

COUNTY OF FRESNO

STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2007-2008 (Updated 1-15-08)

INTRODUCTION

This Legislative Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the State of California.

The Platform contains broad goals and specific legislative proposals directed toward measures of specific interest and benefit to the County of Fresno, including: a commitment to strengthen fiscal integrity by supporting reimbursement for State-mandated programs; enhancement of County revenue and opposing infringement on existing local resources; supporting local discretion in carrying out County responsibilities and flexibility in the use of funds for County programs; support of additional funding to increase local and regional economic development capabilities; protecting public safety funding; support of efforts to ensure preservation of agricultural lands and natural resources.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

- Support State/Local Government fiscal restructuring efforts that align program responsibility and revenue sources, reverse the trend of transferring ever-increasing shares of property, sales and/or other taxes from local government to the State, and embrace precepts such as those found in Proposition 1A on the November 2004 ballot.
- Affirm support for State/Local Program Realignment of 1991; support legislation that addresses equity among county allocation formulas, and places limits on the local share-of-cost of program benefits and eligibility enhancements made by the State occurring after the date of realigning additional programs.
- Support greater accountability for program outcomes; reduce duplication of services and competition for resources; restore control to local government; reduce the cost of State administrative oversight of programs implemented by the County.
- Oppose any legislation for State mandated programs that do not contain their own revenue source, and oppose legislation that would further delay deferred reimbursement to counties for State mandates.
- Support legislation that creates new revenue sources for the provision of mental health services to the underserved/unserved population without impacting current dedicated funding to counties.
- Oppose legislation to reduce or eliminate Foster Care funding provided to relatives of child welfare dependents.

- Support legislation that protects the public's investment in the transportation system, meets the maintenance and safety needs of the local road system, and ensures an equitable allocation of gas tax and other funds to local agencies.
- Support the California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (Williamson Act), maintaining agricultural preserves and Farmland Security Zones and compensating counties and special districts for lost tax revenues through increased subventions for land under Williamson Act contracts and Farmland Security Zone agreements.
- Support Statewide efforts that assist local non-attainment areas in meeting air quality emission standards, including providing sustainable incentives for persons, businesses, and local government to use or convert to clean technologies and funding for transit system planning and implementation efforts.
- Support the continuation of economic development tools such as the State Enterprise Zone to promote business growth, reduce unemployment and improve the economic base of local governments.
- Support efforts for the State to resume a leadership role in, and increase funding for, local infrastructure needs to address both deferred maintenance and development; support the reinstatement of the State Infrastructure Bank to allow greater access to funds and low-interest loans for water/sewage/roads/utilities infrastructure.
- Create new sources of investment capital and increase the economic development capabilities of counties including business park infrastructure focused on job creation; promote economic growth in rural areas that is consistent with the Board of Supervisor's policies to direct growth to cities and unincorporated communities.
- Encourage the State to assist local efforts in the retention and expansion of existing business and the attraction of new businesses by improving the business climate of the State, reducing the costs of doing business, and streamlining State environmental reviews and permitting processes.
- Support the development of a State water policy that recognizes the importance of agriculture to the State economy, preserves water rights and resources for the growing Central Valley population, provides third party protection against potential negative impact of transfers, and provides funding for water supply-related projects and construction of new water storage projects in critically overdrafted areas.
- Support the development of alternate sources of energy (biodegradable fuels), provide tax credits that promote this new industry and invest in the research and development of this new technology.
- Support the precepts of "smart growth" throughout California by ensuring consideration of the following: support for the continued preservation of agricultural lands and the continued operation and expansion of agricultural businesses; protection of natural resources, wildlife habitat and open space; retaining revenue neutrality for new city incorporations; and, development of local land use dispute resolution procedures.
- Support legislation that creates funding options for the provision of adequate local adult and juvenile justice services and facilities, and that protects funding sources and grants for law enforcement and all public safety services.

- Support legislation to develop a comprehensive simplified public assistance system, with sufficient State and Federal funding, which promotes long-term self sufficiency, rewards work and strengthens families.
- Advocate State support and financing for adequate placement beds (IMD-Institutes for Mental Disease/SNF-Skilled Nursing Facilities) for indigent and underinsured mental health clients in Community Treatment Facilities.
- Oppose any legislation that attempts to allocate additional general liability exposure to Counties or that seeks to prohibit the ability of Counties to seek maximum indemnification from other parties in the contractual process.

