



**LOS
ANGELES
COUNTY
STATE
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**

2020



About Los Angeles County



LOS ANGELES COUNTY HAS THE LARGEST POPULATION OF ANY COUNTY IN THE NATION - WITH **OVER 10 MILLION RESIDENTS, WHO ACCOUNT FOR 27 PERCENT OF CALIFORNIA'S POPULATION.**



MORE THAN 1 MILLION RESIDENTS LIVE IN **APPROXIMATELY 141 UNINCORPORATED AREAS**, WHOSE MUNICIPAL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY.



THE OTHER 9.3 MILLION RESIDENTS LIVE IN **88 CITIES** WITHIN THE COUNTY, LOCATED THROUGHOUT A 4,084-SQUARE-MILE AREA.



A DIVERSE COUNTY, WITH **MORE THAN 140 CULTURES** AND AS MANY AS 224 LANGUAGES.



HOME TO THE LARGEST PORT COMPLEX IN THE NATION, A THRIVING AEROSPACE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT SECTOR, THE COUNTRY'S ENTERTAINMENT CAPITOL, AND IS **THE NATION'S LARGEST MANUFACTURING CENTER.**



Los Angeles County's **State Priorities**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors oversee a comprehensive government structure that provides vital public services, including health and human services, public safety, fire protection, and essential infrastructure services to 88 cities and approximately 141 unincorporated communities.

The County is proactively engaged in enhancing the physical, social, and economic well-being of its residents. State investments in the County's broad services and programs assist to maximize efficiencies and cost savings in programs that help the most vulnerable populations. Investing in the County's residents and physical infrastructure results in greater economic gains throughout the State.

In order to continue improving the lives of its residents and the economic vitality of the region, the County of Los Angeles needs on-going support from the Administration, State Legislature, and agency partners. Key priorities for the County of Los Angeles at the State level include:

- ▶ **Homeless Services / Affordable Housing**
- ▶ **Health Care**
- ▶ **Economic and Workforce Development**
- ▶ **Child Welfare and Early Childhood Development**
- ▶ **Infrastructure Investment**
- ▶ **Environmental Protections and Sustainability**
- ▶ **Justice Reform**



Homeless Services/Affordable Housing

The County urges the State to support initiatives that address the housing and social service needs of homeless individuals and families, provide housing and legal assistance to those at-risk of homelessness, and incentivize the creation and preservation of affordable housing.

The County supports State assistance and proposals that advance the County's efforts to combat homelessness, including proposals to:

- fund initiatives to reduce and prevent homelessness;
- expand the availability of interim and permanent supportive housing; and
- allow counties to maximize Federal, State, and local funds to provide services for at-risk and homeless individuals and families.

In addition, the County supports proposals to increase affordable housing that:

- provide funding to construct new affordable housing units;
- preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing units;
- provide rental assistance and legal assistance for individuals and families at-risk of housing instability or homelessness; and
- fund initiatives to ensure housing stability of youth, including those currently and formerly in foster care.



Skyrocketing rents, unjust evictions, and a severe lack of affordable housing have resulted in **721,000 rent-burdened households** in Los Angeles County, which are driving more people into homelessness than ever before. An estimated **59,000 people experienced homelessness** on any given night in 2018. Each day in 2018, 133 people escaped homelessness, but **150 others become homeless**.



Health Care

The County urges the State to support initiatives that ensure County residents have access to essential health care, mental health care, and public health services.

The County supports proposals that protect and expand Medicaid funding, eligibility, and covered services for the most vulnerable residents, including through the *Medi-Cal Healthier California for All* initiative. This includes pursuing the Institutions for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion Waiver to fund mental health beds for clients to receive critical inpatient care for serious mental illness when necessary. The County also supports proposals which ensure that individuals with serious mental illness have access to critical services in the most appropriate settings, including proposals that:

- that streamline the existing licensing requirements for comprehensive, community-based programs for those needing care for mental illness and substance use disorder through the creation of a Restorative Care Program; and
- invest State resources to stabilize and prevent the loss of additional board and care facilities that serve those with severe mental illness, which have been closing at an alarming rate in Los Angeles County and across the State.

The overall health and well-being of a community is critically important to preventing physical and mental health conditions and reducing health inequities. The County supports proposals that promote community health, disease prevention, and wellness efforts to address the root causes of physical and mental health conditions.



The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) is the second largest municipal health system in the nation. **DHS cares for approximately 600,000 patients annually.**

The Department of Mental Health (DMH) is the largest county-operated mental health department in the United States. **DMH treats more than 250,000 County residents every year.**

The Department of Public Health (DPH) oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health programs. **DPH operates 39 programs and 14 public health centers countywide.**



Economic and Workforce Development

The County urges the State to pursue proposals that stimulate job growth in the region, support and incentivize the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises; and that help lift economically disadvantaged residents experiencing barriers to employment out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

The County supports proposals that promote economic development, stimulate job growth, and provide career opportunities to economically disadvantaged residents. This includes proposals that would:

- support the technology, healthcare, trade, manufacturing, construction, leisure and hospitality, bioscience, clean energy and creative economies;
- stimulate regional investment and encourage private sector participation;
- support and incentivize the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises; and
- promote economic self-sufficiency by supporting comprehensive employment and training programs that provide supportive services that remove barriers to employment, provide education and job placement, encourage businesses to hire underemployed workers, and improve the retention of workers.



