

ONE GOAL

MANY PRIORITIES



2024

FEDERAL
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES



Legislative
Affairs &
Intergovernmental
Relations



ONE GOAL:

TO ENRICH
LIVES THROUGH
EFFECTIVE
AND CARING
SERVICE.

2024

ABOUT LOS ANGELES COUNTY



88
CITIES

CITIES

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).



LARGEST
PORT
COMPLEX

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.



120-125
UNINCORP.
AREAS

UNINCORPORATED AREAS

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



10+
CULTURES

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.



140
CULTURES

DIVERSITY

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

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

The County will engage in the legislative process in the following policy areas:



Digital divide

The County will continue to support 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. In Los Angeles County, areas where more than 20 percent of households lack broadband service are largely the same areas where the average household income is less than \$50,000 annually, and where people of color are more likely to be the majority of residents.

The County will support proposals that:

- Incentivize private investment in broadband infrastructure in historically underserved and rural communities.
- Use innovative, short-term and long-term strategies to provide free or low-cost high-speed internet and related devices to disadvantaged communities.
- Expand and modernize Wi-Fi at County facilities and other public facilities to help close the digital divide for residents in disadvantaged and broadband deficient communities.

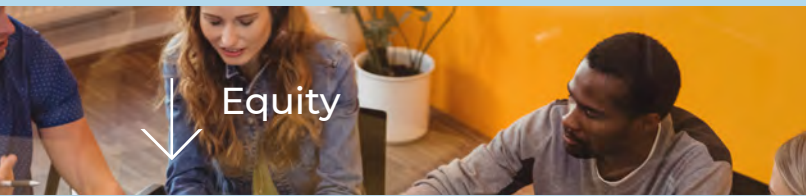


Economic and Workforce Development

The County is strategically investing in support for small businesses, entrepreneurs and innovative and equitable economic and workforce development programs in high growth and emerging industry sectors that create a pipeline to well-paying jobs. The County remains committed to building an inclusive and sustainable regional economy, stimulating quality job growth, and helping lift economically disadvantaged residents out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

The County will support proposals that:

- Reauthorize and increase funding for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs and other employment initiatives and provide administrative flexibility to effectively meet the present and emerging needs of Los Angeles County's diverse workforce.
- Enhance programs and initiatives that support community and economic development, support high growth and emerging industries in the Los Angeles region such as the creative economy, and support the transition to a green economy.
- Reduce barriers to employment, address racial and gender disparities in employment outcomes, and increase opportunities for workers and businesses with the highest employment needs.
- Increase economic resiliency through outreach and assistance for workers, independent and small businesses, and industries impacted by natural or man-made disasters and other economic disruptions.
- Align metrics and goals to support prevention and promotion outcomes across federal safety net, public workforce and economic development agencies and programs.



Equity

The County continues to advocate for policies that promote equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and underserved communities.

The County will support proposals that:

- Address and combat discrimination based on age, disability, disease status, gender identity, language, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.
- Address, correct and/or remedy past public policy which produced or sustained racial inequities.
- Affirmatively advance and/or provide resources to promote gender and racial equity.
- Affirmatively advance and/or provide resources to prioritize and effectively support the most disadvantaged geographies and populations.



General Government

The County will advocate for policies to ensure the effective, transparent, and equitable delivery of various services that affect the lives of the County's diverse population. General government policies include matters related, but not limited, to: the fiscal strength of the County; elections and voting; agriculture, weights, and measures; animal care and control; arts, culture, and education; cannabis and other business permitting and regulation; human resources, including labor relations, benefits, safety, and risk management; immigration; libraries and library services; public access; and veterans' issues.

The County will support proposals that:

- Provide funding to state and local governments to upgrade their voting equipment to ensure all eligible citizens have full access to the voter registration process and/or affirm the intent of the National Voter Registration Act.
- Promote accurate, unbiased, and inclusive census counts and data collection to equitably allocate funds among states and localities and inform future redistricting processes.
- Protect consumers against fraud, scams, and unfair or deceptive business practices, and increase collaborative consumer protection and consumer education and counseling programs.
- Provide essential assistance to those who have served in our armed forces.
- Promote the establishment of an equitable and sustainable cannabis market, encouraging access to banking and financial resources, safer cannabis products and businesses, increased resources for local public health, equity and consumer protection programs, and the tools and resources to discourage the proliferation of unlicensed cannabis businesses.
- Provide funding to support critical County public services.



