

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 25, 2025 | 9:00am-1:00pm

SAFE Credit Union Convention Center | 1401 K St, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89319598397?pwd=ZN2CNbXbkj8f5vfdmaPR8R5JE6kg5t.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 893 1959 8397 | Passcode: 655942

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Jeff Griffiths | President
Susan Ellenberg | 1st Vice President
Luis Alejo | 2nd Vice President
Bruce Gibson | Immediate Past President

ADVISORS

Brian E. Washington | Marin County Counsel, CoCo
Past President
Jason Britt | Tulare County CAO, CACE President

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | Chief Executive Officer
Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez | Chief Policy Officer
Chastity Benson | Chief Operating Officer

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Belia Ramos | Treasurer, Napa County

Alameda	–	David Haubert
Alpine	–	Terry Woodrow
Amador	–	Jeff Brown
Butte	–	Tod Kimmelshue
Calaveras	–	Benjamin Stopper
Colusa	–	Kent Boes
Contra Costa	–	<i>Absent</i>
Del Norte	–	Chris Howard
El Dorado	–	Greg Ferrero
Fresno	–	Buddy Mendes
Glenn	–	Grant Carmon
Humboldt	–	Michelle Bushnell
Imperial	–	Jesus Eduardo Escobar
Inyo	–	Trina Orrill
Kern	–	<i>Absent</i>
Kings	–	Rusty Robinson
Lake	–	Bruno Sabatier
Lassen	–	Gary Bridges
Los Angeles	–	<i>Absent</i>
Madera	–	Leticia Gonzalez
Marin	–	Brian Colbert (Alternate)
Mariposa	–	Rosemarie Smallcombe
Mendocino	–	Maureen “Mo” Mulheren
Merced	–	<i>Absent</i>
Modoc	–	Ned Coe
Mono	–	John Peters
Monterey	–	Luis Alejo
Napa	–	Anne Cottrell
Nevada	–	Heidi Hall

Orange	–	<i>Absent</i>
Placer	–	Bonnie Gore
Plumas	–	Tom McGowan
Riverside	–	V. Manuel Perez
Sacramento	–	Rich Desmond
San Benito	–	Angela Curro
San Bernardino	–	<i>Absent</i>
San Diego	–	Joel Anderson (Alternate)
San Francisco	–	Rafael Mandelman
San Joaquin	–	Robert Rickman
San Luis Obispo	–	Bruce Gibson
San Mateo	–	<i>Absent</i>
Santa Barbara	–	Bob Nelson
Santa Clara	–	Susan Ellenberg
Santa Cruz	–	<i>Absent</i>
Shasta	–	Matt Plumber (Alternate)
Sierra	–	Lee Adams
Siskiyou	–	Ed Valenzuela
Solano	–	Wanda Williams
Sonoma	–	James Gore
Stanislaus	–	<i>Absent</i>
Sutter	–	Dan Flores
Tehama	–	Pati Nolen
Trinity	–	Ric Leutwyler
Tulare	–	Amy Shuklian
Tuolumne	–	Ryan Campbell
Ventura	–	Kelly Long
Yolo	–	Lucas Frerichs
Yuba	–	John Messick

2. CEO's Report

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

3. State-Local Fiscal Responsibility Project

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, discussed the Meeting the Mandate book and received feedback from the Board.

4. Member Engagement Initiative

Chastity Benson, COO, and Cassandra Pye, President of Lucas Public Affairs, discussed the Member Engagement Initiative and received feedback from the Board.

5. Approval of Minutes from February 13, 2025

A motion to approve the Minutes from February 13, 2025, was made by Supervisor Lucas Frerichs and seconded by Supervisor Kent Boes. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of IRS Form 990 – Tax Year 2023

A motion to approve the IRS Form 990 – Tax Year 2023 was made by Supervisor Ned Coe and seconded by Supervisor Wanda Williams. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration of the CSAC Proposed Budget & Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26 and Clarification of the CSAC Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25

Supervisor Belia Ramos, Treasurer, and Chastity Benson, COO, presented the 2025-26 Proposed Budget and reported that this budget reflects the continued support of CSAC's advocacy priorities, county visits and regional meetings, and the Challenge Awards program, and provides continued financial support to the California Counties Foundation. Treasurer Ramos also highlighted the 3% cost of doing business adjustment for membership dues, the establishment of a 4% contingency appropriation to allow for an operating margin to address unanticipated operational needs during the budget year, and the upcoming expenditures for the CSAC building renovation project.

COO Benson and Treasurer Ramos reported that the Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25 was amended to include the word "Annual" in the document title to clarify the term of the schedule, as required by CalPERS.

A motion to approve the CSAC Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26 and the Clarification of the CSAC Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25 was made by Supervisor John Peters and seconded by Supervisor Bob Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Legislative Update & Policy Committee Reports

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, provided a brief legislative update and thanked the members for their legislative visits during the conference.

The following Policy Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs reported on the Committee meetings held during the conference:

- Administration of Justice (AOJ): Supervisor Bruno Sabatier, Chair
- Agriculture, Environment & Natural Resources (AENR): Supervisor Tod Kimmelshue, Vice Chair
- Government Finance & Administration (GFA): Supervisors Angela Curro and Anne Cottrell, Vice Chairs
- Health and Human Services (HHS): Supervisor Rosemarie Smallcombe, Vice Chair
- Housing, Land Use & Transportation (HLT): Supervisor Gary Bradford, Chair

9. Federal Priority Issues Update

Graham Knaus, CEO, and Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, provided a federal priority issues update.

10. Operations & Member Services Report

Chastity Benson, COO, announced that registration for the CSAC Annual Meeting will open in June and shared that CSAC's inaugural Challenge Awards Dinner was a success. Rachael Serrao, Public Affairs Manager, presented CSAC's new website, which launched during the week of the conference.

11. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Rob Pierce, CSAC Finance Corporation COO, reported that the CSAC FC Spring Meeting will be in Napa from April 30 – May 2. He also announced the following new Finance Corporation board members: Supervisor Ed Valenzuela, Edward Hill, Vernon Billy and Miguel Marquez. Jim Manker, Director of Business Development, introduced Corporate Partner Steve Bennett from Dominion Voting Systems.

12. California Counties Foundation Report

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, California Counties Foundation President, provided an update on the Foundation, highlighting the work of the Institute which will have 5 campuses in the Fall. Veronica Smith, Programs and Grants Director, provided an update on the CSAC Grants Initiative.

13. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Jason Britt, CACE President and Tulare County CEO, reported on the numerous priorities that county executives will be focusing on in 2025 including the federal uncertainty around jail medical.

14. County Counsels' Association of California (CoCo) Report

Brian Washington, CoCo Past President and Marin County Counsel, reported on new case activity for the Litigation Coordination Program.

15. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable

Each member of the Board of Directors spent one minute discussing pressing issues in their county.

16. Public Comment

President Jeff Griffiths opened the floor for public comment.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on September 11, 2025, in Sacramento County.