



Legislative Bulletin

DRAFT

A Publication of the County Executive Office/Legislative Affairs

April 14, 2026
Item No. 37

County of Orange Positions on Proposed Legislation

The Legislative Bulletin provides the Board of Supervisors with analyses of measures pending in Sacramento and Washington that are of interest to the County. Staff provides recommended positions that fall within the range of policies established by the Board. According to the County of Orange Legislative Affairs Program Guidelines adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 25, 2022, staff recommendations for formal County positions on legislation will be agendized and presented in this document for Board action at regular Board of Supervisors meetings. When the Board takes formal action on a piece of legislation, the CEO will direct the County's legislative advocates to promote the individual bills as approved by the Board. The Legislative Bulletin also provides the Board of Supervisors with informative updates on State and Federal issues.

The 2025-2026 Legislative Platform was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on November 19, 2024.

On April 14, 2026, the Board of Supervisors will consider the following actions:

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- 1. SUPPORT – AB 1638 (Ta) County veterans service officers: additional resources.**
- 2. SUPPORT – AB 2309 (Bains) CalFresh Protection Act.**
- 3. SUPPORT – AB 2373 (Dixon) The California Coastal Act: local coastal program: sea level rise plan: neighborhood-scale adaptation approach.**
- 4. SUPPORT – AB 2562 (Dixon) Alcohol or other drug recovery and treatment programs and facilities: suicide prevention.**
- 5. SUPPORT – AB 2614 (Dixon) Public health: Body Brokering and Patient Referral Integrity Act.**
- 6. SUPPORT – SB 893 (Seyarto) State parks: facilities pass: Gold Star Family members.**
- 7. SUPPORT – SB 1040 (Choi) Veterans Cemetery Maintenance-Endowment Match Act.**
- 8. Receive and File Legislative Bulletin**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- 1. County Position Matrix: CEO-LA**
- 2. Sacramento Legislative Report**
- 3. Washington DC Legislative Report**

1. SUPPORT – AB 1638 (Ta) County veterans service officers: additional resources.

**CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs
Bill Analysis**



BILL NUMBER:	Assembly Bill (AB) 1638	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	Introduced: January 26, 2026
AUTHOR:	Assemblymember Tri Ta (AD – 70)		
SUBJECT:	County veterans service officers: additional resources.		
BILL SPONSOR:	N/A		
STATUS:	Assembly Appropriations Committee		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	CEO Legislative Affairs		
CEO-LA RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law:</u>	Current law authorizes each county board of supervisors to appoint a county veterans service officer and permits the county to provide the officer with any assistance and facilities that it determines to be necessary. Existing law requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to disburse funds, appropriated to the department for the purpose of supporting county veterans service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act, on a pro rata basis, to counties that comply with certain conditions.		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	This bill would, upon appropriation by the Legislature, provide a stipend to counties that host an active United States military base for the purposes of maintaining a county veterans service officer, at least part time, at each active United States military base in the county, subject to base approval.		
<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs Committee (Ayes 8. Noes 0.)		
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority		
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No		
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes		
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	Support		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • California Association of County Veterans Service Officers • Los Alamitos <p>Opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None on file.
<p><u>Background:</u></p>	<p>According to the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers, claims filed through the VA with the assistance of a county veterans service officer (CVSO) have a higher rate of approval. However, many veterans are unaware of the role CVSOs play and the resources they provide. In California, the state’s ratio of veterans to Veterans Service Representatives (VSR) lags behind other states, resulting in a limited supply of VSRs available to service veterans. The author estimates that limited access to VSRs results in an estimated 65,000 veterans missing out on their benefits and roughly \$1.1 billion in VA benefits lost annually. Having a CVSO on additional military bases would help bridge this gap.</p> <p>Additionally, California has a significant number of VA health services integrated into or closely associated with its major military bases, with at least 10 to 15 major bases and several smaller stations providing dedicated VA health services. Therefore, not only will having a CVSO on additional military bases ease the transition for separating service members, but it would also be easily accessible to veterans already visiting VA health facilities.</p>
<p><u>Department Comments, Impact on Area(s) of Responsibility:</u></p>	<p>The Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos is one of three military bases in Orange County, alongside the Naval Weapons Station in Seal Beach and the USMC Camp Pendleton’s 1st Combat Engineer Battalion First Marine in San Clemente.</p> <p>AB 1638 presents a positive opportunity for the Orange County Veterans Services Office to extend outreach and enhance access for transitional support to service members and their dependents.</p> <p>Embedding the OC Veterans Service Office within a military base would strengthen reintegration outcomes for Veterans and transitioning service members within 180 days of separation from active duty. It would also benefit reservists and national guard service members engaged in readiness at the Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos.</p> <p>The state-funding provided in AB 1638, in addition to the current pro rata basis, would allow a significant presence of the OC Veterans Service Office to expand access to entitlement to VA benefits as well as workforce reintegration services that do not currently exist at either military installation.</p> <p>OCCR welcomes more funding and services to our veterans, however, notes we need to ensure the bill fully funds the program.</p>
<p><i>Mandates:</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><i>Operations:</i></p>	<p>N/A</p>

<i>Estimated Costs:</i>	N/A
<i>Estimated Revenues:</i>	N/A
<u>Policy Platform</u> <u>References:</u>	<u>CS-49 Veterans Services, Programs & Housing:</u> Support programs, services, and funding for our veterans, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for the County veterans service offices (VSOs). • Funding and approval of veteran housing projects. • Maintaining veterans as a priority group in the housing voucher program. • Expedited training and certification for VSO claims officers, and increased access to the veterans' affairs database.

2. SUPPORT – AB 2309 (Bains) CalFresh Protection Act.

CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs
Bill Analysis



BILL NUMBER:	Assembly Bill (AB) 2309	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	Introduced: February 19, 2026
AUTHOR:	Assemblymember Jasmeet Bains (AD-35)		
SUBJECT:	CalFresh Protection Act.		
BILL SPONSOR:	N/A		
STATUS:	Assembly Human Services		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	CEO Legislative Affairs		
CEO-LA RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law:</u>	Existing federal law establishes the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), known in California as CalFresh, under which supplemental nutrition assistance benefits allocated to the state by the federal government are distributed to eligible individuals by each county.		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	<p>This bill would, in the event of a federal funding lapse that results in the withholding, suspension, or delay of federally funded CalFresh benefits, require the State Department of Social Services to utilize state funds to ensure that CalFresh benefits continue to be issued to existing recipients. The bill would define “federal funding lapse” to mean any period during which the federal government fails to appropriate sufficient funds to the United States Department of Agriculture to cover the full monthly allotment of SNAP benefits for eligible households in California, and would require the Director of Social Services to declare a federal funding lapse during any period that meets that definition. The bill would, in the event of a declaration by the director of a federal funding lapse, continuously appropriate to the department from the General Fund an amount necessary to cover the costs to implement these provisions, as determined by the director.</p> <p>This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.</p>		

