

2021



Monticello Dam, Lake Berryessa, Solano County



FEDERAL Legislative Platform

Approved by the Solano County
Board of Supervisors
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SOLANO COUNTY 2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Here in Solano County, we take seriously our role in local government to create a bright and promising future for everyone who lives, learns, works and plays here – free of discrimination – by establishing and maintaining the social, economic and physical environments that promote good health while protecting vulnerable populations - giving everyone the chance to succeed. Our residents share in this promise, and, by working together, we endeavor to establish communities where people are safer, families are stronger and local economies thrive. By acknowledging the significant contributions of diverse groups of people – both present and in the past – we welcome a future that is bright and promising, while embracing a set of values that gives everyone the chance to be the best versions of themselves they can possibly be. Additionally, our County, in support of small businesses and the middle class, advocates for counties with populations under 500,000, including Solano County, to get direct entitlements from the Federal Government for economic stimulus, and for other programs that help provide a quality of life for our residents. To this end, all persons within Solano County are free and equal, and shall not be discriminated against based on their age, gender, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, primary language, citizenship, or immigration status.

PRIORITY ISSUES

The ability of the County to serve its residents and provide for a thriving and sustainable community requires support from all levels of government. Federal legislative policy and funding decisions affect the County's ability to deliver services. In order to fulfill the County's commitment to the community, Federal resources should be sought to support the County's mission to enrich the quality of life in the County. To this end, the County Board of Supervisors supports the priorities and the legislative principles set forth below.

Priority issues are those that have a significant impact on County business and on which County staff, including the County's Federal legislative advocates, will concentrate their legislative efforts during the 2021 congressional session. The County's top priorities (Listed Alphabetically) include:

1. **Funding for Key Water Infrastructure Projects** - Support efforts to authorize and fund key water infrastructure projects in Solano County, including dredging, water reuse and recycling, and flood control projects.
2. **Health and Human Services** - Support increased federal funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care or at risk of having their children removed. Support increased financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to adulthood, including post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, and access to health care. Support retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and elimination of outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances. Support federal funding to address the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation. Support reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program with a particular emphasis on restoring state and county flexibility to tailor work and family stabilization activities to families' individual needs. Support ongoing Social Security benefits. Support federal Medicaid funding to be enhanced for individuals placed in Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs). Support increased federal funding for the Older Americans Act and for programs and initiatives that enhance independent living for disabled and senior adults. Support continuation of current eligibility requirements for families to obtain Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.
3. **Housing, Economic Development, and Transportation Programs** - Support the highest possible funding level for key federal housing and economic development programs. Support efforts to restore and revitalize property impacted by prior realignment or closure of military installations. In the area of transportation, support efforts to protect the Highway Trust Fund and support programs that provide funding for local roads, bridges, transit initiatives, and aviation. Support enhanced federal funding to address issues of homelessness, including homelessness and imminent homelessness among disabled and senior adults.

4. **Military Presence** - Support efforts to protect Travis Air Force Base from budget reductions, downsizing, as well as advocate for new and/or alternative missions to be directed to the base. Support additional assets/missions such as C-17, KC-46 squadrons, modernization of existing aircraft, and gaining other aviation and non-aviation missions. Support infrastructure investments, including military construction projects and housing upgrades and enhance use of underutilized property on base. Support efforts to implement and maintain public-public/public-private partnerships with Travis Air Force Base and other community organizations/agencies. Support funding for the maintenance, operations, and upkeep of federal facilities and infrastructure following the close of a military installation.
5. **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness** - Support funding for programs that assist Solano County with efforts aimed at reducing crime and enhancing public safety through community partnerships and multi-jurisdictional efforts. In addition, support funding for programs that assist the County with disaster response and preparedness and homeland security-related needs, including efforts aimed at achieving communications interoperability.
6. **Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh** - Support legislative and administrative efforts to protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the County's interests relative to land use, agricultural stability, economic development, police or emergency response mandates, environmental preservation, flood protection, levee stability, habitat conservation, recreation, water supply, water quality, water rights, and dredging activities. Support governance structures that give local government a strong and equal voice with other stakeholders in setting Delta policy.

