November 10, 2026

Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY
Fiscal Impact: None

This item provides a summary of Kern County's state legislative activities for 2026, a year marked by focused advocacy, strategic engagement with state policymakers, and efforts to secure funding and protect local priorities.

Guided by the Board's direction and the County's Legislative Platform, Kern advanced a targeted agenda in Sacramento centered on public safety, healthcare, infrastructure investment, economic development, and local governance. The County supported legislation that advances local priorities and opposed proposals that could impose additional costs, restrict operational flexibility, or negatively affect County revenues and services.

Notable legislative outcomes this year

SB 1329 – Active Solar Property Tax Assessment: The County actively advocated against this proposal, which would have required assessors to adjust the valuation of active solar energy systems. The bill failed passage in the Legislature, preserving existing law and avoiding proposed changes to solar property tax assessments.

AB 1383 – Public Employee Pension Reform: The County opposed proposed changes to the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act that would have expanded pensionable compensation limits and permitted changes to certain safety retirement formulas. The Governor vetoed the bill, preventing the proposed changes from becoming law.

Wildfire Liability Reform: The County, alongside statewide local government associations, engaged in efforts to protect public agencies from provisions that could have limited recovery of wildfire-related costs, including damaged public infrastructure, emergency response expenses, and lost property tax revenues. Although the broader wildfire liability agreement ultimately failed to advance, the most significant provisions raising county and local government concerns had been removed from the final version of SB 492 before negotiations broke down.

Budget and Direct Appropriations

The County advocated for state funding to address local needs and protect critical County services. Key outcomes from the 2026–27 State Budget and end-of-session budget package include:

- **H.R. 1 Implementation Funding:** The final state budget included $250 million for public hospitals facing increased financial pressures and $420 million for homelessness, behavioral health, victim services, election administration, and other county-administered programs. The budget also rejected several proposed county cost shifts.

- **Proposition 36:** The state budget included $50 million for implementation-related needs, including $20 million in new county-specific funding for behavioral health planning and capacity building, $20 million for pretrial services that may support Proposition 36 activities, and $10 million for trial courts. However, the broader ongoing county funding sought during budget negotiations was not secured.

- **Victims of Crime Act (VOCA):** The final budget included $50 million to support services for crime victims, doubling the $25 million proposed in the May Revision.

- **Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP):** The state budget provided $900 million for Round 7, with provisions intended to streamline distribution through supplemental Round 6 disbursements. However, the additional $1 billion commitment for 2027–28 sought by counties was not included in the requested form.

- **Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Benefit:** The budget provided $42 million in General Fund support to continue the statewide benefit through June 30, 2027, avoiding a proposed shift of the nonfederal share of these services to counties.

- **Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit:** The County requested removal of the proposed tax credit from the state budget because of concerns that it could redirect diesel excise tax revenues otherwise available for state and local transportation programs, including Local Streets and Roads. The proposal was not included in the final budget agreement.

Over $5.4 Million in Direct State Budget Appropriations

Through the end-of-session budget package, Kern County secured approximately $5.44 million in direct allocations for local projects and services, including:

- $2 million for a Community and Emergency Disaster Center to support emergency services.
- $2 million for a mobile dental unit at Kern Medical.
- $750,000 for Meadows Field Airport infrastructure and regional aviation expansion.
- $500,000 for the Office of Emergency Services to support cybersecurity and counterterrorism preparedness for schools, water systems, and critical infrastructure.
- $100,000 for the Office of Veterans' Services to provide grants for veteran-owned businesses and entrepreneurs.
- $88,000 for Public Health Services to support rural cancer prevention, screening, and patient navigation.

Legislative Influence

The County took positions on 57 bills during the 2026 legislative session, including remaining two-year bills, achieving a **63% success rate** on all bills we engaged on. The results demonstrate the importance of sustained advocacy and outreach to state policymakers.

- **30 supported bills:** 16 were signed into law, three were vetoed by the Governor, and 11 failed passage in the Legislature. The County achieved approximately a 53% success rate in securing the Governor's signature on supported legislation.
- **27 opposed bills:** Seven were signed into law, three were vetoed by the Governor, and 17 failed passage in the Legislature. The County achieved approximately a 74% success rate in blocking opposed legislation through gubernatorial vetoes or failure to advance.

