





Los Angeles County State Legislative Priorities

About

Los Angeles County



POPULATION

Los Angeles County has the largest population of any county in the nation—with nearly 10 million residents, who account for approximately 27 percent of California's population.



UNINCORPORATED AREAS

More than one million residents live in approximately 120-125 unincorporated areas, whose municipal services are provided by the County.



CITIES

The other nearly 9.3 million residents live in 88 cities within the County, located throughout 4,084 square miles (larger than the combined states of Delaware and Rhode Island).



DIVERSITY

A diverse county, with more than 140 cultures and as many as 224 languages.



INDUSTRIES

Home to the largest port complex in the nation, a thriving aerospace research and development sector, the entertainment capital of the U.S., and 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 120-125 unincorporated communities.

The County is proactively engaged in enhancing the physical, social, and economic well-being of its residents through fundamental safety-net services, as well as proactive local programs, including those geared towards combating homelessness, reforming the adult and youth justice systems, protecting the environment, and addressing equity issues. State investments in the County's critical services and initiatives help to maximize efficiencies and cost savings in programs that aid the most vulnerable populations. Investing in the County's residents and physical infrastructure will also result in greater social and economic gains throughout the nation.

In order to continue improving the lives of its residents and the economic vitality of the region, Los Angeles County needs on-going policy and funding support from the Legislature and the Administration.

Los Angeles County's State advocacy efforts in 2023 will be primarily concentrated on:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES CHILD WELFARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT DIGITAL DIVIDE ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS JUSTICE REFORM

Homelessness Response

Los Angeles County urges the State to support policies and financial resources that comprehensively address the homelessness crisis, and promote regional collaboration and accountability.

The cost of housing continues to outpace what many County residents can afford, deepening financial instability among the most vulnerable residents and challenging local efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness. An estimated 69,000 people in the County experience homelessness on a given night, a 4.1 percent increase since 2020. Of that total, more than 48,000 are unsheltered, representing 42 percent of California's unsheltered homeless population. In January 2023, the Bord of Supervisors proclaimed a Local Emergency on Homelessness to accelerate and expand the County's response to the crisis.

Even prior to the declaration, the County has partnered with the State, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority and other regional stakeholders to implement a comprehensive and multipronged plan to reduce homelessness among the most vulnerable in the community. Since July 2017, approximately 90,000 individuals and family members have secured permanent housing and approximately 124,000 were placed in interim housing through the LA County homeless re-housing system. Many of the programs involved in these outcomes are completely or partially funded with revenues from Measure H, a landmark quarter-cent sales tax approved by County voters in March 2017.

However, despite the County's ongoing local funding through Measure H and one-time Federal and State investments, more people continue to fall into homelessness and financial resources remain insufficient to address the scale of need. The County remains focused on transitioning those experiencing homelessness into stable housing and implementing effective strategies to reduce the flow of individuals and families into homelessness.

In support of the County's local emergency declaration and to advance a long-term, comprehensive response to homelessness, the County will continue to support proposals that:

- Provide ongoing State funding to support local responses to homelessness;
- Provide financial resources to expand the availability of interim, supportive and affordable housing, and reduce State restrictions and barriers to ensure flexibility in local utilization of these types of housing; and
- Allow counties to maximize federal, State and local funds to provide services to persons at-risk or experiencing homelessness, including Medicaid reimbursable services.



The County urges the Legislature and Administration to advance proposals that:

- Provide on-going State funding for housing and services to reduce and prevent homelessness;
- Streamline administrative requirements for State-funded homeless programs to reduce administrative redundancies and allow systems to operate at scale; and
- Provide statutory and regulatory flexibility to use restricted funding sources, such as Mental Health Services Act funding, to effectively address the housing and supportive services needs of people experiencing homelessness.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Affordable Housing

Los Angeles County urges the State to support proposals that finance and incentivize the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and support innovative solutions to increasing housing stock faster.

Increasing the supply of affordable housing is critical to reducing cost pressures on County residents, and preventing and reducing homelessness in our communities. More than half a million households in the County are severely-rent burdened, paying more than 50 percent of their income on housing costs. Estimates find that the County roughly needs 499,430 affordable rental units to meet demand among very low-income households. In addition, approximately 7,937 existing affordable units in the County are at risk of being lost to market-rate conversations, underscoring the importance of both growth and preservation efforts in a comprehensive approach to the housing crisis.

