



2026 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO'S STATE AND FEDERAL POLICY PLATFORM

Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs

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2026 SPONSORSHIP PROPOSALS

State Sponsorship Proposals

FACILITATE THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF TIJUANA RIVER FUNDING

Seek a change in state law related to Proposition 4, passed by the voters in 2024, that would expedite the disbursement of funding for projects in the Tijuana River Valley by exempting funds from a lengthy rulemaking process. This will allow stakeholders in the region to more rapidly draw down funding for urgent projects that address public health and safety.

REVISE STATE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR HOUSING TARGETS

Seek a change in state law that would allow more types of affordable housing to be recognized as “housing units” for state reporting purposes. By aligning state requirements with newly enacted state laws, this proposal would enable the County to continue meeting state housing goals while helping to meet the diverse housing needs of all Californians.

UPDATE STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR EMERGENCY TRANSPORT

Seek a change in state law to exempt private ambulances from an unenforceable component of state law requiring that private ambulances carry a spare wheel in case of a flat tire, which are no longer changed on the scene by paramedics, freeing up space for necessary medical supplies and equipment.

Federal Sponsorship Proposals

MOBILE PHARMACY DEA REGISTRATION

Seek further study and a change in law that would waive the requirement of a separate DEA registration for a mobile pharmacy and instead allow the mobile pharmacy to operate as an extension of a pharmacy license held by a county, city and county, or special hospital authority.

HOME HARDENING TAX EXEMPTION

Seek a change in law that would exempt a qualified catastrophe mitigation payment under a state program for wildfire, wind, and earthquake mitigation measures from federal income tax, thereby making the state-funded portion of a home hardening grant tax-exempt at the federal level.

State and Federal Sponsorship Proposals

FISCAL STRATEGIES

Seek legislation needed to advance fiscal stability and funding options to protect essential services, fund strategic investments in key priorities, and preserve the County's strong financial standing and credit rating.

2026 PRIORITY ISSUES

The County of San Diego (County) will actively engage in legislation and related actions in the following areas at the State and federal level to ensure such legislation benefits County Operations and the clients, customers, and constituents we serve.

The County will actively pursue all available funding to lift up and invest in our communities to ensure the San Diego region receives its fair share of resources.

The County will oppose any legislative efforts that run counter to our stated priorities.

Advancing Housing Solutions

The San Diego region is facing a severe housing shortage. As limited housing supply has driven up housing costs, the demand for new affordable housing has outpaced the number of units developed, while available housing remains beyond the reach of many families to buy or rent. Reports continue to show that housing in San Diego County is among the most expensive in the nation, and insufficient affordable housing solutions, coupled with increasing costs of living nationwide, have further constrained people's ability to afford to live and work in our region.

The County and cities in the region operate several programs to provide, preserve, and develop affordable housing. These programs offer rental assistance, affordable housing opportunities for renters, financial assistance for first-time home buyers and veterans, resources for persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness, and financing for the development of affordable housing.

The County will work with local municipalities, community partners, the State, and the federal government to ensure legislation supports and streamlines the creation of affordable and attainable housing in our region, in alignment with the goals and strategies of the County of San Diego Housing Blueprint. As the County works to increase the net housing supply in the region, it will support reforms to the State's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process, including a fairer allocation of the State's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) credits. The County will also pursue opportunities for "community benefit" co-located services with affordable housing, such as child care, healthy food, and medical services, as well as supportive infrastructure and appliances that can reduce cost of living.

Bolstering the Behavioral Health System

The County is guided by a broad vision of a behavioral health system characterized by upstream prevention and continuous care, rather than perpetual crisis. In order to

successfully fulfill its role as a specialty Mental Health Plan for people with Medi-Cal and support the broader community, the County's system is rooted in a regionally distributed and coordinated model that is data-driven and culturally responsive. The County will support legislation that advances this framework for behavioral health services for children, youth, and adults and will leverage state and federal funding opportunities to achieve this vision within the region.

Given the intersection of behavioral health, housing, and homelessness, the County will support legislation that promotes and advances funding models that provide sufficient and sustainable funding for both operational and capital investments in programs and services, including permanent supportive housing.

There is a significant behavioral health worker shortage locally and nationally. Ranging from peer support specialists to psychiatrists, behavioral health workers serve some of our most vulnerable populations along the behavioral health continuum of care. To address this crisis, the County will support legislation that addresses all aspects of the behavioral health workforce shortage, including but not limited to recruitment, training, retention, diversity, and cultural inclusivity.

Combating Climate Change and Protecting the Environment

The County will work with partners throughout our region to advance efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change in San Diego County, including achieving zero carbon emissions no later than 2045. These efforts include, but are not limited to, operational changes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advancing programs and policies that prioritize environmental justice and equity and that move towards efficient and renewable energy, supporting local food systems and community resiliency, preserving natural ecosystems, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices for carbon sequestration. In addition, the County will advocate for state and federal legislation and funding that aligns with 30x30 conservation efforts. The County will also engage in legislation and funding opportunities to support key operational goals, including:

- Supporting efforts to mitigate and reverse the impacts of climate change on all communities, with an urgent focus on low-income communities and communities of color that bear some of the greatest effects of climate change.
- Promoting initiatives through the County's Climate Action Plan that reduce air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and exposure to toxic and hazardous waste.
- Sustaining the County's Beach and Bay Water Quality Monitoring Program, which is designed to improve river and beach water quality.