Because 2026 marked the second year of the 2025–26 legislative session, bills that failed passage are no longer eligible to advance in the current session and would need to be reintroduced in the 2027–28 session. While the County's advocacy contributed to advancing its priorities and preventing certain proposals from becoming law, legislative outcomes also reflect the work of bill authors, other local governments, statewide associations, and other stakeholders.

Strategic Engagement

SYASL provided testimony more than 50 times during legislative policy committee proceedings on behalf of the County, including lead testimony on key issues. The firm also coordinated meetings with legislators, committee consultants, legislative leadership, and the Governor's Office to communicate the local impacts of proposed legislation and advance Kern County's budgetary and policy priorities.

Significant engagement focused on SB 1329 and its potential impacts on solar property tax assessments, AB 1383 and proposed pension changes, and County budget and legislative priorities. Meetings included the Governor and his staff, Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón and her staff, Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas and his staff, committee leadership, and Kern County's legislative delegation.

These efforts strengthened the County's relationships with key decisionmakers and helped ensure that Kern County's fiscal and operational concerns were represented during high-stakes legislative negotiations.

Looking Ahead

The 2026 legislative session concluded with meaningful funding outcomes and several important policy victories, while also underscoring the need for continued vigilance. State budget pressures, implementation of H.R. 1, wildfire liability, healthcare funding, and proposals affecting County revenues and operations will remain important areas of focus as the Legislature reconvenes in January 2027.

Through continued coordination between the Board of Supervisors, the Legislative Program Committee (LPC), County departments, and SYASL, Kern County will remain positioned to identify emerging issues, advance local priorities, and respond promptly to legislation affecting County services and residents.

In totality, these collective efforts have reinforced Kern County's presence as an active and credible voice in Sacramento, produced measurable funding and policy outcomes, and helped protect local interests during a consequential legislative year.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board receive and file this report.

Sincerely,

Nancy Anderson

Nancy Anderson
County Administrative Officer

NA/TB: LEGGEN Annual Overview of State Legislative Activity (BOS).doc

Attachment

cc: All County Departments

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Yoder
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MEMORANDUM

To:	Kern County Board of Supervisors
From:	Paul Yoder, Partner, SYASL
	Dylan Elliott, Advocate, SYASL
Date:	November 10, 2026
Subject:	Year End State Affairs Report – 2026

2026 Legislative Session

The Legislature adjourned the 2025–26 Legislative Session in the early hours of Tuesday, September 1, after both houses worked through the weekend and late into Monday night to finish action on the several hundred measures that remained heading into the final days. The Governor had until 11:59 p.m. on September 30 to sign or veto bills sent to him at the end of the legislative year. In total, the Legislature sent the Governor 1,160 bills during 2026. Of those, Governor Newsom signed 1,040 and vetoed 120.

As has increasingly become the case in Sacramento, some of the most consequential issues were still being negotiated in the final days and hours of session. In fact, 71 bills were amended during the final 72-hour window—the most since the 72-hour in-print requirement took effect in 2016. Several major proposals, including the Budget Bill Jr. (AB/SB 113) and the wildfire liability package (SB 492), were not in print early enough to be taken up by the August 31 deadline. Because urgency measures can be considered after September 1, lawmakers recessed around midnight Monday and returned Tuesday morning for one final, limited day of session.

In the end, agreements were reached on most of the major outstanding issues. Lawmakers reached a deal on public-agency liability related to childhood sexual assault claims through SB 577 (Laird), including changes addressing older claims and joint-and-several liability for public agencies with a relatively small share of fault. They also finalized the end-of-session budget and climate package, resolving spending decisions that had been left open in June, including allocations from the Proposition 4 climate bond (AB/SB 113) and a longer-term expenditure framework for Cap-and-Invest/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund revenues (AB/SB 193). Wildfire liability reform, however, proved to be the notable exception. Throughout August, the Administration and legislative leaders had been negotiating a wildfire liability package, while Cal Cities, CSAC, RCRC and other local government interests worked to remove provisions that could have limited public-agency recovery of wildfire-related costs. A compromise ultimately emerged through SB 492 following negotiations involving the Governor and leadership of both houses. The Senate was prepared to move the measure, but Assembly Democrats caucused Tuesday morning and ultimately declined to bring it up for a vote. Speaker Robert Rivas indicated that the compromise did not adequately address the structural nature of California's wildfire liability problem, and the bill died when the Legislature adjourned.