The County places a high priority on providing affordable housing for renters, homeowners and those with high barriers to accessing permanent housing on the private market including residents experiencing homelessness. Over the last five years, the County has invested \$878 million dollars in affordable housing development which has funded, or will fund, the construction of approximately 10,133 affordable units, and has been used to leverage \$4.59 billion in public and private funds. Through this ability to leverage federal, State and local funds, the County prides itself on sponsoring new solutions and partnering with private and public agencies to increase the availability of affordable housing, and preserve existing affordable housing for residents.



The County urges the Legislature and Administration to advance proposals that:

- Provide funding to construct new affordable housing units while preserving and rehabilitating existing affordable housing units;
- Provide rental and legal assistance for individuals and families at-risk of housing instability or homelessness;
- Provide down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers; and
- Fund initiatives to ensure housing stability for youth, including those currently and formerly in foster care.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Child Welfare

Los Angeles County supports proposals that invest in programs and services that strengthen families; prevent child abuse and neglect; and promote optimal childhood development and learning through increased access to high-quality, accessible early care and education programs.

The Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is one of the largest county governed child protective services agencies in the United States. DCFS provides family-centered and child-focused services to more than 25,000 children and their families on any given day.

To improve outcomes for children, youth and families, the County has invested in and prioritized programs and services that strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

The County supports proposals that provide counties with the needed resources and flexibility to support case management, mental health, educational attainment, career development, and stable housing that promote self-sufficiency among transition-age foster youth, non-minor dependents, and former foster youth.

State investments in evidence-based child abuse and neglect prevention, and high-quality early care and education programs are essential to providing child welfare services that make a difference in the lives of the children, youth and families.

The State's support can help further advance DCFS' Extended Foster Care Program which serves approximately 2,600 young adults 18 to 20 years old. It will also expand support and services for resource families, including relative/kin caregivers. Countywide, more than half of the children in foster care are placed with relatives, which is unmatched by any other large child welfare system in the nation.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that provide:

- Support for the County's efforts to successfully implement child welfare reform (e.g., the Family First Prevention Services Act) without disruption to vital services;
- Investments in critical services to improve outcomes for vulnerable children, youth, and families and address racial disparities while enhancing child safety, well-being and permanency; and
- Comprehensive trauma informed services and robust continuum of placement resources tailored for vulnerable children and youth with unique and complex needs, including Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) victims.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Digital Divide

The County urges the State to advance proposals that provide funding for the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure and reliable, affordable networks to bridge the digital divide by increasing access to high-speed internet for as many households as possible, particularly in underserved communities.

The Los Angeles Region is struggling with the Digital Divide which has been exacerbated during COVID-19 as workplaces and schools have shut down and forced people to work from home. Families that do not have broadband access and/or computers at home are at a severe disadvantage. This impacts their abilities to use supportive County digital services which can possibly lead to other social-economic issues like homelessness.

Access to high-speed broadband internet and related resources is an essential means to accessing health services, education, economic resources, County services and job opportunities. In Los Angeles County, areas where more than 20 percent of households lack broadband service, are largely the same areas where the average household incomes are less than \$50,000 annually, and where people of color are more likely to be the majority of residents.

Los Angeles County, in partnership with cities, State and Federal support, private partners and other institutes is constructing a Digital Divide Strategic Planning Approach. The plan will enable sustainable solutions that will bridge the digital divide gap to provide broadband services to all households in the County. This regional plan includes three strategic objectives. The first step is to provide digital devices, including by scaling sustainable device supply chain process, enabling reduced cost device options, and enabling after-purchase technology support options. Second, it is the County's goal to increase accessibility by accelerating broadband access solutions deployed in the underserved areas, reducing internet subscription costs, and increasing public-private partnerships related to broadband access services. The final objective is enhancing digital literacy, including by enabling new channels to deliver digital literacy programs, and introducing new training programs to cover diverse needs.

Accordingly, the County will continue to support State legislation and regulations that provide funding for the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure and reliable, affordable networks to bridge the digital divide by increasing access to high-speed internet for as many households as possible, particularly in underserved communities.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:

- Incentivize private investment in broadband infrastructure in historically underserved and rural communities;
- Create workforce development pipeline programs in the broadband, fiber and related telecommunications infrastructure industries; and
- Utilize innovative, short-term and long-term strategies to provide free or low-cost high-speed internet and devices to disadvantaged communities.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Economic and Workforce Development

The County urges the State to advance proposals that promote inclusive and sustainable economic development, stimulate quality job growth in the region, and help lift economically-disadvantaged residents out of poverty and into self-sufficiency and economic mobility.

