

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 22, 2026 | 10:00am – 1:00pm

[Sutter Club](#) | 1220 9th Street, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98970844491?pwd=KKu6OSeDuaSflOCD3eNaywtwBFU2Ac.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 989 7084 4491 | Password: 433862

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Susan Ellenberg | *President*
Luis Alejo | *1st Vice President*
Kent Boes | *2nd Vice President*
Jeff Griffiths | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | *Chief Executive Officer*
Kimberly Rodriguez | *Chief Legislative Advocate*
Chastity Benson | *Chief Operating Officer*

ADVISORS

Scott DeMoss | *Glenn County CAO, California Association of County Executives (CACE) President*
Jennifer Mendoza Flores | *Tulare County Counsel, County Counsels' Association of California (CCAC) Past President*

SUPERVISORS

Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (absent)*
Rich Desmond | *Sacramento County*
David Haubert | *Alameda County*
Kelly Long | *Ventura County*
Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*
V. Manuel Perez | *Riverside County*
John Gioia (alternate) | *Contra Costa County*
Bonnie Gore | *Placer County*
Mary Sackett | *Marin County*
Scott Silveira | *Merced County*
Lucas Frerichs (alternate) | *Yolo County*
Ryan Campbell | *Tuolumne County*
Grant Carmon | *Glenn County*
John Peters (alternate) | *Mono County*

Treasurer

Belia Ramos, *Napa County*

2. CEO's Report

Graham Knaus, CEO, provided an update on the Association.

3. 2026 Budget Update

Joe Stephenshaw, Director of the California Department of Finance, provided an update on the 2026-27 Governor's Budget Proposal.

4. Approval of Minutes from October 8-10, 2025, and December 2, 2025

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 8-10, 2025, and December 2, 2025, was made by Supervisor Alejo and seconded by Supervisor Long. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Updated 2025 – 2026 Board of Directors Nominations

The CSAC Constitution indicates that each county board shall nominate one or more directors to serve on the CSAC Board of Directors for a one-year term commencing with the Annual Meeting. The CSAC Executive Committee appoints one director for each member county from the nominations received and was presented with additional 2025-2026 nominations received to date.

A motion to approve the updated 2025-2026 Board of Directors Nominations was made by Supervisor Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of 2026 CSAC Appointments

President Ellenberg presented the Officers 2026 CSAC Appointment recommendations to the Executive Committee for consideration.

A motion to approve the 2026 CSAC Appointments was made by Supervisor Alejo and seconded by Supervisor Silveira. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Approval of CSAC Finance Corporation Appointments

Rob Pierce, CSAC Finance Corp. CEO, presented the Finance Corp. Board's recommendations to re-appoint the current CAO and Public Member board representatives for new three-year terms.

A motion to approve the CSAC Finance Corporation Board appointments was made by Supervisor Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Campbell. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approval of California Statewide Communities Development Authority (CSCDA) Appointment

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Rob Pierce, CSAC Finance Corporation CEO, presented the Finance Corp. Board's recommendation to appoint a new commissioner to the CSCDA Board.

A motion to approve the CSCDA appointment was made by Supervisor Gore and seconded by Supervisor Carmen. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion of Governor's January Budget Impact

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Kimberly Rodriguez, CLA, discussed the Governor's Proposed 2026-27 Budget and its potential impacts on counties.

10. Legislative Priorities for 2026

Kimberly Rodriguez, CLA, presented the 2026 Board Adopted Priorities and engaged the Executive Committee in discussion.

11. Public Affairs and Member Engagement Report

Chastity Benson, COO, provided a brief update on Public Affairs and Member Services, highlighting the upcoming Challenge Awards dinner. Ben Adler, Director of Public Affairs, discussed CSAC's response to the Governor's 2026-27 Budget Proposal and the media related to CSAC's building renovation project.

12. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Rob Pierce, CSAC Finance Corp. CEO, thanked former CEO, Alan Fernandes, for over a decade of service to the Finance Corporation. He also provided an update from their Finance Corp's 2025 Fall meeting, where the Board approved proposed financing plans for the CSAC building renovation.

13. California Counties Foundation Report

Supervisor Alejo, Foundation President, provided an update to the Executive Committee, highlighting the Foundation's seven active Institute campuses and several upcoming graduations. Paul Danczyk, Foundation COO, highlighted the Los Angeles County Executive Leadership Development Program, which celebrated a graduation in December 2025.

14. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Scott DeMoss, CACE President and Glenn County CAO, discussed the primary focus for County Administrators in 2026: assessing and mitigating the impacts of HR 1 implementation.

15. County Counsels' Association of California (CCAC) Report

Jennifer Mendoza Flores, CCAC Past President and Tulare County Counsel, provided an update on the Litigation Coordination Program.

16. Minute Mics: Executive Committee Roundtable

Each member of the Executive Committee spent one minute discussing pressing issues in their county.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on March 12, 2026, in San Bernardino County.