Of note for local agencies, the final version of SB 492 had already removed the provisions that generated the most significant county and local government concerns, including proposed limitations affecting recovery for damaged public infrastructure, emergency response costs, and lost property tax revenues. Those direct concerns had therefore largely been resolved before the larger agreement fell apart. The failure to reach an agreement, however, has already had broader repercussions. PG&E announced that it would defer approximately $2 billion in planned 2027 capital investments, including some work associated with connecting new customers and

generation to the grid. Governor Newsom also directed the CPUC to monitor utility credit ratings and capital markets and submit a report by November 1 examining the statewide implications of the Legislature's failure to enact structural reforms.

Looking ahead, wildfire liability is unlikely to disappear as an issue. Assembly Energy Committee leadership has indicated that informational hearings will be held this fall, and there continues to be discussion about a possible Special Session, although the Governor has not called one. Otherwise, lawmakers will return to Sacramento for the organizational session on December 7 before reconvening for regular legislative business on January 4, 2027. In the meantime, attention turns to the Governor and the bills awaiting his action.

2026-27 State Budget

On June 29, 2026, Governor Newsom signed the 2026–27 state budget. The Legislature initially sent AB 109, reflecting its Legislative Budget Plan, to the Governor on June 15 to meet the constitutional budget deadline. The final agreement between the Governor, Senate, and Assembly was subsequently reflected in AB/SB 111, the Budget Bill Jr., which amended the spending plan contained in AB 109. All told, the Budget Act of 2026 contains approximately $351.7 billion in total state spending, including $251.5 billion from the General Fund, $95.1 billion from special funds, and $5.1 billion from bond funds. The final agreement maintains $28.8 billion in reserves, including $15.1 billion in the Rainy Day Fund, $9.2 billion in the Proposition 98 reserve, and $4.5 billion in the state's regular reserve. The budget is balanced for both 2026–27 and 2027–28, while projected structural deficits in the out-years have been substantially reduced, although not eliminated.

Part of that two-year approach is the state's first use of the Projected Surplus Temporary Holding Account, with $6.4 billion set aside in 2026–27 for use in 2027–28. Together with the state's traditional reserves, approximately $35.2 billion is therefore being set aside for reserves or future funding obligations. The budget also relies on several revenue measures, including renewal of the Managed Care Organization tax, continued limitations on business tax credits, and extending the sales and use tax to electronically delivered prewritten software. The software tax is estimated to generate $560 million in additional local sales tax revenues in 2026–27 and $1.1 billion annually beginning in 2027–28.

H.R. 1 Implementation Funding

Of particular importance to counties, the final budget provides additional resources to address the impacts of H.R. 1, including funding for county eligibility administration and public hospitals, while rejecting several proposed county cost shifts. Important for Kern County, the final budget included $250 million for public hospitals facing increased financial pressures. Additionally, the final budget included $420 million for additional funding for homelessness, behavioral health, victim services, election administration, and other county-administered programs.

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program

The final budget provides $900 million for HHAP Round 7 and includes provisions intended to streamline distribution by providing Round 7 funding as supplemental Round 6 disbursements. The requested commitment of an additional $1 billion for 2027–28, however, was not included in the form sought by counties. The final agreement also establishes additional eligibility, accountability, and, for certain jurisdictions, local matching requirements for Round 7.

Proposition 36

The final State Budget includes $50 million associated with Proposition 36 implementation, of which $20 million is new county-specific funding for behavioral health planning and capacity building. An additional $20 million restores funding for pretrial services that may be used for Proposition 36-related activities, and $10 million is provided to trial courts. The final agreement does not provide the broader ongoing county funding sought during budget negotiations.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)
$50 million was included in the final budget agreement, doubling the $25 million proposed in the May Revision.

Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis Benefit
The final budget provides $42 million General Fund to continue the statewide Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis benefit through June 30, 2027, avoiding the proposed shift of the non-federal share of these services to counties.

Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit
Kern County requested that the proposed Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit as proposed by the Governor's Administration be excluded from the final budget because of its potential to redirect diesel excise tax revenues otherwise available for state and local transportation purposes, including the Local Streets and Roads program. That proposal was not included in the final budget agreement.

