

POLITICAL PROCESSES

State and Federal Legislation

The County Board has a responsibility to actively advocate fiscal and public policy that supports the county's schools and the children in the community. This responsibility may include that of lobbying at the state and national levels. The Board shall inform members of the community about these activities.

The Board shall identify issues that will affect its schools and the children in its community, establish goals and priorities for legislative advocacy, solicit community input, and adopt legislative positions. The Superintendent or designee shall establish a coordinated plan for carrying out the advocacy agenda, including specific activities, target groups or individuals, staff responsibilities, and timelines.

The Board may provide members of the community with fair and impartial information which may help them communicate with their legislators about educational and children's issues.

Ballot Measures

The County Office may determine how ballot measures may affect the schools. Any Board discussion of the effect such measures would have on the County Office shall include an opportunity for Board members and members of the public to speak on all sides of the issue. The Board may also adopt positions in support of or in opposition to ballot measures of importance to education.

No county funds, services, equipment or supplies shall be used to urge the support or defeat of any ballot measure or candidate. (Education Code 7054)

The Superintendent or designee may use County Office funds to furnish students, parents/guardians and community members with fair and impartial information about the impact of ballot measures on the County Office.

County Office facilities may be used for the conduct of forums about ballot measures as long as the forum is made available to all sides of the issue on an equitable basis. (Education Code 7058)

Upon request, Board members and County Office administrators may appear before a citizens' group to discuss reasons that the Board called an election for the issuance of bonds and to answer questions. (Education Code 7054.1)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7054 Use of district property

7054.1 Requested appearance

7056 Soliciting or receiving political funds

7058 Use of forum

35160 Authority of governing boards

35172 Promotional activities

GOVERNMENT CODE

50023 Attending legislature to support or oppose legislation

53060.5 Attendance at legislative body; expenses

54953.5 Right to record proceedings

54953.6 Broadcasts of proceedings

81000-91015 Political Reform Act

Choice-in-Education League et al v. Los Angeles Unified School District (1993) 17 Cal. App. 4th 415

Stanson v. Mott (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 206

League of Women Voters v. Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (1988) 203 Cal. App. 3d 529, 250 Cal. Rptr. 161, rev. den.

73 Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. 255 (1990)

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