

CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 6, 2020

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89266792833?pwd=Z2dJeDB2dJlPMFk1dlJidEhRYUdvUT09>

Conference Line: (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 892 6679 2833 | Password: 044611

MINUTES

1. Roll Call

OFFICERS

Lisa Bartlett | *President*
James Gore | *1st Vice President*
Ed Valenzuela | *2nd Vice President*
Virginia Bass | *Immediate Past President*

CSAC STAFF

Graham Knaus | *Executive Director*
Manuel Rivas, Jr. | *Deputy Executive Director,
Operations & Member Services*
Darby Kernan | *Deputy Executive Director,
Legislative Services*

ADVISORS

Bruce Goldstein | *County Counsels Association,
Sonoma County (absent)*
Carmel Angelo | *Mendocino County CEO, California
Association of County Executives, President*

SUPERVISORS

Keith Carson | *Alameda County*
Greg Cox | *San Diego County*
Carole Groom | *San Mateo County*
Kelly Long | *Ventura County*
Mark Ridley-Thomas | *Los Angeles County*
Chuck Washington | *Riverside County*
Bob Elliott | *San Joaquin County*
Luis Alejo | *Monterey County*
Erin Hannigan | *Solano County*
Leonard Moty | *Shasta County*
Diane Dillon | *Napa County*
Craig Pedersen | *Kings County*
Terry Woodrow | *Alpine County*
Jeff Griffiths | *Inyo County*

EX OFFICIO MEMBER

Ed Scofield | *Treasurer, Nevada County*

2. Approval of Minutes from April 16, 2020

A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Supervisor Alejo; second by Supervisor Moty. Supervisor Elliott abstained. Motion was approved.

3. COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Update/Discussion

Graham Knaus provided the Executive Committee with an update on CSAC's work surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Several days ago the State acknowledged a data-related error that resulted in the undercounting of COVID-19 cases. While it is not fixed as of this morning, they are working quickly to resolve it. With regards to realignment backfill, we were successful in getting \$1 billion in the state budget, \$750 million of that being state general funds. The first payment went out last week and we are actively working with the administration on budget bill language that would release the remaining backfill dollars immediately. This bill is likely to be taken up by budget committees next week. There are active conversations between Congress and the President around a COVID-19 5.0 bill that may include state and local government direct support. We continue to push related to the need for these funds so counties can continue to respond to and manage COVID-19.

Alameda County / Supervisor Carson – at Tuesday’s board meeting, the Alameda County Board took action to appropriate \$10 million into a fund to assist COVID-19 positive individuals who must isolate but don’t have access to capital. The county is also supporting additional testing, contract tracing and wrap-around services and they are considering purchasing properties to house COVID-19 positive homeless individuals. Two weeks ago, Alameda County hosted a meeting with key stakeholder’s to discuss COVID-19 response.

Alpine County / Supervisor Woodrow – Alpine County is very concerned with their low census returns. Due to the large number of layoffs at ski areas, restaurants and hospitality industries, they have seen a mass exodus of people leaving the area. Additionally, census paperwork doesn’t go to P.O. Boxes so census takers have to physically come into the county, which doesn’t often happen. The county is experiencing an influx of recreational visitors like they’ve never seen before, which has elevated their concern surrounding wildfires. While they appreciate the Verily testing sites, the waiting time for results has been lengthy and in some instances up to 21 days.

Inyo County / Supervisor Griffiths – Inyo County is also overrun with visitors. This has led to problems with unattended fires and trash. Masking and social distance compliance has been good, but they recently had a COVID-19 outbreak in a nursing home that doubled their case & hospitalization rates in just two days.

Kings County / Supervisor Pedersen – Kings County is still waiting for their initial CARES Act funding. The State COVID-19 Task Force is currently in Kings County. One of their big challenges is that they have a regional hospital, which affects their surge capabilities and subsequently their metrics. The county has committed \$300,000 to a public information effort.

