

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
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Martinez, California 94553

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Contra Costa County



Monica Nino
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 655-2075

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1001 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1768 (Bryan): Transactions and use taxes: Counties of Contra Costa and Los Angeles. – REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, I write to express our strong support for AB 1768, authored by Assemblymember Bryan. This bill would raise the statutory cap on transactions and use taxes for Los Angeles and Contra Costa Counties in recognition of the unique fiscal pressures both counties are experiencing. In Contra Costa County, the bill would allow the electorate to consider adopting a five-year, 0.625% general-purpose transactions and use tax, subject to all existing limitations and voter-approval requirements.

Importantly, AB 1768 does not alter the requirement that any new or additional transactions and use tax must be approved by the voters. Contra Costa County intends to place such a measure on the June 2, 2026 ballot. We therefore respectfully request your prompt approval of this legislation so voters may have the opportunity to consider this option.

The measure authorized by AB 1768 would provide Contra Costa County with a critical tool to generate general-purpose revenue needed to sustain essential services during a five-year period of significant fiscal strain. This strain arises from sudden reductions in federal support and the imposition of new, unfunded responsibilities resulting from H.R. 1 (Pub. L. No. 119-21). These federal policy changes will eliminate health care and food security programs for millions of vulnerable Californians while shifting substantial costs and administrative obligations to counties. In Contra Costa alone, an estimated 93,000 residents are at risk of losing health coverage.

Counties like ours—and the people we serve—will be disproportionately affected because of the breadth of services we provide. Contra Costa operates a public hospital and nine community clinics, conducts eligibility and enrollment work, and delivers essential safety-net programs. Each of these responsibilities will carry new unfunded demands while existing resources diminish.

Without the ability to act locally, the consequences of these federal actions will be severe: reduced service levels, job losses, disruptions to the health care delivery system, and wider impacts across the regional economy. The County is committed to carefully balancing its fiduciary responsibilities with its obligation to provide critical services. The five-year flexibility provided by AB 1768 will allow us to respond to these challenges in a thoughtful and responsible manner while working to mitigate harm to our community.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your signature on AB 1768. This legislation will give Contra Costa residents the choice to help sustain essential programs—particularly health care and food security—during this period of transition. We appreciate your leadership during these challenging times and value our continued partnership with the State as we work together on behalf of our constituents.

Sincerely,



DIANE BURGIS
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer