



**Alameda County - Oakland
Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP)**

Visit us on the web at AC.OCAP.com or contact us by email at AC-OCAP@oaklandnet.com

ADVOCACY COMMITTEE MEETING (Standing)

Thursday, May 8, 2025, 5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. at 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 4TH Floor Human Services Department, Conference Room 1

Community Zoom Link:

<https://oaklandca.zoom.us/j/85978643489?pwd=Hla3Xwmz9RG3dqPJS58Tg375H5kGTg.1>

Meeting ID: **859 7864 3489**

Passcode: **245557**

Community members who would like to comment on committee agenda items are encouraged to do so in person.

Advocacy Committee: William B. "Quantum" Norwood II (Chair), Councilmember Carroll Fife (Tonya Love), and Councilmember Noel Gallo (Josephine Guzman)

Staff: Dwight Williams and Thea On

AGENDA

1. Call to Order to Determine Quorum of Advocacy Committee Meeting
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda
ACTION ITEM:
3. Approval of Minutes from Advocacy Committee Meeting on April 10, 2025 – **Attachment 3**
ACTION ITEM:
4. Public Comment: (Specific Agenda Item(s): Audience Comment Period)
5. APPROVE INITIATIVE: COMMISSION ON THE ELIMINATION OF POVERTY.
Summary of the Initiative Process.
How Nonprofits Can Be Involved
Outcomes And Benefits. – **Attachment 5**

Present the initiative to the Administration Board for advocacy support, Meeting May 12th, 2025.

ACTION ITEM:

The meeting is held in a wheelchair accessible facility. Contact the Office of the City Clerk, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Room 201, or call (510) 238-3611 (VOICE) or (510) 238-6451 (TTY) to arrange for the following services: Sign interpreters or Phonic Ear hearing devices for hearing impaired; 2) Large print Braille, or cassette tape text for visually impaired. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.



6. Discussion Item: Advocacy Committee Budget Proposal and outline J. Guzman
7. Discussion Item: Legislative Process review T. Love
8. Members Report Out:
 - a. Tonya Love
 - b. Josephine Guzman
9. Open Forum: (General Audience Comment Period)
10. Adjournment: The next in-person meeting is scheduled for **June 12, 2025**
ACTION ITEM:

The meeting is held in a wheelchair accessible facility. Contact the Office of the City Clerk, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Room 201, or call (510) 238-3611 (VOICE) or (510) 238-6451 (TTY) to arrange for the following services: Sign interpreters or Phonic Ear hearing devices for hearing impaired; 2) Large print Braille, or cassette tape text for visually impaired. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.



MINUTES



Alameda County-Oakland Community Action Partnership (AC-OCAP)

Advocacy Committee Meeting Thursday, April 10, 2025, 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present: William B. "Quantum" Norwood II (Chair), Councilmember Carroll Fife (Tonya Love), and Councilmember Noel Gallo (Josephine Guzman)

Staff: Dwight Williams and Thea On

1. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Staff T. On performed Roll Call, a quorum was established at 5:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To approve the April 10, 2025, Advocacy Committee Meeting Agenda.

M/S/Carried: T. Love / J. Guzman / Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes from Advocacy Committee Meeting on March 13, 2025 (Attachment 3).

MOTION: To approve the Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes on March 13, 2025.

M/S/Carried: T. Love / J. Guzman / Motion Carried

4. Public Comment: (Specific Agenda Item(s): Audience Comment Period) – T. Love suggested adding a standing agenda item for committee members to report on their Advocacy work. She wanted to share what she's been doing between meetings, such as her work on legislative bills and advocacy efforts.

5. Discussion Item: Leverage existing advocacy organizations that fight poverty to amplify impact, build on established networks, and drive meaningful change (ATTACHMENT 5) – The Committee discussed a strategy document with six key points for leveraging Advocacy organizations:

- Establishing partnerships with organizations fighting poverty
- Amplifying efforts through media and campaigning
- Fundraising and resource distribution
- Mobilizing volunteers
- Measuring and optimizing impact
- Multi-community engagement

Staff D. Williams suggested focusing on one bill, while T. Love argued they could apply these strategies flexibly across multiple bills. She shared her experience working on legislative staff, where handling multiple bills simultaneously was common. The committee agreed that the strategy would depend on the specific bill and current needs. For example, some bills might require more partnership establishment, while others might focus on volunteer mobilization or media amplification. Ultimately, they decided to have T. Love provide more detailed guidance on implementing these strategies in their next working meeting to create a comprehensive approach to advocacy.

