



ACSS' Political Program:

***How ACSS advocates for positive action
on behalf of its members***

Along with Representation services, the Political Program is one of ACSS' core functions. Since 1990, ACSS has been advocating on behalf of Managers, Supervisors and Confidential Employees of the State of California, urging lawmakers to improve working conditions, maintain fair wages, and protect rightful pensions. There are several ways that ACSS serves its members politically: attending political conventions, hosting Lobby Day at the Capitol, visiting legislators in their district offices, working closely with our Legislative Advocate to endorse lawmakers that support the values of ACSS members, and drafting legislative bills that help protect the rights and benefits of excluded state employees, and lobbying aggressively for their passage. In our Strategic Plan, one of our goals established by the members is to continue to prioritize our political presence and our actions to benefit members.

ACSS attended the CA Democratic Convention on May 30 through June 1, 2025

ACSS President Nina Thomas attended the Convention along with Lynn White (Ch 508 Board Member), Deborah Lambert (Ch 511 Secretary-Treasurer), Dionne Faulk (Ch 511 President) and Dawn Basciano (Delegate from the 2024 ACSS Delegate Assembly).



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ACSS takes action to fight for the rights of members

As a labor organization, ACSS has many allies in both political parties. President Thomas was fortunate to have other ACSS members attend the Convention with her who are knowledgeable of our state's political landscape and are active in the party, since this was her first time attending. They met with several elected officials, networked with attendees and party delegates, and spoke with sponsoring organizations about ACSS and the crucial role our members play in California State Agencies.

Among the influential people they met were Minnesota Gov. Tim Waltz, Labor Leader Dolores Huerta, California Attorney General Rob Bonta, US Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Asm. Mike Gipson (AD 65), Asm. Mike Fong (AD 49), Asm. Tina McKinnor (AD 61), Asm. Dr. Joaquin Arambula (AD 31), Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (SD 28), Asm. Rhodesia Ransom (AD 13), Asm. Sade Elhawary (AD 57), and Sen. Sasha Renée Pérez (SD 25).

By sponsoring and participating in party conventions, ACSS continues to expand its reach and advocacy efforts to gain statewide name recognition.

Sending ACSS members to the major parties' conventions, as well as other political events, increases the Association's visibility and creates opportunities to continue building rapport with lawmakers who have generally been empathetic to Labor organizations. "I hope to send more ACSS members to future conventions, both to ensure we are able to increase our visibility and share our role in representing the interests of state supervisors, managers, and excluded personnel," said President Thomas.

ACSS Lobby Day

One of the most popular and well-loved political events that ACSS hosts is our annual Lobby Day, held each March. At Lobby Day, the goal is to unite ACSS members with their Legislators to educate them

about the current issues that affect the careers of excluded employees. It is a great opportunity for ACSS members to share their perspective and explain issues/concerns with Legislators face-to-face. Each year, a select group of ACSS leaders and activists attend this popular event. During Lobby Day, members break off into small groups and attend several 20-minute meetings with Legislators

(or sometimes the Legislator's staff member), usually paired with the Assemblymembers or Senators of which the members represent as their constituents.

In March 2025, ACSS members urged the support of telework and discussed our opposition to the Return to Office order. They also continued to lobby for the resolution of salary compaction

and provide fair compensation

for supervisors' and managers' salaries over those they supervise. The members who attended Lobby Day this year made their presence at the Capitol visible and spread the message of ACSS loud and clear. By representing the membership and voicing members' concerns in-person, these dedicated leaders worked hard to successfully establish ACSS as a well-recognized Association that

lawmakers pay attention to.

Sjoekje Sasbone, President of Chapter 514 from San Bernardino County, commented, "Lobby Day is such a rewarding experience. There's a strong sense of community within ACSS. It's enjoyable to be at the Capitol Building with the purpose of truly representing all our members across the State of California."

Each year, Chapter Presidents and Board Members select active and eager members from their Chapter to represent their Chapter and participate in Lobby Day. Lobby Day is a great example of how any member can get involved in a first-hand experience to influence the political environment, sitting face-to-face with Legislators to help improve the rights of managers and supervisors.