<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	N/A
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	2/3
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD <p>Opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
<u>Background:</u>	
<u>Department Comments, Impact on Area(s) of Responsibility:</u>	<p>Social Services Agency (SSA) notes that the bill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures continuity of CalFresh benefits in the event of a lapse in federal funding, preventing disruptions in food assistance for approximately 5.5 million Californians, as projected in California Department of Social Services All County Letter (ACL) 25-75. As noted in ACL 25-75, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) estimates that California issues approximately \$1.1 billion in federal CalFresh benefits each month. • In Calendar Year 2025, Orange County served an average of 312,871 CalFresh recipients and issued an average of \$60,996,650 in monthly CalFresh benefits. Extending this allocation across a three-month period results in an estimated benefit issuance of approximately \$182,989,951. • Minimizes operational and communication challenges for County staff, community-based organizations (including food banks), and program participants by reducing uncertainty regarding the issuance of monthly benefits. This continuity supports smoother workflow planning, reduces client inquiries, and helps maintain stability across the broader food-access network.
<i>Mandates:</i>	No additional mandates required; SSA is required to continue administrating CalFresh services during any funding lapse
<i>Operations:</i>	No operational impacts are expected – counties would continue normal operations for application processing and benefit issuances

<i>Estimated Costs:</i>	N/A
<i>Estimated Revenues:</i>	N/A
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<p><u>CS-9: Caseload Growth & Funding for Services</u> Secure equitable and consistent funding to sufficiently support caseload growth, regulatory changes, and other related administrative costs.</p> <p><u>GS-23: State & Federal Mandates</u> Support full funding for state and federal mandates on the County, and pursue revisions to streamline the process for local government.</p> <p><u>GS-23: State/Federal Realignment & Cost-Shifts</u> Oppose proposals to restructure, realign, or otherwise shift administrative, financial, or operational responsibility for programs to local government without commensurate compensation, including efforts to shift tax revenues and tax increment from the County to the State, other local entities, or special districts</p>

3. **SUPPORT – AB 2373 (Dixon) The California Coastal Act: local coastal program: sea level rise plan: neighborhood-scale adaptation approach.**

CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs
Bill Analysis



BILL NUMBER:	Assembly Bill (AB) 2373	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	Introduced: February 19, 2026
AUTHOR:	Assemblymember Diane Dixon (AD – 72)		
SUBJECT:	The California Coastal Act: local coastal program: sea level rise plan: neighborhood-scale adaptation approach.		
BILL SPONSOR:	League of California Cities		
STATUS:	Assembly Committee on Natural Resources		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	CEO Legislative Affairs		
CEO-LA RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law:</u>	<p>The California Coastal Act of 1976 generally requires each local government lying in whole or in part within the coastal zone to prepare a local coastal program for that portion of the coastal zone within its jurisdiction. The act requires a land use plan of a proposed local coastal program to be submitted to the California Coastal Commission for certification.</p> <p>Current law requires local governments lying in whole or in part within the coastal zone to, on or before January 1, 2034, develop a sea level rise plan with specified required content as part of a local coastal program that is subject to approval by the California Coastal Commission.</p>		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	<p>This bill would authorize local governments lying, in whole or in part, within the coastal zone to include a neighborhood-scale adaptation approach when including land use policies and implementation measures in their local coastal program or sea level rise plan. The bill would authorize the neighborhood-scale adaptation approach to include, but not be limited to, the identification of areas and assets that are subject to the approach, and policies that reflect the shared planning features and specific preferred adaptation strategies for different areas or development types based on the geophysical and land use characteristics intended to minimize, mitigate, or avoid coastal impacts.</p>		

<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	N/A
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD <p>Opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
<u>Background:</u>	<p>Local Coastal Programs, more commonly known as LCPs, are plans developed by local governments to balance land uses along the coast. LCPs are prepared by the local jurisdiction before being submitted to the Coastal Commission for certification.</p> <p>According to the author, the LCP update process can be challenging for coastal cities and counties to complete. Oftentimes, this process can take multiple years to finish and is cost-intensive. AB 2373 increases flexibility by allowing local governments to utilize a neighborhood scale adaptation approach when including land use policies and implementation measures in their LCPs or sea level rise plan. This approach will provide cities and counties within the Coastal Zone clarity and certainty about the best practices for completing their LCPs.</p> <p>This legislation is an authorization, and not a mandate.</p>
<u>Department Comments, Impact on Area(s) of Responsibility:</u>	<p>AB 2373 advances a more flexible, science-based approach to sea level rise planning within the framework of the California Coastal Act. By authorizing a neighborhood-scale adaptation approach within Local Coastal Programs, AB 2373 provides counties with a practical pathway to plan for coastal hazards in a manner that reflects local conditions, infrastructure constraints, and community priorities.</p> <p>Orange County Public Works emphasizes that successful implementation of AB 2373 would benefit from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate and sustained state funding for Local Coastal Program updates, technical studies, and project implementation • Streamlined permitting and regulatory alignment across state agencies • Protection of local land use authority, ensuring counties retain discretion in selecting appropriate adaptation strategies • Clear guidance and timelines to avoid delays and uncertainty in plan approval
<u>Mandates:</u>	N/A

<i>Operations:</i>	N/A
<i>Estimated Costs:</i>	Unknown at this time
<i>Estimated Revenues:</i>	N/A
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<p><u>IN-4 Beach Preservation & Coastal Funding</u> The County supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding and efforts for coastal resiliency research, planning, jurisdictional coordination, engineering, design, streamlined permitting, and implementation, beach and sand nourishment, coastal erosion control, and shoreline and beach preservation. • Dedicated and predictable funding for coastal flood risk and storm damage reduction projects. • Sharing of federal outer continental shelf revenues with coastal states to support conservation, coastal infrastructure resiliency and wildlife protection programs.

4. **SUPPORT – AB 2562 (Dixon) Alcohol or other drug recovery and treatment programs and facilities: suicide prevention.**

CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs
Bill Analysis



BILL NUMBER:	Assembly Bill (AB) 2562	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	Amended: March 16, 2026
AUTHOR:	Assemblymember Diane Dixon (AD-72)		
SUBJECT:	Alcohol or other drug recovery and treatment programs and facilities: suicide prevention.		
BILL SPONSOR:	N/A		
STATUS:	Assembly Health		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	CEO Legislative Affairs		
CEO-LA RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law:</u>	Existing law requires the State Department of Health Care Services to license and regulate adult alcohol or other drug recovery or treatment facilities that provide residential nonmedical services, as specified, and further requires the department to certify and regulate alcohol or other drug programs, as specified. Existing law requires a licensed facility to take specified actions, including to develop a plan to address when a resident relapses. Existing law requires a certified program to keep all policies and procedures in an operation manual.		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	This bill would require a licensed facility to develop a suicide prevention plan. The bill would authorize the department to implement the above-described requirement by bulletin or all-county or all-provider letter, after stakeholder input, until regulations are promulgated. The bill would require the department to promulgate regulations to implement the requirement no later than January 1, 2031. The bill would require a certified program to include in its operation manual a suicide prevention plan.		
<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	N/A		
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority		

