

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, February 12, 2026
9:00 am – 1:30 pm

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria | 828 I Street, Sacramento

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98471407053?pwd=pkxLmzkI1Am3aSQDLjlVGSLb6Y1Mg.1>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833 | Meeting ID: 984 7140 7053 | Password: 503706

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

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

ADVISORS

Jennifer Mendoza Flores | Tulare County Counsel,
CCAC Past President (absent)
Scott De Moss | Glenn County CAO, CACE President

CSAC STAFF

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

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Belia Ramos | Treasurer, Napa County

Alameda	–	David Haubert	Orange	–	Doug Chaffee
Alpine	–	Terry Woodrow	Placer	–	Bonnie Gore
Amador	–	Jeff Brown	Plumas	–	Mimi Hall (<i>alternate</i>)
Butte	–	Tod Kimmelshue	Riverside	–	V. Manuel Perez (<i>virtual</i>)
Calaveras	–	Benjamin Stopper (<i>virtual</i>)	Sacramento	–	Rich Desmond
Colusa	–	Kent Boes	San Benito	–	Angela Curro
Contra Costa	–	John Gioia (<i>virtual</i>)	San Bernardino	–	Jesse Armendarez
Del Norte	–	Chris Howard	San Diego	–	Monica Montgomery Steppe (<i>absent</i>)
El Dorado	–	Greg Ferrero	San Francisco	–	Rafael Mandelman (<i>virtual</i>)
Fresno	–	Buddy Mendes (<i>absent</i>)	San Joaquin	–	Robert Rickman
Glenn	–	Grant Carmon	San Luis Obispo	–	Bruce Gibson
Humboldt	–	Natalie Arroyo (<i>absent</i>)	San Mateo	–	Lisa Gauthier
Imperial	–	Jesus Eduardo Escobar (<i>absent</i>)	Santa Barbara	–	Bob Nelson (<i>absent</i>)
Inyo	–	Trina Orrill	Santa Clara	–	Susan Ellenberg (<i>absent</i>)
Kern	–	Leticia Perez	Santa Cruz	–	Justin Cummings
Kings	–	Rusty Robinson	Shasta	–	Kevin Crye
Lake	–	Bruno Sabatier (<i>virtual</i>)	Sierra	–	Lee Adams
Lassen	–	Gary Bridges	Siskiyou	–	Ed Valenzuela
Los Angeles	–	Kathryn Barger (<i>absent</i>)	Solano	–	Wanda Williams
Madera	–	Jordan Wamhoff (<i>virtual</i>)	Sonoma	–	James Gore (<i>absent</i>)
Marin	–	Mary Sackett	Stanislaus	–	Mani Grewal (<i>virtual</i>)
Mariposa	–	Rosemarie Smallcombe	Sutter	–	Karm Bains (<i>alternate, virtual</i>)
Mendocino	–	John Haschack	Tehama	–	Tom Walker
Merced	–	Scott Silveira	Trinity	–	Ric Leutwyler
Modoc	–	Ned Coe	Tulare	–	Amy Shuklian
Mono	–	John Peters	Tuolumne	–	Ryan Campbell
Monterey	–	Luis Alejo	Ventura	–	Kelly Long
Napa	–	Anne Cottrell	Yolo	–	Lucas Frerichs
Nevada	–	Hardy Bullock	Yuba	–	Renick House

2. Special Presentation from California State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, presented to the Board.

3. CEO's Report

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

4. Approval of Minutes from December 4, 2025

A motion to approve the Minutes from December 4, 2025, was made by Supervisor John Peters and seconded by Supervisor Rich Desmond. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Legislative Update

Kimberly Rodriguez, Chief Legislative Advocate, along with the Legislative Affairs team, provided updates across key issue areas, highlighting current legislative activity, emerging priorities, and impacts to counties.

6. 2025 Distinguished Service Award Presentation

Senator Anna Caballero was presented with the CSAC 2025 Distinguished Service Award.

7. Public Affairs and Member Engagement Report

Chastity Benson, COO, shared that the Public Affairs and Member Engagement groups are focused on strengthening their communication efforts with county Public Information Officers (PIOs). Ben Adler, Director of Public Affairs, updated the Board on CSAC's strategy and efforts to shape the narrative at the state Capitol and in the public.

8. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Rob Pierce, CSAC FC CEO, reported that Kathryn Barger (Urban County Member), Ryan Alsop (CAO/CEO Member), and William "Billy" Rutland were reappointed to the CSAC FC Board by the CSAC Executive Committee. Mr. Pierce also updated the Board on recent Finance Corp activities, including new CAP partnerships with S+B James Construction, BBK Law, American Fidelity, Kooth, and T-Mobile. Corporate partner Tim Hancock of ModCorr also presented on the programs and services the company offers to local governments.

9. California Counties Foundation Report

Monterey County Supervisor Luis Alejo, California Counties Foundation President, and Paul Danczyk, California Counties Foundation COO, reported continued growth in statewide executive education and training programs offered by the CSAC Institute, including expansion of on-site campus programs. They also discussed the Foundation's continued grant support for counties through the CSAC Grants Initiative amid federal funding uncertainty.

10. California Association of County Executives (CACE) Report

Scott De Moss, CACE President and Glenn County CAO, provided an update highlighting CACE's focus on supporting county executives through policy discussions and peer learning, including the federal policy impacts of H.R. 1, State mandate challenges, and opportunities for innovation and cross-county collaboration.

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

Jennifer Henning, CSAC General Counsel, provided an update on ongoing litigation, noting CSAC's continued coordination of amicus support in cases involving Brown Act compliance, land use and groundwater regulation, public records, eminent domain, and county liability.

12. Minute Mics: Board of Directors Roundtable

Board members shared brief, informal updates on current issues and developments in their counties, highlighting local challenges, notable initiatives, and emerging trends with potential statewide interest. The discussion was informational and intended to promote awareness and peer learning across counties.

The meeting was adjourned. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, in Sacramento County.