

## Press release in response to SB 907 Veto by Governor Newsom



On January 4, 2024, Orange County Senators Josh Newman (D) and David Min (D), introduced SB 907. Quite similar to SB 286, a failed measure also or introduced by Sen. Min, this bill was designed to forever change the makeup of the Orange County Board of Education (OCBE), create new multimillion-dollar taxpayer mandates, and change the OCBE election procedures.

SB 907 would've taken away local control from Orange County voters and allow the State of California to dictate local board membership and election terms. In February 2024, the OCBE unanimously passed a resolution opposing the bill <sup>1</sup> and actively lobbied against SB 907 while it worked its way through the legislative process.

Despite OCBE arguments that SB 907 unnecessarily usurped local control, and was cost prohibitive it passed through both the California Senate and Assembly Elections and Education committees on strict party line votes.

The bill was enrolled on August 30, 2024 and presented to the Governor Newsom on September 4, 2024. On September 28, 2024, Governor Newsom vetoed SB 907 and returned it to the Senate without his signature. The Governor's veto message stated:

*"... there are local processes for altering the number of members on a county board of education and changing when local elections are held. State circumvention of these local procedures, especially with respect to a single county board of education, should be avoided absent extraordinary circumstances. Unfortunately, I am not convinced those circumstances exist in the context of this legislation."*

OCBE agrees with Governor Newsom's veto and sound fiscal public policy in a year where the state faces a \$68 million deficit. OCBE is further gratified that policy and not politics carried the day. There are no extraordinary circumstances that requires additional state funds and additional state mandates in Orange County. We applaud and thank the Governor for recognizing the importance of a bipartisan issue of local control of education. It is an important policy issue for both political parties, parents, and locally elected board trustees.

Yes   5  

No   0  

Orange County Board of Education

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ocbe.us/Documents/Resolutions 2023-2024/03-24 Opposing SB 907.pdf](https://ocbe.us/Documents/Resolutions%202023-2024/03-24%20Opposing%20SB%20907.pdf)