Budget Bill Jr. and Kern County Direct Appropriations

The June budget was not the final word on state spending this year. Negotiations over several major items continued throughout the summer and into the final days of session. The end-of-session budget package, primarily through AB/SB 113 and AB/SB 193 ultimately allocated approximately $2.7 billion from the Proposition 4 climate bond and $450 million in discretionary Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund revenues, among other provisions. Included in AB 113, Kern County received direct allocations from the State Budget outlined below:

1. Community and Emergency Disaster Center – $2,000,000 – Emergency services facility
2. Kern Medical – $2,000,000 – Mobile dental unit (2 chairs + X-ray)
3. Meadows Field Airport – $750,000 – Airport infrastructure/regional aviation expansion
4. Office of Emergency Services – $500,000 – Cybersecurity/counterterrorism preparedness for schools, water systems, critical infrastructure
5. Office of Veterans' Services – $100,000 – Grants for veteran-owned businesses/entrepreneurs
6. Public Health Services Dept. – $88,000 – Rural cancer prevention, screening, patient navigation

Legislation Supported by the County

AB 109 (Gabriel) – 2026 Budget Act. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 283 (Haney) – Would establish the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Employer-Employee Relations Act to shift collective bargaining with IHSS providers from the local level to the state. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 871 (Stefani) – Requires mandated reporters of suspected financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult to report suspected abuse to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and requires financial institutions to train their employees who are mandated reporters on how to escalate concerns internally and how to make required reports. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1436 (Ávila Farías) – Would prevent the California Air Resources Board from enforcing any regulation that directly or indirectly affects a private fleet, as stipulated, without a waiver from the federal Environmental Protection Agency. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 1534 (Irwin) – Establishes state consumer protection standards for public and private postsecondary institutions seeking to participate in the federal Workforce Pell Grant program for short-term workforce training programs; and modifies Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requirements by requiring local workforce development boards to ensure that at least 50% of participants receive workforce training services commencing in 2028. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1547 (Bains) – Requires the University of California (UC), by January 1, 2028, to complete a feasibility study for the establishment of a UC medical school branch campus in Kern County. *Status: Vetoed by the Governor.*

AB 1607 (M. González) – Extends the sunset date, from January 1, 2027, to January 1, 2037, on both the portion of the Maddy Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Fund that provides funding for pediatric trauma centers, and on a provision that authorizes counties to levy an additional penalty in the amount of $2 for every $10 on fines and penalties imposed on all criminal offenses for deposit in the Maddy EMS Fund. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1660 (Schiavo) – Permits a court to award sanctions of no less than $1,000 per violation if a financial institution or other person fails to comply with existing requirements to provide information or surrender property of a decedent, minor, or conservatee to a public administrator or public guardian that is authorized to take possession and control of such property. Specifies that a financial institution or other person or entity must receive notice of violation, as specified, and makes written certifications valid for 60 days, as specified. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1821 (Pacheco) – Extends the deadlines for public agencies to provide an initial response to a public records request, by converting the current "calendar day" deadlines to a "business day" standard. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1852 (Bains) – Would create a fallback mechanism for establishing a public medical school in Kern County if, by July 1, 2027, the University of California (UC) Office of the President has not taken "formal, verifiable steps" to establish a school of medicine in Kern County, and would authorize the California State University (CSU) Bakersfield and the Kern Community College District (KCCD), acting through a newly authorized local public agency called the Kern Medical Education Authority, to establish and operate a medical school in Kern County, subject to accreditation. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 1846 (Stefani) – Clearly establishes that preferential consideration should be given to a request by a relative for placement of a dependent at every stage of the dependency court proceedings. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 2032 (Ransom) – Exempts a public or private agency that operates a water supply system from certain California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) invasive mussel permitting requirements until CDFW approves or denies the agency's control plan and requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Water Resources Control Board to quickly respond to the threat of golden mussels. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 2124 (Pacheco) – Requires the California Council on Science and Technology (CCST), upon appropriation, to establish a program to analyze, at the request of the Legislature, legislation that would establish a mandated program or requirement or otherwise affect electrical or natural gas ratepayers. *Status: Vetoed by the Governor.*