- Facilitating stormwater capture, flood management, sewer and stormwater infrastructure improvements, and the preservation of riparian habitats.
- Protecting the more than 100 species in San Diego County that are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the state or federal government.
- Supporting the management of invasive, non-native vegetation and pests that threaten native ecosystems, as well as the adoption of local native plants in public and private landscaping.
- Building capacity for Tribal land stewardship training and education.
- Supporting access to healthy, local, and affordable food, climate-smart and resilient agriculture practices, preserving agricultural lands, economic viability of local food production, nutrition security and education, and food waste prevention.

Ensuring Safe Communities

One of the most important roles of local government is ensuring the safety of the public. The County will engage in advocacy efforts to support our core function of protecting all members of our community, including through preventing and responding to wildfires and other disasters, preventing gun violence, and upholding a justice system and social supports that prioritize community safety and well-being.

DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES

The County continues to pursue opportunities for risk reduction by improving local policies and implementing innovative programs to help residents prepare for the next disaster. The County will support legislation and related efforts to ensure all-hazard preparation, planning, mitigation, response, and recovery to foster safe, strong, and capable communities. The County will support legislative efforts that enhance the continuity and accessibility of social services and benefits, both during and after disasters, and improve coordination and data-sharing between jurisdictions and agencies. In addition, the County supports efforts to provide recovery funding to individuals and community-based organizations.

WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Due to the high risk of wildfires in the San Diego region, the County will engage in policy and legislation and take proactive measures to protect residents and their property from wildfires. To this end, County will engage in policy and legislation that address habitat management and restoration, reduce community wildfire risk and strengthen community resiliency following a major wildfire, adopt land use changes to avoid building in high wildfire-prone areas, promote home hardening in vulnerable communities, increase access to alert and warning communication systems, address post-fire flood mitigation

issues, and support the removal of dead and diseased trees. The County will also continue to pursue funding to purchase and/or acquire firefighting equipment and apparatus, including firefighting helicopters. Additionally, the County will support efforts to expand broadband infrastructure in high-risk wildfire areas to strengthen emergency response.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

The County will advocate for policies that not only keep crime rates low but also enable all community members to feel safe. The County will engage in legislation that provides necessary resources to our justice partners to provide training and rehabilitative programming, as well as providing services and support to victims of crime and justice-impacted individuals. The County will pursue state and federal resources to support the infrastructure needs of County detention facilities to ensure that proper medical and mental health care can be advanced and rehabilitative programming can be further administered, in accordance with the Sheriff's Office comprehensive service delivery model. The County will also engage in legislation that will strengthen community and law enforcement relationships and funding for programs designed to enhance transparency and foster positive interactions with law enforcement.

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The County will also support state and federal legislation that furthers reforms related to reducing gun violence, including background checks for firearm purchases, budgetary commitments to invest in the communities most impacted by everyday gun violence, safe storage of firearms, safe and voluntary transfer of firearms, and new oversight and accountability measures for the gun industry.

PROPOSITION 36

The County will identify and pursue state funding to support law enforcement efforts and expand access to behavioral health and substance use treatment services under Proposition 36, including investments in treatment infrastructure, housing, case management, and re-entry supports. This includes resources for system partners, such as the Public Defender's Office, to ensure early legal representation, case management, and peer navigation to support sustained recovery and stability after exiting the justice system.

Reducing Homelessness

The County is responsible for providing housing linkages, street outreach, case management, care coordination, connection to primary care and behavioral health services, and emergency housing for people who are at risk of or experiencing

homelessness in the unincorporated areas of the County. The County also works collaboratively with service providers, the regional Continuum of Care, the Regional Task Force on Homelessness, and other local jurisdictions, non-profits, and community partners to support the successful administration and delivery of a range of health and social services to people who are at risk of or experiencing sheltered or unsheltered homelessness, in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the county. The County takes the lead, where appropriate, to secure federal and state resources and works collaboratively with the non-profit community and participating jurisdictions in the completion and execution of competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and state and federal agencies for funds that assist people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness in the region.

The County will advocate for legislation and funding that provides effective prevention, intervention, and access to affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, rental assistance programs, and services, including social safety programs and employment services, for people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness, with the overarching goal that any homelessness in our region should be rare, brief, and non-recurring. This legislation should provide consistent and sustainable funding at a level commensurate with the need and be flexible enough in its administration and reporting requirements to meet the specific needs of our region and advance progress.

Safeguarding the Social Safety Net

The County has long prioritized maintaining and expanding access to essential safety net services for the over one million San Diego County residents who rely on these services to thrive. Recently enacted legislation, including H.R. 1, has significantly altered safety net programs, such as Medicaid (also known as Medi-Cal) and SNAP (also known as CalFresh), limiting access to healthcare and food assistance. Further cuts and potential cuts to funding, staffing, and programs at federal agencies such as the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Veterans Administration, and budget deficits at the state level are also causing disruption. All these changes are increasing the burden on individuals seeking support and placing additional operational strain on the County.

In response, the County will advocate to federal and state leaders for strong, sustained investments in safety net programs. This includes supporting policies that promote food security, protect access to healthcare including reproductive healthcare, preserve housing supports, increase access to high-quality, affordable childcare and early care, and ensure the continuation of services for San Diegans who need them most when they need them most. These efforts will include, but not be limited to, the following areas.

NUTRITION SECURITY

One in four San Diegans, and one in three children, struggles with nutrition security, part of a concerning trend in the rise of food insecurity across the country. Over 850,000 people are food insecure in the region and rely on nutrition programs, like CalFresh and local food banks. The County will continue to advocate for legislation that maintains and increases access to these programs, supports livable benefit amounts, and secures Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards from fraud.

