

2009 YOLO COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AND FISCAL ADVOCACY POLICY

FEDERAL APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER FUNDING

- \$900,000 for emergency communications improvements.
- \$330,000 for gang violence and truancy prevention program.
- \$300,000 for at-risk youth support program.
- Funding to continue the Lower Cache Creek General Investigation Feasibility Study.
- \$48 million for I5-113 interchange.
- \$5 million for Davis-Woodland Alternative Transportation Corridor.
- \$5.3 million for the Road 98/99 Safety Improvement and Neighborhood Electric Vehicle Project.
- Support increased funding for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund ("Fund") from \$73.8 million in FY09 to \$125 million in FY10.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

General

- Oppose legislation that would decrease, restrict, or eliminate county revenue sources
- Support legislation that would increase or protect county revenue sources.
- Oppose legislation that would restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities.
- Support increases in tax incentives for increased charitable giving.
- Legislation that revises the definition of a rural county as one that has a population of less than 250,000 (instead of 200,000).

Agriculture

- Research and track the Early Pest Detection and Surveillance Improvement Act, which would fund biologists at high-risk entry points such as airports and shipping companies.
- Research and track legislation providing funding for the management of noxious weeds and invasive species.
- Support Farm Bill programs that benefit Yolo County and maximize funding opportunities from these programs.

Alcohol, Drugs, and Mental Health Services

- Support efforts to implement mental health parity legislation.
- Support changes to single case manager requirement of the Targeted Case Management Program and other changes to increase flexibility in this program.

Emergency Services

- Support efforts to improve emergency communications systems.
- Support efforts to improve emergency evacuation plans.

General Services

- Support legislation to allow state and local governments to access volume pricing and General Service Administration schedule contracts.
- Support funding to encourage “green” building.

Health and Human Services

- Support the Nursing Workforce Development (Title VIII) and Health Professions Education (Title VII) Programs.
- Research and track federal funding opportunities pertaining to nutrition, obesity, and fitness education programs as well as chronic disease management plans and health literacy. Work with County staff to

develop projects to present to Congress during the FY 2009 federal appropriations process.

- Support legislation to expand funding for programs to prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well as direct services and training programs to help older adults live safe, healthy, independent lives. Such legislation could include programs under Title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.)
- Support legislation to expand funding to improve the quality of care for children in foster care, return children to their homes when conditions permit, facilitate placement and adoption of children that cannot be returned to their homes, and support development of public child welfare workforce through training and education of child welfare practitioners, supervisors and managers. Such legislation could include funding for programs under Part E of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 670-679b).
- Work to re-authorize federal funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Support assistance for children aging out of the foster care system.
- Support increased funds for child abuse prevention and other services funded under Title IV-B and CAPTA.
- Support kinship care, including Title IV-E services for all children.
- Support expansion of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC).
- Support tuition and training subsidies for people entering the non-profit human services field.
- Support legislation to speed distribution of Older Americans Act funding during state budget crises.

Law Enforcement

- Support legislation to provide student loan relief for public defenders and prosecutors who make a commitment to public service, including the federal Prosecutors and Defenders Incentive Act.

- Support full funding from Title IV-E monies for the Probation Department's juvenile justice programs.

Parks and Resources

- Seek funding for implementation of mercury Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) in California required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board, including the Cache Creek TMDL and the Delta TMDL.

STATE BUDGET AND OTHER STATE FUNDING

- Oppose budget proposals that would decrease, restrict or eliminate county revenue sources, or restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities.
- Support budget proposals that would increase or protect county revenue sources.
- Oppose budget proposals to transfer services from the state to counties without sufficient input from counties and a dedicated and protected funding source to pay for the services, including inflationary increases.
- Engage state legislators and appropriate state department personnel to ensure Yolo County receives an appropriate share of infrastructure bond proceeds to finance its transportation, water resource, housing, flood control, and local corrections needs.
- Engage state legislature and appropriate state agencies to amend threshold requirements for funding to enable Yolo County to be more competitive for state funding programs.
- Support full or increased funding for the Public Library Foundation, which provides direct state aid to California public libraries for basic public library service.
- Support full funding for the Williamson Act.
- Support legislation that provides increases in payment to foster care parents.
- Support additional funding for Adult Protective Services.