ACTION ITEMS

- I. Propose legislation to exempt Fresno County from the minimum population required in G.C. Section 26613, allowing the Board of Supervisors to authorize the Sheriff to enforce the provisions of the Vehicle Code upon County highways in the unincorporated area of the County.
- II. Pursue funding for restorative justice.
- III. Pursue changes, through legislative means if necessary, to require the State to maintain fully operational court facilities in the outlying areas of Fresno County.
- IV. Pursue legislation allowing adequate time for counties to transfer court facilities without penalties.
- V. Support legislation to replace the Property Tax Administration Program for the Assessor's Office which lapsed on June 30, 2006.
- VI. Support appropriate State resources to offset the substantial cost of local Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) implementation and compliance.
- VII. Propose legislation that supports Statewide standardized e-Government services and provides funding for implementation.
- VIII. Pursue financial support for economic development efforts in Fresno County.
- IX. Pursue the appointment of Central San Joaquin Valley representatives to the California Transportation Commission and the California High Speed Rail Authority.
- X. Request the State modify its proposal, and include Fresno County, in seeking increased Federal Medicaid reimbursement for hospitals serving a disproportionate share of the indigent population.
- XI. Support legislation to support and protect Agricultural Research Centers and surrounding areas from urban encroachment that restricts research activity.
- XII. Advocate for the establishment of a University of California medical school in the San Joaquin Valley to address the severe shortage of health care professionals in the area.
- XIII. Support eligibility or funding in new State infrastructure funding programs or bond measures for the following projects:
 1. to upgrade water or wastewater infrastructure in small, economically disadvantaged rural communities.
 2. for operation and maintenance of water or wastewater infrastructure in small, economically disadvantaged rural communities.
 3. for post-closure cleanup assistance for closed and older landfills.
 4. for Transportation infrastructure programs suspended or delayed as a result of any State fiscal crisis.
 5. for deliverable projects such as SR 180 east.
 6. emergency repair of at-risk levees providing flood protection to rural communities.

7. for county facilities.
 8. development of groundwater recharge, banking and monitoring programs.
- XIV. Support funding from Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to retrofit county facilities for solar energy source.
 - XV. Support efforts to address flooding conditions on the West Side of Fresno County.
 - XVI. Pursue legislation that requires the State to fund all social services programs at the level no less than what is annually determined under Section 10507 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
 - XVII. Pursue legislation that creates incentives for agriculture to install co-generation and anaerobic digester electrical power generation facilities, including requiring utility companies to purchase excess electricity from agricultural co-generation and anaerobic electrical power generation facilities.
 - XVIII. Develop strategy to recognize savings in the issuance of Pension Obligation Bonds, based on original unfunded actuarial liability, using appropriate present values.
 - XIX. Pursue legislation that would create a CRV (California Refund Value) program for used tires.
 - XX. Seek funding for County gang prevention, intervention and suppression programs.
 - XXI. Pursue co-location of State Department of Agriculture and Pesticide Regulations with the new Center for Agriculture and Food Safety.
 - XXII. Seek legislation to relieve jail standards for the housing of inmates.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

