Live Well. Health Matters.

POLICY TITLE: BOARD ADVOCACY
POLICY NUMBER: 2160

COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE:	12/1/2025	**WRITTEN/REVISED BY**:	T. BAKALY
BOARD APPROVAL DATE:	01/28/2026	**SUPERSEDES:**	11/20/2019

POLICY:

2160 It is the policy of the Board of Directors of the Beach Cities Health District ("District") to take positions on health-related issues that affect its constituents.

2160.1 The Board of Directors of the District has a responsibility to its constituents to take a position on health-related issues and issues that directly impact the District. This includes lobbying local, state and federal legislative bodies, sponsoring laws or encouraging other agencies to sponsor laws that would address specific health issues or issues that directly impact the District. It also includes issuing a statement advocating the District's position on issues.

2160.2 Government Code, Section 53060.5 states that "any district, directly or through a representative, may attend the Legislature or any other legislative body, including Congress, and any committees thereof and present information to aid the passage of legislation which the district deems beneficial to the district or to prevent the passage of legislation which the governing board of the district deems detrimental to the district." District is defined as "a district, public authority, public agency, and any other political subdivision or public corporation in the state, but does not include the state or a county, city and county, or city."

2160.3 The Board may advocate for a general health issue by encouraging the local, state**,** or federal legislative bodies and/or agencies to enact legislation or change existing legislation that would be beneficial to the electorate in the District. Health districts, as local agencies, are regulated under California Government Code Section 54964, which states that officers, employees, and consultants of local agencies "may not expend or authorize the expenditure of any of the funds of the local agency to support or oppose the approval or rejection of a ballot measure, or the election or defeat of a candidate, by the voters." A ballot measure is defined to include initiatives, referendum, or recall measures. Local agencies are not prohibited from spending funds "to provide information to the public about the possible effects of a ballot measure on the activities, operations, or policies of the local agency" so long as the information "constitutes an accurate, fair, and impartial presentation of relevant facts to aid the voters in reaching an informed judgment regarding the ballot measure" and is not otherwise prohibited by state law.

2160.4 The Board may issue a press release for a general health issue but may not use public funds for a mass mailing or advertisement(s) to advocate for a specific issue.

2160.5 Advocacy positions requiring the approval of the Board shall be approved by the affirmative vote of 80% (4/5) of the full membership of the Board.