- Support inflationary adjustments for county services.
- Support funding for Probation Accountability and Rehabilitation Act.
- Oppose Proposition 36 funding shift to Substance Abuse Offender Treatment program.
- Maintain AB 2034 funds for the homeless mentally ill program.
- Support additional funding for Public Guardians and Public Conservators.
- Support payment of Department of Fish and Game in-lieu property taxes.
- Support full funding for Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction grants.
- Support funding for habitat conservation activities, including:
 - oak woodlands conservation
 - continued and expanded state and local participation in Natural Community Conservation Plan development and implementation.
 - floodplain and habitat projects consistent with Yolo County flood priorities
 - conservation easements for habitat protection on private lands
 - river parkway projects
- Support funding for Community Service Districts that provide water and wastewater services to rural communities.
- Support funding for the construction of public water systems or facilities, including the protection of water sources from contamination.

STATE LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

General

- Oppose legislation that would decrease, restrict or eliminate county revenue sources
- Support legislation that would increase or protect county revenue sources.

- Oppose legislation that would restrict local authority with respect to issues that affect local communities.
- Oppose legislation to transfer responsibilities from the state to counties without a dedicated and protected revenue source.
- Support legislation that would reform the current state mandate reimbursement process to emphasize cost-efficiency, policy consistency, and fairness.
- Sponsor or support legislation to correct inappropriate shifts of property tax revenues to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) resulting from the incorporation of West Sacramento.
- Oppose and offer reasonable alternatives to proposals aimed at diminishing the ability of local governments to legitimately acquire property by eminent domain.
- Sponsor or support legislation to establish a statewide Historical Archive Trust Fund, and to provide a mechanism to finance the preservation of records of historical significance to the state and counties.
- Support or sponsor legislation to provide state financing for indigent veteran burials.
- Oppose legislation that would establish priority for programs financed by realignment dollars.
- Support legislation that establishes or expands existing racial or cultural tolerance programs.
- Support legislation and budget action to address both contributions to and the ability to adapt to climate change.

Agriculture

- Support or sponsor legislation to protect agricultural land and open space, including support for the Williamson Act, agricultural land conservation easements, and other incentives to keep land in agriculture and open space.

- Support or sponsor legislation to support and improve the agricultural economy, including support for new infrastructure, water supplies, marketing efforts or other tools to keep agriculture viable.

Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services

- Support legislation to reform AB 3632 requirements for counties.
- Support legislation authorizing the development of “early intervention” programs.
- Support legislation providing for the development and implementation of assertive community treatment programs, including developing standards for such programs.
- Support efforts to fund the development and training of multidisciplinary crisis intervention teams that include peace officers and mental health professionals.
- Sponsor or support legislation that maximizes resources available to counties through proposition 63.

Assessor

- Support legislation to enhance state funding for property tax administration.
- Support legislation to provide funding for information technology upgrades of the property tax administration system, such as new computer systems and digitizing of property tax records.

Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector

- Support legislation to simplify audit requirements for special districts.
- Support legislation to simplify federal audit requirements imposed on local government (Single Audit Act).
- Support legislation to require local governments to maintain internal controls standards similar to federal departments.
- Support legislation to streamline the County Budget Act to reflect current practices and technology.

- Support legislation to standardize methods and procedures for the collection of fees and fines.
- Support legislation to allow the county auditor to charge school districts a fee to cover cost of tax collection and apportionment.
- Support legislation to facilitate the acceptance of electronic receipt of fees and taxes.
- Support legislation to simplify the title of the position responsible for the functions of the auditor-controller and treasurer-tax collector in county government and to clarify California code sections that govern the activities of these offices.

Emergency Services

- Support implementation of SB 27's Delta emergency preparedness efforts.
- Support Department of Water Resources's efforts to improve Delta emergency communications improvements.