Monterey County / Supervisor Alejo – Monterey County was the first in the country to roll out an agricultural workers protection advisory group which provides model protocols to protect workers in the fields and food processing plants. They have also created an alternative housing program to house COVID-19 positive farm workers for two weeks in hotels while providing meals and health care. The Governor modeled an alternative housing program for the State, based on what was done in Monterey County. They also have alternative testing sites specifically for farmworkers and deployed nurses to educate workers in the fields and processing plants on preventative measures. These programs have yielded success as they’ve seen their case rates decline.

Napa County / Supervisor Dillon – Napa County is very concerned with community spread from backyard gatherings. They have many second homeowners in their county and are very worried about the influx of people from other areas.

Nevada County / Supervisor Scofield – As with other rural counties, Nevada County has seen a significant increase in recreational visitors and unfortunately, their lakes, rivers and trails are not being treated well. They have received \$10 million in CARES Act funding and have set aside \$3 million for small businesses. They are working on an emergency ordinance to assist with enforcement that has been very controversial.

Los Angeles County / Supervisor Ridley-Thomas – Los Angeles County is very concerned about mental health services and the underreporting of cases to the Department of Children and Family Services.

Riverside County / Supervisor Washington – Riverside County has tried to allocate COVID-19 dollars to the most effective places, including grants to small businesses, mask purchases for distribution to non-profits and small businesses and the expansion of behavioral/mental health counseling services. Their public health officer brought forth a resolution acknowledging that long-term systemic racism has created a public health crisis in communities of people of color. It was approved and supported unanimously by the Board of Supervisors.

San Diego County / Supervisor Cox – San Diego County recently implemented a health order compliance phone number and approved funding to hire additional staff to respond to compliance calls. They have appropriated funds to a number of different programs including food service programs, child care services, food banks and the Great Plates program.

San Joaquin County / Supervisor Elliott – San Joaquin County recently had a Federal assistance team in their county and a State team is also scheduled to visit. Their hospitalization rates have plateaued but ICU units are operating at greater than 100% capacity. The county has implemented a small business assistance program and initiated a public education campaign. They are working with the State on the Housing for the Harvest program to address problems with spread in the agricultural community.

San Mateo County / Supervisor Groom – San Mateo County instituted a mask ordinance yesterday. They are allocating funding to childcare centers, both in-home and larger centers, and also to their Keep San Mateo Strong program to assist small businesses. Their board also passed a racism and health initiative.

Shasta County / Supervisor Moty – Shasta County has experienced many of the same issues as other rural counties. They have a small but very vocal group of anti-mask protesters who have threatened protests outside supervisors' homes.

Solano County / Supervisor Hannigan – Solano County recently put forward a complaint process that does not include fines but does include referral to a regulatory agency. They are implementing an equity lens project to see how they are addressing equity both internally and externally. Solano County is also struggling with the prevalence of family gatherings.

Ventura County / Supervisor Long – The Ventura County Board recently pulled a temporary restraining order for a church that has refused to comply with health orders. They are very concerned with the number businesses that have closed and may not re-open. The county has a discrimination and inclusion task force that just did a town hall surrounding race and public safety. They also have teams working with farmworkers to make sure they get the resources they need to assist with spread of COVID-19.

Sonoma County / Supervisor Gore – Sonoma County is allocating a portion of their CARES Act funding to the Latinx community and Project Homekey. Skilled nursing facilities have been challenging. The County is increasing strength of their independent office of law enforcement review and oversight.

Siskiyou County / Supervisor Valenzuela – Siskiyou County is experiencing many people coming into the county to recreate who are not acting responsibly. This is causing great concern as they near fire season.

Humboldt County / Supervisor Bass – Humboldt County is seeing an uptick in positive COVID-19 tests and family gatherings are one of their bigger issues right now. They have also experienced serious delays in receiving COVID-19 test results, which in turn delays contact tracing and allows for community spread.

Orange County / Supervisor Bartlett – Orange County is focusing on getting funds into Project Homekey so hotels/motels can be converted to permanent supportive housing. They also have a grant program for small businesses to help them get back on their feet. President Bartlett recommended that other supervisors take advantage of the Governor's strike team to assist with COVID-19 health order compliance. Contact tracing has been a challenge as about 50% of people are not cooperative.

