



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
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First District

HOLLY J. MITCHELL
Second District

SHEILA KUEHL
Third District

JANICE HAHN
Fourth District

KATHRYN BARGER
Fifth District

January 25, 2022

To: Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE – SUMMARY OF 2021 COUNTY ADVOCACY EFFORTS

Executive Summary

On December 17, 2021, Congress recessed for the calendar year. In 2021, in consultation with the Board of Supervisors (Board) and in collaboration with County departments, the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (LAIR) Branch advocated on over 100 federal legislative and budget proposals that will protect, support, and/or enhance County operations, programs, and the well-being of constituents. This report summarizes these strategic advocacy efforts.

County Advocacy Highlights

In 2021, the County's successful advocacy efforts led to the enactment of major federal legislation that will result in significant federal resources and regulatory relief. This includes broader packages that address multiple County-supported provisions, as well as historic funding support for local governments, including enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act (H.R. 1319); Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (H.R. 3684); and legislation to Extend the Expenditure Deadline of CARES Act funding. LAIR also monitored other key legislation, including the County-supported Build Back Better Act (H.R. 5376), which passed the House in November 2021, and is undergoing revisions in the Senate, in order to gain support from all 50 Senate Democrats. The Senate is expected to consider the Build Back Better Act in early 2022.

The Attachment provides more details on the County's major advocacy accomplishments in 2021.

County-Advocacy Legislation

LAIR worked closely with Board offices and impacted departments to review legislative proposals and to identify legislation that had the potential to impact County operations and programs. Accordingly, the County actively advocated in support of 116 County-related proposals. Of those acted on in Congress, 44 were acted on consistent with the County's advocacy position, including provisions that extend federal benefits and expedite permanent status to Afghan Nationals; and other similar measures that were incorporated as part of broader legislative packages. Remaining proposals, such as the repeal of the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Exclusion and action on the Medicaid Reentry Act, which allows federal medical assistance under Medicaid for inmates during 30-day period prior to release, and other County-supported proposals may be taken up in the second year of Congress. A summary of federal bills, which the County actively advocated on and bills that the County closely monitored in 2021, can be found at: [County of Los Angeles Bills of Interest](#). Additional details on other bills of interest to the County can be found at: [County of Los Angeles Legislative Tracking System](#).

Other Legislative Efforts

Throughout the course of the Legislative Session, LAIR coordinated more than 35 meetings and roundtable discussions that members of the Board and Department Heads participated in with members of the Administration and Congress, to discuss the County's programs and funding priorities. LAIR staff also partnered with various organizations, including the National Association of Counties (NACo), and other advocacy organizations on legislative and budget proposals to support county service-related programs and resources.

Overall, the County's Washington D.C. Advocates lead and/or participated in 1,162 advocacy meetings to advance the County's priorities. In addition, the Washington D.C. Advocates and Legislative Analysts led over 50 legislative briefings and/or presentations, as well as monitored 228 Congressional hearings in support of the County's legislative priorities.

2022 Outlook

The second year of the 117th Congress began on January 3, 2022.

In May 2021, President Biden released his proposed \$6 trillion budget for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022. Congress will approve discretionary spending through a series of appropriations bills which must be enacted before the start of the FFY 2022 on

Each Supervisor
January 25, 2022
Page 3

October 1, 2022. To date, none of the individual appropriations bills have been enacted and, as a result, government programs are being funded temporarily through a Continuing Resolution, which expires on February 18, 2022.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Samara Ashley, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, at (213) 974-1464 or sashley@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:SA
PC:dr

Attachment

c: All Department Heads

LOS ANGELES COUNTY ADVOCACY AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL



Successfully advocated in support of over 40 Federal legislative, budget, and administrative proposals, including the following major items of interest to the County:

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act (H.R. 1319)

The County received \$1.949 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds; \$308.9 million for COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing; \$103.9 million for the Public Health Workforce; \$211 million for Emergency Rental Assistance; \$42.9 million for COVID-19 Vaccine and Therapeutics; among other critical services funding.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan (H.R. 3684)

Includes \$550 billion in new spending and investments in roads and bridges, transit, water, energy, broadband, environmental remediation, and resilience, including \$110 billion for roads, bridges and major projects; \$66 billion for transit; \$17 billion for ports and waterways; \$7.5 billion each for electric vehicle chargers and electric buses; \$73 billion for energy and water; \$65 billion for broadband; \$55 billion for water; \$46 billion for resiliency; \$21 billion for environmental remediation; and \$8.3 billion for western water infrastructure.



West Los Angeles Veteran's Affairs (VA) Campus Improvement Act (H.R. 711)

Allows the West LA VA Campus to use proceeds from property leasing to build additional housing for homeless veterans. Under U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs regulations, the West LA VA could only use lease proceeds for campus beautification.



COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (S. 937)

Requires the U.S. Justice Department to facilitate expedited review of hate crimes and authorizes grants to state, local, and tribal governments to prevent, address, or respond to hate crimes.



FEMA EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR CATEGORY B PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

On January 21, 2021, President Biden signed an executive order to temporarily increase the Federal share of FEMA Category B of Public Assistance from 75 to 100 percent, through September 30, 2021. These funds were used by state and local governments for several COVID-19 response purposes. In addition, Los Angeles County was able to use the additional funding allowed under this executive order to implement Project Roomkey and Project Homekey.