The County's economic development priorities are organized to target high-growth industry clusters that are the most competitive and that will generate family-sustaining career pathways. **This past fiscal year, the County placed 16,567 individuals in jobs** across these and other employment sectors. These individuals received an average hourly wage of \$15.



Infrastructure Investment

The County urges the State to provide new and ongoing sources of funding to develop or upgrade public infrastructure including transportation systems, water and flood control systems, and recycling and organic waste facilities. In addition, the County urges support for new housing near transit, facilitate the growth of the regional economy, and decrease negative impacts on public health and quality of life.

The County supports proposals that allow counties the ability to improve and maintain vital public infrastructure, including those that:

- provide new and ongoing sources of funding to enhance mobility and safety;
- provide funding to upgrade water infrastructure;
- fund the development of public infrastructure, transportation systems and programs that address population growth, the regional economy, and public health;
- provide funding to invest in recycling and organic waste infrastructure; and
- assist local governments' disaster prevention/mitigation efforts.



Currently, the County has approximately **\$1.0 billion** in shovel-ready infrastructure projects.

This past fiscal year, the Los Angeles County Public Works Agency awarded over **\$770 million worth of contracts** in Los Angeles County, which helped **create over 9,500 jobs**.



Child Welfare & Early Childhood Development

The County urges the State to invest in proposals that strengthen and support families; promote the safety, permanence, health, and well-being of all children; and enable vulnerable youth to transition to self-sufficiency and adulthood.

The County supports proposals that strengthen families and promote healthy childhood development by ensuring access to services and programs that include, among others:

- high-quality early care and education;
- comprehensive child abuse and neglect prevention services;
- enhanced child welfare and permanency services; and
- services and funding, including for housing, that promote self-sufficiency among transition-age foster youth, nonminor dependents, and former foster youth.

In addition, the County will advocate for State and Federal assistance and proposals that advance the County's efforts to transition from the Title IV-E child welfare waiver and successfully implement the Family First Prevention Services Act, without disrupting vital services provided to vulnerable children and families.



In 2018, over 81,000 child abuse referrals were generated in Los Angeles County, involving almost 160,000 children. As the nation's largest public child welfare and adoption agency, the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services provides monthly child welfare services to approximately 35,000 children ages birth to 21 years, of which nearly 18,000 reside out-of-home with 52% placed with relatives.



Justice Reform

The County urges the State to continue supporting the local expansion of mental health diversion and other alternatives to incarceration by providing new and ongoing sources of funding. In addition, the County urges the State Legislature and the Administration to provide additional resources to adequately and equitably fund local trial court security.

The County supports proposals that continue advancing statewide and local efforts to transform the adult and juvenile justice systems, including proposals to divert individuals from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused and care-first systems; and mitigate racial and economic disparities in the justice system.

The 2011 Public Safety Realignment shifted sheriff-provided court security responsibility and funding to the counties. Unfortunately, the realigned revenue source has not kept pace with the increasing costs to fully cover these statutorily required services. The County supports State action to provide underfunded counties with additional, on-going funding to cover adequate security services at trial courts. Additionally, the County supports appropriate statutory and policy changes that would further help ensure the safety and security in the State's trial courts for judicial officers, court staff, and the public.



Since August 2016, the County, through its Office of Diversion and Reentry Housing Program, **has provided interim and permanent supportive housing to 1,728 homeless and seriously mentally ill individuals released from jail.**

A recent study found that the County will need 1,418 additional new subacute beds to meet the need of those with serious mental illness currently in jail who may be appropriate candidates for diversion.



Environmental Protection & Sustainability

The County urges the State to enact proposals which bolster local authority to enforce corrective actions of businesses emitting hazardous substances; improve the State's enforcement of environmental laws; enhance the well-being of every community while reducing the damage to the natural environment; and prioritize complimentary goals of job creation, improved public health, technology innovation and regional policy collaboration.

The County supports proposals which increase the State's regulation of hazardous materials and waste, improve the State's enforcement of hazardous materials and waste laws, and provide funding for remediation. The County will also support sustainability proposals that:

- enhance the well-being of every community while reducing the damage to the natural environment;
- assist communities in adapting to climate change; and
- prioritize complimentary goals of job creation, improved public health, technology innovation and regional policy collaboration.



The County's sustainability plan is organized around 12 cross-cutting goals that describe our shared vision for a sustainable Los Angeles and 37 long-range strategies it will take to achieve those goals. The plan includes milestones such as the **County's goals to divert more than 95% of waste from landfills and increase urban tree canopy coverage by 15% by 2035**. Development of the County's sustainability plan was guided by more than 200 community meetings and briefings.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' LOCAL PRIORITIES



CHILD PROTECTION

Enhanced well-being and success for systems-involved youth
dcfs.lacounty.gov



HOMELESSNESS

Coordination of community-based services and housing resources
homeless.lacounty.gov



INTEGRATED HEALTH

Streamlined access to integrated health care
healthagency.lacounty.gov



JUSTICE REFORM

Reduced involvement with the justice system for vulnerable populations
dhs.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dhs/odr



SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OVERSIGHT

Monitoring for a cleaner and healthier environment
publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh



IMMIGRATION

Immigrant protection and advancement
oia.lacounty.gov

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Mark Ridley-Thomas Second District

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