

## Policy 1160: Political Processes

The ~~Board of Education~~ **Governing Board** 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~~ **The Governing Board may define an advocacy agenda** 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.~~¶

### **Ballot Measures/Candidates**¶

~~The Board may study the potential effect of ballot measures on the district's schools. Any~~ **Board** ~~district's vision and goals and the needs of the district and community. The~~ **Governing Board's** advocacy efforts shall be conducted in accordance with legal requirements.

### **Ballot Measures/Candidates**

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 **Governing Board**. (Education Code 7054)

The **Governing** Board may discuss and study the potential effect of proposed or qualified ballot measures on the district's schools at an open and agendaized Board meeting. The **Governing** Board's 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~~ At that meeting, the **Governing** Board may adopt ~~positions~~ a position or resolution 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.~~ a ballot measure. The language in any resolution adopted by the Board shall not urge the public to take any action regarding the measure.

The **Governing** Board's position on a ballot measure, including any resolution, shall be publicized only through normal district procedures and consistent with regular district practice for reporting Board actions. Such publicity shall be for informational purposes and shall not attempt to influence voters.

Individual School Board members may include their name in support of or opposition to a county, city, district, or school measure on a county ballot in accordance with Elections Code 9170.

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~~ informational material, the Superintendent or designee shall ~~ensure that the totality of the circumstances, including language, style, tenor and timing,~~ analyze the material to help ensure that it is an appropriate informational activity, provides a fair analysis of the issues, and does not ~~expressly~~ advocate passage or defeat of a measure or candidate.

District resources, including email or computer systems, shall not be used to disseminate campaign literature. In addition, district resources shall not be used to purchase advertisements, bumper stickers, posters, or similar promotional items that advocate an election result or urge voters to take any action in support of or in opposition to a measure.

Political activity related to district bond measures shall, in addition to the above, be subject to the following conditions:

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

Upon request, Board members and district administrators may appear at any time before a citizens' group to explain why the **Governing** 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~~ **employee representing the district** shall not urge a citizens' group to vote for or against the bond measure. ¶

- ~~2. 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~~
3. The **Governing** Board or any individual Board member may file a written argument for the ballot that is either for or against any school measure. (Elections Code 9501)

## Legislation

The **Governing** Board's responsibility as an advocate for the district may include lobbying and outreach at the state, national, and local levels. The **Governing** Board and Superintendent or designee shall work to establish and maintain ongoing relationships with elected officials, community leaders, and the media in order to communicate district positions and concerns.

The **Governing** Board and Superintendent ~~may shall~~ develop an advocacy action plan to define expectations and responsibilities. This plan may include, but is not limited to, legislative priorities, strategies for outreach to the media and community, development of key messages and talking points, and adoption of positions on specific legislation, regulations, or budget proposals.

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 in accordance with Government Code 53060.5.

The district may provide fair and impartial information about legislative issues affecting schools and children and shall inform the community about its advocacy activities. However, informational materials about legislation shall not urge the public to lobby the legislature, Governor, or state agencies on behalf of ~~the issue~~ **the district**.

As necessary, the **Governing** Board may direct the Superintendent or designee to draft legislative or regulatory proposals which serve the district's interests.

### **Legal Advocacy**

The **Governing** 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~~ resolve 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)