



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY Legislation Committee

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Monday, December 9, 2024

2:30 PM 2255 Contra Costa Blvd., Suite 202, Pleasant Hill | 3361 Walnut Boulevard, Suite 140, Brentwood, CA 94513

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Zoom Link: [https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/87266722459?](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/87266722459?pwd=59bKQAFm3BTv0hyjIZpT3y5aYp4vij.1)

[pwd=59bKQAFm3BTv0hyjIZpT3y5aYp4vij.1](https://cccounty-us.zoom.us/j/87266722459?pwd=59bKQAFm3BTv0hyjIZpT3y5aYp4vij.1)

Password: 851202 // Conference code: 832395 // Meeting ID: 872 6672 2459

Dial: USA 8882780254 (US Toll Free)

**The public may attend this meeting in person at either above location. The public may also attend this meeting remotely via Zoom or call-in.**

Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee.

### 1. Introductions

Chair Burgis convened the Legislation Committee at 2:30 PM from her office. Vice Chair Carlson joined from his office. No members of the public were in attendance at either in-person location.

#### Attendees included:

Lara DeLaney and Emlyn Struthers, staff to Committee  
Peter Myers, District III staff  
Colleen Awad, District IV staff  
Carol Mascali, District II staff  
Monica Nino, County Administrator  
Timothy Ewell, Chief Assistant County Administrator  
Marla Stuart, EHSD Director  
Tamina Alon and Maura Connell, EHSD  
John Cunningham and Ryan Hernandez Department of Conservation and Development  
Rhonda Smith, Health Services  
Steve Kowalewski, Public Works  
Mackenzie Whipps, First 5 Contra Costa  
Geoff Neill and Michelle Rubalcava, Nielsen Merksamer  
Jim Davenport and Paul Schlesinger, Thorn Run Partners  
Brandon Azevedo  
Laura Powell  
Van Rainey

2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two (2) minutes).

No public comments were made on this item.

3. RECEIVE and APPROVE the Meeting Minutes for the September 23, 2024 meeting of the Legislation Committee, with any necessary corrections. [24-4216](#)

**Attachments:** [Draft Meeting Minutes 09.23.24](#)

The record of action for the September 23, 2024 meeting of the Legislation Committee was approved as presented. No public comments were made on this item.

4. RECEIVE a report on the state legislature's special session, state budget, and November 2024 election results and provide direction and/or input, as needed. [24-4221](#)

**Attachments:** [Attachment A: 2025-26 Fiscal-Outlook](#)  
[Attachment B: 2024 General Election Final Results - 2024-12-05](#)

The County's state advocates provided an update to the Committee on the state legislative session and a preview of notable issue for the upcoming session. For the past session, it was noted that over 2,500 bills were introduced in the past year, with about half making it through the Legislature and to the Governor's desk. Of those bills, 15% were vetoed. For the upcoming 2025-2026 session, new members were sworn in on December 2, and a significant proportion of the Legislature statewide are new to their roles, bringing with them new policy ideas, priorities, and potentially leadership. Messages and trends for the next session include the cost of living and affordability. For the state budget, the upcoming year is anticipated to be relatively steady, although budgetary shortfalls are projected in the next two to three years. No public comments were made on this item.

5. RECEIVE a report on state and federal matters of interest to the County and provide direction and/or input as needed. [24-4217](#)

**Attachments:** [Attachment A: Federal Update 12.04.24](#)

This item was specific to federal updates, as state updates were covered in the previous item. The County's federal advocates provided an update to the Committee on current federal issues, including the status of the FY25 appropriations bills. Congress will return to pass a short-term continuing resolution for funding the government later in December. The County submitted seven projects that members sponsored in the FY25 draft appropriations bills, totaling around \$8 million, that our advocates will continue to track. Protecting the Delta continues to be a top issue, with several federal agencies engaging in efforts related to isolated conveyance. Newly-elected California Senator Schiff was sworn in earlier on the meeting date (12/9/24) alongside the new Senator from New Jersey. Several potential changes in committee House committee assignments were also discussed, with several of Contra Costa's representatives in contention to become Ranking Members on relevant subcommittees. No public comments were received on this item.

