



**California Special
Districts Association**

Districts Stronger Together

2023 Year-End Legislative Report

Major Advocacy Accomplishments:

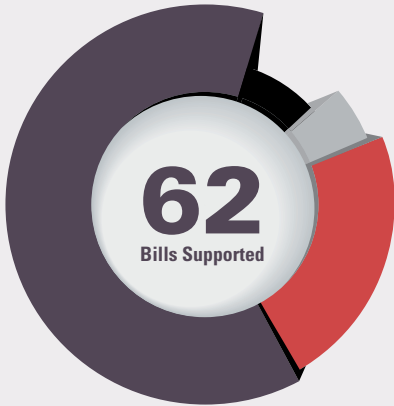
The Voice of Special Districts

Comprehensive Bill Report

CSDA is honored to advocate for and represent special districts in the pursuit of providing members with the necessary resources to best serve their communities. In addition to the highlights and bill statistics provided in this report, view CSDA's 2023 year-end priority positions bill report [here](#).

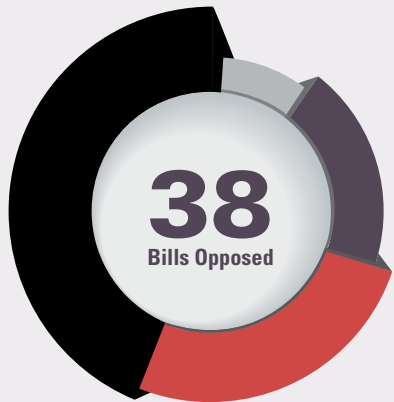
The California State Legislature introduced and CSDA reviewed 3,030 measures during the first year of the 2023-24 Legislative Session. CSDA's Legislative Committee maintained positions on 1,181 bills, including 100 priority positions. Of the 38 bills opposed by CSDA, only 7 became law. Of the 61 bills supported by CSDA, 33 became law.

2023 State Legislative Year Statistics



BILLS SUPPORTED

- 33 – Signed into law
- 4 – Vetoed
- 2 – Amended to remove support
- 23 – 2-year



BILLS OPPOSED

- 7 – Signed into law
- 4 – Vetoed
- 17 – Amended to remove opposition
- 10 – 2-year

ADVOCACY: THE VOICE OF SPECIAL DISTRICTS



CSDA Sponsored Legislation

- » **AB 557 (Hart) Brown Act** – Emergency remote meetings
- » **SCR 52 (Alvarado-Gil)** – Special Districts Week



At the Forefront of the Fight Against an Existential Threat to Special District Services

When the California Business Roundtable filed Initiative 21-0042A1 (now #1935) to retroactively incapacitate the ability of special districts and other agencies to fund government services, CSDA immediately adopted an oppose position, joined a coalition with key stakeholders, and began educating its membership. These efforts are gaining traction.

- » **ACA 13 (Ward) Protect and Retain the Majority Vote Act** – CSDA was one of the original supporters of this constitutional amendment to uphold the majority vote and force measures like Initiative #1935 to meet the same voter thresholds they seek to impose on others. ACA 13 was approved by two-thirds of each house of the State Legislature to place on the November 2024 statewide ballot.
- » **Preelection Challenge to Initiative #1935** – CSDA moved swiftly to support the filing of the Governor's and Legislature's preelection challenge to Initiative #1935, asking the California Supreme Court to conduct preelection review and prevent the measure from being placed on the ballot.
- » **Special District Resolutions in Opposition** – Over 111 special districts have now adopted a board resolution in opposition to Initiative #1935.



Protecting Local Revenue and Resources

As one of the most efficient and effective forms of government, special districts often do more with less. CSDA is fighting in the Capitol to ensure special districts have the resources they need to deliver the services their communities depend on.

- » **ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) 55 Percent Vote Threshold** – CSDA secured inclusion of special districts when this constitutional amendment was originally introduced in a prior session; ACA 1 passed the Legislature and voters will now decide whether to afford special districts and other local agencies with the same financing tools they previously approved for school districts.
- » **AB 516 (Ramos) Mitigation Fee Act** – Led efforts to resolve issues created by revisions to audit requirements for development project fees.
- » **AB 1713 (Gipson) Federal Funding** – Joined local agency stakeholders in opposition to this bill which would have created overly broad reporting requirements.
- » **AB 1490 (Lee) Housing** – Secured amendments to drop provisions that could have potential to threaten fee-related revenue that may be necessary for covering the costs of development projects, as a result, CSDA moved to a Neutral position.
- » **AB 1637 (Irwin) Web Domain Mandate** – CSDA worked with a coalition with an Oppose Unless Amended position that resulted in an amendment limiting the bill's requirement that all local governments transition to .gov websites to apply to cities and counties only.



Surplus Land Act

In response to California's housing challenges, the State Legislature has taken a critical look at numerous housing-related policies, some of which would lead to unintended or counter-productive consequences if not for the CSDA-led local government coalition advocating on behalf of those who provide the essential services that support housing and affordable living.

- » **SB 747 (Caballero)** – Support with Negotiated Amendments
- » **AB 480 (Ting)** – Neutral with Amendments
- » **AB 457 (Patterson, Joe)** – Neutral with Amendments
- » **SB 34 (Umberg)** – Neutral with Amendments
- » **SB 229 (Umberg)** – Neutral with Amendments
- » **SB 634 (Becker)** – Opposed Unless Amended



CSDA Senior Legislative Representative, Aaron Avery, presents argument to amend SB 34.



Protecting Operations Through Advocacy

Special districts employ over 160,000 front-line workers and contract for the design and construction of much of California's core infrastructure. CSDA worked to ensure these local service specialists can best serve the communities that rely on special districts.

- » **AB 400 (Rubio, Blanca)** – Design-Build: Support
- » **AB 504 (Reyes)** – Sympathy Strikes: Oppose
- » **AB 1484 (Zbur)** – Temporary Workforce Unionization: Oppose
- » **SB 149 (Caballero)** – California Environmental Quality Act: Support
- » **SB 252 (Gonzalez)** – CalPERS Divestment: Oppose
- » **SB 399 (Wahab)** – Political Job Duties: Oppose
- » **SB 706 (Caballero)** – Progressive Design-Build: Support
- » **SB 799 (Portantino)** – Unemployment Insurance: Oppose



CARB Advance Clean Fleet (ACF) Zero Emission Medium-Duty and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Mandate

CSDA advocated directly with CARB members and staff, provided written comments, and testified in opposition to the regulation during the public hearing, citing timeline, cost, infrastructure and emergency response concerns. As a result of CSDA and coalition efforts, CARB instituted numerous revisions, expanding opportunities for exemptions and extensions, including a "Milestone" implementation option that provides special districts and other local agencies with significantly more time for implementation.