<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD <p>Opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
<u>Background:</u>	
<u>Department Comments, Impact on Area(s) of Responsibility:</u>	The bill aims to protect vulnerable populations and aligns with existing practices, as many treatment providers already address suicide risk when clinically appropriate. The bill would formalize and standardize these practices across providers, which may help ensure consistency and provide clearer guidance for staff. Establishing a required suicide prevention plan may also build on existing approaches used in treatment settings, similar to relapse prevention and other risk mitigation strategies.
<i>Mandates:</i>	None.
<i>Operations:</i>	Implementation details will depend on DHCS guidance. Minor operational impacts to BHS may include the need for provider education and training, or oversight/monitoring of the required suicide prevention plan as part of provider policies and procedures.
<i>Estimated Costs:</i>	None.
<i>Estimated Revenues:</i>	None.
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<p><u>CS-43: Sober Living Homes</u> Support measures that bring more accountability to sober living homes in order to balance the need of those who seek recovery with the residents of the communities where these facilities are or may be located.</p>

5. SUPPORT – AB 2614 (Dixon) Public health: Body Brokering and Patient Referral Integrity Act.

CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs
Bill Analysis



BILL NUMBER:	Assembly Bill (AB) 2614	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	Introduced: February 20, 2026
AUTHOR:	Assemblymember Diane Dixon (AD-72)		
SUBJECT:	Public health: Body Brokering and Patient Referral Integrity Act.		
BILL SPONSOR:	N/A		
STATUS:	Assembly Health		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	CEO Legislative Affairs		
CEO-LA RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law:</u>	Under existing law, the State Department of Health Care Services is responsible for administering prevention, treatment, and recovery services for alcohol and drug abuse and problem gambling. Existing law defines “alcohol and other drug services” as a service that is designed to encourage recovery from the abuse of alcohol and other drugs, and “alcohol and other drug abuse program” as a collection of alcohol and other drug services that are coordinated to achieve specified objectives. Existing law also provides for the licensure and regulation of adult alcoholism or drug abuse recovery and treatment facilities by the department and authorizes the department to enforce those provisions.		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	This bill, the Body Brokering and Patient Referral Integrity Act, would prohibit any person from offering, paying, soliciting, or receiving a commission, benefit, bonus, or other form of remuneration or from engaging in a split-fee arrangement to induce a referral to a residential treatment facility or in return for acceptance of an individual into a residential treatment facility. The bill would make a violation of that provision a misdemeanor. The bill would define a “residential treatment facility” to include any sober living home, group home, recovery residence, residential care facility, or similar facility providing housing or residential services, in connection with alcohol or substance use disorder		

	treatment or behavioral health recovery. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.
<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	N/A
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	Yes
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD <p>Opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
<u>Background:</u>	
<u>Department Comments, Impact on Area(s) of Responsibility:</u>	The bill would ensure protection against patient brokering in the context of alcohol and drug treatment thereby protecting vulnerable populations from abusive industry practices. The bill is generally consistent with policy goals related to accountability and consumer protection, and implementation and enforcement will be important to monitor. The bill aligns with efforts to address unethical referral practices and ensure individuals are connected to care based on clinical need rather than financial incentives, and the broader definition of residential treatment facilities strengthens oversight across the recovery housing continuum.
<i>Mandates:</i>	None.
<i>Operations:</i>	None.
<i>Estimated Costs:</i>	None.
<i>Estimated Revenues:</i>	None.
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<p><u>CS-43: Sober Living Homes</u> Support measures that bring more accountability to sober living homes in order to balance the need of those who seek recovery with the residents of the communities where these facilities are or may be located.</p>

6. SUPPORT – SB 893 (Seyarto) State parks: facilities pass: Gold Star Family members.

**CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs
Bill Analysis**



BILL NUMBER:	Senate Bill (SB) 893	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	<u>Introduced:</u> January 15, 2026
AUTHOR:	Senator Kelly Seyarto (SD – 32)		
SUBJECT:	State parks: facilities pass: Gold Star Family members		
BILL SPONSOR:	N/A		
STATUS:	Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	CEO Legislative Affairs		
CEO-LA RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law:</u>	Current law requires the Department of Parks and Recreation to issue a park pass for free use of all park facilities in the state park system to a veteran of war in which the United States has been, or may be, engaged, who is a resident of this state, who presents to the department proof of a disability, proof of being held captive as a prisoner of war, or proof of being a recipient of a Congressional Medal of Honor, and proof of an honorable discharge from service.		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	This bill would require an eligible Gold Star Family member, upon presentation of proof to the department, to be issued a pass for use of all facilities, including boat launching facilities, in units of the state park system.		
<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water (Ayes 7. Noes 0.)		
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority		
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No		
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes		
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	Support		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None on file. <p>Opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None on file.
<u>Background:</u>	<p>According to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee, the phrase “Gold Star Family” dates back to World War I when military families displayed service flags featuring a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. If the Service member died in the line of duty, the blue star was changed to gold and eligible next of kin receive a gold star lapel button in adherence to the U.S. Department of Defense guidelines. According to Section 1126 of Title 10 of the United States Code, service members who lost their life during World War I, World War II, while engaged in action against opposing foreign forces, or as a result of an international terrorist attack or as a part of a peace keeping force may qualify for a Gold Star Lapel Button that their next of kin may wear or display. According to Section 553.36 of Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, ‘next of kin’ is defined as the spouse, children (natural, step, adopted), parents (natural, step, adopted), siblings (natural, half, adopted), and grandparents of a service member who lost their life in a qualifying situation.</p> <p>According to California State Parks, there are approximately 8,000 eligible Gold Star Families in California.</p>
<u>Department Comments, Impact on Area(s) of Responsibility:</u>	OCCR reviewed this bill and identified that this measure governs California state parks and does not impact county park operations.
<i>Mandates:</i>	This bill imposes no mandates on county-managed parks or county Veterans Service Offices (VSOs).
<i>Operations:</i>	OCCR identified no impact on county operations.
<i>Estimated Costs:</i>	N/A
<i>Estimated Revenues:</i>	N/A
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<p><u>CS-49: Veterans Services, Programs & Housing</u> Support programs, services, and funding for our veterans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for the County veterans service offices (VSOs). • Funding and approval of veteran housing projects. • Maintaining veterans as a priority group in the housing voucher program. • Expedited training and certification for VSO claims officers, and increased access to the veterans’ affairs database.

7. SUPPORT – SB 1040 (Choi) Veterans Cemetery Maintenance-Endowment Match Act.

CEO/Office of Legislative Affairs
Bill Analysis



BILL NUMBER:	Senate Bill (SB) 1040	INTRODUCED/AMENDED DATE:	<u>Introduced:</u> February 20, 2026
AUTHOR:	Senator Steven Choi (SD – 37)		
SUBJECT:	Veterans Cemetery Maintenance-Endowment Match Act.		
BILL SPONSOR:	N/A		
STATUS:	Senate Military and Veterans Affairs Committee		
REQUESTING DEPARTMENT/AGENCY:	CEO Legislative Affairs		
CEO-LA RECOMMENDED POSITION:	SUPPORT		
<u>Current Law:</u>	Current law requires the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), in voluntary cooperation with specified local entities, to design, develop, and construct a state-owned and state-operated Northern and Southern California Veterans Cemetery and California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. Existing law requires CalVet to oversee and coordinate the design, development, and construction of these cemeteries. Existing law requires CalVet to adopt regulations to specify the eligibility requirements for interment in one of these cemeteries.		
<u>Proposed Law:</u>	<p>This bill requires CalVet to establish and administer a state and local matching funds program for veterans cemetery maintenance funds by requiring that for each \$1 contributed locally by individuals, veterans' service organizations, local governments, or private donors, the state will contribute \$1 in matching funds, up to \$250,000 per veterans cemetery per fiscal year.</p> <p>This bill requires veterans cemeteries to apply to be part of the program and requires CalVet to review applications annually.</p> <p>This bill establishes the Veterans Cemetery Maintenance-Endowment Account in the General Fund, administered by CalVet. This bill requires money in the account to be allocated, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to CalVet for distribution to a veterans cemetery.</p>		