Health and Human Services

- Support or co-sponsor legislation or seek an appropriation to expand access to healthcare for children.
- Support legislation to improve nutrition, obesity, and fitness education programs as well as chronic disease management plans and health literacy.
- Support universal access to health care services.
- Support efforts to amend state regulation and Community Care Licensing practice of prohibiting family members of chronic illness patients from performing routine health care functions, such as gathering blood samples.
- Support efforts to reallocate unspent Proposition 63 funding to counties that fully expend their allocations.
- Support the continuation of pilot programs that develop and promote the replication of best practices in integrated long-term care.

- Support the development and implementation of adult services risk assessment tools and an automated case management system.
- Support the development of statewide standards for APS and In Home Supportive Services (IHSS) caseloads, and funding enhancements that allow local APS and IHSS programs to keep pace with local needs.
- Support legislation to require prospective caretakers of elderly and disabled adults in care facilities to submit to the same rigorous screening processes as prospective foster parents.
- Support legislation requiring the state to share in the cost of Department of Justice (DOJ) background checks for IHSS providers.
- Support legislation requiring the state to reimburse counties for childcare costs for non-federally eligible foster care cases at the same rate that is currently in place for federally eligible cases.
- Support compensation for relative caretakers of children at the same rate currently paid to licensed foster care providers, since they are required to meet the same standards.
- Support statewide access to Medi-Cal health and mental health services for children in out-of-home placement, whether placed in-county or out-of-county; and support development of mechanisms to ensure that reimbursement goes to the county providing the service.
- Support the shift of fiscal responsibility for the General Assistance Program to the state.
- Support legislation to speed distribution of Older Americans Act funding during state budget crises.

Law Enforcement

- Support the development and ongoing support of state and federal programs providing treatment-based alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent, drug-related offenses and for mentally-ill offenders, including the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction program and Proposition 36.
- Support ongoing state investment in Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) and Standards and Training for Corrections (STC).

- Oppose legislation that would raise the minimum state prison term from one to three years, resulting in a shift of prisoners from state to county facilities.
- Support efforts to obtain full or enhanced funding for all phases of adult probation services provided by counties, including supervision, court services, administration, etc.
- Support legislation to provide student loan relief for public defenders and prosecutors who make a commitment to public service.

Parks and Resources

- Support legislation or other efforts related to balancing levee vegetation maintenance and habitat conservation, including examination by the Department of Water Resources or other agencies of flood control and natural resource impacts resulting from recently issued U.S. Army Corps of Engineers levee vegetation policy.
- Support legislation or budget action that funds development and implementation of Natural Community Conservation Plans.
- Support legislation and state policies that reduce conflicts between the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the Yolo County Natural Heritage Program (HCP/NCCP).
- Support legislation and funding related to oak woodlands conservation.
- Support legislation that establishes a reasonable nexus between state flood control policy and local land use decisions by:
 - Defining “urban standard of flood protection;”
 - Establishing a separate and distinct standard for small “legacy” communities;
 - Identifying “urban, small community,” and “non-urban” levees;
- Support legislation or budget action that:
 - Provides adequate funding to ensure that all County levees are properly maintained and improved to the appropriate standard.

- Provides state-subsidized flood insurance to small communities and low-income residents in flood zones.
- Encourages creative solutions to reducing flood risks, including regional partnerships and flood easements purchased from willing landowners.
- Support establishing a non-urban levee integrity standard
- Support legislation that establishes an efficient and effective Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta governance entity that would have authority to implement projects in the Delta region for the purpose of supporting and encouraging the following, with emphasis on having a strong, viable Conservancy function:
 - integration of water supply, flood control, and land-use decision-making processes;
 - cooperation between local, state, and federal agencies with jurisdiction over Delta land, water, and infrastructure management;
 - investment in easements for flood control , habitat conservation and agriculture;
 - investment in strengthening and improving area levees;
 - implementation of projects in the Delta
 - implementation of the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Task Force’s general recommendations for comprehensive Delta solutions, including compensation for the economic effects of such implementation.
- Oppose legislation that requires counties to accept liability for failure of state project levees.
- Support legislation and budget action to allocate funding for implementation of mercury Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) in California required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board, including the Cache Creek TMDL and the Delta TMDL.