Furthermore, the Board of Supervisors adopts the following principles (Listed Alphabetically by Policy Area):

Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Water

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that protect and enhance the County's significant agricultural, water, and natural resources. The County opposes any efforts to cut funding streams for critically important federal resource programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support efforts to strengthen inspections at borders and ports of entry to safeguard against invasive pests and diseases.
2. Support funding for USDA's Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program and similar efforts to eradicate invasive pests; support increases for specialty crop support.
3. Support efforts to facilitate/expedite inspection of US Postal packages profiled by detector dogs to contain fruit or plant material.
4. Support legislation to indemnify growers for losses due to Plant Quarantine.
5. Support legislation reducing redundant enforcement of aquatic herbicide/pesticide use under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Clean Water Act.
6. Support a more equitable distribution of USDA funds for Wildlife Services provided to California counties.
7. Support efforts to protect the County's Farm Gate, including, but not limited to, full mitigation of agricultural and other economic impacts associated with habitat restoration efforts.
8. Support funding for local mapping of flood hazard areas and advocate for the US Army Corps of Engineers and other federal agencies to protect the County from these hazards.
9. Support legislation to protect the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, provide funding for the Delta National Heritage Area, and protect and promote the economic vitality and cultural, historical, and natural assets of the region.
10. Oppose efforts to provide federal funding – either through direct appropriations or indirect federal financing mechanisms – for the Delta Conveyance Project or similar water diversion project.
11. Support ongoing extensions to US Department of Agriculture Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) as long as COVID-19 continues to negatively impact local farm and ranch marketing channels and commodity prices. Specifically advocate for continued inclusion of specialty crops grown in Solano like almonds, walnuts, tomatoes and grapes.
12. Support funding allocations to the USDA Farm Services Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service

to provide technical and financial disaster assistance for wildfire recovery efforts including extension of the Wildfire and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) which provides direct payments to producers to offset losses.

General Government

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that protect and enhance the general welfare and quality of life of the County's residents. The County opposes unfunded Federal mandates and Federal actions that would preempt local decision-making authority. Specific principles include:

1. Support efforts to realign government services with necessary funding in order to improve the delivery of services, including technology acquisitions, training, and upgrades.
2. Support efforts that protect and enhance local governments' revenues, maximize the County's access to Federal funding sources, and increase local funding flexibility.
3. Support legislation/regulations that provide tax and funding formulas that promote the equitable distribution of Federal monies and oppose attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources.
4. Support funding for domestic infrastructure, public safety, community development, and environmental programs.
5. Support any expansion, continuation, and/or increased flexibility in the bidding/procurement, delivery, and management of construction projects.
6. Support legislation that provides grants and funding programs for the preservation, rehabilitation, and maintenance of historically and/or architecturally significant buildings and structures.
7. Support full funding for the Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program.
8. Support legislative efforts led by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) that are designed to reform the U. S. Department of the Interior's fee-to-trust process.
9. Require the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to provide public notice to tribal, city and county governments whenever a tribe requests a restored lands determination or submits a fee-to-trust application.
10. Support funding and regulatory efforts to expand broadband services to all County residents.

Health and Human Services

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that promote the health and welfare of the County's most vulnerable residents, including children, the disabled and seniors. The County opposes any efforts to cut funding streams for critically important health and human services-related programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and the State Supplementary Program for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (SSP), and opposes efforts to reduce local flexibility in the implementation of such programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support reauthorization of TANF with a primary focus on restoring state and county administrative flexibility.
2. Support increased funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grants, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program—Education (SNAP-Ed), and the Title IV-D Child Support program. Emphasis should be placed on the need to provide funding for streamlined and coordinated operations.
3. Support eliminating the Federal health benefits "inmate exception" for persons in County jails and detention centers who are in custody pending disposition of charges.
4. Support efforts to ensure competitive equity for suburban areas (on par with urban and rural areas) for Federal grant opportunities.
5. Support funding for subsidized child care services and child development programs, including school readiness for all children.