County Finance and Operations

- I. Support legislation which provides stable dedicated revenue to support all County responsibilities, and establishes a more equitable distribution of locally generated taxes (property, sales, etc.).
- II. Support legislation which would require the State to fully fund all State-mandated responsibilities delegated to the County, eliminate match requirements for State driven health and social service programs, and allow full cost recovery of indirect costs.
- III. Support efforts that strengthen financial independence of the County and provide financial flexibility to manage programs to meet local needs; seek elimination of unnecessary, costly or inefficient requirements or regulations and remove administrative duplication.
- IV. Support legislation providing grant-funded capital financing of County facilities and equipment that support State-required programs including adult and juvenile facilities, and health facilities.
- V. Support legislation that equitably allocates State resource base funding to counties for support of State-mandated programs according to workload, caseload, or an index of need that is appropriate to the program and includes a reasonable cost of doing business.
- VI. Support enforcement of a date certain for repayment by the State of all accumulated costs of mandated programs, and the timely payment by the State of revenues owed to the County.
- VII. Pursue an adequate and sustainable revenue base for all fire protection districts and agencies. Efforts should include the return of property taxes which were transferred to the State through the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF), while not negatively affecting those fire protection districts and agencies that receive a net positive allocation of property tax revenue from ERAF.
- VIII. Support legislation that provides reasonable State interpretation of reimbursement rules for federal programs.
- IX. Oppose elimination of Williamson Act subventions to counties, but if eliminated, support a legislated transition period to gradually reduce subventions with a corresponding property tax increase to fill the gap.
- X. Improve the timeliness of the State contracts process to allow counties to effectively plan for and carry out State programs.

Economic Development

- I. Support elimination of local match or loan requirements for State funded grants to be utilized in areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment, such as Fresno County.

- II. Support legislation that streamlines the State regulatory requirements for new and expanding businesses to promote retention, expansion, and new businesses in Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley.
- III. Support legislation that promotes the participation of State agencies in local one-stop permit centers.
- IV. Support legislation that reduces the cost of doing business in California through the promotion of cost reduction measures, such as the reduction in costs for workers compensation and unemployment insurance, and lower energy costs.
- V. Continue to make available State tax benefits to businesses through the Fresno County Regional Enterprise Zone for the promotion of business expansion and attraction in Fresno County.
- VI. Support legislation that creates the framework and adopts standards to forge State-local government-private sector partnerships for the financing of infrastructure projects that promote the creation of jobs and expand the availability of grants and other financing mechanisms that can be used for this purpose.
- VII. Support legislation that provides resources for the training of dislocated workers in high unemployment areas.
- VIII. Support legislation that funds a solution for flooding conditions on the West Side region of Fresno County.
- IX. Support State efforts to establish sites for facilities in our community (such as the new Veteran's Home) in order to facilitate economic development.
- X. Encourage the State to enact policies that legally and fiscally support the ability of counties to create inter-governmental regional agencies to manage such issues as air quality, natural resources protection, transportation, growth, and development.
- XI. Support legislation that creates and supports co-location of infrastructure, housing and jobs where people can afford to live, lessening commuter traffic.
- XII. Support legislation to fund, or provide low or no-interest loans, to upgrade water or wastewater infrastructure in small, economically disadvantaged rural communities.
- XIII. Support legislation to provide financial assistance for operation and maintenance of water or wastewater infrastructure in small, economically disadvantaged rural communities and regional wastewater treatment facilities to promote the attraction of regional food processing facilities.
- XIV. Support legislation to fund post-closure cleanup assistance for closed and older landfills.
- XV. Pursue funding for rural community flood management and drainage systems.
- XVI. Pursue funding for groundwater recharge and monitoring programs.

Land Use

- I. Support continued State funding for collaborative BLUEPRINT regional planning to develop regional growth strategies through participatory local planning efforts.
- II. Ensure that the concept of “smart growth” provides for local input into the role and function of the State, and for the local administration of local land use policy and management practices.
- III. Support an amendment to the Williamson Act to provide local control for determining eligibility zones to ensure that areas included are at actual risk.
- IV. Support examination of State policy of preserving agricultural lands, with recognition of the unique economy created by agriculture and the value of locally grown food and commodities to food security and safety.
- V. Support retaining the concept of "revenue neutral" in the transfer of revenue and responsibilities associated with new city incorporations.
- VI. Support requiring State agencies to involve local government in planning processes directed toward operating new facilities or programs and mitigate any impact on local government as a result of their implementation.
- VII. Support comprehensive housing element reform that recognizes the unique role of counties and opposes punitive funding approaches.
- VIII. Support legislation to reduce or eliminate the conflicting requirements of farm worker housing laws and regulations.
- IX. Pursue the CSAC (California State Association of Counties) position to oppose legislation that would jeopardize local jurisdictions from collecting franchise fees.
- X. Join CSAC (California State Association of Counties) in opposing legislation that would negatively impact local jurisdictions from generating revenue from franchise fees.
- XI. Support increased State resources to fund programs to secure the protection, conservation and long-term viability of agricultural lands and uses.

