

# ASCCC Legislative Update

## Spring ~~2~~ February

ASCCC Delegate Lisa Harding  
LHarding@bakersfieldcollege.edu

---

### General Info from ASCCC Website:

In terms of legislative advocacy and lobbying, the rules governing the ASCCC and local academic senates differ. For the purpose of understanding these rules, lobbying is essentially a subset of advocacy. Advocacy involves active support for a cause, idea or policy and is a general term involving a broad set of activities. Lobbying is an attempt to influence specific legislation and is defined by the IRS as well as various states and localities, often because of the limitations on the ways in which funds can be used for lobbying purposes.

The restrictions and guidelines for local academic senate activities are defined by California Education Code sections 7050-7068. The following excerpt from “Advocacy at the Local Level: What Your Senate Can Do to Stay Informed and Active,” published in the November 2103 Senate Rostrum, explains the activities in which local academic senate can and cannot engage:

*Ed Code section 7054 (a) states that “No school district or community college district funds, services, supplies, or equipment shall be used for the purpose of urging the support or defeat of any ballot measure or candidate, including, but not limited to, any candidate for election to the governing board of the district.” In short, academic senates cannot use any district resources to support or oppose any candidate or ballot measure. This restriction applies not only to district funds but also to materials, email, and even employee time when the employee is scheduled to work. Any discussion of ballot measures or elections among senators therefore should not take place on campus or during academic senate meetings.*

*However, Ed Code section 7054 (b) adds that “Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of any of the public resources described in subdivision (a) to provide information to the public about the possible effects of any bond issue or other ballot measure if both of the following conditions are met: (1) The informational activities are otherwise authorized by the Constitution or laws of this state. (2) The information provided constitutes a fair and impartial presentation of relevant facts to aid the electorate in reaching an informed judgment regarding the bond issue or ballot measure.” Academic senates may*

---

*therefore publish information to educate the public regarding the impact of a given ballot measure as long as they do not advocate either for or against the measure.*

## February Update

There have been no updates to the ASCCC website since April of 2023 primarily addressing the following:

- [AB 817](#) Amended January 17, 2024 ASCCC in support which would allow a subsidiary body of a local agency to use teleconferencing for its meetings without posting agendas at each teleconference location, identifying each teleconference location in the notice and agenda, making each teleconference location accessible to the public, and requiring at least a quorum of the subsidiary body to participate from within the local agency's jurisdiction, subject to certain conditions.
- [AB 1142](#) Amended in January 2024- No position, [submitted input focused](#): We are concerned about the potential for the Commission to review and evaluate proposed new degree, majors, and certificate programs. This potentially interferes with a primary responsibility of academic senates.
- [AB 811](#) Passed/Enrolled Sept 2023 ASCCC supports AB 811, which would allow local college districts to adopt expanded policies around course repeatability and set new standards for the number of times a student may take a credit course.
- [AB 680](#) ASCCC Support Assembly Bill 680 (as of April 3, 2023), which would expand college attainment opportunities for more undocumented students.

### [Bill Tracker from FACCC](#)

Additional useful information regarding legislative activity can be found using the [Community College League of California Bill Tracker](#).