

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
April 3, 2025 | 10:00am – 1:30pm

Wine and Roses Hotel – Garden Ballroom | 2505 W Turner Rd, Lodi

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82286643721?pwd=R8g5L0adF4CGH64R9QglI0KKbSbrWn.1>
Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 822 8664 3721 | Password: 540799

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

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

CSAC STAFF

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

ADVISORS

Jason Britt | *Tulare County CAO & CACE President*
Brian E. Washington | *Marin County Counsel, County
Counsels' Association Past President*

SUPERVISORS

Kathryn Barger | *Los Angeles County (Absent)*
Rich Desmond | *Sacramento County (Absent)*
John Gioia | *Contra Costa County*
Kelly Long | *Ventura County*
V. Manuel Perez | *Riverside County*
Buddy Mendes | *Fresno County*
Noelia Corzo | *San Mateo County*
Bonnie Gore | *Placer County*
Manu Koenig | *Santa Cruz County (Absent)*
Scott Silveira | *Merced County*
Lucas Frerichs | *Yolo County*
Kent Boes | *Colusa County*
Ned Coe | *Modoc County*
Ryan Campbell | *Tuolumne County*

Treasurer

Belia Ramos, *Napa County*

2. Closed Session

The Executive Committee met in closed session with legal counsel on two potential cases of significant legal exposure. Following the closed session, the Executive Committee returned to open session and announced that no reportable action had been taken.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 16, 2025

A motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 16, 2025, was made by Supervisor Susan Ellenberg and seconded by Supervisor Ned Coe. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Updated 2024-2025 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 2024-2025 nominations received to date.

A motion to approve the updated 2024-2025 Board of Directors Nominations was made by Supervisor Bruce Gibson and seconded by Supervisor Kent Boes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of IRS Form 990 – Tax Year 2023

Supervisor Belia Ramos, Treasurer, and Chastity Benson, COO, presented IRS form 990 for tax year 2023.

A motion to approve IRS tax form 990 for tax year 2023 was made by Supervisor Ned Coe and seconded by Supervisor Luis Alejo. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 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 highlighted the 3% cost of doing business adjustment for membership dues and the establishment of a 4% contingency appropriation to allow for an operating margin to address unanticipated operational needs during the budget year.

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 Proposed Budget and Salary Schedule for FY 2025-26 and Clarification of the CSAC Proposed Salary Schedule for 2024-25 was made by Supervisor Scott Silveira and seconded by Supervisor Buddy Mendes. The motion passed unanimously.

7. CEO's Report

Graham Knaus, CEO, discussed CSAC's homelessness and housing pilot, highlighted CSAC's ongoing public affairs efforts and reminded the Committee of the upcoming deadline to apply for NACo Presidential Appointments.

8. State-Local Fiscal Responsibilities Project

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, presented a draft of CSAC's new Meeting the Mandate booklet. This booklet documents how county responsibilities have evolved and increased over the past 15 years and the effect this has had on different policy areas. CPO Wong-Hernandez announced that CSAC's Legislative Conference will feature a Meeting the Mandate workshop and asked the Executive Committee members for quotes to incorporate in the booklet.

9. Member Engagement Initiative

Chastity Benson, COO, and Cassandra Pye, President of Lucas Public Affairs, discussed CSAC's Member Engagement Initiative. They presented feedback from stakeholder interviews, provided strategic recommendations, and received feedback from the Committee.

10. Legislative Update

Jacqueline Wong-Hernandez, CPO, provided a brief Legislative Update and discussed the CSAC's Disaster Recovery booklet.

11. Executive Committee Minute Mics

The Executive Committee minute mics, item #11, was removed from the agenda at the direction of President Jeff Griffiths.

12. Operations & Member Services Report

Chastity Benson, COO, reported that CSAC's inaugural Challenge Awards dinner was a success. CSAC has launched new association management software, Rhythm, and plans to launch a new website at the 2025 Legislative Conference. COO Benson also highlighted the changing nature of politics and media and the crucial role of public affairs.

13. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Alan Fernandes, CSAC FC CEO, and Rob Pierce, CSAC FC COO, discussed their upcoming Spring Meeting and announced the new FC board members. Mr. Fernandes highlighted Public Square Real Estate (PSRE), the FC's new partnership with Cushman and Wakefield, and reported that the FC is in a strong financial position due to the success of their business partnerships and Corporate Associates Program, which has allowed them to increase their contribution to CSAC.

14. California Counties Foundation Report

Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, Foundation President, and Paul Danczyk, Foundation COO, highlighted the Institute's seven Spring campuses and announced that they anticipate five campuses in the Fall. The CSAC Grants Initiative (CGI) continues to evolve as it reacts to the changing federal grants landscape.

15. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Jason Britt, CACE President and Tulare County CAO, discussed CACE's strategies for navigating uncertainty surrounding the federal relationship with the state under the current administration.

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

Brian E. Washington, Marin County County Counsel and CoCo past president, provided an update on County Counsels' Association and the recent work of the Litigation Coordination Program.

17. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on August 21, 2025, in Sacramento County.