4. Ballot Initiatives

Proposition 18 - ACA 4 (Resolution Chapter 30), Mullin - Geoff Neill, CSAC Legislative Representative for Government, Finance and Administration, provided a brief description of Proposition 18. ACA 4 (Mullin) is a constitutional amendment that was passed by the Legislature before becoming Proposition 17. The measure would allow a 17-year-old who will be 18 by the time of the next general election to vote at any primary or special election that occurs before the next general election. The Executive Committee recommended a SUPPORT position.

- Assembly Member Kevin Mullin, 22nd District, spoke in support of Proposition 18.
- Colleen Britton, Solano County Coordinator and Election Integrity Project California, spoke in opposition of Proposition 18.

A motion to SUPPORT Proposition 18 was made by Supervisor Groom; second by Supervisor Alejo.

Motion carried.

Proposition 15 - Geoff Neill provided a brief description of Proposition 15. The Schools & Communities First Act, would tax most commercial and industrial property based on its fair market value, beginning in 2022-23. Because the measure would tax commercial and industrial property differently than residential and agricultural property, it's also known as "split roll." The measure is estimated to increase tax revenue from these properties by between \$8 billion and \$12 billion per year statewide. The increased property tax revenue would be distributed to counties, schools, cities, and special districts, in essentially the same proportion as under current law. Before that, however, the increased revenue is required to cover costs incurred by counties to administer the program, as well as any losses to the state General Fund resulting from decreased corporate and personal income taxes. The Executive Committee recommended NO POSITION.

- John Gioia, Supervisor, Contra Costa County, and Brian O'Neil, retired Appraiser, spoke in support of Proposition 15.
- Jamie Johansson, President, California Farm Bureau, spoke in opposition of Proposition 15.

The consensus was to let the recommendation stand at NO POSITION. No action was taken by the Executive Committee.

Proposition 16 - ACA 5 (Resolution Chapter 23), Weber - Geoff Neill provided a brief description of Proposition 16. Proposition 16, approved by the Legislature as ACA 5 (Weber), would repeal Section 31 of Article I of the California Constitution, which prohibits the State of California, including counties and other local agencies, from "discriminat[ing] against, or grant[ing] preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting." The Executive Committee recommended a SUPPORT position.

- Tiffaney Boyd, Office of Assembly Member Weber, spoke in support of Proposition 16.

A motion to SUPPORT Proposition 16 was made by Supervisor Washington; second by Supervisor Alejo.

Motion carried.

Proposition 20 - Josh Gauger, Legislative Representative for Administration of Justice, provided a brief description of Proposition 20. This measure amends state law to (1) increase penalties for certain theft-related crimes, (2) change the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) existing non-violent offender release consideration process, (3) change county probation community supervision practices, and (4) require DNA collection from adults convicted of certain misdemeanors. The Executive Committee recommended NO POSITION.

- State Assembly member Jim Cooper (D-Elk Grove), and Police Chief Ron Lawrence, Imm. Past President, CA Police Chiefs Association, spoke in support of Proposition 20.
- Lenore Anderson, Founder and President Californians for Safety and Justice, Alliance for Safety and Justice spoke in opposition to Proposition 20.

The consensus was to let the recommendation stand at NO POSITION. No action was taken by the Executive Committee.

Proposition 17 - ACA 6 (Resolution Chapter 24), McCarty - Geoff Neill provided a brief description of Proposition 17. This measure is a constitutional amendment that was passed by the Legislature with a supermajority vote in both chambers, and then became Proposition 17. The measure would restore the right to vote to a person who is on parole. According to the [California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation](#), there are currently over 50,000 Californians on parole. The Executive Committee recommended a SUPPORT position.

- Brett Shears, Yes on Proposition 17 Campaign, spoke in support of Proposition 17.
- Colleen Britton, Solano County Coordinator, Election Integrity Project California spoke in opposition of Proposition 17.

