

# ONE GOAL

MANY PRIORITIES

## STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2024



Legislative  
Affairs &  
Intergovernmental  
Relations





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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.

# STATE LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

The County will engage in the legislative process 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:**

- Increase resources for workforce development and training programs that prepare workers for jobs in high-growth and emerging industries such as the creative 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 capacity building and economic opportunities for small businesses, microbusinesses, entrepreneurs, social enterprises, and nonprofits.
- 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.
- Stimulate regional investment and business development and encourage private sector participation in advancing equitable and sustainable growth.





## Environment and Sustainability



The County is focused on advancing 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 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 “Our County” Sustainability Plan, the County’s Park Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) 30x30 Plan, and the LA County Water Plan into programs, legislation, policies, and funding opportunities.



## Equity



The County continues to advocate for policies that promote equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and underserved communities, and that further the County's strategies for increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

### **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 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:**

- 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 the armed forces.
- Promote access to, and retention in, jobs with fair and sustainable wages, predictable hours, paid sick and family leave, health and safety protections, retaliation free workplaces, and career pathways.
- Provide funding and statutory relief from State-mandated requirements related to elections, including but not limited to signature verification and petition efforts, special elections, and redistricting activities.
- Protect local control over collective bargaining while also protecting the right of workers to organize and/or strike without hindering the County's ability to continue providing core and vital services.
- Provide local governments resources to increase access to assistance and services for immigrants and their families who arrive in the County.
- 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 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 Medi-Cal services for the County's most vulnerable residents, especially through California's Medicaid waivers that aim to transform and improve quality, access, and efficiency of healthcare and behavioral health systems and services.
- Address the urgent and long-term needs for the health care safety net and strengthen local public health systems and infrastructure.
- Effectively plan for and respond to current and future public health emergencies, emerging disease threats, epidemics and other disasters, and gun and domestic violence prevention efforts.
- Broaden public behavioral health infrastructure, including expending community-based facilities, supporting increased diversity in the behavioral health workforce, building up local crisis response and continuum of care services for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUDs).
- Provide individuals with mental illness and SUDs with access to critical services in the most appropriate, least restrictive settings.
- Increase and protect flexibilities for public and behavioral health funding to comprehensively address the needs of local communities.
- 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 acute shortage of housing options affordable to all County residents continues to drive high levels of housing instability 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 further inflow into homelessness.

### **The County will support proposals that:**

- Promote the County's affordable housing strategies, including the production of new affordable housing, the preservation and rehabilitation of existing housing, enhanced landlord and tenant protections and increased homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income and first-time homebuyers.
- Expedite and increase the availability of temporary and permanent housing options for County residents experiencing homelessness, including interim, transitional, supportive, and affordable housing.
- Provide local flexibility and fund housing and supportive services, including ongoing and permanent State funding, and promote the streamlined delivery of homeless services.
- Preserve local land use authority and support local policies that address the comprehensive housing needs of County residents and facilitate equitable and sustainable housing development.
- Enhance the County's ability to protect homeowners and residential tenants and improve housing stability (particularly for households at-risk of eviction or foreclosure); protect against residential displacement; and provide financial assistance, legal services and other supports to homeowners and residential tenants and small, independent residential property owners facing financial hardship.







## Human Services



The County seeks to preserve and increase funding, 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, transition-aged youth, pregnant women, childless adults and victims of crimes. These programs assist 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:**

- Increase and expand eligibility and decrease enrollment barriers, simplify eligibility determination and income reporting requirements, and/or increase automation and information sharing with state agencies.
- Provide additional services and resources for customers, vulnerable populations, and refugees, by increasing access to affordable housing, nutrition assistance, transportation, employment, and ancillary services to increase self-sufficiency and ensure the ability of local governments to recover costs.
- Preserve and increase funding and administrative flexibility for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provide food assistance to low-income immigrant families.
- Promote child safety, well-being, and permanency by responding to the immediate needs of any child at risk or abuse and neglect, providing the tools and support families need to make their homes a safe place and keep families together, and connecting children with resource families and treatment service providers equipped to meet their individual needs.
- Provide adequate and 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.
- Address the surge in fraudulent skimming and theft of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards.
- Clarify the principals and roles for implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and enhance relationships with tribes to improve outcomes for ICWA cases.





## Justice, Public Safety, and Emergency Management



The County will continue to prioritize the Board of Supervisor's vision of "Care First, Jails Last" across the justice and public safety systems, support law enforcement reforms, and emphasize preemptive measures to protect the well-being of residents during emergencies.

### **The County will support proposals that:**

- Reduce mass incarceration and redirect youth and adults to rehabilitative systems that can undo historic disparities and prevent recidivism.
- Implement greater community engagement and pretrial reforms to reduce detention while maintaining public safety.
- Enhance and increase the access to, or amount of funding for, resources for youth and adults involved in the justice system, with an emphasis on care, development, community-based violence prevention, and community reintegration pathways.
- Address law enforcement misconduct and promote transparency.
- 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 will advocate to advance infrastructure, environmental services, and transportation projects that support the region. The County is committed to making its communities more climate resilient, improving constituent experiences, strengthening local resource sustainability, and promoting equitable partnerships and contracts with non-government organizations and small businesses.

### **The County will support proposals that:**

- Strengthen regional water supply and stormwater infrastructure, water cleanliness, water conservation and resiliency goals, and sustainability.
- Prioritize disaster risk mitigation, prevention, and response efforts appropriate for urban and rural communities.
- Expedite or assist in financing the acceleration of the deployment and maintenance of public infrastructure that incorporates street safety, and for environmental services, energy, electrification, mobility, and commuting needs.
- Streamline and clarify processes that empower local agencies with more flexibility or access to funding or implement services.
- Incentivize innovations or the use of alternative methods that are consistent with the County's goals for equity and sustainability for infrastructure, County construction projects, and implementation of County goals or projects.

# LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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