Indian Gaming

- I. Support legislation to modify the distribution of the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund giving priority to counties to mitigate off-reservation impacts of Indian gaming.
- II. Encourage the State to open compact negotiations with tribal governments to adequately address the economic, social, environmental, health, safety, and other impacts on counties, and to provide enforceable mechanisms to prevent or mitigate impacts.
- III. Encourage the State to provide timely access to Special Distribution Fund allocations to allow maximum utilization.
- IV. Support legislation that would oppose reservation shopping for new Indian Gaming.
- V. Support legislation that would oppose the expansion of current Indian gaming facilities and opposes new development of Indian casinos.

Elections

- I. Support legislation to exclude Permanent Absentee Voters from the calculation of the maximum 1,000 registered voters per precinct.
- II. Support legislation that eliminates the requirement that counties bear the cost of special Statewide elections.

Resources

- I. Support efforts to ensure preservation of local groundwater management authority.
- II. Support State funding for water supply-related projects and construction of new water storage projects giving priority to areas experiencing long-term groundwater overdraft.
- III. Support efforts to bring additional water supplies to the County by:
 1. addressing overdraft and water availability problems through the support of water banking, groundwater recharge and construction of water recycling facilities and infrastructure;
 2. supporting the construction of new water storage reservoirs, including construction of a new dam at Temperance Flats on the San Joaquin River, when there is a benefit to Fresno County and the reservoir is shown to be technically, environmentally and economically feasible;
 3. support State investment in research and technology that increases water utilization efficiency in agriculture and municipal uses; and
 4. supporting efforts that ensure that the water supply is in balance with the needs of agriculture, projected growth, and fish and wildlife, while enhancing the recreational opportunities of the County.
 5. Support funding of statewide flood management systems to avoid adverse effects on Fresno County urban and irrigation water supplies.
- IV. Support changes to Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) provisions to protect communities and areas from which Central Valley Project (CVP) water is being transferred via contract reassignments by affording the same protection to impacted areas as contained within CVPIA for water transfers.
- V. Support legislation or regulations that base drinking water standards on sound scientific data; provides maximum health protection at reasonable cost; and allows jurisdictions to target remediation resources at the most significant system problems.
- VI. Support efforts to require State water management programs to protect the economy and water resources of the potentially impacted county prior to the movement (i.e., transfer, contract assignment, redistribution, etc.) of water out of a county experiencing long-term groundwater overdraft.
- VII. Support legislation that requires the installation of water meters on residences and businesses served by community or public water systems.
- VIII. Support legislation to promote a balance between conservation and economic impact; mitigate the economic impact that results from a species being added to

a list of endangered or threatened species; and, provide for waivers in the maintenance of County roadways when in the public's interest.

- IX. Promote legislation that assists local jurisdictions in achieving the provisions of clean air and in meeting regional air quality goals and standards by providing financial incentives to manufacturers and businesses involved in the construction and development of viable bio-mass power generation facilities.

Transportation

- I. Support legislation to amend the allocation formulas for transportation funding to increase the proportion of taxes allocated by formula based on miles of maintained road and to factor proportionate truck use into funding formulas.
- II. Support State legislation to pass through Federal Highway Trust Fund dollars to local agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, or Regional Transportation Planning Agencies.
- III. Support funding for improvements to State Route (SR) 99, and increase recognition of SR 99 as a transportation corridor of national importance.
- IV. Remove punitive deadline regulations for expenditure of State transportation funds that are subject to State delays as a result of extended review and approval processes.
- V. Encourage the State Department of Transportation to develop streamlined processes for environmental review, permitting, and project authorization, and support delegation of project compliance certification to capable local agencies.
- VI. Encourage improved passenger and freight service in the San Joaquin Valley, and support first-phase implementation of High Speed Rail that ties northern and southern California through the City of Fresno.
- VII. Encourage stable funding of State transportation infrastructure programs.
- VIII. Support inclusion of deliverable projects such as the SR 180 east.
- IX. Support State investment in San Joaquin Valley Trade Corridors and related projects to address effective Statewide goods movement and economic and air quality concerns of the San Joaquin Valley.

