

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Openness in County Government

**Policy  
Number**

A-73

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**Purpose**

To establish various guidelines which will assure the openness of County decision making processes.

**Background**

The public good, as well as various State statutes require openness in County government. Board Policies have continually dealt with the openness of County government. Board Policy A-73 reflects the Board's commitment in this area.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that the following shall apply:

**A.CIRCULATION OF MEMORANDA, LETTERS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS  
AMONG INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Because circulation of certain memoranda, letters and other documents among Board members outside of a duly called and assembled meeting of the Board could be construed as being in violation of the Ralph M. Brown Act, which requires that the Board's actions be taken openly and that its deliberation be conducted openly, the circulation by Board members of memoranda, letters and other documents among individual members of the Board of Supervisors for the purpose of signature or with the contemplation of engaging in collective deliberation or action thereby should be avoided outside of a duly called and assembled meeting of the Board.

Board directives, authorizations and recommendations should be approved and adopted only when the Board is acting as a Board at a duly called and assembled meeting.

This policy does not preclude such circulation when the action to be taken has been specifically authorized by the Board at a duly called and assembled meeting nor does it relate to the circulation of purely informational matter.

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**B.BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SERVING AS DIRECTORS OF COUNTY  
SUPPORTED ORGANIZATIONS**

State law prohibits Board members from having a financial interest in contracts made by the Board (Government Code Section 1090). While the remote interest of a nonsalaried officer of a non-profit organization is permitted by State law upon full disclosure, the Board recognizes the existence of a potential conflict of interest.

No member of the Board of Supervisors shall serve on the Board of Directors of any private for profit organization which receives financial support from the County.

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-25.

**Board Action**

09-20-77 (8)  
12-09-80 (8)  
10-30-84 (93)  
07-26-88 (43)  
12-12-89 (49)  
06-05-90 (43)  
09-25-90 (41)  
11-29-94 (40)  
06-12-07 (14)  
12-09-08 (33)  
11-08-11 (24)  
10-30-18 (23)

**CAO Reference**

1. County Counsel