

LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLATFORM FOR 2026

The following reflects those legislative matters on which the Board of Directors majority authorizes the Board President and General Manager to engage in legislative advocacy on behalf of the District. Per the District's Legislative Advocacy Policy, the Board's authorization extends only to advocacy for or against generally applicable legislative proposals being considered by local, regional, state and/or federal policy makers or regulators and does not extend to advocacy on any other matter unless specifically noted herein.

Revenue, Finances and Taxation

1. Supporting meaningful fiscal reform that allows each level of government to adequately finance its service responsibilities while continuing to support efforts to protect the District from loss of revenues due to State take-aways and unfunded State or Federal mandates. Emphasis should be placed on the ongoing suspension of recognized mandates, the flawed reimbursement process, and the evolving interpretations of subvention eligibility by the Commission on State Mandates.
2. Opposing initiatives that unduly burden and/or prohibit local government ability to support essential services to the community.
3. Support opportunities that allow the district to compete for its fair share of regional, state, and federal funding, and that maintain funding streams. Opportunities may include competitive grant and funding programs. Opportunities may also include dedicated funding streams at the regional, state, or federal levels that allow the district to maximize local revenues, offset and leverage capital expenditures, and maintain district goals and standards.
4. Engage with the Legislature, Administration, CalOES, other State agencies as appropriate, and Congress to ensure coordination and collaboration on efforts related to climate adaptation and resiliency, emergency response and disaster preparedness, and other issues, to promote equal funding considerations for special districts.
5. Support the protection and preservation special districts' property tax allocations and revenue authority, including, but not limited to, capacity and connection charges, development impact fees and Quimby or other "in- lieu- fees."

Human Resources and Personnel

1. Supporting California Special Districts Association positions on human resources issues such as workers' compensation reforms, pension and retiree health benefits reform efforts and other related initiatives.
2. Engage with the CalPERS Board and Legislature on pension issues to ensure the integrity of the CalPERS Fund, and seek opportunities to provide special districts with additional tools to address rising pension costs.

Infrastructure, Innovation and Investment

1. Supporting increased availability of grant funding to replace aging infrastructure of all

types, e.g. water, parks, and storm sewer systems, etc.

2. Supporting increased funding for flood protection, clean storm water and low impact infrastructure projects.
3. Supporting cooperation and prompt approval from Federal and State regulatory agencies (such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Fish & Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board) for necessary projects involving District projects.
4. Supporting water conservation best management practices.
5. Supporting the expansion of recycled water production and use.
6. Supporting the protection of water resources.
7. Supporting regional water resiliency initiatives.
8. Supporting federal and statewide funding of water infrastructure projects.

Governance and Accountability

1. Enhance special districts' ability to govern as independent, local government bodies in an open and accessible manner. Encourage best practices that avoid burdensome, costly, redundant or one-size-fits all approaches. Protect meaningful public participation in local agency formations, dissolutions, and reorganizations, and ensure local services meet the unique needs, priorities, and preferences of each community.
2. Oppose additional public meeting and records requirements that unnecessarily increase the burden on public resources without effectively fostering public engagement and enhancing accountability of government agencies.
3. Promote local-level solutions, decision-making, and management concerning service delivery and governance structures while upholding voter control and maintaining LAFCO authority over local government jurisdictional reorganizations and/or consolidations.

Climate Adaptation and Community Resiliency

1. Support policies, legislation and partnerships with stakeholders to achieve common goals for all disaster-impacted and disaster-prone areas within special districts including:
 - Wildfire Mitigation Management
 - Drought Impacts
 - Extreme Weather Events
 - Cybersecurity
 - Emergency Preparedness