



COUNTY OF EL DORADO, CALIFORNIA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject: COUNTY LEGISLATIVE POLICY	Policy Number: A-4	Page Number: 1 of 3
	Originally Adopted: 09/10/1991	Last Revised Date: 08/18/2026

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enable the Board of Supervisors and Departments to support, oppose, or provide comment, through letters and/or testimony, on federal and state legislation that could significantly impact El Dorado County's finances and/or programs. This policy ensures that El Dorado County's legislative advocacy is consistent in messaging, made in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Office, and performed according to the Board of Supervisors' Federal and State Legislative Priorities.

II. POLICY

- A. In general, the County seeks to preserve local discretion over programs and funding, maximize federal and state funding, oppose unfunded mandates and maintenance of effort requirements, and oppose any further erosion of the County's revenue base.
- B. Every two years and in conjunction with the two-year State legislative calendar, the Chief Administrative Office will present proposed Federal and State Legislative Priorities (Priorities) to the Board for approval. The Board-adopted Priorities are intended to guide positions and decisions on federal and state legislation and agency regulations given by the Board and Department Heads. The Priorities are presented to the Board by December 31 (every two-years) in non-election years; and by January 31 in election years (every two-years). This ensures that the new Board members in office have a chance to vote.
- C. The Chief Administrative Office or Department Heads, after consulting with the Chief Administrative Office, may send position letters or comments on state and federal legislation and agency regulations:
 - a. Without returning to the Board, if the position letters or comments are in line with the Board-adopted Priorities. Any letters or comments will be sent to all Board members after submission.
 - b. After returning to the Board, if the position letters or comments fall outside of the Board-adopted Priorities. Position letters or comments must be sponsored by two Board members.
- D. Positions on federal or state legislation shall be made via official letters on Board of Supervisors' or Department letterhead based on Chief Administrative Office determination.
- E. Correspondence from Department Heads to legislators, or committee staff, shall be discussed in advance with the Chief Administrative Office and consistent with Legislative Priorities. Inappropriate correspondence with a legislator or staff member could have a negative effect far beyond the specific issue and could potentially affect the County's entire legislative agenda. A copy of all correspondence with members of the administration or legislature, concerning legislation, should be provided to the Chief Administrative Office.



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- F. Positions on voter-initiated legislation such as propositions or local measures should be avoided unless the voter-initiated legislation directly and significantly impacts County programs and/or funding. Official positions on voter-initiated legislation shall only be adopted at an open and public meeting of the Board of Supervisors.
- G. Positions on legislation are to be given officially and judiciously. Support or opposition should not be over-used, in that to the degree the county is seen as supporting or opposing virtually everything, the County position is subsequently devalued on critical issues. Positions on legislation should be given on legislation which specifically, rather than generally, affect the County.
- H. Positions on legislative bills are made on the current version of the bill based on the date of the letter. If a position is given and the bill is later amended, the Chief Administrative Office will review the amendments and determine if the County's position should be updated and/or rescinded.
- I. While county personnel may offer testimony before the California Legislature or Federal or State regulatory agencies or commissions, it should be done both sparingly and generally on legislation/issues upon which the County has adopted a position. Testimony must be consistent with the County's Priorities. Before offering testimony on topics and issues of general concern, the proposed testimony will be discussed with the Chief Administrative Office to assure it is generally consistent with the County's overall interests.
- J. Legislation can be brought to the Chief Administrative Office's attention by Board members or by individual department representatives. Any background data that can be identified as relevant should be given to the Chief Administrative Office.
- K. County employees acting in their official capacity should not express a position (e.g., support, opposition, concerns) on legislation or policy matters contrary to the County's official position. County employees should contact the Chief Administrative Office with questions in this area.

III. RESPONSIBLE DEPARTMENT(S)

All



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IV. DATES (ADOPTED, REVISED, NEXT REVIEW)

Originally Adopted:	09/10/1991		
Last Revision:	08/18/2026	Next Review:	08/18/2030