HEALTHCARE AND REPRODUCTIVE CARE ACCESS

Historic inequities across social, economic, and institutional systems, including healthcare, have resulted in adverse outcomes and limited opportunities for low-income communities, women, older adults, veterans, the LGBTQIA+ community, people with disabilities, and for Black, Indigenous, and people of color. Additionally, active efforts are underway to undermine recent advances in access to affordable healthcare and reproductive healthcare for all. Federal and state governments remain major partners and sources of funding for key programs designed to address disparities and to support people in their time of need. The County will continue to advocate for legislation that addresses the impacts of recent funding cuts and modifications to the Medicaid program and will identify, prioritize, and advocate for sexual and reproductive health care, funding, and services that increase access and protect individuals seeking to obtain and provide reproductive health services in the region.

SUPPORT FOR VETERANS

San Diego County is home to one of the largest concentrations of military personnel in the nation, and it's estimated that more than one-third of county residents are connected to the military, whether as active duty, veterans, or family of military members. The County values and honors the service and sacrifice of those who serve and recognizes the challenges they and their families face related to food security, housing, and childcare. The County will engage in legislation to support our military and veteran community, including adequate funding for programs, appropriate benefits and services, and housing supports.

EARLY CARE, SUPPORT, AND EDUCATION

Essential to the well-being of any community is adequate support of children and families. Access to affordable childcare, prenatal and pediatric care, and prevention services are a few of the key areas under threat by changes to critical social safety net programs. The County will pursue opportunities to support legislation that prioritizes, funds, and strengthens a comprehensive ecosystem of care, resources, and services (from birth to young adulthood) to ensure the healthy development of San Diego's youth.

OLDER ADULTS

There are approximately 710,500 San Diego County residents aged 60 and older, and by 2030, that number is expected to grow to approximately 850,000. The County's over-85 population is projected to diversify and grow faster than any other age group. As the cost of food, housing, and healthcare rises, more older adults will be vulnerable to reductions in social safety net programs. Guided by the Aging Roadmap, a regional plan to ensure the region has programs and communities that equitably support the needs of older adults, the County will engage in legislation and pursue funding opportunities that support the vision of the Aging Roadmap and promote a robust system of support for San Diego County's aging population.

Responding to the Tijuana River Valley Sewage Crisis

The County continues to call for immediate, sustained binational action from all levels of government to address the ongoing emergency in the Tijuana River Valley. Over the past five years, more than 100 billion gallons of pollutants have been discharged into the Tijuana River in South San Diego County, prompting one of the worst environmental disasters of our time and endangering people who live and work in the area. An unprecedented increase in cross-border sewage and runoff flows, combined with crumbling infrastructure and a lack of investment from both the U.S. and Mexican federal governments, has allowed the pollution crisis to get worse over time. The impact of the pollution is felt in many ways across the San Diego region, from the health and well-being of thousands of local residents to local businesses that rely on tourism at nearby beaches. The sewage crisis also has national security implications, with recent reports of Navy SEALs becoming ill from exposure to raw sewage discharge after training in the water near Imperial Beach highlighting the impacts of pollution on federal operations.

The Board of Supervisors first declared the water pollution crisis a state of emergency in June 2023 and has since renewed the local emergency proclamation every 60 days due to unhealthy levels of bacteria in beach water originating from the Tijuana River. Contamination in our beach and bay water from cross-border sewage has forced the near continuous closure of some South County beaches since December 2021, one of the longest beach closures in U.S. history. While federal agencies have stepped up their support for our efforts, much more work remains to be done to fully address the sewage crisis and bring justice to impacted community members.

The County will continue to support legislative efforts at the state and federal levels to advance solutions to the Tijuana River Valley crisis. At the federal level, this can include root-cause solutions to the crisis requiring binational cooperation and significant infrastructure projects that only the federal government can negotiate and fund. The County will also advocate for state legislation and funding opportunities that direct

resources to clean up the Tijuana River Valley watershed and build out long-term infrastructure that mitigate sewage flow and aerosolization of toxic chemical compounds. Additionally, the County will continue to collaborate with local, state, federal, and binational agencies to support the health and well-being of impacted residents and find solutions to the ongoing crisis.

2026 POLICY GUIDELINES

The inverse of the following statements is also true. The County will oppose any legislative efforts that run counter to our stated guiding principles and policy guidelines.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Work collaboratively with local jurisdictions, state and federal agencies, Tribal Nations, and binational counterparts to advance the County's stated principles, priorities, and policy guidelines.
- Protect the fiscal integrity of the County by stabilizing local government financing to increase funding to local agencies in an equitable manner.
- Ensure equity, transparency, and access for all residents.
- Provide a system of care that is operationally feasible and fiscally sustainable for the County and benefits the residents of our region.
- Streamline eligibility processes for state and federal programs that will assist with timely processing and ensure benefits get to the clients who need them.
- Support an equitable allocation and distribution of state and federal funding that allows for flexibility, transparency, and the participation of all jurisdictions throughout California, including San Diego County.
- Ensure equitable access to goods or services focused on providing needed resources and programs to underserved communities and vulnerable populations.
- Support the reauthorization of federal bills and restoration of funding for federal programs that benefit the County, including, but not limited to, infrastructure, transportation, the Farm Bill (e.g., the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Older Americans Act, the Endangered Species Act, the expanded Child Tax Credit, and/or the Ryan White CARE Act.
- Pursue sustainable grant funding at the state and federal levels.
- Support legislation and administrative actions that provide funding streams directly to local government entities like counties and regional planning organizations.
- Support a community-based approach to public safety.
- Support and advocate for efforts to safeguard fundamental rights and uphold civil rights protections.

I. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Support legislation that allows local, state, or federal governments to streamline operations and business efficiency while retaining a skilled and supported workforce.
2. Support legislation and/or efforts that recognize the unique characteristics of border areas and the needs for related infrastructure such as ports and ports of entry, transportation related to goods movement, and air and water quality improvements related to cross-border pollution.
3. Support legislation and administrative actions that provide consistency between the California Code of Regulations and State statutes.
4. Support legislation that would eliminate financial and service level maintenance-of-effort requirements.
5. Support full funding of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.
6. Support legislation that backfills counties' revenue losses and allows for flexibility of revenue backfills to County programs.
7. Support legislation that improves cross-system integration of funding sources and cross-sector collaboration.
8. Support legislation and administrative actions that create federal and statewide processes for independent redistricting commissions, similar to the Independent Redistricting Commission for the County.
9. Support efforts to increase transparency in civilian oversight of law enforcement meetings and investigations. (For example: by permitting public case review discussion and allowing documents and information related to investigations of civilian complaints of misconduct, deaths, and other specified incidents under oversight entity jurisdiction to be made public.)
10. Support efforts to ensure appropriate resources, authority, and flexibility are provided to operationalize the CARE Act framework.
11. Support legislation that clarifies for the purposes of conditionally releasing a Sexually Violent Predator (SVP), placement restrictions near a "public or private school" to include home school sites.
12. Support legislation that expands access to affordable insurance for all San Diegans. (For example: homeowners should be able to access and obtain affordable home insurance even if a homeowner lives in a high-risk wildfire area.)
13. Support legislation and administrative efforts to lower insurance costs, increase insurance coverage and availability for Californians, and require insurance providers to share coverage information for enhanced preparedness and response.

14. Support of legislation that will increase, but not eliminate, the exclusion caps for capital gains taxes on sales of owner-occupied housing.
15. Oppose tax giveaways for the rich that shift costs onto low-income, working, and middle-class county residents.
16. Support legislation that would ask voters to levy new taxes on Californians who have benefited the most from our economy: billionaires, global investors, out-of-state real estate speculators, large corporations, and others who have amassed a disproportionate share of wealth, with those taxes structured through progressive revenue strategies that level the playing field, so essential services like 9-1-1 emergency response, healthcare, and clean air and water are not cut.

A. Equity and Justice

1. Support legislation that seeks to address the legacy of systemic racism and racial inequities and the impact of such historical harms on communities in the San Diego region.
2. Support legislation that would strengthen protections and remedies against employment discrimination.
3. Support legislation that would dismantle barriers encountered by Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ communities, immigrants and refugees, people with physical and intellectual disabilities, and other populations.
4. Support legislation that would reduce inequities and promote inclusion and accessibility for people with disabilities of all ages.
5. Support legislation that would promote equitable, culturally responsive, and inclusive language accessibility.

B. Disaster

1. Support legislation that would provide flexibility and/or increased funding to the San Diego region to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from all-hazard disasters and emergencies, including policies that facilitate coordination and timely information sharing among federal, state, and local governments and contractors and that maximize local reimbursement for disaster recovery planning.
2. Support legislation that empowers local jurisdictions to independently act and pursue cost recovery when other entities fail to meet their disaster obligations.
3. Support legislation that would provide financial assistance to individuals, families, and community-based organizations for disaster recovery.

4. Support legislation that maximizes access to social services during disasters, including through statewide mutual aid systems, flexible eligibility and benefit adjustments, expedited federal and state assistance waivers, and protections for disaster-affected individuals against economic barriers.
5. Support legislation that ensures continued funding for local jurisdictions for emergency planning, training, drills, mitigation, and response and recovery activities until all spent fuel is removed from the site of the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.
6. Support legislation that would remove and relocate outside of the San Diego region the spent nuclear fuel stored at the decommissioned San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station.

C. Economic and Workforce Development

1. Support legislation that would increase access to wealth and/or improved living standards that promotes and sustains diversity, innovation, competition, and entrepreneurship.
2. Support legislation that facilitates the State's engagement with federal small business technical assistance grants.
3. Support legislation that would provide financial incentives and opportunities for filming in San Diego County.
4. Support state and federal legislation and funding to improve community-wide access to arts and culture.
5. Support legislation that bolsters innovation for green industries throughout the region and expands access for residents in San Diego County to green jobs with family-supporting wages.
6. Support legislation that expands federal funding and support for biomedical science, education, research infrastructure, commercialization, and entrepreneurship to advance San Diego's biomedical leadership and drive our regional innovation economy.
7. Support legislation and related efforts that connect opportunity youth, who are disconnected from employment and education, with training and workforce development opportunities.

D. Data Infrastructure

1. Support legislation that promotes data systems that are modernized, secure, interconnected, accurate, and responsive to community needs to improve the County's interface with state and federal programs.
2. Advocate for opportunities to provide input on system requirements and implementation plans and funding to enhance the County's own data efforts.
3. Support legislation that promotes person-centered case management and support, care coordination and responsible data sharing, and that enables more robust program evaluation, performance measurement, and operations-focused analytics.
4. Support legislation and/or other related actions that encourage AI innovation, but that also protect safety, security, and individual civil rights.

