

**SAN LORENZO  
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD POLICY**

**Community Relations**

BP 1160 (a)

**Political Processes**

**STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATION**

As elected representatives of the people, the Governing Board believes it has a duty to actively advocate fiscal and public policy that supports the district's schools and the children in the community. Board members are responsible for studying and articulating the community's educational needs. This responsibility includes that of lobbying at the state and national levels and informing members of the community about these activities.

The Board shall identify issues that will affect its schools and students in the community establish goals and priorities for legislative advocacy, solicit community input, and adopt legislative positions. The Board may join with other groups in promoting or opposing proposed legislation to maintain and improve the educational program. The Board also may provide members of the community with information which may help them communicate with their legislators about educational needs.

(cf. 1020 - Youth Services)

**Statewide Election Measures**

The district shall investigate ballot measures that affect the schools and may furnish students, parents/guardians and community members with fair, complete and impartial statements of objective, relevant factual information about the impact information about the impact of statewide ballot measures on the district.

The Board may also adopt a position in support of or in opposition to statewide ballot measures of importance to education. Any Board discussion of the effect statewide measures will have on the district shall include an opportunity for Board members and members of the public to speak on all sides of the issue. The district shall not spend public funds to influence the outcome of statewide ballot measures or to disseminate Board positions for campaign purposes.

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

(cf. 9323 - Meeting Conduct)

**Local District School Measures**

The Board or any Board member may prepare or disseminate information and may make public or private appearances or statements urging the passage or defeat of any local

district school measure, including the issuance of school bonds; an increase in the maximum tax rate; the acceptance, expenditure and repayment of state funds to construct facilities; or the candidacy of any person for election to the Board.

### Local District School Measures

Upon request, any district administrative officer may appear before a citizens' group to discuss the need for issuance of bonds or an increase in the maximum tax rate and to answer taxpayers' questions about the cost of such proposals. Any use of district funds, services, supplies, or equipment for the purpose of urging the passage or defeat of local school measures shall be limited to activities specifically authorized by law.

(cf. 4119.25 - Political Activities of Employees)  
(cf. 9000 - Role of Board and Members)  
(cf. 9010 - Public Statements)  
(cf. 9230 - Orientation)

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

7054 Use of district property  
7056 Soliciting or receiving political funds  
35160 Authority of governing boards  
35172 Promotional activities  
35174 Urging the passage or defeat of school measures

##### GOVERNMENT CODE

50023 Attending legislature to support or oppose legislation  
53060.5 Attendance at legislative body; expenses  
54953.5 Right to record proceedings  
81000-91015 Political Reform Act

##### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

18109-18954 Fair Political Practices Commission, especially  
Choice-in-Education League et al v. Los Angeles Unified School District  
(1993) 17 Cal.App.4th 415  
Citizens Legal Defense Alliance, Inc., Jarvis v. Miller et al, Los  
Angeles Unified School District, Super. Ct. Los Angeles County, 1978,  
No. C 230935  
Stanson v. Mott (1976) 17 Cal. 3d 206  
League of Women Voters v. Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination  
Committee (1988) 203 Cal.App.3d 529, 250 Cal. Rptr. 161, rev.den.  
73 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 255, 258 (1992)  
73 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 255 (1990)

##### CDE LEGAL ADVISORIES

0619.87 Political Activities of School Districts and Governing Boards

Board Adopted: December 18, 2007