Agriculture

- I. Support legislation that provides increased or continued funding for pest prevention and high-risk exclusion programs that protect County resources and industry from damage by pests not native to California or Fresno County.
- II. Encourage the State to develop safe and economical means for disposal of agricultural drainage.
- III. Support legislation that maintains or enhances funding for County pesticide regulatory and law enforcement activities Statewide.
- IV. Support legislation that creates and funds a State retail price scanner inspection program performed by County Sealers of Weights and Measures at full cost recovery.

- V. Support continued State funding of the Cooperative Extension.
- VI. Support legislation that creates incentives for agriculture to install co-generation and anaerobic digester electrical power generation facilities, including requiring utility companies to purchase excess electricity from agricultural co-generation and anaerobic electrical power generation facilities.
- VII. Support legislation that recasts the distribution of funds transferred to the California Department of Food and Agriculture Fund from the Motor Vehicle Fuel Account as reimbursement for state and county expenses incurred in carrying out various agricultural programs and sets criteria for the reimbursement to counties for expenses incurred in carrying out various agricultural programs.

Administration of Justice/Public Safety

- I. Support justice funding allocation methods that recognize the inter-dependence of departments within the justice system and account for all related activities (investigation and apprehension of criminals, prosecution, indigent defense, probation services, incarceration, and coroner services).
- II. Support juvenile justice legislation that maximizes flexibility in funding and minimizes mandates, thereby supporting local efforts to develop and implement innovative juvenile justice programs.
- III. Support legislation which rewards cooperation among local law enforcement agencies, including pilot projects that integrate the service delivery activities of State, City, and County agencies sharing similar missions.
- IV. Support legislation placing financial responsibility with the State for justice/detention services, training, and facilities that are mandated and prescribed by State law, including State prisoner investigation and prosecution costs.
- V. Support legislation which will provide State funding for physical improvements and new construction needed at County jails, juvenile facilities, coroner facilities, and justice service administrative and support facilities.
- VI. Support legislative changes to the California Rules of Court, Rule 810 to include all court-related costs that are currently paid by counties.
- VII. Support legislation that limits the financial burden placed on counties for juveniles sentenced by the courts to the California Youth Authority.
- VIII. Support legislation to fund prevention and intervention programs with the long-range goal of reducing costs in the juvenile and adult justice systems.
- IX. Support adequate funding of support services (i.e., mental health, substance abuse) that facilitate the decline in recidivism for juveniles and adults in the justice system.
- X. Support legislation that encourages the use of alternative programs that expedite the settling of cases and the provision of restitution to victims of crime while ensuring offender accountability (Restorative Justice).
- XI. Support an increase in the State funding allocation for local ranch camp beds that correspond with an increase in the number of beds available Statewide.

- XII. Support the restoration of funding for the Standards and Training for Corrections (STC) program to local jurisdictions.
- XIII. Support legislation that restores and maintains Cal-MMET grant funding.
- XIV. Support legislation to establish a Statewide booking fee formula based on actual cost, and to implement booking fees for juvenile detention facilities.
- XV. Support legislation that would provide a viable fire protection system for unincorporated areas by assuming a stable revenue source.
- XVI. Seek funding for County gang prevention, intervention and suppression programs.
- XVII. Seek legislation to relieve jail standards for the housing of inmates.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

- I. Support legislation that limits the administrative fees the State may take from Federal Homeland Security funds, and advocate for the timely allocation of funds to local jurisdictions.
- II. Advocate for funding allocations that recognize the importance of the San Joaquin Valley's agricultural industry to the State economy, and consider the possibility of agro-terrorism.
- III. Support increased Homeland Security funding designated for training and first-responder personnel.
- IV. Advocate for funding allocations that recognize the regional responsibility of Fresno County's public safety agencies in providing mutual aid to surrounding communities.
- V. Support increased Homeland Security funding for interoperability communications.

