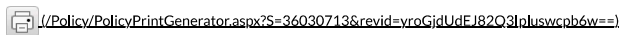


Board Policy Manual**Policy 1160: Political Processes****Status:** ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 09/21/2010 | Last Reviewed Date: 09/21/2010

The Board of Trustees has a responsibility to actively advocate fiscal and public policy that supports the district's schools and the children in the community. To the extent possible, the Board shall be proactive in defining the district's advocacy agenda based on the needs of the district and the direction set forth in the district's vision and goals.

The Board may establish reasonable regulations related to Board members and employees engaging in political activity during working hours and on district premises. (Education Code 7055)

Legislation

The Board's responsibility as an advocate for the district may include lobbying at the state and national levels.

Because local governments also make decisions which impact the district's schools, the Board and the Superintendent or designee shall work to establish ongoing relationships with city and county officials and agencies, and shall inform them of the potential effect of local issues on the schools.

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.

In order to strengthen legislative advocacy efforts, the district may work with organizations and coalitions and may join associations whose representatives lobby on behalf of their members.

As necessary, the Superintendent or designee may draft legislative proposals which serve the district's interests.

The Board may provide fair and impartial information about legislative issues affecting schools and children and shall inform the community about its legislative advocacy activities. However, the Board shall not urge the public to lobby the legislature on behalf of the district.

Ballot Measures/Candidates

The Board may study the potential effect of ballot measures on the district's schools. Any Board discussion of the effect of such measures shall include an opportunity for Board members, staff and members of the public to speak on all sides of the issue. Following such study, the Board may adopt positions in support of or in opposition to ballot measures of importance to education.

The Board's positions shall be publicized only through normal district procedures for reporting Board actions and in a manner that does not attempt to influence voters.

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

District resources shall not be used to disseminate campaign literature or to purchase advertisements, bumper stickers, posters or similar promotional items that advocate an election result.

The Superintendent or designee may use district resources to provide students, parents/guardians and community members with fair and impartial information related to ballot measures, including information about the impact of ballot measures on the district. (Education Code 7054)

In preparing or distributing such information, the Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the totality of the circumstances, including language, style, tenor and timing, does not expressly advocate passage or defeat of a measure or candidate.

The Superintendent or designee may research, draft and prepare a bond measure or other initiative for the ballot, but shall not use district resources to secure signatures in order to qualify the measure for the ballot.

Upon request, Board members and district administrators may appear at any time before a citizens' group to explain why the Board called for an election on a bond measure and to answer questions. (Education Code 7054.1)

If the presentation occurs during working hours, the district representative shall not urge a citizens' group to vote for or against the bond measure.

For informational purposes, the Superintendent or designee may conduct a poll related to a ballot issue. Such a poll shall not advocate a particular position on the issue.

Legal Advocacy

The Board recognizes that some issues are more appropriately addressed judicially rather than legislatively. When a legal issue is likely to set a state or national precedent, the district may join with other districts or parties in order to challenge the issue through litigation or other appropriate means.

Political Forums

Forums on political issues may be held in district facilities as long as the forum is made available to all sides of the issue on an equitable basis. (Education Code 7058)

Policy Reference Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

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2 CCR 18600-18640	http://voice.google.com/calls/lobbyists/https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Browse/Home/California/CaliforniaCodeofRegulations?guid=190F240D0D49311DEBC02831C6D6C108F&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=Default&contextData=(sc.Default))
2 CCR 18901.1	Campaign related mailings sent at public expense https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/Document/I12D8FFCC033D4303B5D93668B0D48DD8?viewType=FullText&originationContext=documenttoc&transitionType=CategoryPageItem&contextData=(sc.Default))
Ed. Code 35160	Authority of governing boards https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=35160
Ed. Code 35172	Promotional activities https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=35172
Ed. Code 7050-7058	Political activities of school officers and employees https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&division=1.&title=1.&part=5.&chapter=1.&article=2
Ed. Code 7054	Use of district property https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=7054
Ed. Code 7054.1	Requested appearance https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=7054.1
Ed. Code 7056	Soliciting or receiving political funds https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=7056
Elec. Code 9170	Ballot label; support and opposition listings https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=9170
Elec. Code 9501	School district elections; arguments for or against a measure https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=ELEC&sectionNum=9501
Gov. Code 53060.5	Attendance at legislative body; expenses https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=53060.5
Gov. Code 54953.5	Audio or video recording of proceedings https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=54953.5
Gov. Code 54953.6	Broadcasts of proceedings https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=54953.6
Gov. Code 81000-91014	Political Reform Act https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayexpandedbranch.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=&title=9.&part=&chapter=&article=
Gov. Code 82031	Definition of independent expenditure https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=82031
Gov. Code 8314	Unlawful use of state resources https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&sectionNum=8314