AB 2157 (Connolly) – Eliminates the July 1, 2027, sunset on the Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Pilot Program established to address employment dislocations associated with oil, gas, and related industries. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 2203 (Tangipa) – Requires, commencing with the 2028-29 academic year, each campus of the California State University (CSU) and California Community Colleges (CCCs), and requests each campus of the University of California (UC) that administers a priority enrollment system, to grant priority to recipients of federal GI Bill benefits and recipients of the specified state fee waiver for military-connected students. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 2705 (Dixon) – Would limit the validity of agreements between asset locators and parties of interest to locate, deliver, or recover excess proceeds from tax sales. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 2711 (Ellis) – Would require the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to evaluate whether a submitted notice of intention (NOI) to drill, redrill, or abandon a well is complete or not within 10 days, approve or deny a complete NOI within 30 days following the determination of completeness, require an explanation of the denial, and provide for an operation of law approval of an NOI if certain technical and environmental reviews are completed, among other provisions, as provided. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 2712 (Ellis) – Would narrow California's oil and gas restrictions in health protection zones so they apply only to new wells rather than to all well-related activities, align related requirements like sensitive receptor mapping and bonding with that narrower scope, and repeal the prohibition on constructing or operating production facilities within those zones. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AJR 23 (Hadwick) – Would express the consent of the Legislature for specified counties to form a new state from within the current boundaries of the State of California, and would urge Congress to accept and embrace that consent *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 581 (McGuire) – Would amend existing law relating to state firefighter classifications within the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 661 (Hurtado) – Transfers from the General Fund (GF), the Local Public Safety Fund (LPSF), and the Local Revenue Fund (LRF) to the Aeronautics Account in the State Transportation Account certain revenues derived from the imposition of state sales and use tax (SUT) on jet fuel and dedicates those revenues to specified airports and aviation-related purposes. *Status: Vetoed by the Governor.*

SB 694 (Archuleta) – Provides additional protections for veterans in California in connection with fees charged for assistance applying for veterans' benefits and the privacy of their information. Requires persons to be federally accredited before preparing, presenting, or prosecuting a veteran's claim for benefits under federal law. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 758 (Umberg) – Prohibits a retailer licensed to engage in the sale of cigarettes or tobacco products from selling nitrous oxide at a retail location. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 845 (Pérez) – Makes various changes to the state's framework for career technical education (CTE), work-based learning, and youth apprenticeships, including: (1) establishing definitions and common requirements for work-based learning activities; (2) expanding the authority of local educational agencies (LEAs) and state special schools to offer work-based learning through work experience education (WEE), CTE, early college credit, and other existing programs; (3) allowing pupils beginning in grade 10 to receive credit for WEE; (4) clarifying workers'

compensation, liability, and student protections for work-based learning activities; and (5) establishing requirements for school-based youth apprenticeship programs registered with the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS). *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 892 (Grove) – Beginning July 1, 2027, requires a campus of the California State University (CSU), and of the California Community Colleges (CCC), and requests a campus of the University of California (UC), that administer a priority enrollment system, to provide priority enrollment registration to any California resident member or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States, without regard to number of years removed from state or federal active duty and without limitation on the number of years a student may receive priority status. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 926 (Strickland) – Would, as the Funding of Proposition 36 Act, create the California Public Safety Services Support Fund. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 940 (Grove) – Would establish the New Technology Program within the Geologic Energy Management Division in the Department of Conservation (CalGEM) to facilitate evaluation of repurposing oil and gas or geothermal wells for renewable-energy-related purposes. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 973 (Becker) – Requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Department) to establish the California Wildfire Preparedness Program and enter into an agreement with the California Fire Safe Council (CFSC) to administer and deliver the Wildfire County Coordinator Program. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 1143 (Caballero) – Authorizes the members of a multidisciplinary team associated with a children's advocacy center to share any information or records, as defined, including video recordings of the forensic interview, with child welfare agencies authorized to investigate child abuse and neglect for specified purposes. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 1157 (Archuleta) – Would require a court, when determining whether to place a ward committed to a secure youth treatment facility (SYTF) in a less restrictive program (LRP) in which the ward would reside in congregate residential care, to consider specified information about the program and to state on the record the reason for the placement. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