6. Discussion Item: Establish a Framework for the Advocacy Budget – T. Love suggested waiting until they have a full year of experience to understand their budget needs. Q. Norwood emphasized the need for a budget to cover potential expenses like travel to Sacramento, Zoom conferences, and possible event sponsorships. Staff D. Williams advised preparing a specific, detailed budget proposal that clearly outlines intended uses of funds. T. Love proposed an alternative approach of requesting money on a case-by-case

basis and tracking expenses for future budget planning. The committee discussed the administrative challenges of budget approval, including: the need to present to the administrative board, potential delays in fund disbursement, and reimbursement processes. They ultimately agreed to have T. Love develop a budget proposal, discuss it in their next meeting, and prepare to present it to the administrative board.

7. Discussion Item: Approve the “Commission on the Elimination of Poverty” initiative for submission to the Legislative Counsel. (Attachment 7) – Q. Norwood presented the "Commission on the Elimination of Poverty" initiative, which he originally drafted in 2021.

a. Initiative Details:

- Aims to include poverty eradication in California's outlook.
- Establish a 27-member commission reflecting racial, gender, and geographic diversity.
- Focus on housing, food, healthcare, education, transportation, childcare, living wages, and income support.

b. Commission Composition:

- Includes representatives from various sectors and communities.
- Members would represent different perspectives, including those who have experienced poverty.

c. Discussion Points:

- Previous attempts to pass similar initiatives.
- Reasons for previous failures
- Potential challenges from government entities

d. Next Steps:

- Q. Norwood will prepare a detailed plan.
- The committee will review the initiative in their next working meeting.
- They plan to submit a comprehensive proposal to the Administrative Board.

8. Open Forum: (General Audience Comment Period) – None

9. ACTION ITEM: Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm

M/S/Carried: J. Guzman / T. Love / Motion Carried.

The Next In-Person Meeting: May 8, 2025

Summary Of the California Initiative Process How the AC-OCAP can participate.

The California Initiative Process: A Citizen's Lawmaking Tool

The initiative process in California empowers citizens to propose and enact laws or constitutional amendments directly, by passing the state legislature. This process involves several key steps:

1. **Drafting:** Proponents write the proposed law.
2. **Filing:** The proposal is submitted to the Attorney General, who prepares a title and summary.
3. **Signature Gathering:** Proponents collect a required number of voter signatures (5% for statutes, 8% for constitutional amendments).
4. **Verification:** County officials verify the signatures.
5. **Ballot Placement:** Qualified initiatives are placed on a statewide general election ballot.
6. **Election:** Voters decide on the initiative.
7. **Passage:** A majority vote enacts the initiative.

This direct democracy mechanism allows Californians to shape state law significantly.

A nonprofit organization doesn't "sign" the initiative petition in the same way a registered voter does, they can play significant roles in the initiative process in California:

How Nonprofits Can Be Involved:

- **Drafting and Development:** Nonprofits can be instrumental in researching, drafting, and developing the language of a proposed initiative. They often have expertise in specific policy areas.
- **Funding and Support:** Nonprofits can provide funding and resources to support initiative campaigns. This can include paying for signature gathering, advertising, and other campaign expenses.
- **Education and Advocacy:** Nonprofits can educate the public about proposed initiatives, advocate for or against them, and mobilize their members to participate in the political process.
- **Forming Committees:** Nonprofits can form committees to support or oppose specific ballot measures. These committees are subject to campaign finance reporting requirements.

Important Considerations:

- **Political Reform Act (PRA):** California's Political Reform Act governs campaign finance and requires disclosure of funding and spending related to ballot measures. Nonprofits must comply with these regulations.
- **Committee Status:** If a nonprofit raises or spends a certain amount of money on ballot measure activities, it may be considered a "committee" under the PRA and has reporting obligations.
- **IRS Regulations:** 501(c)(3) nonprofits have restrictions on their political activities. While they can engage in some ballot measure advocacy, they cannot participate in partisan campaigns or support/oppose candidates for office.

In essence:

Nonprofit organizations play a crucial role in the initiative process by providing expertise, resources, and advocacy. While the formal submission of an initiative petition involves individual registered voters, nonprofits are key players in shaping and supporting these efforts.

It's essential for nonprofits to be aware of and comply with California's campaign finance laws and IRS regulations governing their political activities.

OUTCOMES AND BENEFITS

By strategically participating in the initiative process, AC-OCAP can directly advance its mission of poverty reduction and increasing self-sufficiency for Alameda County residents. This could involve:

- Directly shaping policies: Supporting or proposing initiatives that increase funding for programs serving low-income residents, expanding access to affordable housing, or improving education and job training.
- Educating the community: Ensuring that vulnerable populations are informed about initiatives that could significantly affect their lives.
- Advocating for its mission: Taking clear stances on relevant initiatives, aligned with AC-OCAP's core values.
- Collaborating with partner organizations: Partnering with other groups to amplify impact.