



South  
Orange  
County

Community  
College District

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

# 2025





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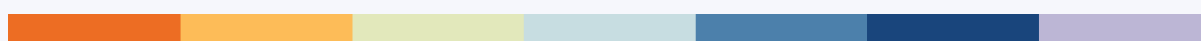
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# MESSAGE FROM SOCCCD ADVOCACY LEADERS

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Since the South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) was founded in 1967, we have been proud of the partnerships maintained over the years with governmental agencies, policy makers, and community organizations because of our shared values to support the greatest needs of Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students.

Advocacy and the monitoring of emerging and existing legislation are critical to the work we conduct everyday. With the help of our Federal advocates and State advocates (Townsend Public Affairs), we strive to to access resources and tools at the local, state, and federal levels to support Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College students and programs. The Board of Trustees establishes annual legislative priorities to help empower staff, faculty, and students when advocating on behalf of the colleges.



**Carolyn Inmon**  
**Board President**



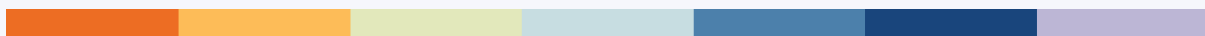
**Dr. Julianna Asperin Barnes**  
**SOCCCD Chancellor**



**Dr. John Hernandez**  
**Irvine Valley College President**



**Dr. Elliot Stern**  
**Saddleback College President**



# ABOUT SOCCCD

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South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) encompasses 382 square miles in Orange County serving over 909,000 residents in 26 communities. We know that higher education is directly linked to quality of life and economic vitality. We have helped generations of families achieve their educational and career goals since 1967.

Distinguished faculty from Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College provide students with rigorous academic classes to prepare them for transfer to four-year colleges and universities and career technical training.

Emeritus Institutes and community education programs across the district and on our college campuses in Mission Viejo, Irvine and the Advanced Technology and Education Park in Tustin, CA offer lifelong learning opportunities for community members of all ages.



## Students

Combined, Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College offer 400 degrees and certificates to a diverse population of students to help them achieve their academic and career goals.



## Employees

SOCCCD employs over 2,500 classified staff, managers, and part-time and full-time faculty members that work to uphold the mission of the District through efficient operations, student support and instruction.



## Economic Impact

According to a recent economic impact study, the South Orange County Community College District and its two colleges, (Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College) contribute more than \$7.1 billion to the local Orange County economy.



# FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

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The following represent SOCCCD in the U.S. House of Representatives:



## REP. YOUNG KIM CA 40TH

Local Office - 1320 Valley Vista Dr., Suite 205, Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Capital Office - 1306 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (714) 984-2440, (202) 225-4111

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Aliso Viejo, Coto de Caza, Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and Tustin.



## REP. DAVE MIN CA 47TH

Local Office - TBD

Capital Office - TBD

Phone: TBD

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Irvine and Newport Beach.



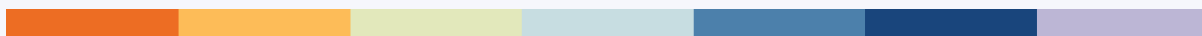
## REP. MIKE LEVIN CA 49TH

Local Office - 33282 Golden Lantern, Suite 102, Dana Point, CA 92629

Capital Office - 2352 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515

Phone: (949) 281-2449, (202) 225-3906

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Dana Point, Ladera Ranch, Las Flores, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, and Trabuco Highlands.



# 2025 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SOCCCD has identified several Federal legislative priorities to include, but not limited to the following:



## Workforce Development & Career Tech Education

Increase and authorize funding for programs that enhance workforce training, including the Strengthening Community College Training Grants, Carl D. Perkins CTE Act, WIOA, and NSF's Advanced Technological Education program. Support a National Apprenticeship Act and expanded WIOA initiatives to elevate community colleges' contributions to STEM education, workforce development, and apprenticeships.



## Veterans

Ensure that active-duty personnel and their dependents can fully participate in community college educational programs. Enact reforms that help veterans choose the educational program that best suits their needs and prevents their exploitation.



## Basic Needs Services

Streamline access to public benefits like SNAP, WIC, Medicaid, TANF, and housing programs for eligible community college students. Expand federal support for essential campus and community-based services, including child care, mental health, and basic needs, while enhancing CCAMPIS grants to ensure quality childcare and facility improvements.



## Student Protection and Support Services

Advocate for policies that prioritize access to higher education and workforce development by urging the Federal administration to support comprehensive immigration reform, providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students and access to federal aid. Emphasize the importance of retaining international talent by allowing students with Temporary Worker Visas to continue their education in the U.S. and transition to high-need skill areas through targeted visa programs.



## Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

Advocate for legislative support to expand community college initiatives that prepare students for green careers, promote sustainability, and engage communities in environmental conservation. Push for grants and funding to prioritize sustainable materials and eco-friendly amenities in capital projects, ensuring community colleges lead in fostering environmental stewardship and workforce readiness.

# STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

The following represent SOCCCD in the California State Senate:



## VACANT UNTIL MARCH 36TH DISTRICT

Local Office – TBD  
Capitol Office – TBD  
Phone: TBD

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, North Tustin, Orange, Silverado, Tustin, and Villa Park.



## SENATOR STEVEN CHOI 37TH DISTRICT

Capitol Office – 1021 O Street, Room 7130 Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 651-4037  
Email: [Senator.Choi@senate.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Choi@senate.ca.gov)

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Aliso Viejo, Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Beach, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Woods, Lake Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, North Tustin, Orange, Silverado, Tustin, and Villa Park.



## SENATOR CATHERINE BLAKESPEAR 38TH DISTRICT

Local Office – 24031 El Toro Rd., Suite 201A, Laguna Hills, CA 92653  
Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 7130, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (949) 598-5850, (916) 651-4038

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Coto de Caza, Ladera Ranch, Laguna Hills, Las Flores, Mission Viejo, Rancho Mission Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, and San Juan Capistrano.



# STATE LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES

The following represent SOCCCD in the California State Assembly:



## **ASSEMBLY MEMBER KATE SANCHEZ 71ST DISTRICT**

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 4340, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319.2071

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Mission Viejo and unincorporated areas of Orange County.



## **ASSEMBLY MEMBER DIANE DIXON 72ND DISTRICT**

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 5330 , Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 319.2072

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Aliso Viejo, Laguna Beach, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest, and Newport Beach.



## **ASSEMBLY MEMBER COTTIE PETRIE NORRIS 73RD DISTRICT**

Local Office – 19712 MacArthur Blvd., Suite 150, Irvine, CA 92612

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 4230, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (949) 251-0074, (916) 319-2073

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Irvine and Tustin.



## **ASSEMBLY MEMBER LAURIE DAVIES 74TH DISTRICT**

Local Office – 31473 Rancho Viejo Rd., Suite 104, San Juan Cap., CA 92675

Capitol Office – 1021 O St., Suite 4720, Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (949) 240-7300, (916) 319-2074

Representing SOCCCD service areas of Dana Point, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, San Clemente, and San Juan Capistrano.

# 2025 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SOCCCD has identified several State legislative priorities to include, but not limited to the following:



## Housing and Basic Needs

Propose state grants to fund affordable housing projects on community college campuses, aiming to secure statewide funding for projects in SOCCCD. Advocate for funding per college in flexible funding for short-term homelessness prevention, enabling temporary housing solutions and on-campus support to address students' immediate basic needs.



## Infrastructure for Students

Invest in upgrading and modernizing the community college facility infrastructure, including physical plant and equipment, as they are integral to the nation's economic vitality. Ensure that community colleges and their students can access technology equipment, including high-speed broadband internet services.



## Community College Baccalaureate Expansion

Advocate for the expansion of community college baccalaureate programs, allowing up to two programs per year per college, pending demonstrated workforce needs. This initiative would counteract existing university-level limitations, with an emphasis on programs addressing workforce shortages not currently met by four-year institutions. By leveraging the accessibility of California's extensive community college system, the initiative could bridge regional disparities in education and job opportunities.



## Protection for Dreamers and Undocumented

Advocate for state-level protections and funding provisions for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students in anticipation of potential federal policy changes. Ensure DACA students continue to have access to in-state tuition, financial aid, and institutional support, reinforcing community colleges as inclusive and supportive environments for all students.



## Dual Enrollment and Career Pathway Opportunities

Advocate to simplify dual enrollment policies, reducing administrative barriers and establishing statewide targets for high school students to earn college credits (9 units by 2030, 15 by 2035). These efforts would expand access, enhance college readiness, and shorten time-to-degree pathways while strengthening the pipeline to higher education institutions.

# LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

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SOCCCD maintains membership with the following organizations and groups to advocate on behalf of Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students:

- **Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)**
- **Community College League of California (CCLC)**
- **Orange County Community Colleges Legislative Task Force (OCCCLTF)**
- **California Community-Funded Coalition (CCFC)**

With your partnership, we can continue the important advocacy work on behalf of Irvine Valley College and Saddleback College students -- the next generation of our community's leaders and workforce. For more information about legislative priorities or legislative activity, please contact Chief Communications Officer, Letitia Clark with SOCCCD Public Affairs.

# LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS

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## **FEDERAL** Townsend Public Affairs

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600 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 207, Washington, DC 20003

(202) 546-8696

JMelo@TownsendPA.com

## **STATE** Townsend Public Affairs

**Casey Elliot, Vice President**

925 L Street, Suite 1404, Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 447-4086

CElliott@TownsendPA.com

## **LOCAL** South Orange County Community College District

**Letitia Clark, Chief Communications Officer**

28000 Marguerite Pkwy., Mission Viejo, CA 92692

(949) 582-4920

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# South Orange County

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## Community College District

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**Board of Trustees:**

Lisa A. Bartlett, Ryan Dack, Carolyn Inmon, Timothy Jemal, Marcia Milchiker, T.J. Prendergast III, Terri Rydell, EdD

**Chancellor:**

Julianna M. Asperin Barnes, EdD