Legislation Opposed by the County

AB 28 (Schiavo) – Establishes a protocol for the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to require a corrective action plan in the event of a subsurface elevated temperature event (SET) at a landfill. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 225 (Bonta) – Would prohibit hospitals and health systems from charging facility fees for a wide range of outpatient, preventive, and telehealth services. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 340 (Ahrens) – Would prohibit a public employer from (1) questioning an employee or employee representative regarding representation-related communications made in confidence between the employee and employee representative, and (2) compelling disclosure of such communications to a third party. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 1116 (Berman) – Requires by January 1, 2029, the Secretary of State (SOS) to develop a method to collect an electronic image of a signature from someone who does not have a California driver's license or a California identification card and is registering to vote electronically using the statewide voter registration system on the SOS' website. *Status: Vetoed by the Governor.*

AB 1156 (Wicks) – Allows additional Williamson Act cancellations that facilitate the development of a solar facility located within a critically-overdrafted basin or subbasin to qualify for reduced or eliminated cancellation fees provided those cancellations include a community-benefits agreement. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1331 (Elhawary) – Prohibits an employer from using a workplace surveillance tool to monitor or surveil employees in a bathroom located in the workplace. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1337 (Ward) – Amends the Information Practices Act by expanding the definition of "personal information," extending its scope to cover local governmental entities, and bolstering protections regarding disclosures and accounting. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 1376 (Bonta) – States that a ward may not remain on probation for a period that exceeds 12 months from the disposition hearing, except that a court may extend the probation period upon proof by a preponderance of the evidence that it is in the ward's and public's best interest to extend probation, as specified. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1383 (McKinnor) – Makes changes to the Public Employees' Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) of 2013 that apply prospectively to: (1) increase the pensionable compensation limit used to calculate a Defined Benefit (DB) retirement for all public employees, as provided; (2) provide options for various DB retirement formulas applicable only to safety retirement plan members; and (3) authorize employers and recognized employee organizations to negotiate a lower or higher DB safety retirement plan formula, as prescribed. *Status: Vetoed by the Governor.*

AB 1421 (Wilson) – Would require the California Transportation Commission (CTC), in consultation with the Transportation Agency (CalSTA) and other specified state, local and private entities, to consolidate and prepare research and recommendations related to a road user charge or a mileage-based fee system, which the CTC would submit in a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2027. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 1564 (Ahrens) – Would prohibit a public employer from questioning employees and employee representatives about, or compelling them to disclose to a third party, communications between employees and employee representatives in connection with the representation relating to any matter within the scope of representation, as specified. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 1576 (Ortega) – Would make specified changes to the process of filing, evaluating, and paying claims for special additional compensation from the Subsequent Injuries Benefits Trust Fund (SIBTF). *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 1883 (Bryan) – Regulates an employer's use of workplace surveillance tools, as specified. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

AB 1898 (Schultz) – Would require an employer to notify a worker of the employer's use of a workplace artificial intelligence (AI) tool. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 2027 (Ward) – Would prohibit an employer from using a worker's personal information to train an artificial intelligence (AI) system to replicate, automate, or replace a worker's job. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 2214 (Jackson) – Would establish a Community Reinvestment Account within the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) and require the State Treasurer to allocate between five and ten percent of LAIF funds toward deposits with financial institutions engaged in specified community lending activities. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

AB 2656 (Petrie-Norris) – Requires certain state and local public employers to provide a recognized employee organization no less than 45 days' written notice before taking an action to develop, purchase, or require the use of any generative AI (GenAI) to perform a service that is within the scope of work of the job classification represented by the recognized employee organization. *Status: Vetoed by the Governor.*

ACA 9 (Boerner) – Would have moved telecommunications regulation away from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), removed portions of the CPUC's constitutional regulatory authority, and made the Legislature the primary policymaking body for telecommunications and energy. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 357 (Menjivar) – Would authorize a board of supervisors, in a county with a population of at least 6,000,000 people, to delegate to a county official who has jurisdiction over youth development, the duties and authorities that the county probation department has with respect to juveniles, as specified. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 947 (McNerney) – Prohibits an employer from using an automated decision system (ADS) that does certain functions and limits the purposes and manner in which an ADS may be used to make disciplinary or termination decisions; requires an employer to provide a written ADS post use notice, as specified; includes worker anti-retaliation provisions for the exercise of these rights; authorizes enforcement through the Labor Commissioner or an authorized public prosecutor; and prescribes penalties and remedies for violations. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 982 (Wiener) – Would permit the Attorney General to bring a civil action against fossil fuel companies that meet specified criteria, to recover damages on behalf of policyholders and the FAIR Plan Association (FAIR Plan), that were caused by climate events that resulted from, or were worsened by, climate change. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 1013 (Cervantes) – Would require operators and end-users of automated license plate recognition (ALPR) systems to bolster their safeguards relating to employee access and usage of such systems; require the Department of Justice (DOJ) to conduct random annual audits of public agency operators and end-users to ensure compliance with their usage and privacy policies; and impose additional use restrictions on public agencies and place retention limits on ALPR data, with exceptions. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 1075 (Reyes) – Would make changes to the Community Air Protection Program (CAPP) established by AB 617 (C. Garcia), Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 1203 (Smallwood-Cuevas) – Requires additional training for proprietary private security officers (PSO) and private security guards specific to deescalation and employee rights, beginning January 1, 2029. *Status: Signed by the Governor.*

