



California State Association of Counties®

2024 Policy Committee Priorities

As Adopted by the CSAC Board of Directors on November 16, 2023

Administration of Justice

- **Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Growth Cap and Penalty Program**
Counties must now adhere to an IST growth cap and penalty process, which establishes a cap on the number of IST commitments from each county; CSAC will continue to support local planning efforts for counties facing a penalty, as well as advocate for additional changes to DSH's growth cap and penalty program that better reflect the shared goal of reducing the number of individuals who are deemed IST.
- **Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Realignment Implementation**
CSAC will continue to focus on funding to protect county interests and advocate for legislation that prevents additional barriers to successful DJJ implementation; the focus will be policies and budget investments that help ensure the delivery of individualized services and specialized treatment necessary for rehabilitation, reentry, and positive youth outcomes.

Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources

- **Emergency Preparedness**
CSAC staff will advocate for appropriate state, federal and local emergency support and planning, funding for emergency management planning, and aid for all community residents affected by disasters.
- **Organic Waste**
The world of organic waste collection is rapidly changing as local government race to keep up with the regulation's ambitious timelines. CSAC plans to make SB 1383 cleanup, reform, and funding a legislative priority in 2024. To ensure maximum success we will partner with other stakeholders including other local government organizations as well as environmental and industry advocates.
- **Permit Streamlining**
CSAC will continue to build upon these permits streamlining successes to develop permanent actions that improve county water, flood and environmental restoration projects while reducing the amount of time it takes to obtain state permits.

Government Finance and Administration

➤ **Protecting Local Revenues and Fiscal Sustainability**

CSAC will continue to advocate against exclusions to property or sales and use taxes that reduce vital county revenue and fight to ensure the will of the voters is protected so communities can decide their own futures; CSAC will resist any action by the state to further divert local revenue streams to bridge the state's budget deficits.

➤ **State Imposed Mandate Reimbursement Reform and Debt Repayment**

CSAC will renew efforts to secure repayment of the remaining debt owed to counties and will actively work to review the current mandate reimbursement system, identify potential alternatives to establish greater payment security, and reduce the potential for future payment backlogs.

➤ **Workers' Compensation**

CSAC will oppose efforts to create new presumptions and to expand existing presumptions without data-driven evidence that the current system is unjust; CSAC will educate policymakers about how the workers' compensation system operates.

Health and Human Services

➤ **AT HOME (Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation, Economic Opportunity)**

Grounded in the AT HOME plan, CSAC will continue advocacy to address the state's homelessness crisis.

➤ **Funding and Technical Assistance to Implement New Health and Behavioral Health Initiatives**

CSAC will advocate for funding and technical assistance for implementation of the CARE Act; CSAC will ensure counties receive adequate funding and technical assistance through the continued CalAIM initiative. CSAC will support ongoing advocacy to ensure counties receive sustained funding and resources as the numerous new behavioral health related initiatives go live.

➤ **IHSS (In-Home Supportive Services)**

CSAC will actively participate in the stakeholder process with CDSS as they analyze the costs and benefits of shifting IHSS collective bargaining to the state.

➤ **Early Childhood and Childcare**

CSAC will engage in efforts to enhance advocacy around early childhood and childcare.

Housing, Land Use and Transportation

➤ **Construction and Preservation of Affordable Housing**

CSAC will continue to support efforts to sustainably expand the responsible construction and preservation of housing that is affordable to our community members.

➤ **Advancement of Local Land Use Decisions**

The promotion of the role of counties in effective land use decisions is critical, and CSAC will continue advocacy that recognizes local realities, infrastructure needs and available resources.

➤ **County-Driven Solutions for a Reasonably Balanced Transportation System**

CSAC will engage in efforts that lead to reasonable solutions which appropriately balance addressing the climate impact of county transportation and vehicle fleets within available resources.

Federal Priorities

➤ **Resilience**

CSAC will continue to pursue additional investments in key pre-disaster mitigation and resiliency initiatives and will continue to work with our congressional partners and other stakeholders on much-needed reforms to FEMA disaster preparedness and response programs. CSAC will engage with the federal government on how to effectively address the availability and affordability of wildfire insurance.

➤ **Housing and Homelessness**

CSAC will continue to work with members of the California congressional delegation, a number of whom have championed a series of association-supported housing and homelessness initiatives. CSAC also will work to protect and enhance funding for key housing and homelessness programs administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

➤ **Rural Development and Public Lands**

CSAC will continue to advocate for a robust rural development title. CSAC will support efforts to enhance wildfire protection, preparedness, and forest resiliency. CSAC will advocate for a long-term reauthorization of both the Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program and the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program.

➤ **Protecting and Strengthening the Social Safety Net**

- CSAC will continue to work with allies to protect county administered safety-net programs, including Medicaid/Medi-Cal, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF/CalWORKs), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh), child welfare, mental and behavioral health, and other important programs that support vulnerable populations.