Human Services

- I. Support legislation which will ensure that Fresno County residents receive health, mental health, and welfare services commensurate with those received by residents of other counties in the State at no increased cost to Fresno County.
- II. Support the expansion of services covered, and reimbursement provided, by the Medi-Cal and Healthy Families programs to reduce overall costs to families and local governments.
- III. Improve financial assistance for locally-operated health, mental health, and welfare programs mandated by State and Federal governments and require that all newly-mandated programs or services be fully funded by State or Federal sources, with no County match required.
- IV. Support legislation that seeks to distribute available resources among counties based upon standards of need appropriate to the program, and requires the State to maintain specified funding levels for programs thereby allowing additional Federal dollars to be allocated to local government to improve and expand services.

- V. Support legislation and regulatory guidelines which facilitate and fully fund County administration of State-mandated health, mental health, substance abuse and welfare programs, and which promote efficiency by removing unnecessary administrative burdens.
- VI. Support legislation to provide financial support to counties that participate in managed care delivery networks of public health, mental health and substance abuse services.
- VII. Support legislation that would clarify for counties that local health departments are authorized to maintain electronic record-keeping systems to store patient records, and that the use of electronic signatures complies with State requirements to protect the safety and integrity of patient records.
- VIII. Support legislation that establishes a coordinated system of results-oriented accountability for all human services agencies, including the introduction of outcome measures.
- IX. Support legislation to reduce the County share of IHSS costs by increasing reimbursement for services and developing strategies to address cost controls.
- X. Support State funding to increase the number of bilingual/bicultural professionals in the areas of education, health and welfare by providing stipends, tutors and incentives to employers providing field experience.
- XI. Support legislation to increase State funding to counties for vouchers, housing subsidies and rental assistance for individuals with disabilities resulting from physical, mental health and/or substance abuse illnesses.
- XII. Provide tax benefits to builders and developers willing to build or rehabilitate real estate that can provide emergency, transitional and permanent supportive housing for individuals with mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders.
- XIII. Support legislation and funding for counties to open and operate rural clinics at full capacity.
- XIV. Support legislation to allow MAA (Medi-Cal Administrative Activities) reimbursement for peer support services to consumers.
- XV. Support legislation to increase subvention for counties from California Department of Veteran Affairs (CDVA) to the \$5 million provided for in Military and Veterans Code 972.1.
- XVI. Advocate State support and funding for the establishment of an emergency shelter and temporary housing program in Fresno County to serve female veterans and homeless veterans in need of supportive services and transition assistance.

Health Care

- I. Support legislation that promotes and funds disease prevention and health promotion services.
- II. Support legislation that improves access to quality health care among rural and impoverished communities with no added cost to counties.

- III. Support legislation that increases the number and availability of qualified physicians, nursing and other health care professionals through individual incentives such as tuition subsidies and loan repayment as well as economic incentives to health care delivery systems.
- IV. Ensure protections for the health care safety net provided by counties as providers of last resort.
- V. Advocate State support for an adequate number of long-term care beds for the frail elderly, indigent, and under-insured medical patients; housing for the elderly; and intermediate housing.
- VI. Support legislation to assure that any State health care policy replacing the California Health Care for Indigent Program (CHIP) provides the County with offsetting replacement revenues. Also, support legislation to preserve and enhance Proposition 99 funding for CHIP; oppose the diversion of Proposition 99 funding from CHIP without offsetting alternative resources.
- VII. Support legislation that increases State Medi-Cal payments to County's operating local managed care Medi-Cal programs.
- VIII. Support legislation that increases or improves reimbursement to physicians and hospitals for uncompensated emergency healthcare provided to the medically indigent or those unable to pay.
- IX. Support legislation and funding for research on the impact of air quality on the health of San Joaquin Valley residents.
- X. Pursue legislation and support funding to expand medical student and resident physician training to meet the primary and specialty care needs of San Joaquin Valley residents.

