices.

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To: CSAC Government Finance & Administration (GFA) Committee

From: Emma Jungwirth, Senior Legislative Advocate
Eric Lawyer, Senior Legislative Advocate
Julissa Ceja Cardenas, Legislative Analyst**Re: 2025 GFA Legislative Year in Review – INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

This summary provides an overview of the bills the Government Finance & Administration team has taken positions on during the first half of the 2025-2026 legislative session. A complete list of legislation from the 2025 legislative year that CSAC has monitored and engaged on related to Government Finance & Administration is available on the [CSAC website](#).

Elections
Chaptered**[AB 287 \(Lackey\)](#) (Chapter 253, Statutes of 2025) - [SUPPORTED](#)**

Elections: polling places and vote centers. This bill will enhance accessibility at voting centers for individuals with disabilities by clarifying requirements for accessible parking, curbside voting spaces, and adequate storage for election materials. The Governor signed this measure on October 10.

Vetoed**[AB 699 \(Stefani\)](#) - [SUPPORTED](#)**

Elections: local tax measures. This bill would have allowed election officials to refer voters to the Voter Information Guide for detailed tax rate information, rather than requiring lengthy text directly on the ballot. The Governor [vetoed](#) this bill on October 1.

Labor**Chaptered****[AB 339 \(Ortega\)](#) (Chapter 687, Statutes of 2025) - [OPPOSED](#)**

Local public employee organizations: notice requirements. CSAC strongly opposed this bill which will require local agencies to notify union representatives at least 45 days before issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or to renew or extend an existing contract. The Governor signed this measure on October 13.

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AB 692 (Kalra) (Chapter 703, Statutes of 2025) – OPPOSED

Employment: contracts in restraint of trade. This bill will restrict employers from providing fringe benefits that require employees to pay back amounts owed if they cease employment before meeting the benefits' conditions. The Governor signed this measure on October 13.

AB 1293 (Wallis) (Chapter 298, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED

Workers' compensation: qualified medical evaluators. This measure will help improve workers' compensation disputes by improving the quality of qualified medical evaluator panels. The Governor signed this measure on October 3.

SB 303 (Smallwood-Cuevas) (Chapter 216, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED

Employment: bias mitigation training: unlawful discrimination. This measure will protect the confidentiality of employee communications shared during bias mitigation training. By protecting that confidentiality, the measure removes a disincentive for employees to participate in the training or for employers to provide it. The Governor signed this measure on October 1.

SB 464 (Smallwood-Cuevas) (Chapter 760, Statutes of 2025) – NEUTRAL/REMOVED OPPOSITION

Employer pay data. This bill would have required counties and other local governments to submit an annual pay data report to the California Civil Rights Department. The bill was amended to exclude counties and other local governments – applying provisions of the bill solely to the state. The Governor signed this measure on October 13.

SB 487 (Grayson) (Chapter 763, Statutes of 2025) – OPPOSED

Workers' compensation. This bill will provide that police and firefighters employed by local agencies who are injured by a third party are entitled to recover at least two-thirds of the amount owed by the third party in a civil claim. Effectively, the bill would limit the amounts counties and other public agencies could recover from third-party settlements or judgements to account for the cost of workers' compensation claims. The Governor signed this measure on October 13.

SB 617 (Arreguin) (Chapter 229, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED

California Worker Adjustment and Retraining Act. This bill will expand employer requirements under the CalWARN Act, mandating additional information in layoff notices. Employers must include contact information for the local workforce development board (LWDB), a description of LWDB services, and information on CalFresh benefits. The Governor signed this measure on October 1.

Vetoed**SB 7 (McNerney) – OPPOSED**

Employment: automated decision systems. This bill would have restricted the use of automated decision systems (ADS) to make employment-related decisions in the workplace. Specifically, the bill would have: (1) applied to a broad range of tools and employment-related decisions, (2) required pre- and post-use notices be sent to employees and potential employees, and (3) provided worker anti-retaliation protections for exercising their rights under the bill's provisions. The Governor [vetoed](#) this bill on October 13.

Administration/General Government***Chaptered*****AB 370 (Carrillo) (Chapter 34, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED**

California Public Records Act: cyberattacks. This bill will amend the definition of “unusual circumstances” in the California Public Records Act to include instances where a public agency is unable to access its electronic records due to a cyberattack. The Governor signed this measure on July 14.

