



Joint Hearing of the California Assembly and Senate Select Committees on the Nonprofit Sector

Harnessing the Power of Purpose: Aligning Nonprofit Impact with Effective State Partnerships

August 5, 2026

1:30 pm in Capitol Room 126

The Select Committees provide leadership on behalf of the nonprofit sector and help to inform legislators about the critical role nonprofits play in communities across the state.

I. Opening Remarks

(5 minutes)

Senator Jerry McNerney, Chair of the Senate Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector
Assemblymember Gregg Hart, Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector

II. Panel 1:

Economic Engines, Essential Partners: Understanding State-Nonprofit Relations

(45 minutes)

- **The Economic Power of California Nonprofits: Causes Count Data**
California's nonprofit sector is often the "invisible giant" of our state's economy. Frequently characterized as a collection of small, niche organizations, the reality revealed in CalNonprofits' latest edition of Causes Count is far more formidable: a robust industry that serves as the third largest employer in the state.
Speaker: Geoff Green, Chief Executive Officer, CalNonprofits (20 minutes)
- **Unlocking Public Good: Independent, Nonpartisan Recommendations for State-Nonprofit Partnerships**
The state's independent oversight agency, the Little Hoover Commission (LHC), has issued 12 urgent policy recommendations to strengthen the state's partnerships with nonprofits, namely reforming grantmaking and contracting processes. The LHC found that current practices impede the effective delivery of vital services to California's most vulnerable populations by burdening nonprofits with barriers that inhibit sustainable partnerships.
Speakers: Commissioner Dion Aroner, Little Hoover Commission; Krystal Beckham, Project Manager, Little Hoover Commission (20 minutes)

III. Panel 2: Optimizing State Systems for Effective Nonprofit Partnerships

(60 minutes)

- **New Efficiencies in Regulatory Oversight: A Modernized Registry of Charities and Fundraisers**

The California Department of Justice (DOJ) has made progress toward modernization of the Registry, including the anticipated summer 2026 launch of a new website and digital filing system. Registry staff will update the committee on how this modernization will improve nonprofit compliance and sector oversight. Staff will also provide an update on the rollout schedule for the modernized system and detail their initiatives to educate nonprofits on the upcoming changes.

Speaker: Elizabeth Kim, Senior Assistant Attorney General of Charitable Trusts Section, Attorney General's Office (20 minutes)

- **Partnership in Practice: Lessons from OCPSC and MONS for Institutional Support of Nonprofits**

The state can learn many valuable lessons from successful public-social sector alignment from initiatives undertaken by the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC) and the Mayor's Office of Nonprofit Services (MONS) in New York City. This panel will explore how MONS and OCPSC's models for streamlined payment processes and external-facing, mission-aligned agreements can support future innovations in state-nonprofit relations, such as a permanent structural home for the sector within state government. Remarks and a provided memo will explore durable interagency coordination, internal representation, technical assistance, and creating a lasting standard for how government empowers its most critical community partners.

Speaker: Matt Gonzales, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Nonprofit New York (20 minutes)

****Memo Submission from the Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications (OCPSC)***

IV. Public Comment

(5 minutes)

V. Closing Remarks

(5 minutes)