E. Registrar of Voters

1. Support legislation that promotes a fair, equitable, accessible, and engaged voting process.

F. Broadband

1. Support legislation and/or funding to improve broadband accessibility and affordability in San Diego County and throughout California, particularly in rural communities that are impacted by the digital divide.

G. Employee and Labor Relations

1. Support full cost recovery for salary, benefits, and administration for all employee relationships.
2. Support legislative and administrative actions that provide adequate training and safety measures for County employees who administer programs.

H. Liability

1. Engage in legislation that protects the County from liability.

I. Local Public Meeting Procedure

1. Support legislation or administrative action that would improve the Brown Act or would facilitate remote public access and participation in public meetings and the policy making process.

J. Project Delivery Authority

1. Support legislation that gives local governments and agencies greater flexibility to use alternative delivery methods for construction projects.

K. Supporting Working Families

1. Support legislation that promotes increasing living wage jobs with comprehensive benefits, including but not limited to, paid family leave.
2. Support legislation that protects the right of workers to organize.
3. Support legislation that provides strong workplace safety standards.
4. Support funding, legislation, or administrative action that facilitates and incentivizes the production of mixed-income social housing and moderate to middle-income housing in the 80-120% AMI range.
5. Support legislation that increases access to quality, affordable early care and education and child care in the region, in recognition that a robust child care infrastructure is fundamental for a thriving economy and workforce stability.

L. Immigrant Services

1. Support legislation and/or efforts that provide federally funded immigration solutions and coordination that ensure safe and appropriate shelter and care for families and unaccompanied children and minimize health risks to those entering and exiting federal custody.
2. Support legislation that would increase access to legal counsel for immigrants and refugees.

II. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

A. Behavioral Health

1. Support efforts that allow counties maximum flexibility under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and other related efforts by providing appropriate resources, infrastructure, and authority that are responsive to the data-informed needs of the region.
2. Support efforts to increase accessibility and funding for quality substance use and/or mental health services, including interventions and screenings, for children, youth, adults, older adults, and families, as well as support services for justice-involved individuals.

3. Support legislation to protect and expand Medi-Cal reimbursement for behavioral health services, including reimbursement for substance use care and opportunities available within the Medi-Cal Transformation Initiative.
4. Support legislation to reduce regulations that restrict the provision of primary and stand-alone substance use disorder care within facilities licensed for mental health treatment.
5. Support legislation to provide Institutions for Mental Disease (IMDs) appropriate reimbursement rates.
6. Support legislation that promotes the integration of and parity between mental health, substance use disorder, and physical health care services, and the provision of care coordination services to support seamless care throughout a person's lifetime.
7. Support for legislation and/or efforts to create an appropriate level of service(s) for substance use disorders along the continuum of crisis to long-term management, especially focused on methamphetamine intoxication.
8. Support legislation that promotes a harm reduction approach to substance use disorder treatment and services.
9. Support legislation that includes, but is not limited to, provisions to improve behavioral health workforce licensing and credentialing, supervision and training, higher education, pay parity and cross-training among different professional groups whose roles intersect with the behavioral health needs of the community.
10. Support legislation specifically related to children and youth mental health that promotes balanced and safe smartphone and social media use.

B. Care, Support, and Education for Children, Youth and Their Families

1. In alignment with the Child Care Blueprint, support measures that prioritize and enhance the overall quality, affordability, capacity, accessibility, and safety of early care and education programs, while also strengthening workforce supports.
2. Advocate for a mixed-delivery system of care across licensed center- and family-based child care programs, Head Start, Early Head Start, public schools, and community-based organizations, including both subsidized and parent pay programs to ensure equitable and accessible options of child care for families.
3. Support legislation that incentivizes providers to serve infants and toddlers through targeted financial and programmatic support.

4. Support legislation to improve existing child care facilities, develop new ones, and modernize programming, including embedding critical developmental supports into early learning environments.
5. Support legislation and funding opportunities that support the State's Rate and Quality Workgroup Report recommendations and the accompanying modeling of an alternative methodology rate structure.
6. Support legislation that promotes wellness, reduces trauma, and allows for a wide range of upstream, protective, and prevention services to serve children and their families facing child protective actions, including policies that reduce unnecessary child protective actions, advances a safety and prevention framework, prioritizes family's voices and keeping families together, and supports the County's "No Wrong Door" approach.
7. Support legislation that increases and supports appropriate temporary shelter care, short- and long-term placements, services, and resource options for children, current foster youth, non-minor dependents, and former foster youth of or at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.
8. Support legislation that increases services and resources for caregivers of children, non-minor dependents, and current and former foster youth who are victims of or at risk of abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

C. First 5 Commission

1. Support legislation that is consistent with the principles of First 5 San Diego and furthers the support and improvement of the early care and education system and school readiness throughout the county.
2. Support legislation that increases funding for children ages birth to 5 years old and, more specifically, which includes First 5 commissions as eligible applicants or recipients of available funding.
3. Support legislation that enables more significant early intervention and comprehensive support for families and children, starting with pregnant individuals and birth.

D. Maternal Child Health

1. Support legislation that would provide equitable funding in the Title V allocation to California.

2. Support legislation that would aid in the implementation of evidence-based care coordination practices and systems for the whole child within California Children's Services.
3. Support legislation that would maintain or enhance appropriation of State General Fund to Maternal Child Health programs.
4. Support legislation that addresses structural inequalities in perinatal care.