	CalVet would be required to provide to the Legislature a report summarizing all participating veterans cemeteries, total state matches, and fund performance.
<u>Prior Legislative Votes:</u>	N/A
<u>Vote Threshold:</u>	Majority
<u>State Mandated Local Program:</u>	No
<u>Fiscal Committee:</u>	Yes
<u>Support and Opposition:</u>	<p>Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD <p>Opposition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD
<u>Background:</u>	According to the author, <i>“No existing California law incentivizes local philanthropy or donations from private organizations to help grow these maintenance endowments. As a result, perpetual-care funding remains uneven and unsustainable, particularly for smaller, rural, or newly established cemeteries. California has a duty to ensure our veterans’ final resting places are maintained with dignity and respect. This bill creates a fiscally responsible partnership that strengthens local support and protects these sacred grounds for generations.</i>
<u>Department Comments, Impact on Area(s) of Responsibility:</u>	If passed, this bill could support the ongoing maintenance of the Southern California Veterans Cemetery at Gypsum Canyon once completed. VALOR has received offers of financial assistance from non-profits and individuals in the County, which could be fulfilled through SB 1040.
<u>Mandates:</u>	N/A
<u>Operations:</u>	No direct operational impact. If a future Veterans Cemetery applies to be a part of the CalVet program, the cemetery would benefit from the maintenance funds.
<u>Estimated Costs:</u>	The County has the ability to contribute funds to the program, which would be matched by the state, if they choose to do so.
<u>Estimated Revenues:</u>	No direct revenue to the County. If the County chooses to contribute funds, the funds would be matched by the state.
<u>Policy Platform References:</u>	<u>CS-50: Veterans Cemetery</u> Support efforts to fund and expedite development of the Southern California Veterans Cemetery at Gypsum Canyon in Anaheim Hills.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. County Position Matrix: CEO-LA

The tables below list the bills the Board of Supervisors has taken positions on in the 2025-26 legislative session.

State Legislation

As of Thursday, April 9, 2026

Measure	Author	Topic	Date of Board Action	Board Position	Status
<u>AB 28</u>	<u>Schiavo</u>	Solid waste landfills: subsurface temperatures.	06/24/2025	Oppose	09/11/2025 - 2 Year
<u>AB 35</u>	<u>Alvarez</u>	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Administrative Procedure Act: exemption: program guidelines and selection criteria.	03/24/2026	Support	01/27/2026 - Senate Rules
<u>AB 262</u>	<u>Caloza</u>	California Individual Assistance Act.	06/24/2025	Support	06/11/2025 - Senate Governmental Organization
<u>AB 282</u>	<u>Pellerin</u>	Discrimination: housing: source of income.	05/06/2025	Support	09/11/2025 - 2 Year
<u>AB 283</u>	<u>Haney</u>	In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act.	08/26/2025	Support if Amended	09/11/2025 - 2 Year
<u>AB 550</u>	<u>Petrie-Norris</u>	The California Endangered Species Act: take of species: renewable electrical generation facilities.	03/25/2025	Support	07/17/2025 - 2 Year
<u>AB 762</u>	<u>Irwin</u>	Disposable, battery-embedded vapor inhalation device: prohibition.	04/22/2025	Support	01/29/2026 - Senate Rules
<u>AB 1088</u>	<u>Bains</u>	Public health: kratom.	06/24/2025	Support	07/17/2025 - 2 Year
<u>AB 1567</u>	<u>Ta</u>	General plan: annual report: congregate and residential care for the elderly.	03/24/2026	Support	03/25/2026 - Assembly Local Government
<u>AB 1602</u>	<u>Rubio, Blanca</u>	Foster youth: disaster aid assistance.	03/24/2026	Support	03/10/2026 - Assembly Appropriations
<u>AB 1830</u>	<u>Petrie-Norris</u>	Ignition interlock devices.	03/24/2026	Support	03/25/2026 - Assembly Appropriations
<u>AB 2076</u>	<u>Lowenthal</u>	The Parent's Accountability and Child Protection Act: online marketplaces: nitrous oxide.	03/24/2026	Support	04/07/2026 - Assembly Appropriations
<u>AB 2194</u>	<u>Valencia</u>	Medi-Cal: special commissions.	12/16/2025	Sponsor	04/08/2026 - Assembly Consent Calendar

<u>AB 2320</u>	<u>Ta</u>	Multifamily Housing Program: Homekey: adaptive reuse.	12/16/2025	Sponsor	03/09/2026 - Assembly Housing And Community Development
<u>AB 2513</u>	<u>Petrie-Norris</u>	Wildfire: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant program: regional landscape grants.	03/24/2026	Support	04/07/2026 - Assembly Water, Parks And Wildlife
<u>SB 296</u>	<u>Archuleta</u>	Property taxation: exemption: disabled veteran homeowners.	03/24/2026	Support	07/15/2025 - Assembly Rev. & Tax Suspense File
<u>SB 329</u>	<u>Blakespear</u>	Alcohol and drug recovery or treatment facilities: investigations.	03/25/2025	Support	08/28/2025 - 2 Year
<u>SB 561</u>	<u>Blakespear</u>	Hazardous waste: Emergency Distress Flare Safe Disposal Act.	04/08/2025	Support	07/17/2025 - 2 Year
<u>SB 569</u>	<u>Blakespear</u>	Department of Transportation: homeless encampments.	03/25/2025	Support	07/17/2025 - 2 Year
<u>SB 577</u>	<u>Laird</u>	State Government.	08/25/2025	Support	09/11/2025 - 2 Year
<u>SB 623</u>	<u>Archuleta</u>	Property taxation: homeowners', veterans', and disabled veterans' exemptions.	03/25/2025	Support	01/29/2026 - Assembly Desk
<u>SB 741</u>	<u>Blakespear</u>	Coastal resources: coastal development permit: exemption: Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor.	06/24/2025	Oppose	07/17/2025 - 2 Year
<u>SB 758</u>	<u>Umberg</u>	Public health: nitrous oxide.	01/13/2026	Sponsor	01/27/2026 - Assembly Desk
<u>SB 888</u>	<u>Seyarto</u>	Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption: household income.	03/24/2026	Support	03/25/2026 - Senate Military And Veterans Affairs
<u>SB 907</u>	<u>Archuleta</u>	Driving under the influence and other driving offenses: comprehensive reform.	03/24/2026	Support	04/07/2026 - Senate Appropriations
<u>SB 936</u>	<u>Blakespear</u>	Nitrous oxide: sales.	12/16/2025	Sponsor	03/17/2026 - Senate Business, Professions And Economic Development
<u>SB 967</u>	<u>Blakespear</u>	Planning and zoning: housing element: interim housing units: acutely low income households.	12/16/2025	Sponsor	02/11/2026 - Senate Housing
<u>SB 1310</u>	<u>Choi</u>	Voter registration: prospective jurors.	12/16/2025	Sponsor	04/07/2026 - Senate Judiciary
<u>SB 1314</u>	<u>Menjivar</u>	Smoke shops: locations, hours of operation, and sale of nitrous oxide.	03/24/2026	Support	04/08/2026 - Senate Health