Public Health

- I. Support legislation that increases the capacity of local public health jurisdictions to prevent, report, investigate and control the spread of communicable disease.
- II. Support legislation that enhances notification and communication between local, state and federal agencies to expedite the detection, investigation and control of zoonotic, nosocomial, community acquired and terrorist instigated infectious diseases.
- III. Support legislation that prohibits State granting departments from requiring a local match as a condition for receipt of grant funds, and requires grants to allow full reimbursement of indirect costs (consistent with federal laws and regulations).
- IV. Support legislation that creates the position of State Public Health Nursing Director in the new Department of Public Health.
- V. Support legislation that increases state and local public health laboratory infrastructure, workforce, technology and authority to provide comprehensive and efficient chemical, biologic, radiologic, microbial and environmental laboratory testing services at the local and regional level.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- I. Support legislation that maintains County Board of Supervisors oversight of EMS; provides for regional EMS governance at local discretion; and provides a linkage between authority and fiscal responsibility.
- II. Support legislation that ensures that rural EMS service levels are consistent with the surrounding communities and are protected from the influences of population centers as it relates to EMS policies and resource allocations.
- III. Support the State distribution of Federal emergency services and bioterrorism funding to local governments in a manner that achieves maximum allocation and flexibility for local utilization.
- IV. Support legislation that provides funding and support for designated trauma centers.
- V. Support the maintenance and increase of State funding for regional EMS systems.
- VI. Oppose any legislation that would decrease or eliminate the authority and responsibilities of the Local EMS Agencies.

Mental Health

- I. Support legislation and regulations which allow blending at the local level of mental health, substance abuse and other applicable funds to better treat individuals with co-occurring disorders.
- II. Support legislation that would increase funding for support, self-help, treatment, housing, training, and educational and vocational services to mentally ill transition age youth and persons with a mental illness.
- III. Support legislation that promotes mental health “wellness and recovery” and access to services at no increased cost to counties.
- IV. Support legislation that provides State revenues for adequate placement beds for indigent and underinsured mental health clients.
- V. Monitor and support legislation that provides a revenue source to finance client prescriptions and co-pays related to Medicare Part D coverage for persons with serious mental illness.
- VI. Support legislation for private, non-profit or State funded inpatient psychiatric facilities for children and adolescents located in the Central Valley.
- VII. Support legislation for funded treatment of women experiencing perinatal depression.

Substance Abuse

- I. Support legislation that realigns drug and alcohol services so as to link local control and a stable/growing revenue source.
- II. Support legislation that allocates funds for Substance Abuse programs based on a poverty/population methodology.

- II. Support legislation and regulations for funded treatment of parents experiencing perinatal substance abuse and for funded treatment of children prenatally exposed to substance abuse.
- III. Support legislation that provides Substance Abuse treatment eligibility for insurance coverage in the same manner as other medical care, including annual lifetime limits for benefits that include unlimited inpatient days covered in full and unlimited outpatient visits with a co-payment.
- V. Support increased Substance Abuse funding to improve the recruitment and retention of qualified staff; to increase service capacity and decrease waiting lists for residential treatment programs; and to enable renovation of existing facilities and construction of new facilities.
- VI. Support expansion of the range of benefits funded by Drug Medi-Cal to include all modalities for Medi-Cal recipients.

Employment Services and Temporary Assistance

- I. Support legislation that would hold counties harmless for implementation of State-only requirements that result in Federal sanctions; oppose legislation that requires counties to share in Federal sanctions.
- II. Oppose legislation that negatively impacts County earned program incentive funds (i.e., CalWORKs Performance Incentive Funds, State Fraud Incentives).
- III. Support legislation that fully funds State and Federal mandated automation projects (i.e., Electronic Benefit Transfer, CalWIN); oppose mandated requirements that do not consider the costs of modifying computer technology to implement.
- IV. Oppose legislation that requires a county share of cost for the Medi-Cal Program administration and benefits.
- V. Support legislation that provides full funding for CalWORKs Administration and Employment Services, and Restoration of Performance Incentives.
- VI. Oppose legislation that would dedicate a portion of the CalWORKs allocation to welfare fraud (CalWORKs, Food Stamps) activities at the county level; support legislation that increases the CalWORKs allocation to provide additional funding for welfare fraud activities.
- VII. Support legislation that mandates annual funding to counties for administration of social services programs at the levels determined by Section 10507 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- VIII. Support legislation that funds Linkages, the collaborative effort between Child Welfare Services and CalWORKs, to provide supportive services to CalWORKs parents attempting to reunify with their children.
- IX. Support legislation that would increase Adult Protective Services' funding for administrative costs due to programmatic requirements and the resulting increased work load (e.g., mandatory reporting for financial institutions when financial abuse of elder and dependant adults is suspected).
- X. Support legislation that would streamline the application process for health benefits (One E-App), provide interface between One E-App and CalWIN, require

cooperation between counties and the State's Healthy Families vendor, and provide the funding for all related costs.