E. Reproductive Healthcare

1. Support legislation that funds sexual and reproductive healthcare, programs, and services and that increases access and protects individuals seeking to obtain and provide reproductive health services in the region.
2. Support regulatory, budgetary, and legislative efforts that strengthen access to abortion medications such as misoprostol and mifepristone and efforts to ensure access to reproductive health medications via mail delivery.

F. Medi-Cal

1. Engage in legislation and administrative actions that provide for a Medi-Cal Managed Care System that provides recipients in San Diego County the highest level of care in the least restrictive environment, including advocacy to maximize provider reimbursement rates.
2. Engage in Medicaid Waiver applications and/or renewals that protect, improve, and build upon County programs and services.
3. Support efforts that expand presumptive authorization by Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans for recuperative care, and/or to make Recuperative Care a Medi-Cal benefit.

G. Health Access

1. Support legislation that would protect and expand access to, and provide adequate funding for, health coverage for the uninsured.
2. Support legislation that would simplify the administration of, application for, and enrollment and eligibility processes for health coverage programs.

H. Public Health

1. Support legislation that would protect and increase state and federal funding to support public health services, including recruitment, training, retention and

workforce, surveillance, communicable disease control, and prevention activities, and local public health assessment and evaluation efforts.

2. Engage in legislation and related actions at the state and federal level that will allow the County to adequately respond to future public health crises.
3. Support legislation and administrative actions that prioritize public health resources and research and combat health misinformation.
4. Support legislation and administrative actions that restrict the sales of flavored tobacco products.
5. Support legislation that encourages the immunization of children, especially those within communities with low immunization rates.
6. Support legislation and administrative actions that allow for greater testing of children for lead exposure and lead-related illness.
7. Support legislation that protects and improves the health of San Diegans of all ages through disease prevention, health promotion, and addressing health disparities.

I. Issues Affecting Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

1. Support legislation to increase funding, resources, and services available to older adults, persons with disabilities, and individuals who provide them with care.
2. Support legislation to support the vision and funding of the Aging Roadmap and promote a robust system of support for the aging population in San Diego County.
3. Support legislation that protects and promotes the sustainability of the In-Home Supportive Services Program through programmatic changes, workforce development, and appropriate cost sharing mechanisms between the State and counties.
4. Engage in legislation that would provide funding and/or streamline regulations for Edgemoor.
5. Engage in efforts that would support programs to assist older adults to age where they choose, including rental subsidies, access to affordable housing, nutrition assistance, transportation access, housing retrofit, assisted living support, access to technology tools and training, and end of life care.
6. Engage in legislation that builds a care delivery system that provides effective, reliable, affordable, high-quality, and efficient services to older adults and adults

who are living with a serious illness, disability, and/or functional impairment, including access to dental care, memory care, and legal services.

7. Support legislation or administrative actions and funding for a Memory Care Unit at the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista.
8. Support legislation and/or administrative actions that would adjust reimbursement rates in order to sustain operations and/or funding for Regional Centers, Community Care Facilities, and Board and Care facilities that serve persons with physical, intellectual and developmental disabilities.
9. Support legislation that would prohibit the Department of Motor Vehicles from releasing, with minor exceptions, the addresses and personal information of County employees who perform investigations in their personal vehicles.

J. Veterans

1. Support legislation that supports our military and veteran community, including adequate funding for programs, appropriate benefits and services, and housing for active-duty military, veterans, including dependents of living and deceased veterans, and support for veterans with housing vouchers.

K. 2-1-1 Services

1. Support legislation that would provide funding to assist in ongoing operation of a 2-1-1 referral system.

L. Nutrition and Food Security

1. Support legislation and/or actions that expand access to affordable and nutritious food and improve food security, including innovative funding, expanded outreach, resource mobilization, and collaborative partnerships.
2. Support legislation that focuses on Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) fraud mitigation to protect customers and prevent theft of EBT benefits.
3. Support legislation to reduce barriers to access vital nutrition benefits and program and expand eligibility requirements, especially for children, older adults and college students.
4. Support legislation and other efforts that incentivize and expand purchasing power for local produce, as well as efforts to make medically supportive food (i.e., produce prescriptions) a permanent covered benefit for Medi-Cal recipients.

M. Homelessness

1. Support legislation and administrative actions that would result in a sufficient, sustainable, flexible, and consistent source of funding for homelessness programs that balance public accountability with streamlining administrative requirements.
2. Support legislation that would increase funding for and improve the operation of programs providing services and support for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, including maximizing the availability of housing vouchers and rental assistance programs and enhancing case management, resource coordination, and access to legal services.

N. Housing

1. Support legislation that increases administrative flexibilities and funding related to the production and preservation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing.
2. Support legislation that streamlines permitting and/or provides funding for affordable and attainable housing development.
3. Support legislation that provides ongoing operating funding associated with necessary support services at permanent supportive housing developments.
4. Support legislation that increases housing production; promotes equity, inclusion, and sustainability; preserves housing for vulnerable populations; prevents displacement of existing residents; provides safe living conditions; and protects tenants.
5. Support legislation that increases transparency and strengthens the link between the State's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocations and funding, transit investments, and statewide housing streamlining policies.
6. Support legislation that maintains or increases state and/or federal funding (such as CDBG, HOME, HOPWA, ESG) for housing related operations, services, and community development activities.
7. Support legislation that maintains or increases federal funding for the capital and operational needs of the Public Housing program.