6. Support funding for programs and activities that support the special needs of elderly and persons with disabilities, including increases to Supplemental Security Income (SSI); support reauthorization of, and increased funding for, the Older Americans Act, with considerations given to caseload growth, cost-of-living adjustments and equitable distribution of funds to those areas with larger senior populations. Support legislation that would provide a comprehensive response to elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, including fully funded, mandated investigations of reports of elder abuse and neglect in facilities by Long-Term Care Ombudsmen.
7. Support efforts to allow for utilizing billing codes for brief intervention services for alcohol and drugs and for two different services on the same day in a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).
8. Support legislation that increases taxes on combustible tobacco products, tobacco-based inhalation devices, and electronic cigarettes: support directing these tax revenues to children and family programs, including smoking cessation programs.
9. Support legislation that requires specific bills to undergo a health impact assessment of current and predicted effects, possibly completed by a nonpartisan body.
10. Support all health outcomes and health equity efforts at various institutional and sectorial levels, and ensuring a broader equity strategy within institutions and sectors. Applying metrics to identify equity gaps and measuring gains in intervention areas is a key priority.
11. Expand the current list of billable medical expenses to include valuable services (Promotoras, chronic disease self-management programs, healthy food purchasing, etc.) which are part of a broader menu of efforts to combat chronic disease.
12. Support efforts to reduce intake of high fat, sugar, sodium foods and beverages which may contribute to higher risk for developing specific chronic diseases, and to regulate the distribution and sale of powdered alcohol.
13. Support policy for evidenced-based home visiting services as a preventive service, therefore eligible for Medi-Cal reimbursement such as California's Medicaid 1115 Waiver.
14. Support legislation and regulatory efforts that promote and implement "whole person care" and that address social determinants of health.
15. Support legislation and efforts to solidify and expand healthcare coverage and insurance implemented with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Support federal funding to increase access to health care to address issues of worker shortage within the healthcare field. Support federal funding for administration of the Medi-Cal program.
16. If repealed, support a comprehensive ACA replacement that ensures market and delivery system stability and continued coverage for more than 14 million Californians.
17. Support legislative efforts aimed at establishing and retaining grocery stores, farmers' markets and other healthy food providers in impoverished communities and require these merchants to accept electronic benefit transfer (EBT).
18. Support additional federal resources to establish and maintain robust outreach and enrollment programs for seniors eligible for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh). Additionally, support programs to supplement the food and nutrition needs of seniors who may not have the resources to access or prepare food due to lack of transportation, functional limitations, or health problems.
19. Support legislation to add e-cigarettes, menthol and smokeless tobacco products containing nicotine to the list of tobacco related products to be regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
20. Support legislation that federal and state governments must work with counties and provide funding to ensure adequate planning, medical supplies, access to laboratory testing services, workforce and alternative care capacity to appropriately respond to any local, state, or global health emergency.

Housing, Community and Economic Development, and Workforce Investment

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that promote local housing and community development programs and activities, workforce development programs, and programs aimed at encouraging local job and business growth. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for these critically important programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in the administration of such programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support increased funding for existing housing programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 8, permanent, transitional housing, and Rental Assistance Programs, and HUD Section 202 funding for supportive housing for the elderly.
2. Support legislation that enhances a public/private, performance-driven block grant program that provides investments in the nation's workforce, including the unemployed and those in need of skills training.
3. Support or seek federal grant funding opportunities that advance and improve housing, community and economic development, and workforce investment opportunities and legislative principles for disadvantaged individuals and families including the homeless, disabled and seniors. Support efforts to connect health care and housing options for elderly and persons with disabilities to ensure ACA home and community based services are effective.
4. Oppose efforts to reduce U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds and support expanded eligibility and access to these funds.

Public Safety and Emergency Disaster Preparedness

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that promote funding for key justice, public safety, and emergency preparedness programs. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for such programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in program administration. Specific principles include:

1. Support funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG), and Title IV-E Juvenile Probation Services funding.
2. Support funding for resiliency and emergency disaster preparedness programs, such as FEMA - Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG), the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), and emergency disaster preparedness and infrastructure damage recovery programs.
3. Support funding for prevention, intervention, victim support and services for families experiencing domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, dating violence, stalking, elder abuse and human trafficking.
4. Support funding for the prevention and enforcement of financial exploitation of vulnerable populations.
5. Support legislation to provide Federal offset to recover outstanding restitution ordered to the victims of crimes and other delinquent court ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile justice proceedings. Support legislation that would increase the collection term from three years to between 10 and 20 years, thereby avoiding having to seek civil judgments against clients.
6. Support funding to implement supervision strategies and evidence-based practices that consider the treatment and service needs of targeted probationers such as sexual offenders, domestic violence offenders, and/or those with mental illness.
7. Support funding for flood protection and flood response, particularly as it pertains to areas where governmental and municipal buildings play a role in local emergency response.
8. Support efforts to extend high urban threat areas delineation to include rural locations and sensitive areas adjacent to rail.
9. Support legislation that improves the availability, affordability and coverage for wildfire, earthquake, flood and fire insurance.
10. Support efforts to enhance capacity of local emergency responders to respond to potential emergency events resulting from hazardous materials releases from rail cars.
11. Support continued funding of staff, supply and resource costs to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resource Management, Environmental Health, and Sustainability