- Support and actively engage the legislature and appropriate public agencies to ensure Yolo County priorities are considered and/or included in critical plans, programs and grant guidelines, with emphasis on:
 - Central Valley Flood Protection Board’s “Central Valley Flood Protection Plan”;
 - Regional flood management strategies;
 - Department of Water Resource’s (DWR) Integrated Regional Water Management program, Stormwater/Flood Management program, and FloodSAFE programs;
 - State Water Resources Control Board’s Stormwater Grant program;
 - Department of Parks and Recreation’s local and regional Parks programs;

Planning and Public Works

- Sponsor or support legislation to amend state law regulating antiquated subdivisions, to allow local government to regulate them through zoning consistent with the locally adopted General Plan.
- Support a revision of state statute clarifying and streamlining the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process.
- Support measures that clarify and streamline the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to reduce the time and cost of compliance while ensuring that the environment is adequately protected.
- Oppose or offer reasonable alternatives to any legislation that would increase the influence of state government on zoning or other land use decisions within local jurisdictions.
- Oppose efforts to delegate authority to any entity other than the court system to repeal or supplant local land use decisions.
- Support or sponsor legislation to establish or expand illegal dumping prevention programs.

- Support legislation to promote improved markets for recyclable materials, and encourages the use of recycled content in products sold in California, the creation of economic incentives for the use of recycled materials, and expansion of the Beverage Container Recycling Program.
- Support legislation that protects local solid waste franchising and fee-setting authority, and ensures local governments' authority to direct the flow of waste to a local landfill to support local recycling and diversion programs.
- To help pay for expensive mandated programs, support legislation establishing or enhancing manufacturer/retailer take back programs, or point-of-purchase recycling fees that are directed back to local programs for proper collection, recycling or disposal of universal waste and household hazardous waste.
- Oppose legislation that increases state tonnage fees on disposed waste unless use of these fees is limited to the state's fee collection and fund management costs or to the activities of jurisdictions that dispose of most of their waste at California landfills.
- Support legislation that encourages use of biomass waste (agricultural, forestry and non-recyclable urban wastes) to generate usable energy, including landfill gas and waste to energy production
- Support legislation or budget proposals that encourage jurisdictions to explore the development of cogeneration projects at the local level; and
- Support legislation or budget proposals that integrate air quality, wildfire prevention and waste management strategies into a statewide biomass policy.
- Support legislation to convert and/or purchase more efficient and lower emission public works construction equipment to meet standards and reduce pollutants.
- Support legislation that assists with the purchase/utilization of hybrid or other alternative fuel vehicles by public entities located within identified "nonattainment" air quality basins.
- Support legislation that supports the establishment of facilities engaged in the research and/or processing of alternative fuels based on agricultural crops and related byproducts.

- Support legislation to promote the development of bioreactor landfills.
- Support Extended Producer Responsibility legislation for home-generated Sharps and Pharmaceuticals (including controlled substances) and other hazardous materials such as fluorescent bulbs and tubes, electronic waste, batteries, paint, etc. (require manufacturer/retailer-paid collection and disposal).
- Support legislation that revises the definition of a rural county as one that generates less than 250,000 tons per year of MSW (instead of 200,000 tons).
- Oppose Legislation that increases state solid waste fees unless it is expanded to include CA-generated waste that is disposed out-of-state or on Tribal lands, by charging transfer stations and/or jurisdictions that ship the waste.
- Oppose legislation that adds state solid waste fees on approved alternative daily cover materials used as ADC or for other beneficial use (organics/ greenwaste).
- Oppose legislation that would use state solid waste fees for grants and loan programs that are not related reuse, diversion or waste reduction programs. (i.e. programs to accelerate use of fuel-efficient vehicles at waste facilities or demonstrate the commercial viability of producing clean transportation fuels, or for a state-operated landfill post closure trust fund).
- Oppose legislation that mandates commercial (and/or multi-family) recycling unless it allows an exemption for rural areas that works for Yolo County's unincorporated area.
- Oppose legislation that mandates an unreasonable diversion rate or unreasonable data collection and reporting requirements for local jurisdictions.
- Oppose legislation that adds new materials to the list of materials banned from landfill disposal unless it includes producer responsibility requirements or some other way (but not local government) to pay for collection and recycling/ disposal, and include procedures for enforcement and payment for enforcement and regulatory oversight.