III. PLANNING AND LAND USE

A. General Plans and Land Use Planning

1. Support efforts to simplify, streamline, and improve land use planning, activities, and matters, including but not limited to housing, infrastructure, multimodal transportation, and sustainability.
2. Protect local control over land-use decisions and flexibility over resources when it makes sense to maintain unique characteristics for the community within the unincorporated area and does not limit housing options for the region. (For example: protecting local input into the siting of wireless cell towers.)

B. Cooperation with Tribal Governments

1. Support legislation that recognizes Tribal sovereignty and encourages meaningful collaboration between Tribal and local governments.

C. Regional Growth Management

1. Support legislation and flexible funding that would ensure or promote socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable regional growth strategies and management.

IV. PUBLIC SAFETY

A. Animal Services

1. Engage in legislation that protects the general welfare and safety of animals.
2. Support legislation that would promote the spaying or neutering and/or microchip identification of animals.

B. Child Support Services

1. Support legislative, budgetary, or administrative action to adequately fund child support services.
2. Support legislation that promotes flexibility, efficiency, equity, and modernization within the child support program while providing needed support to families.

C. Justice Programs

1. Support legislation and/or efforts to reduce collateral consequences of criminal convictions upon individuals and families, especially in underserved communities and communities of color.

2. Support legislation that would provide sufficient and sustainable funding from the state and federal government to expand and maintain offender diversion and reentry collaborative programming, including behavioral health treatment services, service navigation, care coordination, and housing support for justice-involved individuals with substance use, mental health, or co-occurring disorders reentering California communities.
3. Support funding for programs that divert individuals from the criminal justice system.
4. Support efforts to decriminalize behavioral health.
5. Support legislation that promotes trauma-informed and equitable approaches to improve the health, well-being, and rehabilitation of justice-involved individuals, including those in custody and in the community.
6. Engage in legislation that provides resources and/or support to victims of crime.
7. Engage in legislation that expands programs for the justice-impacted population to attend higher education for traditional bachelor's degrees and adult education programs leading to sustainable employment.
8. Support efforts to expand licensure and use of community-based, least-restrictive placements for justice-involved youth.

D. Gun Violence Prevention

1. Support legislation that furthers violence prevention, including background checks for firearm purchases, budgetary commitments to invest in the communities most impacted by everyday gun violence, and/or new oversight and accountability measures for the gun industry.
2. Support legislation that provides funding and other resources to local jurisdictions to promote gang diversion programs.

E. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

1. Support legislation and administrative actions to provide funding and policies to improve and/or increase access to EMS/trauma specialty care systems and other services provided by emergency department facilities and EMS responders.
2. Support legislation that would expand the scope of community paramedicine by broadening the scope of care that paramedics can provide to include immunizations, sample collections, staffing at Emergency Departments and Skilled

Nursing Facilities, and/or other efforts that would reduce the impacts of low-acuity calls on the 911 system while ensuring a patient-centered focus.

3. Support legislation that provides for an equitable reimbursement rate for emergency ambulance transportation for public and private health insurers.

V. RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

A. Agricultural Services and Resilience

1. Local Agriculture

- a. Support legislation that creates programmatic or funding opportunities to support local agricultural operations, climate-smart and resilient agricultural practices, preservation of agricultural lands, economic viability of local food production, and food waste prevention and edible food recovery.
- b. Support legislation to improve, simplify, and streamline funding opportunities and market access programs that enhance the economic viability of regional farmers, including initiatives that expand distribution channels and strengthen local food systems.

2. Pest, Disease, and Weed Management

- a. Support continued or increased funding for pest, disease, and weed management, including regulatory pest exclusion, detection, quarantine compliance and eradication activities, outreach, and research to mitigate the economic and environmental risks related to invasive agricultural pests.
- b. Support legislation that would simplify, streamline, and improve pest management, including improved coordination between federal, state, and local programs.

3. Pesticide Regulation

- a. Support continued or increased funding for pesticide regulatory activities, including permitting, outreach, compliance assessment, and enforcement.
- b. Support efforts to improve, simplify and streamline pesticide regulation activities.
- c. Oppose changes to state laws that would restrict the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's and County Agricultural Commissioners' authority to regulate pesticides.

4. Agricultural Standards
 - a. Support continued or increased funding for regulatory activities related to agricultural standards programs that protect consumers and promote equity and quality in the marketplace.
 - b. Support efforts to improve, simplify, and streamline regulatory activities related to agricultural standards programs that protect consumers and promote equity and quality in the marketplace.
5. Bees
 - a. Support legislation and increased funding for regulatory and other activities related to the protection of bees and the beekeeping industry.
6. Weights and Measures
 - a. Support legislation and increased funding for regulatory and other activities related to verifying the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices and prices charged to consumers to support consumer protection and fair business competition.

B. Energy

1. Support efforts to achieve 100% clean and renewable energy and a rapid transition of fuels toward electric and other low-carbon emissions fuel sources.
2. Support efforts to maximize affordability of energy and utility costs while meeting Climate Action Plan goals.

C. Environmental Health and Justice

1. Support legislation and funding that would improve, streamline, and simplify waste management, including but not limited to hazardous, medical, and universal waste, to ensure proper training and handling, disaster and emergency readiness, and the protection of natural resources and the public.
2. Support efforts to improve, streamline, and simplify the California Retail Food Code and related food safety laws to protect the public, provide flexibility to food facilities without compromising public health, support equity among different types of food facility operations, and ensure effective regulation at the state and local levels.
3. Support legislative efforts for greater transparency around the community impacts of third-party food delivery platforms.

