



February 18, 2025

Dr. Steven Choi
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7130
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT – SB 1126 (Choi) – Local Audit Transparency – SPONSOR & SUPPORT

Dear Senator Choi,

We write as proud sponsors of Senate Bill 1126 to require school districts, county superintendents of schools, and local agencies (including cities, counties, and independent special districts) to post their annual audit reports and audited financial statements on their public websites within 30 days of those documents being formally received or accepted.

California taxpayers have a right to know how their money is being spent. Right now, there is no clear rule requiring local governments or school districts to put their financial reports online. This means many residents must file formal records requests just to see basic financial information about their own community. SB 1126 fixes this problem by setting a simple, uniform standard: if a local agency has a website, it must post its financial reports there, for free, and keep them available for at least three years.

The bill also includes a reasonable enforcement tool. If an agency misses the 30-day deadline, it receives a written notice and has 10 business days to fix the problem before any penalty is imposed. This gives local agencies a fair chance to comply without punishment for honest mistakes. Penalties collected go into a dedicated fund used only to cover enforcement costs.

California Policy Center believes that transparency is the foundation of good government. When residents can easily access financial records, they can hold their local leaders accountable and catch problems early. SB 1126 is a common-sense step toward making that a reality in every city, school district, and special district across the state.

Sincerely,

Lance Christensen
Vice President of Education Policy & Government Affairs