Management Resources

Management Resources	Description
Attorney General Opinion	73 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 255 (1990) ()
Attorney General Opinion	88 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 46 (2005) ()
Court Decision	Choice-in-Education League et al v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (1993) 17 Cal.App.4th 415 ()
Court Decision	League of Women Voters v. Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee, (1988) 203 Cal.App.3d 529 ()
Court Decision	Miller v. Miller, (1978) 87 Cal.App.3d 762 ()
Court Decision	Santa Barbara County Coalition Against Automobile Subsidies v. Santa Barbara County Association of Governments, (2008) 167 Cal.App.4th 1229 ()
Court Decision	Stanson v. Mott, (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 206 ()
Court Decision	Vargas v. City of Salinas, (2009) 46 Cal. 4th 1 ()
Court Decision	Yes on Measure A v. City of Lake Forest, (1997) 60 Cal.App.4th 620 ()
CSBA Publication	Legal Guidelines for Lobbying Activity, Fact Sheet, February 2011 https://www.csba.org/Advocacy/-/media/CSBA/Files/Advocacy/ELA/2011_02_LegalGuidelinesForLobbyingActivity.ashx
CSBA Publication	Legal Guidelines: Use of Public Resources for Ballot Measures and Candidates, Fact Sheet, February 2011 ()
Institute for Local Government Publication	Legal Issues Associated with Use of Public Resources and Ballot Measure Activities, June 2010 ()
Website	CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/
Website	Institute for Local Government http://www.ca-ilg.org
Website	Fair Political Practices Commission http://www.fppc.ca.gov
Website	CSBA http://www.csba.org

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Cross References

0000	Vision (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=zMdx54vLIfeJezvsXYnNrA==)
0000	Vision (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=8OI2HRI9LrOxnol1SEaslsrA==)
0200	Goals For The School District (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=97slshWmxSaQRA1AZUM0ZxRkA==)
1000	Concepts And Roles (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=gbER6DvQRk6QHsY2r65YbA==)
1100	Communication With The Public (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=MuvwSfn1A9Jgvex1RslshUsw==)
1112	Media Relations (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=4tIfYFDyIlnkZlPkJemsjsA==)
1114	District-Sponsored Social Media (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=7cFtCxtJl3CBt4QsTYvicw==)
1325	Advertising And Promotion (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=MEklvZvn4mPnd5UftQmNQ==)
1330	Use Of School Facilities (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=YO3XHcKyQCIWSixv2AZnlQ==)
1330	Use Of School Facilities (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=9rQh73PA04O02FbTsMx7oQ==)
1330-E PDF(1)	Use Of School Facilities (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=6wtw9avfgwo4RnyQM7fI7aw==)
1400	Relations Between Other Governmental Agencies And The Schools (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=8QDktCzKg9AkzzfnK8acvg==)
4119.25	Political Activities Of Employees (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=OoYBGLJFR7rfJRI59wJlCplug==)
4119.25	Political Activities Of Employees (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=GOapBklUngu6y433Uqri1w==)
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4319.25	Political Activities Of Employees (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=YbNyscLDY3xf7QFXun6meA==)
7131	Relations With Local Agencies (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=8pgUB6Hslshp13lm5Ek5Fp2IA==)
7214	General Obligation Bonds (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=arTZeSgKoDveg127ZJvGRg==)
7214	General Obligation Bonds (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=qE1SVHWWrUZvyvpluswmhwwSiQ==)
9000	Role Of The Board (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=5Zn06Peykji4rjEZajyrMA==)
9010	Public Statements (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=a8xHpwcKxurP4b6Zafjfv==)
9124	Attorney (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=75HiACfDyK91vmNDbtCLg==)
9200	Limits Of Board Member Authority (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=baH84AB75SZ6EuzXoHuR8g==)
9230	Orientation (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=eQf4g6XunJEeC3wHm3plus4gQ==)
9250	Remuneration, Reimbursement And Other Benefits (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=PHY1aSOYgyH98pnaLu92w==)
9320	Meetings And Notices (/Policy/ViewPolicy.aspx?S=36030713&revid=WgIM3Y8Mei1nslsh355Y9IdEg==)