



ACSS Engages in Advocacy at Political Events

Lobby Day and ACSS' presence at the CA Democratic Convention were huge successes



On March 11th, ACSS Leaders met with Legislators at the Capitol for Lobby Day. ACSS Members sat face-to-face with Assemblymen and Senators at the Capitol to educate them about the issues that are affecting the careers of Managers, Supervisors and Confidential Employees. Representing the voice of all ACSS Members, we urged Legislators to support **AB 1729** to maintain flexible telework schedules for all State Employees. We also continued to lobby for the resolution of **salary compaction**. Our presence was noticed, our message was strong, and our voices were heard. These leaders of ACSS are excluded employees just like you and we thank them for volunteering their time on this day to fight for the rights of ACSS Members at the Capitol. Sjoekje Sasbone, Chapter 514 President, commented, "Lobby Day is a great experience. It provides a valuable chance to engage directly with legislators, share our perspectives, and advocate for issues that impact our members and the communities we serve." This is what ACSS is all about!

California Democratic Convention

On February 20 - 22, the 2026 California Democratic Party Convention brought together thousands of delegates, elected officials, candidates, and advocates from across the state for a three-day gathering at the Moscone Center in San Francisco. For the Association of California State Supervisors (ACSS), the convention represented a critical opportunity to advance the interests of our members, build relationships with the candidates who will shape California's

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policy landscape in the years ahead, and reinforce ACSS' presence at the forefront of state-level advocacy.

ACSS sent three dedicated representatives on behalf of our membership:

- **Lynn White**, Vice President of Governmental Affairs – Lead representative and primary point of contact for candidate and stakeholder engagement.
- **Bobby Dutta**, ACSS Board Member and Chair of the Legislative Committee – Supported outreach efforts and participated in key candidate meetings.
- **Beverly Davis**, ACSS PAC Member – Assisted in constituent engagement and convention floor activities.

These knowledgeable and experienced leaders ensured ACSS' success and presence throughout the convention while engaging with candidates at every level of California government and having in-depth conversations to represent the membership's interests.

One of the most significant outcomes of the convention was the ACSS delegation's ability to secure direct, one-on-one meetings and substantive conversations with a broad range of gubernatorial and constitutional office candidates. These engagements are invaluable in establishing ACSS as a serious and respected voice in California's electoral process.

The ACSS delegation met individually with several gubernatorial candidates, providing an opportunity to introduce ACSS priorities, ask substantive questions on issues affecting state supervisors and employees, and gauge each candidate's commitment to workforce and labor issues. Meaningful

and productive conversations were had with Betty Yee (former State Controller), Eric Swalwell (US Congressman), Xavier Becerra (Former US Attorney

General and former California Attorney General), and Tony Thurmond (State Superintendent of Public Instruction).

Beyond the gubernatorial field, the delegation engaged with a wide range of candidates seeking other statewide constitutional offices. These conversations are essential for building ACSS' relationships across the full spectrum of California's future leadership:

- **Dr. Shirley Weber** – Candidate for California Secretary of State
- **Fiona Ma** – Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of California



Left to right: Bobby Dutta, Lynn White, Assemblymember Lori Wilson (AD 11), and Beverly Davis.

- **Malia Cohen** – Candidate for California State Controller
- **Rob Bonta** – California Attorney General
- **Eleni Kounalakis** – Candidate for California Treasurer
- **Michael Tubbs** – Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of California
- **Jane Kim** – Candidate for Insurance Commissioner
- and several other candidates and elected officials

The delegation had the opportunity to chat personally with Attorney General Rob Bonta and U.S. Representative Adam Schiff, both of whom have been central figures in California's Democratic politics and whose policy positions intersect significantly with ACSS's priorities around public employment, worker protections, and state governance.

The convention's most celebrated evening was a formal dinner held in honor of former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi. Speaker Pelosi, who served as the first woman to hold the Speakership and remains one of the most influential political figures in California's history, was recognized for her decades of public service and her enduring impact on Democratic politics at both the state and national levels. The dinner was a fitting capstone to the three-day convention, drawing together the full breadth of California's Democratic leadership in a spirit of celebration and solidarity.

