



Board Agenda Item 5

DATE: February 26, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBMITTED BY: Jean M. Rousseau, County Administrative Officer

SUBJECT: Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform Updates

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

1. **Adopt recommended changes to the Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform;**
2. **Authorize the Chairman to execute letters of support, or opposition, in accordance with the platform; and**
3. **Authorize the County Administrative Office to work with the County's Federal Legislative Delegation, Washington lobbyist, and/or other necessary parties to support or oppose legislation in accordance with the platform.**

The Legislative Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with Congress and Federal agencies. This item is countywide.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):

1. Make changes to recommendations or language in the Federal Legislative Platform.
2. Postpone updates to the Federal Legislative Platform.
3. Choose not to make changes and continue to work off the existing Federal Legislative Platform, last updated and approved on April 17, 2018.

If your Board chooses to postpone or not make updates to the platform, staff will need to bring items that are not currently included in the platform to your Board to be addressed on an individual basis.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional Net County Cost associated with the recommended actions.

DISCUSSION:

The Federal Legislative Platform is used by County officials and staff as policy guidelines for legislative action and to facilitate timely responses to requests from the County's Federal Legislative Delegation, the County's Washington Lobbyist, and interested citizens. Your Board last updated the Federal Legislative Platform on April 17, 2018. This is the annual update to the Legislative Platform.

The platform serves as a guide for departments to easily identify if Federal issues they are working on fall within the County's Federal Platform. Any specific Federal issues falling outside of the platform would require an agenda item for presentation to your Board.

The proposed platform (Attachment A1) contains three sections:

- I. Introduction - an explanation of the purpose of the legislative platform.
- II. Major Legislative Issues - identifies significant issues for the County.
- III. General Principles - provides positions that will guide County actions and advocacy efforts in specified categories of Agriculture; Community and Workforce Investment; Criminal Justice and Public Protection; Elections; Energy/Air Quality; Environmental Quality; Federal Lands and Installations; General Government and Finance; Library; Public Health, Mental Health, and Health Care Services; Social Services; Transportation and Infrastructure; and Water.

Recommended changes to the Federal Legislative Platform are highlighted in Attachment A2 and include the following:

- Agriculture - added a bullet regarding the export of agricultural commodities and development of trade policies.
- Community and Workforce Investment - revised category to delete "Development" from the title to properly address the bullets in this category.
- General Government and Finance - revised the local property and income taxes bullet based on tax changes and created a separate bullet regarding the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. Also revised the bullet on local control and authority to include regulations and administrative rulings.
- Social Services - added a bullet regarding funding to address services and resources for veterans.
- Water - revised the bullet regarding Waters of the U.S. based on an Executive Order issued by the President in 2017.

Approval of the recommended actions will adopt the updated Federal Legislative Platform; authorize the Chairman to execute letters of support or opposition in accordance with the platform, and allow the County Administrative Office to express your Board's position on legislation in accordance with the platform.

OTHER REVIEWING AGENCIES:

The legislative platform was developed with the cooperation and input of County departments and the County's Washington lobbyist.

REFERENCE MATERIAL:

BAI #12, April 17, 2018

ATTACHMENTS INCLUDED AND/OR ON FILE:

Attachment A1 - Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform
Attachment A2 - Fresno County Federal Legislative Platform (Redlined)

CAO ANALYST:

Jeannie Z. Figueroa