4. Support legislation and/or funding that would improve, streamline, or simplify regulations for environmental health programs and protect the health and safety of the public and natural resources.
5. Support legislation that would improve the County's ability to limit re-occupancy of a residence that has been determined to have been used for Methamphetamine or Fentanyl laboratory activity until such time as the property owner has performed the necessary clean-up and mitigation for hazardous chemicals.
6. Support legislation that would provide full cost recovery for local radiation health protection programs conducted under contract to assist the State.
7. Support legislation that provides funding for environmental reporting information systems and funding for the information exchange requirements or modifications that require local data systems to be modified to connect and transmit information to the State's data systems.
8. Support state and federal funding and efforts to address and eliminate untreated sewage, trash, and sediment that originates from across the U.S.- Mexico border.
9. Support legislation and funding for surveillance, control, or outreach to limit the spread of the vector borne diseases, including Zika, dengue, and chikungunya, which can be transmitted by invasive Aedes mosquitoes.
10. Support legislation and funding for County efforts related to investigation and public notification when food sources are unsafe for consumption.
11. Support legislation that bolsters stronger Tribal partnerships to ensure a mindful approach to fostering cross-governmental relationships and a mutual awareness on matters and opportunities for the health and well-being, quality of life, and sustainability of indigenous communities throughout the County.

D. Historical and Cultural Preservation

1. Support legislation and funding for the preservation of historical and cultural resources.

E. Land and Water Conservation Fund

1. Support continued or increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, including increases to the state and local share of funding.

F. Offshore Oil Drilling – Outer Continental Shelf

1. Oppose offshore oil drilling and/or efforts that would allow offshore drilling off the coast of California.
2. Support legislation and/or administrative action that provides for petroleum-based monitoring of offshore oil drilling.

G. Parks and Recreation

1. Support legislation and funding that would promote and protect outdoor recreation, including but not limited to the development and maintenance of parks and trails, construction of recreational facilities, implementation of recreation programming, outdoor education programs, and the preservation and restoration of natural resources.
2. Engage in legislation to ensure funding streams for parks and recreation associated with the development of housing are protected.
3. Support legislation that would expand the list of advisory panels established by the San Diego River Conservancy to administer the San Diego Rivers Watershed Consortium Program to include those watersheds not previously included.
4. Seek state and federal grant funding for the San Diego River Park trail completion.
5. Support legislation and funding streams to support the development and maintenance of community gardens.
6. Support legislation that would allow equitable access to the outdoors for all, particularly those in underserved communities.
7. Support legislation that increases access to funding opportunities, including grants, to expand, upgrade, and/or maintain park and recreation spaces for communities.

H. Water Availability and Resources

1. Support legislation and funding that would improve affordability, availability, and reliability of water, potable reuse, and/or protect water resources in the region and throughout California.
2. Support legislation and funding for drought mitigation and response that would ensure flexible and effective implementation at the local level, if applicable.

3. Support legislation and funding that protects and restores groundwater quality and quantity and streamlines approval of groundwater recharge and stormwater capture projects.

I. Watershed Planning and Water Quality Management

1. Support legislation that would provide funding for drainage improvement, flood control and hazard mitigation projects, green stormwater infrastructure, climate resiliency, and related programs to protect life and property from the impacts of flooding.
2. Support legislation and funding for stormwater infrastructure projects, creek or stream restoration projects, stormwater monitoring projects, stormwater education and community programs, and stormwater infrastructure operation and maintenance activities.
3. Engage in legislation and administrative actions that ensure water quality is protected, and that federal, state, and local regulations, requirements, and policies are aligned.

J. Wildlife Preservation – Habitat Protection

1. Support legislation and funding for preservation, conservation, and restoration efforts, including but not limited to habitat conservation planning, land management, monitoring, and maintenance activities, that protect biological and wildlife resources.
2. Support efforts to work with the Bureau of Land Management to acquire lands for the County that are currently under lease.

VI. TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WORKS

A. Airports

1. Support legislation and funding for airport and aviation programs that promote safe, secure, and efficient airport operations, capital improvements, air traffic control, planning and development, and compliance with existing federal regulations.

B. Regional Wastewater System Improvements

1. Support legislation and funding to improve, streamline, and simplify local wastewater systems, programs, projects, and related wastewater management activities.

2. Support legislation and funding to improve implementation of wastewater recycling and reuse systems that improve water availability, reliability, affordability, quality, and climate resilience.

C. Solid Waste

1. Support legislation and funding to improve, streamline, and simplify solid waste planning, disposal, diversion, and recycling activities.
2. Support legislation and funding to share, reuse, repair, manufacture, and upcycle existing materials and products.

D. Transportation

1. Engage in legislation and pursue funding opportunities to improve our region's transportation network and reduce vehicle miles traveled, enhance resiliency, reduce emissions, and increase multi-modal transportation opportunities in the unincorporated area.
2. Support legislation to improve, streamline, and simplify local transportation planning, projects, and related activities, such as maintenance, rehabilitation, and new construction.
3. Support legislation that provides flexible, sufficient, and equitable state or federal transportation funding, without affecting funding sources of other County projects, and/or protects existing state, federal, and local transportation funding.
4. Support State-led efforts to prevent suicides on the Coronado bridge, as well as measures to address issues of speeding, debris, guardrails, and wrong-way accidents.
5. Oppose legislation that would impose a per vehicle mile traveled Road User Charge, or any other per mile charge.
6. Support legislation and funding that promotes zero-emission alternatives for the County fleet.



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