

08/19/2025

From: Isaura Macias <isaura.macias85@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 2:05 PM
To: Clerk/BOS
Cc: District 4
Subject: Urgent Community Concern: Oppose Policy No. 80 & "In God We Trust" Signage

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Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to two items currently before the Board: the proposed installation of "In God We Trust" signage in the Board chambers and the adoption of Administrative Policy No. 80.

Regarding the signage: While I understand that the phrase "In God We Trust" is the national motto, incorporating overtly religious language into government spaces is exclusionary. Our chambers should reflect the full diversity of Fresno County's population, including people of many faiths and those of no religious affiliation. Public institutions should represent all constituents equally and remain secular in order to uphold the First Amendment and foster an inclusive environment.

I am also deeply concerned about the adoption of Administrative Policy No. 80. This policy, as proposed, would require Board approval for any departmental spending on community events, regardless of amount, and would impose prohibitions on the types of events or programs the County may participate in or fund. This is a direct response to Supervisor Garry Bredefeld's expressed opposition to the Department of Public Health's participation in Pride events — events where vital outreach services, including access to health resources and prophylactics, are provided to vulnerable communities.

The policy's vague language and the fact that the process details will be developed through an internal administrative directive — which will not be available to the public — are troubling. This lack of transparency raises serious concerns about accountability and public oversight.

If implemented, Policy No. 80 could significantly disrupt the delivery of essential services and outreach by adding unnecessary bureaucracy, delaying action, and enabling the Board to block participation in events based on political or ideological bias — even when such participation is aligned with department missions and public health mandates. It could also result in higher costs to the County due to increased staff time and administrative burdens.

I urge you to reject both the proposed signage and Administrative Policy No. 80. These actions would undermine the County's commitment to equity, transparency, and efficient governance.

Thank you for your time and attention to these important matters.

From: Brandi Nuse-Villegas <brandiangela78@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 19, 2025 7:53 AM
To: Clerk/BOS
Subject: Public comment, 08/19/25, item 35

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While I recognize that the change and exemption in this item might be a requirement, the allowance that elected departmental leaders be exempt from the approval of the board for certain items begs an important question: If an elected leader can be exempt, why would not the hired employee leader have the trust of the board, rather than burdening them with additional responsibilities, who have been entrusted with the responsibility of leading their departments with the accountability that comes with that position, ensuring that the departments are in alignment with the goals and mission of their department, and have equally worked closely with their staff and community as an elected leader?