- XI. Support legislation that transitions and funds Social Services program records to a digital format, including signatures.

Workforce Development

- I. Promote the gainful employment of public assistance recipients by continuing to support the effective administration of the CalWORKs program, and other legislative efforts which would further improve those goals.
- II. Support legislation that allows employment related funds (such as CalWORKs, Workforce Investment Act, and Welfare-to-Work) to be used in job creation or economic development activities that address the lack of job opportunities for the unemployed.
- III. Support efforts to assist CalWORKs, working poor and the unemployed with necessary supportive services (e.g., childcare, employment counseling, housing, upgrading skills, health care) to continue on the path to complete self-reliance.
- IV. Support efforts of the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board and the Department of Employment and Temporary Assistance in seeking state funding for training and placement of workers.

Children Services

- I. Support legislation that would increase State funding for Child Welfare Services.
- II. Support legislation which provides State funding to enhance prevention, early intervention and family preservation services and accelerate permanency planning for children in out-of-home care without jeopardizing funds necessary to finance ongoing crisis services.
- III. Encourage and support State-funded services to prevent abuse and neglect, thereby reducing the need for out-of-home care.
- IV. Oppose any increased share of cost for EPSDT program.
- V. Support legislation that increases transitional housing opportunities for emancipating foster youth.
- VI. Support the equitable distribution of the Basic Child Welfare Allocation and all augmentations.

Public Sector Employment

- I. Support legislation that creates a fair and balanced workers compensation system for both employers and employees with an emphasis on cost containment and returning employees to work as soon as possible; oppose legislation that puts either the employer or employee at a disadvantage or increases the cost of workers compensation insurance in the State.
- II. Support legislative efforts to prevent the imposition of binding arbitration on collective bargaining between local government and its certified employee organizations.

- III. Support legislation that creates a fair and balanced system for employees to vote an agency shop provision in or out; fully fund and staff PERB and State Mediation and Conciliation Services to meet the local government employee relations needs.
- IV. Oppose legislation that imposes wage and hour provisions on local governments that are inconsistent with FLSA, or that removes the right of local governments to negotiate these provisions through the collective bargaining process (e.g., 8-hour overtime rule).
- V. Support legislation to clarify that IHSS providers are State employees for purposes of mandatory benefits coverage; oppose legislation that imposes additional mandated benefits or costs to counties for IHSS providers without appropriate funding, or detracts from the collective bargaining process at the local level.
- VI. Support legislation that eliminates and prevents inconsistencies in eligibility for employee benefits and protections mandated by the State (e.g., domestic partner issues and conflicts with CFLA, family leave, Cal COBRA; workers comp).
- VII. Support legislation that revamps the definition of disabled for purposes of the 1937 Act related to criteria for a disability retirement, to be more aligned with federal or CALPERS definition.
- VIII. Support legislation that provides funding or incentives for training and placing displaced workers.
- IX. Support legislation to change employment disability-related payments in a manner that eliminates an incentive to remain off work.

Library

- I. Support legislation that will increase funding for the Public Library Foundation program to the statutory level.
- II. Support legislation that gives public libraries convenient and low cost access to the Information Super Highway.
- III. Support legislation to provide funding which promotes library resource sharing (e.g., California Libraries Services Act/Library of California Act).
- IV. Oppose efforts at the State level to enact legislation that imposes non-negotiable or standard form licenses, which allow no input into terms of usage, for computer software and on-line databases.
- V. Support additional bond act funding for construction of public libraries.
- VI. Support funding for other initiatives of the California State Library such as "California Civil Liberties Public Education Program and the California Cultural and Historical Endowment.
- VII. Support funding for digital preservation through State Library administered Library Services and Technology Act or other funding sources.
- VIII. Support legislation for facilities and technology related to historical archives.