Measure	Author	Topic	Date of Board Action	Board Position	Status
<u>H.R. 965</u>	<u>Sherman</u>	Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act	05/20/2025	Support	Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
<u>H.R. 1012</u>	<u>Levin</u>	Spent Fuel Prioritization Act of 2025	05/20/2025	Support	House Committee on Energy and Commerce
<u>H.R. 2483</u>	<u>Guthrie</u>	SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025	06/24/2025	Support	Became Law
<u>H.R. 5462</u>	<u>Goldman</u>	The Michelle Alyssa Go Act	03/24/2026	Support	House Committee on Energy and Commerce
<u>S. 1462</u>	<u>Curtis</u>	Fix Our Forests Act	09/23/2025	Support	Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
<u>S. 2212</u>	<u>Padilla</u>	Visible Identification Standards for Immigration-Based Law Enforcement (VISIBLE) Act of 2025	08/26/2025	Support	Senate Committee on the Judiciary



Highlighted sections symbolize a status change.

2. Sacramento Legislative Report

Prepared by Precision Advocacy Group LLC

The legislature has returned from spring recess and is moving quickly into one of the most consequential phases of the session, with policy committees and budget subcommittees now fully engaged in substantive deliberations. Hearings are shifting from introductory overviews to more detailed policy discussions, amendments, and stakeholder negotiations, while budget conversations are beginning to take clearer shape ahead of the May Revision. This convergence of policy and fiscal activity reflects a critical inflection point in the legislative cycle, where broader proposals are translated into actionable decisions with direct implications for local governments.

The following updates highlight several major policy and fiscal developments with direct relevance to counties, including the SB 254 resiliency study, implementation of the Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative, and the Legislative Analyst's Office's evaluation of state tax policy options. As legislative activity accelerates, these discussions will play a central role in shaping both near-term budget decisions and longer-term policy direction affecting county operations, fiscal planning, and service delivery.

Enhancing California's Resiliency to Natural Catastrophes

The [SB 254 Study](#), prepared by the California Earthquake Authority, presents a comprehensive assessment of California's growing vulnerability to natural catastrophes, particularly wildfire, and outlines a set of policy pathways to strengthen long-term resiliency. It was commissioned by the legislature and governor in 2025 in response to escalating climate-driven disasters and their destabilizing impacts on California's insurance market, electric utilities, and community resilience systems.

At its core, the study finds that California's resilience challenges are driven by the convergence of three systems – the property insurance market, the electric utility sector, and community-level risk exposure. Climate change is intensifying wildfire risk and other natural hazards, placing strain on each of these systems simultaneously. For Orange County, this manifests in elevated wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface areas (e.g., canyon and foothill communities), rising insurance costs or non-renewals in higher-risk ZIP codes, and increasing pressure on utility infrastructure and ratepayers. The report emphasizes that without coordinated intervention, these pressures will continue to compound, undermining affordability, housing stability, and local economic resilience.

The study highlights that California's catastrophe risk is not only growing but becoming more interconnected. This means:

- **Insurance Market Instability:** The report notes that California's insurance market is increasingly unable to meet demand in high-risk areas, leading to growth in the FAIR Plan and reduced private market participation. This trend is already affecting parts of Orange County, particularly hillside and fire-prone communities, where coverage is becoming more limited and expensive.
- **Utility Cost Pressures:** Electric utilities must simultaneously invest in wildfire mitigation, maintain reliability, and support clean energy goals, costs that are ultimately borne by ratepayers. This contributes to rising electricity costs and broader affordability challenges.
- **Local Government Exposure:** Counties play a central role in land use planning, emergency response, and recovery. As disasters increase in frequency and severity, Orange County faces growing fiscal and operational responsibilities tied to preparedness, evacuation planning, and post-disaster recovery.

The study stresses that these challenges are not isolated; rather, they form an interconnected system under compounding strain, where failures in one area, such as insurance availability, can ripple across housing markets, local budgets, and economic stability.

A key finding of the report is that the cost of inaction is both significant and escalating. Failing to act would likely result in:

- Continued insurance market contraction and increased reliance on last-resort coverage;
- Higher utility rates driven by wildfire liability and infrastructure investment;
- Increased exposure of local governments to disaster response and recovery costs; and
- Greater housing instability in high-risk areas due to insurance and rebuilding constraints.

The study frames this as a critical inflection point, as proactive investment in resilience is more cost-effective than reactive recovery after disasters.

The report outlines three major policy pathways, each with direct implications for Orange County.

1. Community Wildfire Risk Reduction. This pathway emphasizes strengthening local and regional mitigation efforts including:

- Expanding vegetation management, defensible space, and fuel reduction in high-risk areas;
- Enhancing local hazard mitigation and pre-disaster planning;
- Improving coordination between state agencies and local governments; and
- Aligning insurance incentives with risk-reduction actions.

Importantly, the study calls for targeted, data-driven investments in the highest-risk communities, which would benefit Orange County's canyon and interface areas where wildfire risk is concentrated.

2. Equitable Allocation of Catastrophe Costs. The second pathway focuses on how costs are distributed among ratepayers, insurers, utilities, and the public. Key implications include:

- Insurance reforms to stabilize the market and improve coverage availability;
- FAIR Plan restructuring to ensure it remains a backstop rather than a primary insurer;
- Utility liability reform, including potential changes to inverse condemnation, to better balance costs and reduce pressure on electricity rates; and
- Improved compensation systems to support faster recovery for disaster survivors.

3. Expanded State Role in Risk Financing. The third pathway explores more transformational approaches, including:

- State-backed insurance or reinsurance programs;
- A more durable Wildfire Fund with diversified financing; and
- Long-term funding strategies for community mitigation.

These options recognize that the scale of catastrophe risk may exceed what private markets and local governments can manage alone. For Orange County, increased state participation could provide more stable funding streams for resilience projects and reduce volatility in insurance and recovery systems.

The report suggests several overarching conclusions:

- Local governments are central to implementation. Land use decisions, emergency planning, and mitigation investments at the county level will be critical to reducing risk.
- Affordability is a central concern. Rising insurance and utility costs are already impacting residents and will continue to do so without policy changes.
- Targeted investment is essential. Resources should be prioritized toward high-risk communities where mitigation can have the greatest impact.
- State partnership will be necessary. The scale of the challenge requires sustained state involvement in financing, regulation, and coordination.

The SB 254 Study makes clear that California is at a pivotal moment in addressing natural catastrophe risk. The combination of climate-driven hazards, market instability, and infrastructure

challenges requires integrated, forward-looking solutions. While no single policy will resolve these issues, the pathways outlined in the report provide a framework for aligning state and local efforts to improve resilience, protect communities, and maintain economic stability. Advancing these strategies will be critical to safeguarding residents, stabilizing housing and insurance markets, and ensuring long-term fiscal and environmental sustainability.

Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative

California's Medi-Cal Justice-Involved Reentry Initiative is now moving from concept into large-scale implementation, and the Department of Health Care Service's [Impact Report](#) underscores the level of system transformation counties like Orange County will be expected to operationalize. Since the program's phased launch in October 2024, implementation has expanded rapidly across correctional systems, with all 31 state prisons and dozens of county jails and youth facilities already live, and full statewide rollout expected by October 2026. This trajectory signals that Orange County's jail system and care infrastructure will need to be fully integrated into the model in the near term.

The report highlights the scale of early uptake, with nearly 35,000 individuals already identified as eligible for pre-release services and more than 159,000 services delivered, including care management, medications, and clinical consultations. This volume suggests a substantial and ongoing caseload of justice-involved individuals requiring coordinated pre-release and post-release services, particularly given the county's large jail population.

A central takeaway for counties is that intensive care management is the backbone of the model. The initiative relies heavily on pre-release care managers who assess needs, develop individualized reentry care plans, and coordinate "warm handoffs" to community providers. For Orange County, this places significant emphasis on aligning CalOptima, County behavioral health, and contracted community providers to ensure continuity of care beginning before release and extending into the community.

The report also emphasizes system coordination as a core implementation challenge and success factor. Effective delivery requires ongoing collaboration between correctional facilities, Medi-Cal managed care plans, county agencies, and community-based organizations, with some jurisdictions already convening regular multidisciplinary release planning meetings to align services and responsibilities. Coordination across the Sheriff's Department, Probation, Health Care Agency, and CalOptima is anticipated to be critical to avoid fragmentation.

Importantly, the initiative is designed not just as a service expansion, but as a cost and outcomes strategy. The state is explicitly targeting reductions in emergency department use, hospitalizations, and mortality, particularly overdose deaths, by stabilizing individuals prior to release and ensuring immediate access to care, medications, and housing supports. This aligns closely with ongoing pressures in emergency services, behavioral health, and homelessness systems, and suggests potential downstream savings if implementation is effective.

Finally, the Impact Report reinforces that this population is high-need and high-risk, with a majority experiencing mental health or substance use conditions and significantly elevated risks of poor outcomes post-release. As a result, counties are not simply administering a new benefit, they are being positioned as the central coordinators of a complex reentry health system that integrates medical, behavioral health, and social supports.

Overall, the Impact Report suggests that the Reentry Initiative will require meaningful upfront coordination, staffing, and system alignment, but offers a significant opportunity to improve outcomes for a high-cost population while reducing strain on county safety-net systems over time.

Legislative Analyst's Office: Comparing Options to Raise and Lower Taxes

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO's) March 2026 [report](#) presents a range of options to raise or lower taxes, following some members' of the legislature's expressed interest in raising state revenues. The analysis ultimately comes down to a central tension – the most stable revenue options tend to fall broadly on local households, while more progressive options concentrate costs on higher earners but introduce greater volatility and uncertainty. The state's choices will directly affect both household affordability and county-administered program funding.

Tax Increase Options (\$1–\$3 Billion)

Consumption-Based Taxes (Sales and Use). Options like a quarter-cent sales tax increase, a sales tax on digital goods, and a soda tax would provide relatively stable and predictable revenue streams for the state. From a budgeting standpoint, these are among the most reliable tools available.

These approaches would be widely felt. A sales tax increase would touch nearly all households, particularly middle-income families already navigating high costs for housing, childcare, and transportation. Expanding the tax to digital goods, such as streaming services and software, would modernize the tax base, but it also represents a meaningful shift by taxing areas of everyday consumption that residents have historically viewed as untaxed.

The soda tax, while narrower in scope, raises additional equity concerns. The report notes that these types of taxes tend to fall more heavily on lower-income households and certain communities, which is relevant where disparities in income and health outcomes persist.

These options are fiscally reliable but place the greatest burden on local consumers.

Personal Income Tax Changes. The report outlines two primary approaches – a millionaire surcharge and a 2% across-the-board income tax increase.

A millionaire surcharge is among the most progressive options, concentrating costs on the highest earners and largely shielding most households. However, the report emphasizes that this revenue is highly volatile, tied to capital gains and financial market performance. For Orange County, which has a strong but not dominant concentration of ultra-high-income taxpayers, this creates a revenue stream that is less predictable for long-term planning.

By contrast, an across-the-board increase would generate more consistent revenue but would reach deeply into the middle-income population. Given that many households in the County earn higher nominal incomes due to cost-of-living pressures, without necessarily having greater disposable income, this option could feel disproportionately burdensome.

Targeted increases, while potentially leading to a more equitable outcome by focusing resources where they are most needed, introduce a degree of instability. Conversely, broad increases offer greater reliability and stability, though their impact is felt across a wider population.

Restructuring Tax Preferences (Deductions to Credits). The report evaluates replacing deductions for charitable giving, mortgage interest, and property taxes with credits.

In Orange County, these changes are particularly significant. High home values mean that mortgage interest and property tax deductions are widely utilized. Converting these to credits would generally reduce benefits for higher-income households while extending more uniform benefits to others.

At the same time, these changes could alter behavior. The report suggests that current deductions may encourage larger home purchases or higher levels of charitable giving. Adjusting these incentives could have ripple effects in the housing market and nonprofit sector.

These options improve equity but may weaken incentives tied to homeownership and local philanthropy.

Wealth and Capital Tax Changes. One option would eliminate the tax exemption for inherited capital gains (ending the “step-up in basis”). This is a highly progressive change that primarily affects wealthier households. In communities where generational wealth and property ownership are significant, this could increase tax liability on inherited assets.

However, the report highlights that revenues from this source are unpredictable and tied to asset markets, and implementation would require more complex recordkeeping and estate planning. These changes target wealth concentration but introduce complexity and revenue uncertainty.

Corporate Tax Changes

- Increasing the corporate tax rate
- Broadening the tax base while raising rates
- Eliminating the “water’s edge” election

The report notes that a portion of corporate taxes can be shifted outside California, to shareholders or consumers in other states, which may soften the direct impact on residents.

However, California’s economy relies on a wide mix of industries, including healthcare, tourism, technology, and small businesses. Changes to corporate taxation could influence business decisions over time, particularly in a region competing nationally for investment and job growth. Some costs may be exported, but there is potential long-term risk to business activity and competitiveness.

Major Tax Increase Options (\$10–\$15 Billion)

These options represent more structural changes, including:

- Extending Proposition 55 (high-income tax rates)
- Increasing the sales tax by 1.25%
- Expanding the sales tax to services
- Increasing all major taxes (“Big Three”)
- Implementing a split-roll property tax

The most notable proposal is the potential expansion of the sales tax to services. Given the County’s large service-based economy – legal, financial, healthcare, and consulting, this would significantly broaden the tax base into areas that are currently untaxed. While this could improve long-term revenue stability, it would also increase costs for both businesses and consumers.

A split-roll property tax, which reassesses commercial property more frequently, could also have localized impacts on commercial real estate and business costs, particularly in high-value markets.

These options generate substantial revenue but represent more fundamental changes to the local economy and tax structure.