The County is strategically and equitably investing in the success of entrepreneurs, small businesses, and workers through innovative economic and workforce development policies, programs, and services in high growth and emerging industry sectors that create a pipeline to well-paying jobs and advance inclusive and sustainable growth. The County prioritizes investments and services to the highest-need communities and populations.

In July 2022, the County launched the Department of Economic Opportunity, uniting the County's broad portfolio of economic and workforce development programs that seek to create quality jobs, help small businesses and high road employers start and grow, and build vibrant local communities and spaces.

To further advance these efforts, the County is supportive of proposals at the State level to:

- Expand and grow key industry sectors, including technology, health care, trade, manufacturing, construction, leisure and hospitality, childcare, bioscience, clean energy, and creative economies.
- Develop industry-informed workforce programs including High Road
 Training Partnerships and apprenticeships that center equity, employer
 partnerships, and job quality to prepare workers for jobs and careers in
 high-growth and emerging industries, and propel community and regional
 economic growth;
- Stimulate regional investment and business development, and encourage private sector participation in advancing equitable and sustainable growth;
- Support employment and training programs that advance diversity, equity
 and inclusion through a focus on priority populations with highest need,
 such as youth, justice-involved, Veterans, and unhoused individuals, as well
 as provide comprehensive wrap-around supportive services that enable
 participant success, including digital access, housing, transportation, and
 childcare;
- Provide economic relief to industries, small businesses and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic to support the County's economic recovery and foster sustained regional growth; and
- Support and fund climate resiliency initiatives, including incentivizing
 production methods and technologies that advance clean manufacturing,
 create greenhouse gas reducing jobs, and reduce motor vehicle emissions.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to:

- Expand apprenticeship opportunities and pathways into the building trades, public sectors, and non-traditionally apprenticed sectors by providing resources, leadership, supportive policies, funding and incentives for local and regional hubs, intermediaries, and other strategies to scale-up apprenticeship infrastructures.
- Ensure the prompt and appropriate deployment of the Community Economic Resilience Fund and other regional planning and implementation grants that recognize the unique needs of the greater LA County area and foster regional leadership and alignment;
- Prioritize direct investment for public infrastructure upgrades that advance County goals including climate resiliency, environmental and economic justice, and broadband access, while creating quality job and career opportunities for diverse communities and residents through inclusive, industry-informed workforce strategies.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Environment and Sustainability

The County urges the State to support efforts that promote clean energy infrastructure, advance environmental justice, and invest in climate resiliency.

The County continues to support policies and investments that improve the energy, water, food, and transportation systems; help overcome past inequities that have resulted in disproportionate pollution burdens and health outcomes for communities of color; help local businesses, organizations, and residents in disadvantaged communities adapt to climate change; and advance racial and gender equity.

To address these environmental issues and make this a sustainable region, the County will advocate for proposals that promote clean energy infrastructure, advance environmental justice, and invest in climate resiliency.

The County will support State proposals that:

- Further decrease greenhouse gas emissions;
- Develop infrastructure (e.g., organic waste processing capacity) and community-scale programs (e.g., resilience hubs, extreme heat risk communication strategies), as well as provide funding to address imminent health risks;
- Increase local water supply and improve water quality, as well as support sustainable water infrastructure;
- Enhance the electric grid infrastructure and expand community-based solar and storage projects;
- Support efforts to properly abandon orphaned oil wells and conduct site remediation when no responsible party can be identified;
- Strengthen regional food supply chains and improve urban access to fresh local foods; and
- Promote climate resiliency and provide sufficient funding to encourage and incentivize production methods, and technologies that advance clean manufacturing, create greenhouse gas reducing jobs, and eliminate motor vehicle emissions.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:

- Further decrease greenhouse gas emissions; develop infrastructure (e.g., Organic waste processing capacity) and community-scale programs (e.g., Resilience hubs, extreme heat risk communication strategies), as well as funding to address imminent health risks;
- Enhance the local water and electric grid infrastructures; and
- Provide sufficient funding to incentivize production technologies that advance climate resiliency.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Behavioral Health Care

Los Angeles County urges the State to support efforts that increase access to critical services for those living with substance use disorders and severe persistent mental illness, as well as those whose behavioral health has been adversely impacted by a multitude of societal stressors.