Lynn White (Chapter 511), Labor Leader Dolores Huerta, Nina Thomas (ACSS President).



Nina Thomas (ACSS President), CA Attorney General Rob Bonta, Lynn White (Chapter 511), Deborah Lambert (Chapter 511).

Candidate Endorsements and the Political Action Committee (PAC)

ACSS works closely with Ted Toppin, president of Blanning & Baker Associates, who provides exceptional Legislative Advocacy services on our behalf. ACSS interviews Legislative Candidates and Elected Officials to ensure they support ACSS' cause. ACSS endorses California Assemblymembers, Senators, and Constitutional Officers (the Governor, Lt. Governor, Insurance Commissioner, Treasurer, Controller, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Secretary of State and Attorney General) who acknowledge ACSS as an ally and support the issues aligned with our members' best interests. ACSS has acquired a robust Political Action Committee fund (PAC) to help support these Legislators. Members can choose to donate \$2 or more to the ACSS PAC to ensure the right candidates get elected to serve ACSS.



ACSS Lobby Day 2025

ACSS also monitors bills that make their way through the Legislative system. We support, watch, and oppose several bills. To see the status of these bills, visit our Legislative Report on the website. Occasionally ACSS sponsors bills and works with legislators to get the bills through the legislative process and signed into law in hopes of passing, and therefore improving the lives of our members. Our most high-profile bill was in 2013 with SB 216, which proposed to require a 10% salary difference between supervisors and their subordinates, thus resolving salary compaction. Although SB 216 was vetoed, it raised the profile of salary compaction and paved the way for the work that CalHR and ACSS undertake to identify and resolve salary compaction. Sponsoring and authoring bills is one way that members' voices directly influence legislation.

Strategic Plan for Political Success

For the future, ACSS continues to strive to strengthen our political program to carry out the vision and purpose of ACSS. This Association is ran by state workers just like you! We are a member-led organization and, politically, we are a powerful influential recognizable force. Our political program is the driving force behind the ideals and vision of ACSS and its members. It is how ACSS carries out the processes to improve the workplaces and lives of excluded employees. Join us and get involved with the ACSS political program today! 🌱

Attend a Chapter Meeting

Chapter meetings are a great way to get involved and get up-to-date information. Our 11 Chapters across the state regularly host virtual meetings and in-person dinner meetings in YOUR area.

Attend a Chapter meeting to:

- Get informed about ACSS-related news that affects managers and supervisors
- Ask questions and get advice from your local Labor Relations Representative
- Learn more about your rights as an excluded employee
- Network and socialize with your fellow members
- Discuss your job-related concerns
- Find out more about the exclusive benefits that come with membership
- Review Chapter business



Dinner is FREE for members!

Check out our Events Calendar to see when the next Chapter meeting will be held near you!

www.ACSS.org/Events

Find your chapter at www.ACSS.org/chapters

Political Action Helpful Links

ACSS Lobby Day - www.ACSS.org/LobbyDay

ACSS-Endorsed Legislators -
www.ACSS.org/Candidate-Endorsements

Political Action Committee (PAC) Fund -
www.ACSS.org/PAC

Legislative Report -
www.ACSS.org/Legislative-Report

2023 Strategic Plan -
www.ACSS.org/About/Strategic-Plan

To get involved, contact us!
www.ACSS.org/contact



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Discounts on tickets
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**ASSOCIATION OF
CALIFORNIA
STATE SUPERVISORS**

3000 Advantage Way, Suite 210
Sacramento, CA 95834

FIRST CLASS
PERMIT

First Name Last Name

Address 1

Address 2

City, State ZIP

Q3.25

MEMBER BENEFITS

As an ACSS Member, you are eligible to take advantage of exclusive money-saving benefits just for you!

Get ready for summer fun with discounts to these hot tickets and events coming up:



To learn more about CSEA Member Benefits,
visit www.calcsea.org/Member-Benefits/Tickets

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HELPFUL LINKS

Events Calendar
www.ACSS.org/Events

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Join ACSS
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ACSS Chapter Info
www.ACSS.org/Chapters