Health, Public Health and Behavioral Health

The health and well-being of Los Angeles County's diverse communities, particularly among disproportionately burdened communities and communities of color, are critically important for preventing physical and behavioral health conditions, and for reducing health disparities across the region. Increasing access to care and improving delivery systems are vital for providing quality care for everyone in the County, as is providing equitable and critical public health services that protect and promote health among individuals and communities, and addressing the growing need for prevention, diagnostic, and treatment for individuals with behavioral and other health conditions.

The County supports proposals to:

- Enhance Medicaid financing and other federal payments for health safety-net providers, amend the Medicaid inmate payment exclusion, and repeal the Medicaid Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) payment exclusion.
 - Increase and sustain flexible funding for safety net hospitals, public health infrastructure and clinics that serve disadvantaged communities.
 - Effectively plan for and respond to current and future public health emergencies, emerging disease threats, epidemic and other disasters, and gun and domestic violence prevention efforts.
 - Enhance local behavioral health crisis response infrastructure, including providing Medicaid reimbursement for these services and support increased diversity in the behavioral health workforce.
- Enforce parity laws and policies to ensure equal coverage for behavioral health treatment and medical care, including moving towards parity for reimbursement rates.
 - Provide resources for critical services at all levels of care, including diagnostic, prevention, acute inpatient, outpatient, supportive care, and residential facilities.
 - Enhance services and resources to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.





Housing and Homelessness

The County has adopted innovative housing strategies that seek to address the region's housing needs and help residents in the County thrive by reducing barriers to the production of affordable and supportive housing, preserving existing affordable housing units, and enhancing tenant protections, including access to eviction defense. In January 2023, the County proclaimed a Local Emergency on Homelessness to accelerate and expand the County's response to the homelessness crisis. The County remains focused on transitioning residents who are experiencing homelessness into safe, stable, and permanent housing, and implementing effective strategies to reduce inflow into homelessness.

The County will support proposals that:

- Promote affordable housing strategies, including the production of new affordable housing, the preservation and rehabilitation of existing affordable housing units, enhanced landlord and tenant protections, and increased homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income and first-time homebuyers.
 - Increase funding for federal rental subsidy programs and fully fund the maintenance, operation, and preservation of the County's public housing resources.
 - Expand funding for federal programs and initiatives that support community development and provide safe and affordable housing resource opportunities.
 - Increase access to and the availability of housing resources and supportive services for veterans experiencing homelessness.
 - Provide resources to prevent and reduce homelessness and advance local responses to the homelessness crisis.
- Promote the full and efficient use of federal housing resources by reducing administrative barriers, increasing owner incentives, and providing additional financial support to high-performing public housing authorities that prioritize homeless and other special needs populations.



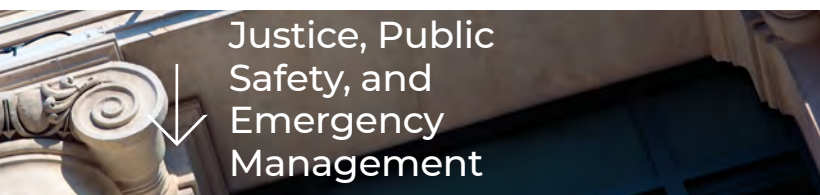


The County seeks to preserve and increase funding and resources, administrative and programmatic flexibilities, and accessibility to a wide range of human services programs serving low-income individuals, families, seniors, persons with disabilities, children in foster care including transition-aged youth, pregnant women, childless adults and victims of crime. The County strives to alleviate financial hardship; eliminate food insecurity; provide affordable health care; promote the safety; well-being and permanency of families and children; prevent child abuse and neglect; provide aging and disability services; connect parents and caregivers to provide child support services; and prevent, mitigate and avoid poverty, all while promoting diversity, equity and inclusion.

The County will support proposals that:

- Reauthorize an increase in funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
- Provide additional services and resources for customers, including asylees and refugees, and vulnerable populations.
- Address the surge in fraudulent skimming and theft of TANF and SNAP benefits on electronic benefits transfer (EBT) cards.
- Prevent the expansion of the definition of the term “public charge” for purposes of determining eligibility to public assistance programs.
- Provide sufficient funding for local child support agencies to cover increased operational costs and to mitigate the impacts of flat funding to counties, and promote flexibility, efficiency, equity, and modernization within the child support program.
- Support proposals that reform mandated reporting to improve the quality of reporting decisions by Mandated Reporters and build pathways that will facilitate Mandated Reporters ability to connect families to community-based services to safely reduce reliance on the child welfare system.





