



## County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors

### Board Report

**AGENDA DATE:** November 25, 2025  
**TO:** Del Norte County Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Randy Hooper, Assistant County Administrative Officer  
Administration  
**SUBJECT:** 2026 Legislative Platform

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#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:**

Receive and review the draft 2026 Legislative Platform, provide direction to staff and the County's legislative advocates as appropriate, and schedule the finalized document for adoption at a subsequent meeting in December 2025, as requested by the Assistant County Administrative Officer.\*\*

#### **DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:**

On October 15, 2025, the County Administration distributed a request for input from all departments and members of the Board regarding proposed revisions to the 2026 Legislative Platform. This outreach invited suggestions on emerging issues, refinements to the 2025 Platform, and updates to reflect the County's current and anticipated legislative and funding priorities. Responses from departments, Board members, and DHHS leadership were incorporated into the draft now before the Board.

Administration also coordinated closely with the County's state and federal advocates, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer and Lange (SYASL) and Thorn Run Partners, to ensure alignment with the 2026 state and federal legislative calendars and to refine concepts that may be suitable for sponsorship or budget requests. This collaboration helped shape the proposed changes and ensured the Platform remains responsive to practical advocacy opportunities.

The Legislative Platform serves as the Board's guiding document for state and federal advocacy and establishes clear priorities for staff and the County's legislative advocates. The 2026 draft builds on the structure and priorities of the 2025 Platform, with revisions shown in green for additions and red strikethrough for deletions. Minor technical edits and updated demographic information are included but not highlighted.

#### **Summary of Key Revisions**

The draft 2026 Platform incorporates a series of refinements across nearly all policy areas. These updates are intended to clarify County priorities, reflect current legislative conditions, and position the County effectively for upcoming state and federal advocacy cycles.

## **General Principles**

The General Principles section has been updated to reposition the County's statement opposing any potential closure of Pelican Bay State Prison. This policy was moved from the Government Finance and Operations section to the General Principles based on recommendations from the County's legislative advocates, who noted the possibility that the Governor may consider additional CDCR facility closures during his final year in office.

## **Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources**

Within the Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources section, prior language supporting reauthorization of the cap and trade program has been removed because that legislation was enacted during the 2025 session. This section also includes a new policy statement encouraging managed grazing on public lands as a tool for vegetation management, wildfire prevention, and habitat restoration appropriate for rural counties.

## **Health and Human Services**

The Health and Human Services section has been significantly updated based on input from DHHS leadership. These updates reflect broader and more durable policy concepts, including alignment with statewide reforms such as Proposition 1 implementation, SB 43 conservatorship changes, and CARE Court rollout. Additional changes place stronger emphasis on the need for stable and ongoing funding for behavioral health, public health, and social services. Several program specific priorities have been streamlined to better reflect uncertainties in the 2026 legislative cycle and anticipated state budget limitations.

## **Government Finance and Operations**

Changes in the Government Finance and Operations section include removal of the prior item supporting CUPA reform. This update reflects that CUPA reform legislation was enacted during the 2025 legislative session.

## **Housing and Land Use**

The Housing and Land Use section has been updated to remove prior references to COVID related policies which are no longer relevant in current state or local contexts. The section continues to highlight local control, infrastructure limitations, and rural housing challenges.

## **State, Federal, and Tribal Lands Management**

The State, Federal, and Tribal Lands Management section has been reorganized and expanded. New language supports consideration of mitigation relief for counties with extensive public land ownership, consistent with concepts discussed previously by Supervisor Wilson and legislative advocates. Outdated language referencing possible temporary utilization of Pelican Bay State Prison during remodel of the jail facility has been removed because the Board has since approved reuse of the former Juvenile Hall for this temporary need. A new policy item has been added to address the State's increasing use of Land Back and co stewardship initiatives and the potential implications for public access, county services, and local tax base.

## **Transportation and Infrastructure**

The Transportation and Infrastructure section removes language supporting authority to reduce speed limits on state highways. This item has been deleted because AB 1014, the County's sponsored bill in 2025, was signed into law.

## **Directed Federal and State Funding Priorities and Appropriations Requests**

The section titled Directed Federal and State Funding Priorities and Appropriations Requests has been reorganized to improve clarity. The updates more clearly indicate that the listed items may be pursued as appropriations requests. While the list remains largely consistent with the 2025 Legislative Platform, it has been reformatted to highlight projects that are most likely to be competitive for state and federal funding programs. This structure is intended to provide clearer guidance to the County's legislative advocates and to support coordinated development of project justification materials with County staff.

## **Key Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators**

The Key Demographic and Socioeconomic Indicators section has been updated to reflect the most recently available state and federal data.

Following today's review, staff will make any final revisions and present the completed 2026 Legislative Platform for adoption in December, ahead of the January 5, 2026 convening of the Legislature.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

Provide alternative direction.

### **FINANCING:**

N/A

### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

N/A

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This Board of Supervisors' adopted Strategic Plan contains the following Focus Areas and Goals.

- Focus Area 1: County Staffing and Capacity (CSC)
- Focus Area 2: Infrastructure and Economic Development (IED)
- Focus Area 3: Law, Justice, and Homelessness (LJH)
- Focus Area 4: General Governance and Budget (GGB)

### **This item addresses the following Goals:**

- LJH-1: Improve Community Indigent Defense
- LJH-2: Proactively and Collaboratively Address Community Homelessness
- GGB-1: Maintain Core Service Levels
- GGB-3: Improve Oversight of County Programs and Services
- IED-1: Maintain or Improve County Facilities and Infrastructure

GGB-2: Practice Fiscal Responsibility

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 2026 Legislative Platform v251125

**APPROVALS:**

Neal Lopez, County Administrative Officer  
Kylie Goughnour , Deputy Clerk of the Board

Approved - 11/19/2025  
Final Approval - 11/20/2025