



CHILDREN'S BUREAU ADVOCACY CORNER

Your Source for Information & Resources
February 2024

New Year & Legislative Process



The beginning of a new year brings with it a new session at the state Capitol. By late February, we will have a better sense of what bills are in play and can start to assemble our agency's slate of supported legislation.

At the same time, the state budget process has kicked off with the Governor unveiling his first draft of proposals to fix a \$38 billion deficit. (with other analysts pegging the shortage closer to \$68 billion). Any way you look at it, we are facing a difficult year with hard decisions to make about which deserving priorities must be delayed to a later date.

The Children's Bureau Advocacy Program will of course continue our push to strengthen families and fortify communities, enabling children to safely flourish – which includes keeping Family Resource Centers top of mind as a vital community resource relied on to avoid further trauma and system involvement.

Figuring out how to let local elected officials know your thoughts about all this can feel a little overwhelming, so Children's Bureau created a simple timeline explaining California's legislative process with tips for effective advocacy that can be shared with anyone who is interested. [For Advocacy Process & Tips, click here.](#)

Prop 1 Update



Proposition 1 is the only statewide measure on the March 2024 ballot. Children's Bureau has no position on the measure, but it's important to be aware of how it could impact California's mental healthcare services and approach to addressing homelessness. [You can find out about it here.](#)

The decision whether or not to pass Prop 1 is in the hands of the voters, **but I'm very proud of Children's Bureau's efforts to ensure \$320 million of children's mental health prevention services were safeguarded whatever they choose.** [You can click here to watch a roundtable discussion](#) featuring CB Director of Policy Advocacy Adam Seiden to hear how we joined a coalition of advocates and convinced the Legislature to make important changes before it got on the ballot.



Plan to Vote



You're probably aware California has a **Primary Election coming-up on March 5**. But did you know voting in that election has already started? **Anytime through Election Day you can return your vote-by-mail ballot to those Official Ballot Drop Boxes you see around town**, and on February 24, early in-person voting becomes available at official [Vote Centers](#).

With so many options to fit it into your busy life - do you have a plan for when you are voting? However you vote and whomever you vote for, what's important is that you exercise your right to make your voice heard.

Remember you need to be registered in order to vote, so [click here to verify your status](#). And if you miss the February 20 deadline to [register online](#), you can still [register when you vote in-person](#). For more information, check out the [California Official Voter Information Guide](#).



Adam Seiden

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If you need more info or have questions about the Children's Bureau Advocacy Program, please email advocacy@all4kids.org.

The Children's Bureau Advocacy Program provides trusted input to key policymakers, educating them on the positive power of prevention to make our communities strong and stop child maltreatment. But we don't do it alone. Every person involved in our movement plays a meaningful role building momentum around more prevention, spreading its effects further to create a world where every child is safe to grow.