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that promote the environmental health and sustainability of the County, including funding for key programs. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for such programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in program administration. Specific principles include:

1. Support Federal funding for green road maintenance and other enhancements to the transportation network that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Support funding and incentives for smart growth and sustainable development.
3. Support measures that further the goals of the County's climate protection and sustainability efforts as referenced in the Board-adopted Climate Action Plan.
4. Support legislation, actions and funding that improve environmental health regulatory program implementation, which improves the County's ability to provide a responsive, efficient and effective County Environmental Health program.
5. Support funding for County programs and projects that address sustainability issues, such as air quality improvement, energy efficiency, water conservation, renewable energy, fuel efficiency, energy adequacy, and security while balancing the reduction of emissions with impacts on business.
6. Support legislation that reduces or simplifies reporting requirements for local environmental health programs to the state.
7. Oppose FEMA proposals to require local jurisdictions to purchase repetitive loss properties.
8. Support funding that improves land use planning for major economic drivers and infrastructure projects and flood risk reduction in the County.
9. Support legislation that fosters, establishes and expands regional purchasing capabilities and inter-jurisdictional infrastructure development to achieve local environmental and sustainability goals/requirements.
10. Support legislative efforts to keep National Conservation Lands, monuments, wildlife refuges, and other recreation lands open in the County.
11. Support funding to assist in abatement costs for removal of inoperative or abandoned vehicles, such as motor homes and travel trailers, from private and public property roads.
12. Support legislation and funding for the abatement of inoperative/abandoned boats on private and public property, including roads.

Transportation

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that promote and protect the transportation needs of our community. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for key transportation programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in the administration of such programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support efforts to protect and increase funding for transportation programs and projects within the County.
2. Support a robust Federal transportation reauthorization measure that provides the highest possible funding level for key local transportation programs and projects, including local roads, bridges, and transit priorities.
3. Support consideration of an increase or the indexing of the Federal gasoline tax and alternative sources of funding.
4. Support continued funding of the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for airport capital improvement projects.
5. Support efforts to improve rail and rail car safety, including positive train control (PTC) technologies, for transportation of hazardous materials including crude oil.
6. Support implementation of Federal Highway Administration program allowing reciprocity between the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
7. Support funding to continually update airport land use compatibility plans.

Veterans and Veterans Affairs

Solano County supports federal legislative and regulatory actions that promote and protect the health and general welfare of veterans in our community. The County opposes efforts to cut funding for key veterans programs, as well as efforts to restrict local flexibility in the administration of such programs. Specific principles include:

1. Support efforts that provide enhanced benefits for veterans and active duty, reserve and National Guard members that are cost-neutral to counties, including expanded mental health services.
2. Support efforts that would provide increased access for County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) to VA information systems for use in developing and monitoring claims submitted on behalf of veterans, including

but not limited to the federal Public Assistance and Reporting Information System (PARIS).

3. Support efforts to create a federal/state/local government partnership to reduce the VA veteran's claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans.
4. Support legislation that would make it a criminal offense to intentionally misdirect or mislead a veteran, or anyone acting on the veterans behalf, concerning benefits or entitlements.
5. Support efforts to expand/increase VA responsibility to educate veterans on their entitlements.
6. Support legislation that would establish priority enrollment and registration for veterans in community colleges, state colleges, and universities.
7. Support legislation and funding to improve existing and construct new local veteran's facilities.
8. Oppose legislative efforts to reduce, cap or otherwise negatively impact veterans, active duty, reserve and National Guard members' pay and compensation packages.
9. Support legislation that would eliminate the means test (Income limits) for veterans to qualify for VA medical care.
10. Support legislation that would authorize VA pharmacies to honor prescriptions written by non-VA physicians.
11. Support legislation that would expand the eligibility criteria for VA Dental Services for veterans eligible for VA Healthcare.
12. Support legislation that would provide CVSO's to send veteran claims electronically to the Veteran's Administration using D to D technology and the County's Vet Pro platform.

Other Agency Legislative Priorities

1. Delta County Coalition - Support the principles developed collectively by the Delta Counties Coalition.
2. Solano Transportation Authority – Support the 2021 federal legislative priorities and programs as outlined and adopted by the Solano Transportation Authority.
3. Travis Community Consortium – Support the mission of all military organizations located within the County. Support the 2021 federal legislative priorities adopted by the Travis Community Consortium.