SB 1305 (Richardson) – Would require the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to develop a roadmap that evaluates whether, and under what conditions, reintroduction of the grizzly bear is feasible and advisable. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 1327 (Reyes) – Would transfer authority for initial and subsequent inspections and oversight of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) from the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Division of Measurement Standards (DMS) to the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (CEC) upon the CEC's adoption of related regulations, as specified. *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

SB 1329 (McNerney) – Would require assessors to adjust for certain aspects when valuing an active solar energy system (ASES). *Status: Dead; failed passage in the Legislature.*

In terms of success rates for supported and opposed bills, the County:

- **Took positions on 57 total bills** during the 2026 legislative including remaining two-year bills.
- **Supported 30 bills**: 16 were signed into law, 3 were vetoed by the Governor, and 11 failed passage in the Legislature, representing approximately a **53% success rate** in securing the Governor's signature. Because 2026 was the second year of the two-year session, the bills that failed passage are dead and would need to be reintroduced in the 2027–28 session to advance.
- **Opposed 27 bills**: 7 were signed, 3 were vetoed by the Governor, and 17 failed passage in the Legislature, reflecting about an **74% success rate** in blocking legislation. With the session over, none of the 20 blocked bills can move forward without being reintroduced.

As stated in last year's report, to the extent that bills opposed by the County contained mandates and will become law, SYASL would note that its success rate was, at times, negatively impacted by the actions of statewide associations that represent counties such as the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Urban Counties Coalition (UCC), and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).

Meetings, Cultivating Contacts, etc.

In 2026, SYASL provided testimony over 50 times, including lead testimonies, in legislative policy committees on behalf of the County. SYASL also arranged or conducted meetings on behalf of Kern County including, *but not limited to*, the following:

- Senator McNerney, staff, and SB 1329 sponsors – Meetings on SB 1329 (McNerney) and impact to Kern County.
- Colin Grinnell, Chief Consultant, Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee – Regular meetings on SB 1329 (McNerney).
- Samantha Lui, Principal Consultant, Office of Senate President pro Tem Limon – SB 1329 (McNerney) and its impact to Kern County.
- Glenn Miles, Principal Consultant, Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee – AB 1383 (McKinnor) and its impact to Kern County.
- Assemblymember Gipson, Chair of Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee – SB 1329 (McNerney) and its impacts to Kern County.
- Irene Ho, Deputy Chief Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee – SB 1329 (McNerney) and its impacts to Kern County.
- Senator Grove – County earmarks, budgetary and legislative priorities.
- Senator Hurtado – County earmarks, budgetary and legislative priorities.
- Assemblymember Lackey – County earmarks, budgetary and legislative priorities.
- Assemblymember Bains – County earmarks, budgetary and legislative priorities.
- Assemblymember Ellis – County earmarks, budgetary and legislative priorities.

- Governor Newsom and staff – Impacts of SB 1329 and efforts by large scale solar industry and AB 1383.
- Senate Pro Tem Limon and staff – Impacts of SB 1329 and AB 1383.
- Speaker Rivas and staff – Impacts of SB 1329 and AB 1383.

With respect to relationships established and/or enhanced as a result of the legislative program which are determined to be of significant long-term value to the County, the County should rest assured that SYASL maintains the best relationships possible with Governor Newsom and his staff, the Pro Tem and her staff, the Speaker and his staff, and all other relevant individuals in California policymaking. SYASL is also very well positioned to be amongst the most productive advocacy firms before both would-be administrations for the two candidates vying for Governor in the 2026 General Election.