Tax Decrease Options (\$1–\$3 Billion)

The report also outlines ways to reduce taxes, including:

- Sales tax reductions
- Gas and diesel tax reductions
- Vehicle license fee relief
- Income tax reductions or credits

- Corporate tax cuts

For Orange County residents, reductions in sales or gas taxes would provide immediate and visible relief, particularly given the County's reliance on driving and commuting. Increasing the standard deduction or offering targeted tax credits would more directly benefit low- and middle-income households.

However, the tradeoff is reduced state revenue, which could affect funding for programs that the County helps administer, particularly in health and human services, where demand remains high. These proposals provide near-term relief but may constrain future program funding.

Bottom Line

Across all options, the report reinforces that no single approach dominates across all criteria. Instead, policymakers must weigh competing priorities:

- Stability vs. Equity – Sales taxes are stable but regressive; income taxes are progressive but volatile
- Broad Impact vs. Targeted Impact – Broad taxes affect more households; targeted taxes concentrate costs but may be less reliable
- Revenue vs. Economic Sensitivity – Higher business or income taxes may affect long-term growth and investment decisions

State tax policy will shape both the cost of living for residents and the resources available for county-administered services. Ultimately, the report provides a framework, not a recommendation, but makes clear that the choices ahead involve balancing household affordability, economic competitiveness, and fiscal sustainability.

Upcoming Hearings

Agendas are typically posted on the committee websites in the [Assembly](#) and [Senate](#) a few days prior to the hearings. To view hearings after they take place, you may access them in the [Assembly](#) or [Senate](#) media archives where they are generally available within a few hours of committee adjournment.

Monday, April 13, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 6 on Public Safety

State Capitol, Room 447
0820 Department of Justice
5227 Board of State and Community Corrections

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on State Administration

State Capitol, Room 447
0516 Housing and Homelessness Agency
2240 Department of Housing and Community Development
2250 Housing Development and Finance Committee
2255 Interagency Council on Homelessness
0968 Tax Credit Allocation Committee
0810 Debt Bond Allocation Committee
0515 Business and Consumer Services Agency

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 9:30 a.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation

State Capitol, Room 447
Transportation
0521 California State Transportation Agency
0964 Transportation Financing Authority
2600 California Transportation Commission
2660 Department of Transportation
2665 High-Speed Rail Authority
2667 High-Speed Rail Authority Office of the Inspector General
2670 Board of Pilot Commissioners for the Bays of San Francisco, San Pablo, and Suisun
2720 Department of California Highway Patrol
2740 Department of Motor Vehicles

Wednesday, April 15, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Human Services

State Capitol, Room 444

4100 State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Item No. Description

4300 Department of Developmental Services

5160 Department of Rehabilitation

All Related January Governor's Budget Proposals, including Policy and Estimate Changes, Budget

Change Proposals for State Administration, and Governor's Trailer Bill Language Proposals

Expected Impacts of Federal H.R. 1 on People Served in These Programs and Proposals to Reduce Harm in California

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Energy

1021 O Street, Room 2200

3340 California Conservation Corps

3540 Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

3125 California Tahoe Conservancy

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government

State Capitol, Room 113

0509 Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development

0650 Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 9:30 a.m. or upon adjournment of Session

Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor, and Transportation

State Capitol, Room 112

0250 Judicial Branch

8140 State Public Defender

Grant Opportunities

Below is a list of the latest grant opportunities released by the state. All opportunities for local jurisdictions may be found [here](#).

Anticipated Open Date: April 28, 2026

Title: [Beverage Container Redemption Innovation Grant](#)

State Agency / Department: [Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery](#)

Match Funding? No

Estimated Total Funding: \$20,000,000

Funding Method: Advances & Reimbursement(s)

Application deadline: 7/8/26 00:00

Title: [Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Cleanup and Abatement Grant Program FR91](#)

State Agency / Department: [Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery](#)

Match Funding? No

Estimated Total Funding: \$200K maximum per applicant each FY \$50K maximum per cleanup site

Funding Method: Reimbursement(s)

Anticipated Open Date: April 17, 2026

Title: [California Services to Science Academy \(CSSA\) Cohort 2.0: Technical Support and Assistance for Promising and Innovative Prevention Programs](#)

State Agency / Department: [Department of Health Care Services](#)

Match Funding? No

Estimated Total Funding: \$820,000

Funding Method: Reimbursement(s)

Application deadline: 5/15/26 17:00

Title: [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program Block Grants](#)

State Agency / Department: [CA Department of Food and Agriculture](#)

Match Funding? No

Estimated Total Funding: \$34,000,000

Funding Method: Advances & Reimbursement(s)

Application deadline: 5/15/26 17:00

Title: [Healthy Soils Program Block Grant](#)

State Agency / Department: [CA Department of Food and Agriculture](#)

Match Funding? No

Estimated Total Funding: \$65,000,000

Funding Method: Advances & Reimbursement(s)

Governor's Press Releases

Below is a list of the governor's press releases beginning April 1.

April 8: [Governor Newsom announces \\$145.4 million in HHAP funding to help eight California regions reduce homelessness](#)

April 7: [California celebrates Genentech's 50th anniversary](#)

April 6: [CYMI: Bloomberg News: How California's economy dominates in the Gavin Newsom era](#)

April 6: [California Film & TV Tax Credit powers 55 major award wins during Governor Newsom's Administration](#)

April 3: [Governor Newsom announces appointments 4.3.2026](#)

- Matthew Livers, of Citrus Heights, has been appointed Senior Policy Advisor at the California Department of Conservation
- Charlton "Chuck" Bonham, of Berkeley, has been appointed to the California State Park and Recreation Commission
- Matilda Soria, of Fresno, has been appointed to the Early Childhood Policy Council
- Ranae Amezcuita, of Los Angeles, has been appointed to the Early Childhood Policy Council

- Gabriela Gonzalez, of Downey, has been appointed to the Early Childhood Policy Council
- Maeva Renaud, of Vacaville, has been appointed to the Early Childhood Policy Council
- Anthony “Tony” Tobar Jordan, of Modesto, has been appointed to the Early Childhood Policy Council

April 3: [Governor Newsom announces clemency actions](#)

April 2: [Governor Newsom turns on largest public broadband network, California connects first rural community to internet](#)

April 2: [Governor Newsom welcomes approval of Diablo Canyon license renewals, delivering on California’s commitment to a clean and reliable grid](#)

April 1: [California’s nation-leading aerospace industry powers NASA’s historic Artemis II Mission](#)

April 1: [Governor Newsom announces appointments](#)

- Deborah “Debbie” Cochrane, of Alameda, has been appointed Executive Director of the California Education Interagency Council
- Elizabeth Flores, of Chula Vista, has been appointed to the State Board of Education
- Roque Barros, of San Diego, has been appointed to the California Arts Council

April 1: [California celebrates Apple’s 50th Anniversary](#)

3. Washington D.C. Legislative Report

Prepared by Townsend Public Affairs

The House and Senate were on recess this week, while the White House was focused on conflicts abroad.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY

Presidential Budget Request Released, Proposes 10% Cut to Non-Defense Discretionary Spending, Formally Begins the Appropriations Process

On April 3, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released [the Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2027 Presidential Budget Request](#). The request formally begins the appropriations process, which is tentatively underway following earmark and program and language request submission deadlines for rank-and-file members of Congress to the appropriations committees.