The growing need for mental health and substance use disorder treatment and services continues to outpace available resources at all levels of care, including acute inpatient, outpatient, and residential facilities. The County looks forward to additional State funding opportunities to broaden behavioral health infrastructure, including expanding community-based facilities like Adult Residential Facilities (ARFs, also known as Board and Cares), which are a vital part of the County's mental health safety net and homeless prevention networks that treat the most vulnerable citizens, and expanding and strengthening the behavioral health workforce including for substance use counselors and peer support specialists.

The County supports State proposals that will:

- Advance the State's pursuit of an 1115 waiver to permit Medicaid Institutions of Mental Disease (IMD) treatment and increased bed capacity for serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance;
- Support the State's pursuit to leverage the federal 1115 waiver opportunity, including establishing a county option to receive federal Financial Participation (FFP) for services provided during short-term stays in IMDs;
- Provide individuals with mental illness with access to critical services in the most appropriate, least restrictive setting;
- Increase flexibility for Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to more comprehensively address the needs of local communities, including individuals experiencing homelessness;
- Expand funding for public behavioral health services, workforce and placements/housing;
- Provide dedicated ongoing funding for public guardians/public conservators services; and
- · Expand substance use harm reduction policies and programs.

Finally, the County urges the State to provide sufficient funding and flexibility to counties to support the implementation of the Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) Act (SB 1338, 2022) Los Angeles County has chosen to implement CARE Act earlier than the statutorily mandated December 1, 2024 date, and will implement the program by December 1, 2023. The County estimates that in addition to leveraging appropriate Medi-Cal funding, it will need additional annual funding to fully implement the program countywide.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:

- Support the State's pursuit to leverage the federal 1115 waiver opportunities, including as related to IMDs;
- Increase flexible use of the MHSA funding and eliminate MHSA percentage funding requirements;
- Provide dedicated funding to Public Guardians/Public Conservators;
- Support funding for programs that grow and strengthen the behavioral health workforce, including substance use disorder and peer counselors; and
- Provide sufficient funding and flexibility to counties to support the implementation of the CARE Court Act (SB 1338, 2022).

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Health Care Services & Public Health

Los Angeles County urges State partners to continue supporting efforts that expand and enhance the local health care safety net, reduce health inequities, and improve the population's health in the County.

The County's Department of Health Services (DHS) is the second largest municipal health system in the nation. DHS annually cares for approximately 600,000 patients through its integrated system of 26 health centers and four hospitals. The County's Department of Public Health (Public Health) operates 39 programs and 14 public health centers with the support of over 5,000 public health professionals. Public Health oversees environmental health, disease control, and community and family health programs countywide.

Strong and robust health care delivery and public health systems are critical for improving the health and well-being of the County's diverse communities, helping prevent and treat physical and behavioral health conditions, and reducing health inequities across the region. Medi-Cal is essential for providing healthcare for the County's most vulnerable residents, especially through California's Medicaid 1115 and 1915(b) waivers that aim to transform and improve the quality of care, access, and efficiency of healthcare services.

The County supports State proposals that will:

- Effectively prepare and respond to current and future public health emergencies, emerging threats, and other disasters;
- Build up community health, disease prevention, and disease control programs;
- Broaden wellness efforts to address the root causes of physical and behavioral health conditions, including but not limited to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the substance use and overdose epidemics;
- Improve other behavioral health programs; and
- Help recruit and retain workforce for the County's health care systems.

The overall health and well-being of a community is critically important to preventing physical and behavioral health conditions and for reducing health inequities. A robust public health infrastructure is essential to not only preventing and responding to health emergencies, disasters, and emerging threats, but also to addressing root causes of physical and behavioral health conditions, including inequity, environmental justice, and community health, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that would:

- Protect and expand Medi-Cal funding, eligibility, and covered services, including through the comprehensive implementation of the CalAIM initiative and the State's 1115 and 1915(b) waivers and related funding mechanisms;
- Strengthen the local public health infrastructure and workforce, and increase funding for infectious disease prevention and control, public health emergency preparedness, health promotion efforts, substance use disorder prevention and treatment, environmental health, and health equity for traditionally underserved and vulnerable communities; and
- Address the growing need for health care workforce within County's health care systems, with particular focus on improving both the quality and quantity of these workforces.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

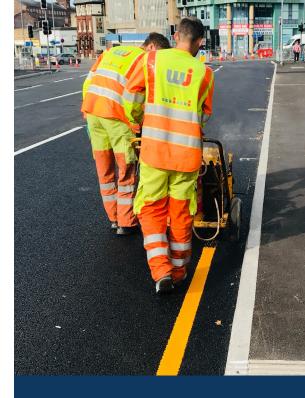
Infrastructure Investments

The County urges the State to support efforts that advance infrastructure investments and projects that support cities, counties, and the State to improve and maintain vital public infrastructure in the greater Los Angeles region.