Justice, Public Safety, and Emergency Management

The County is committed to supporting meaningful reforms to justice and public safety systems in pursuit of the “Care First, Jails Last” vision to support rehabilitation and reintegration of those involved in the criminal legal system. Additionally, the County continues to support preemptive emergency management and response investments.

The County will support proposals that:

- Strengthen justice and public safety system transparency, reform policing standards, address police misconduct, or protect detainee rights and due process.
- Increase funding or flexibility to use federal health benefits for the physical and mental health of incarcerated individuals.
- Remove historic disparities and inequities in the juvenile and adult criminal legal systems, including the redirection of youth and adults from mass incarceration towards rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems.
- Enhance and increase resources for youth and adults involved in the justice system with an emphasis on care, development, community-based violence prevention and community reintegration pathways.
- Enhance and increase resources for local emergency/disaster preparation, management and operations, including disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.
- Enhance fire prevention and fire safety services, including increased financial assistance, training, and other resources for local response.



Public Infrastructure

The County continues to advocate for additional investments, streamlining of processes, and legislative actions from federal partners that would greatly assist the County to meet the changing needs of the region, meet enhanced mobility plans, and meet green investment goals. The County will continue to support infrastructure investments, procedural improvements, and the full delivery of funding authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act.

The County will support proposals that:

- Enhance the capacity of local governments and the states to finance and accelerate the delivery of key regional infrastructure projects in a timely and environmentally conscious manner.
- Reduce barriers to the participation of non-governmental organizations and small businesses in private-public partnerships and contracting opportunities.
- Accelerate and prioritize the development of infrastructure that benefits disadvantaged communities, fulfills equity goals, maintains beneficial use of waterbodies, and ensures a diverse public infrastructure workforce.
- Incentivize innovations and pilot programs for infrastructure and service delivery, such as construction permitting, environmental services, water system management, and transportation development.
- Ease and streamline procedures to work with federal partners, empower local agencies with more flexibility or access to funding, to improve the physical infrastructure for street safety, commuting needs, mobility, water, energy, and environmental services.

A close-up photograph of a person's hand pouring water from their palm onto a small, blue and green globe of the Earth. The water is captured mid-pour, creating a dynamic splash. The globe is resting on a dark, textured surface, possibly soil. The background is dark, making the hand and the globe stand out.

↓ Environment and Sustainability

Environmental hazards compounded by the impacts of climate change continue to affect vital infrastructure and the daily lives of the residents of the County. The County supports policies and investments that transform 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.

The County will support proposals that:

- Promote climate resiliency and provide sufficient funding to encourage and incentivize production, methods, technologies, and jobs that advance clean manufacturing, reduce greenhouse gases.
- Increase local water supply, ensure access to clean water, and improve water quality, as well as support sustainable water infrastructure and conservation.
- Restore, increase, and protect natural resource areas, such as mountains, forests, beaches, natural areas, preserves, wildlife/wildflower sanctuaries, greenways, waterways, riparian corridors, trails, degraded lands/brownfield sites, and other natural environments containing ecological, geological, habitat, cultural, recreational, native biodiversity, and scenic value.
- Fund or promote projects that mitigate the effects of climate change, advance regenerative urban agriculture, improve cooling strategies, reduce environmental pollutants, strengthen natural spaces within communities, and increase heat relief access in underserved areas.
- Incorporate plans, such as the “OurCounty” Sustainability Plan and County’s Park Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) 30x30 Plan and, LA County Water Plan into programs, legislation, policies, and funding opportunities.



↓ Support for Immigrants

The County strives to ensure that immigrants, from unaccompanied children and refugees to longtime County residents in removal proceedings, have the support and services they need to remain and thrive in the Los Angeles region. The County has taken action to advance policies that ensure all residents, regardless of immigration status, are treated humanely, afforded due process protections, provided access to counsel and necessary services without fear of immigration consequences, and given the opportunity to secure permanent immigration status.

The County will support proposals that:

- Provide immigration reforms that offer lawful immigration status, and increased visa opportunities, including for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS) beneficiaries and others, such as humanitarian-based visa recipients.
- Provide adequate funding for legal representation for indigent immigrants in immigration court proceedings, end civil incarceration of noncitizens for immigration proceedings, and protect people from inhumane detention conditions.
- Assist with the reunification of families separated at the United States - Mexico border and support unaccompanied children and their families.
- Provide funding for legal and other support services for immigrants who are victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, and labor exploitation crimes.
- Expedite lawful permanent status for refugees and asylum seekers.
- Increase federal resources to address the backlog of U.S. Citizenship Immigration Services cases in the region.

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