

# Legislative Update

- (1) Receive a verbal update from Paragon Government Relations
- (2) Receive a verbal update from Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.
- (3) Review and consider approval of the Proposed **2026 Federal Legislative Platform** and Proposed **2026 State Legislative Platform**

Presented to Solano County Board of Supervisors October 28, 2025 | County Administrator's Office By Matthew A. Davis, Principal Management Analyst







## Why are the legislative platforms so important?



#### (1) Guide Advocacy and Policy Positions

- Platforms outline the County's official positions on key state and federal issues
- Platforms provide direction to staff / advocates on which bills to support/oppose/monitor
- Platforms ensure the County's lobbying efforts are consistent, timely and aligned with BOS priorities



#### (2) Strengthen the County's Voice and Influence

- Platforms provide a unified voice, allowing the County to more effectively engage with legislators
- Platforms help elevate local needs to state and federal decision-makers
- Platforms allow the County to partner with associations (NACo/CSAC) on shared priorities



#### (3) Promote Strategic and Efficient Decision-Making

- Platforms helps the County act quickly and strategically when new legislation emerges
- Platforms help staff respond immediately to relevant bills without waiting for BOS direction each time
- Platforms ensure proactive efforts, focused on long-term goals (funding/local control/regulatory flexibility)



## How do the platforms get developed from year-to-year?



#### (1) CAO Initiates the Platform Development Process in August

- CAO requests departments review the previous year's Legislative Platform
- Departments are asked to consults their professional organizations to identify emerging issues
- Based on internal and external considerations, departments provide feedback and suggested edits



#### (2) Lobbying Teams Review and Provide Input

- After departments provide input, the County's federal/state lobbyists review the draft platforms
- Lobbyists assess potential policy and funding priorities based on the anticipated legislative landscape
- After an analysis, lobbyists provide recommendations and strategic insights to strengthen the platforms



#### (3) CAO Review and Preparation for Board Consideration

- CAO reviews all departmental and lobbyist feedback and incorporates appropriate edits
- A 'red-line' and 'clean' versions are prepared for Board consideration as part of the agenda packet
- A high-level comparison is included in this slide deck to showcase key changes and their rationale



# What are some of the high-level updates to the 2026 platforms?



#### **Agriculture, Natural Resources and Water**

- Places emphasis on climate-adaptive agriculture practices, local food system, and integrated water systems
- Increased focus on resiliency for vulnerable communities and the economic impacts of climate programs



#### **Health and Social Services**

- Bolsters actions that mitigate HR1 impacts on safety-net programs by advocating for local control, flexibility and resources
- Streamlines enrollment and access to food and nutrition programs to reduce food insecurity and improve community nutrition
- Broadens coverage of behavioral health integration and 'whole person care' initiatives
- References climate change as a public health issue, aligning with efforts to integrate climate impacts into health programs
- Places additional focus on Medicaid reimbursement for preventative home visiting services



#### Public Safety, Justice, Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

- Explicitly includes climate-related hazards and rapid-response flexibility, in addition to crime prevention efforts
- Places a stronger focus on prevention/intervention programs for vulnerable populations (elderly, youth, survivors of domestic violence)



#### **Environmental Health, Sustainability and Resource Management**

- Supports clean tech, sustainable industry and port modernization to strengthen Solano County's economy/environment
- Promotes climate resilience through responsive utilities, infill housing, infrastructure, land use and disaster planning



## Other ways staff keeps the Board informed, in addition to the Platforms



#### Regular legislative updates to the Board of Supervisors

- Staff provides at least four (4) time-relevant legislative updates to the Board every calendar year
- Staff can also come to the Board to provide update(s) based on legislation of interest anytime during the year



#### Weekly communications from lobbying teams

The Board receives a weekly federal and state legislative update via email from Paragon and SYASL Partners



#### **Solano County legislation of interest website**

The Board and departments have access to a real-time <u>legislation tracking website</u> maintained by SYASL Partners that provides the bill numbers, summaries, and position(s) the County has taken on specific bills during the legislative cycle



#### Access to our federal and state lobbing teams

The Board has access to the County's federal and state lobbying teams for questions, concerns and advice



# **Board Consideration of 2026 Platforms**

### The County Administrator's Office requests:

- (1) The Board review and consider approval of the 2026 Legislative Platforms
- (2) Grants staff permission to move forward with posting / distribution of Platforms

### If Adopted, Legislative Platforms are:

- Posted to the Solano County Legislative Affairs website
- Electronically distributed to departments, lobbyists, Legislative Delegation and their staff
- Printed and handed out at legislative conferences, including NACo and CSAC
- Used by departments / lobbyists to act upon legislative priorities

#### Thank you.