

MENDOCINO COUNTY POLICY #19	LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY
ADOPTED: April 25, 1989	ADOPTED BY: Minute Order
AMENDED: May 25, 1999	AMENDED BY: Minute Order
AMENDED: July 21, 2009	AMENDED BY: Minute Order

Purpose

The intent of this policy is to create an effective framework for legislative advocacy for Mendocino County. The policy outlines the process by which the annual County Legislative Platform is produced, and proposed legislation is reviewed, evaluated, supported or opposed, and tracked. The goal of the County is to speak with a unified voice on legislative matters and to act with strength and consistency.

On an annual basis, the Executive Office will develop and the Board will adopt a Legislative Platform which will serve as the work plan for legislative activity, appropriation requests and advocacy for Mendocino County. The Board has designated the General Government Committee to hear and advise on legislative matters, as a standing item on the Committee agendas.

Annual Legislative Platform

The Executive Office creates a schedule each year for the development of a County Legislative Platform. All non-elected department heads and all Board-appointed Boards, Commissions, and Committees are to complete and submit to the Executive Office their recommendations on State and Federal legislative matters that would impact the programs, goods and services of Mendocino County. All elected officials are encouraged to submit their recommendations as well.

Furthermore, in order to facilitate legislative advocacy efforts on specific bills, Department Heads, Boards, Commissions, and Committees are encouraged to recommend general statements of policy to be supported as part of the annual Legislative Platform.

The Executive Office will develop and submit a proposed Legislative Platform to the Board of

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Supervisors for review and approval on an annual basis. The adopted Legislative Platform will be submitted to legislators, legislative representatives, or lobbying organizations.

General Government Committee

The General Government/Legislative/Personnel Committee will have a "standing" agenda item in order to receive and consider legislative matters pursuant to the County Legislative Platform.

The General Government Committee will review proposed County positions on Legislation and approve recommendations for agendizing before the full Board of Supervisors for adoption of positions.

In the event that the General Government Committee becomes aware of an urgent need for legislative advocacy, the Committee Chair, with the concurrence of the County Executive Officer, may authorize legislative advocacy, including a letter for signature by the Chair of the Board of Supervisors or the Chief Executive Officer, if either the bill or general policy issue has been previously discussed and supported by the Board. A copy of any letter pertaining to legislative advocacy shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for ratification at the next regular Board meeting.