The ACSS delegation returned from the 2026 California Democratic Convention with several important observations relevant to our membership:

- **ACSS has a seat at the table.** Our delegation's ability to secure direct, individual meetings with high-profile candidates demonstrates that ACSS is recognized as a meaningful stakeholder in California's political landscape.
- **Telework and workforce policy are on the agenda.** ACSS' co-sponsorship of AB 1729 to protect and preserve telework for state employees was a productive conversation starter with multiple candidates. Continued



ACSS Members with CA Attorney General Rob Bonta

advocacy on this issue is well-positioned heading into an election year.

- **Bipartisan opportunities exist.** While the Democratic Convention naturally drew a Democratic field, several conversations reinforced that pragmatic, fiscally responsible policy — such as AB 1729 — has potential for bipartisan support that ACSS should continue to cultivate.
- **Relationships built now matter.** With the 2026 election cycle underway, the personal connections forged at this convention lay the groundwork for more substantive policy engagement with whoever emerges from the primary and general elections.
- **ACSS' visibility is growing.** The combination of formal meetings, informal encounters, and the high-profile nature of the event reinforced ACSS' reputation as an active, engaged, and professionally represented organization.

The 2026 California Democratic Convention was an important milestone for ACSS' political engagement efforts. The dedication of Lynn White, Bobby Dutta, and Beverly Davis in representing our members throughout this three-day event is a reflection of ACSS' commitment to ensuring that the voices of California's state supervisors are heard in the rooms where decisions are made. We will digest the information and experiences gathered at this event and bring it to the table to discuss at the next ACSS Board of Directors meeting in June.

Members with questions about the convention or ACSS' political engagement activities are encouraged to contact acss@acss.org.

CADEM section was written by Bobby Dutta, ACSS Board Member, Chapter 502

New Board Members and Chapter Officers

At the ACSS Board of Directors meeting held in Sacramento on January 30, 2025, the Board approved to appoint three new **Board Members** to fill vacancies:

Chapter 503 (Sacramento)

- Enrique Ramirez (*Dept. of Health Care Services*)
- Jesse Robey (*Air Resources Board*)

Chapter 504 (Northern Coast, Napa, Solano)

- Kiran Singh (*Dept. of Health Care Services*)

CHAPTER OFFICERS:

Chapter 508 (Stockton, Merced)

- Vice President - Alejandra Lopez (*Dept. of Water Resources*)

Chapter 512 (San Luis Obispo, Ventura)

- Vice President - John Nielsen (*Military Department, Fire Chief*)
- Secretary Treasurer - Collon Tomlyn (*Office of Emergency Services*)

ACSS President Emeritus Todd D'Braunstein Retires

Over the past 21 years, Todd D'Braunstein has served in several ACSS leadership positions and has become one of the most devoted and highly involved ACSS members who fiercely advocates for excluded employees. Todd started his activism by attending Chapter meetings and then later becoming a Delegate at Delegate Assembly. He continued his leadership journey by serving as Board Member of Chapter 514, VP of Membership and VP of Governmental Affairs, culminating with his ACSS Presidency from 2019 through 2024. Each role provided an opportunity for Todd to expand his impact, collaborate with dedicated professionals, and help guide the organization in support of members across California. In April of this year, he will retire after a long and productive career with the State for nearly 30 years.

Todd's supervisory career was rooted primarily in the Department of Mental Health, which later transitioned into the Department of State Hospitals. He also spent a brief period with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). At Patton State Hospital, he had the opportunity to work across seven different programs which provided a broad perspective on operations, leadership, and the evolving challenges within state service.



In retirement, Todd plans on focusing on both personal interests and continued service. He looks forward to traveling and spending more time with family, as well as pursuing new skills through welding and auto mechanics. Giving back also remains a priority. He plans to support the Psychiatric Technician profession by helping train future professionals, and he looks forward to staying engaged with the California State Retirees to help protect pensions, healthcare, and retiree benefits.

"Serving as Statewide President brought many memorable moments, particularly those that represented meaningful progress for ACSS members. Witnessing newer ACSS member activists confidently engage with legislators and seeing those connections happen in real time reinforced the importance of empowering others too. My advice for new members is that your story matters—and no one can tell it better than you. ACSS provides the platform, resources, and support, but it is the voices of its members that truly drive change. By getting involved, sharing your experiences, and engaging with the organization, you help shape the future for supervisors across California."

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