

Associated Students Organization Legislative Guiding Principles

What Guides Our Work

Our local, state, and federal advocacy is steered by the mission and vision of the Associated Students Organization and the Advocacy Plan. These documents serve as the foundation of what our advocacy efforts look like. We are committed to continuing to work on advocating for students who come from non-traditional backgrounds like parent-students, career-technical education, and other students from disproportionately impacted communities. This work is accomplished through legislative advocacy where we meet with our local, state, and federal officials. The purpose of this document is to outline the guiding principles that the ASO follows to support or oppose legislation and how the ASO approaches local issues, in addition to the processes and general strategies involved.

Legislative Guiding Principles

The Associated Students Organization is authorized to take stances on legislation that they believe is beneficial to the student experience at El Camino College. In order for the Associated Students Organization to take stances on legislation they must be brought forward to the Senate of the Associated Students Organization where a 2/3rd majority is needed for the ASO to take an official position on legislation. All legislation must go through the ASO External Affairs Committee before it is presented to the Senate.

Every year, the Legislature and the Congress release thousands of bills where hundreds of them will have an impact on El Camino College and the students we serve. Listed below are the legislative principles that will provide guidance for members of the Senate and Cabinet of the Associated Students Organization when deciding a stance on legislation.

1. The Associated Students Organization will support legislation that is in line with the legislative priorities outlined in the ASO Advocacy Plan which will identify the focus areas that we as an organization intend to concentrate our advocacy efforts.
2. The Associated Students Organization will align itself with its state and federal partners like the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) and American Student Association of Community Colleges (ASACC) when legislation supported by these organizations have a direct benefit to the students at El Camino College.
3. The Associated Students Organization will align itself with legislation sponsored by the Community College League of California (CCLC) and the Association of Community

College Trustees (ACCT) when these organizations take a stance on legislation that has a direct beneficial impact on students at El Camino College.

4. The Associated Students Organization supports legislation that maintains the fiscal stability of the El Camino Community College District. Measures that hold the district accountable or provide supplemental funding for programs. Fiscal health is a priority to keep harmful cuts away from the students we serve.

Legislative Priorities

Basic Needs

The Associated Students Organization is committed to endorsing legislation that will provide or enhance resources for students who face food or housing insecurity or other basic needs at El Camino College.

Student Equity

The Associated Students Organization is committed to supporting legislation that advocates for marginalized and disproportionately impacted communities at El Camino Colleges and uplifting to support multiculturalism and intersectionality at El Camino College.

Academic Success

The Associated Students Organization is committed to endorsing legislation that creates equitable pathways into the workforce for El Camino College Students through career-workforce education, course articulation and the attainment of resources that benefit the academic journeys of students at El Camino College

Civic Empowerment

The Associated Students Organization is committed to supporting legislation that supports civic education and resources to increase voter participation at El Camino College.

Local Priorities

In addition to efforts to support state and national legislation regarding the aforementioned principles, the Associated Students Organization is committed to seeing those principles be bolstered locally.

The Associated Students Organization will advocate local officials to adopt policies and standards consistent with the beliefs and identities of the El Camino College student body, in addition to supporting policies for the betterment of the local communities students live in. The livelihood of students is undeniably linked to the academic and professional success of students. The Associated Students Organization is committed to ensuring local barriers to success, inaccessibility, and discriminatory practices are successfully done away with.

The Associated Students Organization is committed to advocate for these principles and for El Camino College students in general in all cities constituting the El Camino College service area, which includes El Segundo, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Torrance.

ASO's 'Build-Up' Strategy

The Associated Students Organization believes in grassroots advocacy, which involves building from the ground up.

When pursuing any advocacy related project, the Associated Students Organization will begin by gathering local support and input. Students and local elected officials are the most equipped with knowledge revolving around how one issue or another affects the student body or local community. This support and input is invaluable when advocating on behalf of the student body.

With this input the Associated Students Organization is not only more aware of the general attitudes and beliefs towards a particular issue but is equipped with the appropriate information to go to state and federal legislators and advocate effectively.