The Los Angeles County region serves as an economic engine for the entire nation – it is the nation's largest manufacturing and international trade center and the hub for aerospace research and development. Additionally, the region will host the 2028 Summer Olympic Games, providing a catalyst for the need to further invest in sustainable and resilient public infrastructure.

The County is committed to making its communities more climate resilient, modernizing its infrastructure systems, helping local businesses to partner with community-based organizations to advance environmental justice and spur economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities, and advancing racial and gender equity in the workforce.

The County is utilizing existing local and State voter-approved revenue measures to invest in local streets, roads, and bridges, which are vital to the region's economy, public safety, and our residents' quality of life. In 2018, County voters approved a ballot measure to fund stormwater projects and programs that will modernize its 100-year- old water system, protect public health and the environment, and maximize a cleaner, locally controlled water system. However, further investment and actions from State partners are necessary for the County to meet its larger infrastructure goals.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that will help ensure residents have access to safe, clean, and reliable water resources, access to state-of-the-art transportation infrastructure that is safe, resilient, sustainable, and equitable, and are able to thrive in a safe, clean, and sustainable environment. Specifically, the County is seeking additional support for:

- Water conservation, environmental protection, and resiliency projects;
- Transportation mobility and safety projects in order to fully implement its Vision Zero Action Plan; and
- Waste reduction and recycling projects needed to meet state mandated goals.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Justice Reform

The County urges the State to support efforts that advance statewide reforms to the criminal legal system, including local efforts to promote diversion opportunities and alternatives to incarceration for adults and youth.

The County continues to make investments to advance the "Care First, Jails Last" vision with community investments and the establishment of new initiatives to create a more just and equitable criminal legal system. The County is taking the next steps to develop a new model for pretrial services and transform our response to crime and conflict by providing needed care. Such major reforms necessitate a robust multi-disciplinary effort, including a continued and expanded partnership with the State.

The County supports State legislative and funding proposals that advance statewide and local efforts to transform the adult and youth criminal legal systems, including proposals that would support the County's goals to:

- Divert adults and youths from incarceration and into rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems;
- Mitigate disparities in the juvenile and criminal legal systems based on racial, economic, or immigration status;
- Strengthen law enforcement transparency, accountability, and policing reforms;
- Fund and implement pretrial reforms and associated best practices to reduce detention while maintaining public safety;
- · Reduce the reliance on jails and mass incarceration;
- · Promote and streamline access to criminal records clearing services; and
- Support increased funding and eligibility for resources and support, including but not limited to, the areas of housing, mental health, substance use disorders, youth development, employment, education, and training for youth and adults impacted by the criminal legal system.



The County urges the Legislature and the Administration to advance proposals that:

- Increase funding for pretrial services infrastructure and the full spectrum of services and treatment necessary to support public safety;
- Increase funding for non-carceral facilities, services, and treatment to support individuals diverted from the criminal justice system; and
- Increase diversion of youth from incarceration into care-first systems and fund workforce development opportunities for justice involved youth.

MARVIN DEON II

Chief Legislative Representative

Board of Supervisors Priorities



CHILD PROTECTION

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



IMMIGRATION

Immigrant protection and advancement oia.lacounty.gov



HOMELESSNESS

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



POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Aiming to establish sustainable and long-term poverty alleviation **ceo.lacounty.gov/pai**



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OVERSIGHT & MONITORING

Monitoring for a cleaner and healthier environment

publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh



ANTI-RACISM, DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

An anti-racist Los Angeles County policy agenda

ceo.lacounty.gov/ardi



CARE FIRST, JAILS LAST

Alternatives to incarceration and reduced involvement with the justice system for vulnerable adult and youth populations

jcod.lacounty.gov

dyd.lacounty.gov

dhs.lacounty.gov/office-of-diversion-and-reentry



SUSTAINABILITY

Making our communities healthier, more livable, economically stronger, more equitable, more resilient, and more sustainable

cso.lacounty.gov



ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH INTEGRATION

Streamlined access to integrated health care

ceo.lacounty.gov/alliance-for-health-integration

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