*A motion to SUPPORT Proposition 17 was made by Supervisor Alejo; second by Supervisor Groom.
Motion carried.*

Proposition 19 - ACA 11 (Resolution Chapter 31), Mullin - Geoff Neill, CSAC Legislative Representative for Government, Finance and Administration, provided a brief description of Proposition 17. The purpose of the Home Protection for Seniors, Severely Disabled, Families, and Victims of Wildfire or Natural Disaster Act is to increase home sales by, first, allowing most homeowners to keep their accumulated tax benefit when purchasing a new home and, second, restricting the property tax benefit currently given to inheritors of real property.

Proposition 19 would also require the state to calculate the net benefit to the state's General Fund resulting from those changes, if any, and transfer a similar amount of funding mostly to local fire protection districts, with a portion of the remainder going to any local agencies that experience reduced revenue as a result of the measure's tax changes.

The fiscal effect for counties is highly uncertain, depending on how the law is interpreted and how it changes the behavior of property owners. On the high end, the Legislative Analyst's Office estimated that a similar measure might result in increased revenue in the tens of millions of dollars per year collectively for local agencies, but also tens of millions in new costs for county assessors. On the low end, the measure could reduce local agency revenues by tens of millions of dollars in addition to increased costs to assessors. The Executive Committee recommended an OPPOSE position.

- Kurt R. Oneto, Partner, Nielsen Merksamer, Christy Bouma, Director of Governmental Affairs, California Professional Firefighters, and David Wolfe, Former Legislative Director, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association spoke in support of Proposition 19.
- Susan Shelley, VP of Communications, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association spoke in opposition to Proposition 19.

A motion to OPPOSE Proposition 19 was made by Supervisor Pedersen; second by Supervisor Moty.

Motion carried.

Proposition 25 - Josh Gauger provided a brief description of Proposition 20. The “Replace Cash Bail with Risk Assessments Referendum” requires a majority of voters to approve (Yes vote) a 2018 state law (Chapter 244, Statutes of 2018, Hertzberg-SB 10) before it can take effect. SB 10 replaces the current money bail system with a system for pretrial release from jail based on a determination of public safety or flight risk, and limits pretrial detention for most misdemeanors. The Executive Committee recommended NO POSITION.

- Diana Becton, Contra Costa County District Attorney spoke in support of Proposition 25.
- Michael Saragosa with Quintana-Saragosa Public Affairs spoke in opposition of Proposition 25.

The consensus was to let the recommendation stand at NO POSITION. No action was taken by the Executive Committee.

5. CSAC Finance Corporation Report

Supervisor Leonard Moty, Finance Corporation President, presented to the Executive Committee. He reported that last Fall, the Finance Corporation adjusted their budget to give an additional \$500,000 to CSAC. Additionally, they made a \$100,000 contribution at the end of their fiscal year. CSCDA has been doing extremely well through the pandemic and they’re focusing on increasing the supply of workforce housing units throughout California. The Finance Corporation has added seven new Platinum Level Partners. Stephen Patterson, CEO of Broadnet, addressed the Committee about the services they offer and how they can assist county government with communication and advocacy.

6. CSAC Annual Meeting Recommendations

Manuel Rivas, Jr., Deputy Executive Director of Operations and Member Services, presented CSAC’s Annual Meeting recommendations to the Executive Committee. CSAC staff recommends rescheduling all 2020 Annual Meeting events to the weeks prior to the Thanksgiving holiday and changing all meetings and conference-related events to virtual format to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all participants from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A motion to approve the CSAC Annual Meeting Recommendations was made by Supervisor Bartlett; second by Supervisor Valenzuela. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Communications Report

Manuel Rivas, Jr., addressed the Executive Committee and reported on CSAC's communications efforts. He highlighted the COVID-19 Resources Page on the CSAC website, which includes a state map with hyperlinks to all 58 counties. The communications team has done a great job building relationships with the media as inquiries have increased close to 300% during the period of March through June.

8. California Counties Foundation Report

Manuel Rivas, Jr., addressed the Executive Committee and discussed the tremendous loss with the passing of Institute Dean, Bill Chiat. Additionally, while most classes between March and June were canceled, the Institute created a series of free webinars for the months of May and June. The Institute will continue to work closely with their satellite campuses and they are looking for equity programming.

Meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be held on October 8, 2020.