The request asks Congress to increase defense spending by 43.7% to \$1.5 trillion while cutting non-defense discretionary spending by \$73 billion, or 10% across the board.

As Congress is constitutionally vested with spending authority, the President's Budget Request marks the formal beginning of the appropriations process and gives the House and Senate Appropriations Committees a basis for beginning markups of draft bills. Historically, Congress has generally treated the request as an opening proposal in broader negotiations, and final appropriations bills often differ substantially from the President's original submission.

The proposal seeks to eliminate a number of housing, urban development, local emergency service, environmental, and other grants, [consolidating](#) the programs into broader categories or shifting their responsibilities to the states. OMB argues that large swaths of federal programs exceed federal responsibility and instead should be funded and operated by state and local governments.

With the request formally allowing appropriators in both the House and Senate to begin marking up draft legislation, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are anticipated to schedule markups of the 12 appropriations bills over the next two months. After each markup, the relevant subcommittee will release a bill draft including report language with lists of earmarks and initial funding levels.

DHS Funding Plan Advances in the Senate, Faces Renewed Opposition in the House

A deal to end the partial government shutdown affecting agencies under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) [emerged](#) again on April 1, after the President, House Speaker Mike Johnson, and Senate Majority Leader John Thune came to an agreement.

The deal would pass the Democrat-backed measure funding all non-immigration enforcement elements of DHS, [HR 7147](#), while guaranteeing Republican members another reconciliation package, the same legislative vehicle as HR 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, to pass regular funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP). That package is being dubbed reconciliation 2.0.

While reconciliation 2.0 is expected to be relatively narrow in scope, Congressional Leadership is floating a second reconciliation package (reconciliation 3.0), encompassing a larger set of policy priorities to pass in advance of the midterm elections. The Republican Study Committee previously [released](#) a draft reconciliation framework that would likely form the basis for reconciliation 3.0.

Despite progress on a plan, the measures remain [contentious](#). House Speaker Mike Johnson previously [rejected](#) the idea when the Senate first passed it the last week of March. Both conservative hardliners and appropriators also have concerns about using reconciliation, a purely partisan vehicle, to complete the appropriations process for fiscal year 2026. Some Republicans also want to see substantive progress on the planned reconciliation packages before allowing the shutdown ending measure to pass. The House and Senate will return to DC on April 13 and will continue negotiations on ending the partial government shutdown.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY

IRS Releases Opportunity Zone Redesignation Guidance

On April 7, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) [announced](#) new [guidance](#) updating the process for the redesignation of Opportunity Zones (OZs) and the establishment of Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOFs). The guidance furthers the census tract eligibility and other programmatic changes made in Section 70421 of [HR 1](#), the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA).

The OZ program was established by the [2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act](#) (TCJA), and aimed to stimulate investment in economically distressed census tracts. OZs are nominated by Governors and approved by the Secretary of the Treasury. The program operates over 10-year windows and provides tax incentives that either delay, discount or permanently exclude capital gains taxes on investments made in or by Qualified Opportunity Funds (QOFs). The initial OZ cohort is set to expire on December 31, 2028.

The OBBBA narrowed the number of qualifying census tracts, biases designation towards rural communities, and maintains broad statutory language regarding the types of investments QOFs can make. Eligibility is now strictly based on the [2020-2024 American Community Survey](#) (ACS) 5-Year data. If a tract was eligible in 2018 but its economic status improved in the most recent census data, it may no longer be eligible for the 2027 cohort of OZs. Designated tracts must have poverty rate of at least 20% or a median family income that does not exceed 70% of the area median income.

The nominating period will begin on July 1, and close 90 days after. California Governor Gavin Newsom is responsible for nominating eligible tracts.

DHS Secretary Signals Potential to Remove CBP from International Airports in Sanctuary Jurisdictions

On April 7, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Markwayne Mullin [stated](#) DHS was considering not processing international arrivals at airports in sanctuary jurisdictions, unless local law enforcement was permitted to cooperate with immigration officials at those airports, which could bar sanctuary jurisdictions with airports from receiving international travelers.

The move could halt international air travel across California, which was [designated](#) a sanctuary jurisdiction by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in August, 2025. Secretary Mullin stated that Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) rely on local jurisdictions to house some detainees from airports before they are formally denied entry and/or deported. He also noted the potential for an error in processing, which would require ICE to then identify, arrest, and remove the wrongfully admitted individual. Barring airports across California from receiving international flights could have major ramifications on the upcoming FIFA World Cup, set to be played in both Northern and Southern California.

Federal law already requires some level of coordination with local enforcement at airports and other ports of entry into the United States, and California's sanctuary policies are not necessarily violative of those requirements. The Administration has taken a broad approach to those statutes, including [Section 1373](#), which they have argued disallows sanctuary jurisdictions entirely.

EPA and HHS to Collaborate on Microplastics in Drinking Water

On April 2, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Health and Human Services [announced](#) coordinated actions to address microplastics contamination under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the [establishment](#) of a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) program called Systematic Targeting Of Microplastics (STOMP).

The EPA [introduced](#) a draft Sixth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL 6), which for the first time includes microplastics and pharmaceuticals as priority contaminant groups, alongside other substances that may be present in public water systems. The public comment period on the list ends on June 5. The CCL is updated on a five-year basis.

The STOMP program will expend \$144 million in HHS funding to measure, track, and identify the prevalence and effects of microplastics on the body, and the primary means by which people consume them. The goal of the program is to better understand risk and work with Congress to craft legislation mitigating microplastics consumption and its negative effects.

Orange County Delegation Press Releases

- Sen. Alex Padilla – April 3, 2026: [Padilla Statement on Trump's FY 2027 Budget Proposal - Senator Alex Padilla](#)
- Sen. Alex Padilla – April 2, 2026: [Padilla, Sheehy Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Better Protect and Compensate Federal Firefighters - Senator Alex Padilla](#)
- Sen. Alex Padilla – April 2, 2026: [Padilla Statement on Firing of Attorney General Pam Bondi - Senator Alex Padilla](#)
- Sen. Alex Padilla – April 2, 2026: [Padilla, Schiff Launch Inquiry into TSA, ICE Data Sharing Following Alarming Arrest at San Francisco International Airport - Senator Alex Padilla](#)
- Sen. Adam Schiff – April 3, 2026: [NEWS: Sens. Schiff, Warner, Call for Investigation into Misuse of Insider Information](#)
- Sen. Adam Schiff – April 2, 2026: [STATEMENT: Sen. Schiff Statement on President Trump's Firing of Pam Bondi](#)
- Sen. Adam Schiff – April 2, 2026: [NEWS: Sen. Schiff Joins Welch, Justice, Hyde-Smith to Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Boost Housing Affordability, Spur Economic and Agricultural Growth Across Rural America](#)
- Rep. Dave Min – April 2, 2026: [STATEMENT: Rep. Dave Min on Firing of Pam Bondi | Representative Dave Min](#)
- Rep. Dave Min – April 2, 2026: [STATEMENT: Rep. Min on Co-Sponsoring H.R. 3565, the Block the Bombs Act | Representative Dave Min](#)

No Legislation Was Introduced by the Orange County Delegation this Week.

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information on any of the items in this bulletin, please contact Peter DeMarco at 714-834-5777.