AB 538 (Berman) (Chapter 616, Statutes of 2025) – OPPOSED

Public works: payroll records. This bill imposes a new state mandate on counties by requiring them to obtain payroll records from public works contractors upon public request if the agency does not already possess them. If a contractor fails to respond within 10 days, counties must notify Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement (DLSE), who are authorized to pursue penalties. This bill burdens counties with administrative responsibilities without granting enforcement authority, while exempting DLSE from new responsibilities. The Governor signed this measure on October 11.

SB 413 (Allen) (Chapter 221, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED

Juveniles: case file inspection. This bill will allow specified attorneys access to juvenile case files without requiring a court order for specified purposes, expediting cases for both plaintiffs and defendants. This bill narrowed the types of cases eligible for this access and added protections for sensitive information including immigration status and details about minors who are not the subject of the case. The Governor signed this measure on October 1.

SB 707 (Durazo) (Chapter 327, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED

This bill extends sunset dates on laws that provide meeting participation flexibility; adds new flexibility for multi-jurisdictional bodies, and addresses challenges in recruitment and retention for advisory bodies by allowing them the flexibility to meet remotely. New requirements are tempered by language that provides needed legal protection, ability to use

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low- to no- cost tools, and greater flexibility to administer. The Governor signed this measure on October 3.

SB 777 (Richardson) (Chapter 658, Statutes of 2025) – NEUTRAL/REMOVED OPPOSITION
Abandoned cemeteries: report. The bill requires a working group that includes CSAC to submit a report to the legislature regarding recommendations for how abandoned cemeteries should be managed. The Governor signed this measure on October 11.

Vetoed

AB 1430 (Bennett) – SUPPORTED

County recorders: fees. This measure would have increased the statutory maximum fee for county recorders from \$10 to \$15 for the first page and from \$3 to \$4 for additional pages. The Governor vetoed this bill on October 6.

Revenue and Taxation

Chaptered

AB 418 (Wilson) (Chapter 149, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED

Property taxation: tax-defaulted property. This bill will outline a process for counties to use during the Chapter 8 sales process to ensure that the property is disposed of in a transparent manner and affords property owners an administrative remedy if the property owner disputes the price set at a Chapter 8 tax sale. The Governor signed this measure on October 1.

SB 346 (Durazo) (Chapter 751, Statutes of 2025) – SUPPORTED

Local agencies: transient occupancy taxes: short-term rental facilitator. This bill will enact the Short-Term Renter Facilitator Act of 2025 to allow local agencies to require short-term rental facilitators to share specified rental data and collect the appropriate transient occupancy taxes. The Governor signed this measure on October 13.

Economic Development

Vetoed

AB 265 (Caloza) – SUPPORTED

Small Business Recovery Fund Act. This bill would have established a small business recovery grant program, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to support small businesses directly impacted by a state of emergency or other specified emergencies. The Governor vetoed this measure on October 11.

Other Legislation that Failed Passage:

AB 259 (Rubio) – Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. – SUPPORTED

AB 340 (Ahrens) – Employer-employee relations: confidential. – SUPPORTED

AB 465 (Zbur) – Local public employees: memoranda of understanding. – OPPOSED

AB 614 (Lee) – Claims against public entities. – OPPOSED

AB 616 (Caloza) – Department of Parks and Recreation: state parks: California State Library Parks Pass Program. – **SUPPORTED**

AB 859 (Macedo) – Civil Procedure: recovery of defense costs. – **SUPPORTED**

AB 964 (Hadwick) – Commission on State Mandates: state mandates. – **SUPPORTED**

AB 1018 (Bauer-Kahan) – Automated decision systems. – **OPPOSED**

AB 1048 (Chen) – Workers’ Compensation. – **OPPOSED**

AB 1109 (Kalra) – Evidentiary privileges: union agent-represented worker privilege. – **OPPOSED**

AB 1221 (Bryan) – Workplace surveillance tools. – **OPPOSED**

AB 1331 (Elhawary) – Workplace surveillance. – **OPPOSED**

AB 1337 (Ward) – Information Practices Act of 1977. – **OPPOSED**

AB 1383 (McKinnor) – Public employees’ retirement. – **OPPOSED**

SB 238 (Smallwood-Cuevas) – Workplace surveillance tools. – **OPPOSED**

SB 239 (Arreguin) – Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body. – **SPONSORED**

SB 577 (Laird) – State Government. – **SUPPORTED**

SB 632 (Arreguín) – Workers’ compensation: hospital employees. – **OPPOSED**

SB 694 (Archuleta) – Deceptive practices: service members and veterans. – **SUPPORTED**

SB 696 (Alvarado-Gil) – Sales and Use Tax Law: exemptions: firefighting equipment. – **SUPPORTED**

SB 799 (Allen) – False claims: taxation. – **SUPPORTED**

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