6. REVIEW the Draft 2025-26 State Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff, and recommend the adoption of a Proposed 2025-26 State Legislative Platform by the Board of Supervisors. [24-4218](#)

**Attachments:**            [Attachment A: 2025-26 DRAFT State Platform - Redline](#)  
[Attachment B: 2025-26 DRAFT State Platform - Clean Version](#)  
[Attachment C: OES Platform Feedback](#)

Two public comments were received on this item, from Laura Powell and Brandon Azevedo. Committee staff Emlyn Struthers provided background on the development process and major changes proposed to the State Legislative Platform. Chair Burgis and Vice Chair Carlson provided direction and edits, including support for incorporating the Office of Emergency Services proposed edits in the draft platforms (see attachment). Feedback was also provided to incorporate policy statements to address unleaded aviation fuel and to improve interoperability of public safety radio systems. Direction was provided to incorporate these changes and refer the platform to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in January 2025.

7. REVIEW the Draft 2024-25 Federal Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff, and recommend the adoption of a Proposed 2025-26 Federal Legislative Platform by the Board of Supervisors. [24-4219](#)

**Attachments:**            [Attachment A: 2025-26 DRAFT Federal Platform - Redline](#)  
[Attachment B: 2025-26 DRAFT Federal Platform - Clean Version](#)  
[Attachment C: OES Platform Feedback](#)

One public comment was received on this item, from Laura Powell. Committee staff Emlyn Struthers provided background on the development process and major changes proposed to the Federal Legislative Platform. Chair Burgis and Vice Chair Carlson provided direction and edits, including support for incorporating the Office of Emergency Services proposed edits in the draft platforms (see attachment). Feedback was also provided to incorporate policy statements to address unleaded aviation fuel and to improve interoperability of public safety radio systems. In the health care section, direction was provided to incorporate policy statements that support Medicare physician payment increases, legislation and administrative policy changes that will reduce Medicare administrative burdens, and expand Medicare Graduate Medical Education physician residency training positions to address the physician workforce shortage. Direction was provided to incorporate these changes and refer the platform to the Board of Supervisors for adoption in January 2025.

8. CONSIDER making a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that a six-month contract extension be executed with Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni LLP for state legislative and regulatory advocacy services, in order to align the contracts with the fiscal year and the federal advocacy contract. [24-4220](#)

The Committee directed that the six-month contract extension be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for approval, noting Nielsen Merksamer's record of providing excellent service to the County.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 27, 2025, pending the adoption of Committee assignments by the Board of Supervisors.

Staff note: Committee assignments were made by the Board of Supervisors in January 2025, and no Legislation Committee meeting was held on January 27, 2025.

## Adjourn

On the occasion of her last meeting as Committee staff, the Chair and Vice Chair acknowledged and thanked Senior Deputy County Administrator for her exemplary public service over the past twenty six years with the Contra Costa County Administrator's Office. The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 PM.

## General Information

This meeting provides reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend a the meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1025 Escobar St., 4th Floor, Martinez, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible on line at [www.co.contra-costa.ca.us](http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us).

### HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT:

Persons who wish to address the Committee during public comment on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee that are not on the agenda, or who wish to comment with respect to an item on the agenda, may comment in person, via Zoom, or via call-in. Those participating in person should offer comments when invited by the Committee Chair. Those participating via Zoom should indicate they wish to speak by using the “raise your hand” feature in the Zoom app. Those calling in should indicate they wish to speak by pushing \*9 on their phones.

Public comments generally will be limited to two (2) minutes per speaker.

Public comments may also be submitted to Committee staff before the meeting by email or by voicemail. Comments submitted by email or voicemail will be included in the record of the meeting but will not be read or played aloud during the meeting.

For Additional Information Contact:  
Emlyn Struthers, (925) 655-2045