



# 2024 COUNTY-SPONSORED PROPOSALS



## County-Sponsored Legislation

**AB 1948 (Rendon): Increasing Access to Homeless Prevention Services** – This proposal would delete the January 1, 2025, sunset date for AB 728 (Chapter 337, Statutes of 2019), which authorizes the implementation of Homeless Multidisciplinary Personnel Teams for purposes of serving individuals at high-risk of homelessness, while preserving client privacy and confidentiality protections.

**AB 2213 (Rubio): Los Angeles County Oversight Boards** – This proposal would amend Health and Safety Code Section 34179(g)(2), to ensure that the territorial jurisdictions of the Los Angeles County's (County) five Oversight Boards are updated immediately after each decennial redistricting plan. Specifically, this proposal would ensure that the Oversight Board's encompass the same exact territory as the County's five supervisorial districts to enable the oversight boards to have jurisdiction over each successor agency located within each of the respective supervisorial district borders.

**AB 2455 (Gabriel) – Whistleblower Protection: State and Local Government Procedures** – This proposal modernizes current law that authorizes the County to operate a whistleblower hotline to identify and investigate fraud, waste, and abuse of government resources. Specifically, the bill updates the way an individual may submit a whistleblower tip to modern forms of communication, such as online form submission, email, text, etc., whereas current law explicitly allows for whistleblower tips to be submitted via phone call.

Further, AB 2455 would explicitly authorize whistleblower tips and investigations to cover county contractors and subcontractors, whereas current law explicitly allows for whistleblower tips and investigations to encompass county employees. Lastly, this bill would authorize the auditor-controller to delegate whistleblower hotline duties to their staff, such as receiving, referring, and investigating whistleblower tips.

**AB 2498 (Zbur): The California Housing Security Act** – This proposal would establish a statewide rental subsidy program to reduce housing insecurity for low-income individuals and families. The California Housing Security Program would provide counties with funding to administer short-term housing subsidies or one-time assistance to eligible participants to not exceed \$2,000 a month. The program would target populations that are at high risk of experiencing homelessness, including older adults, adults with disabilities, and individuals experiencing homelessness regardless of their immigration status. This proposal is co-sponsored by the City of Santa Monica.

**AB 2502 (L.Rivas): Cutting the Yellow Tape for Homeless Housing Construction** – This proposal seeks to provide flexibility to local governments for the selection of construction procurement and delivery methods by adjusting the definition of “emergency.” This proposal would broaden the definition of an emergency as defined in the Public Contract Code to enable local governments more options to expedite the construction of homeless housing by foregoing the typical competitive bidding processes.

**AB 3197 (Lackey): Modernizing Local Elections** – This proposal would authorize a county election’s official to require a standardized form for the circulation of petitions within the county, and would authorize the county elections official to allow candidates to submit online candidate statements for nonpartisan elective offices of local jurisdictions within the county.

**SB 987 (Menjivar): Establishing an Independent Pre-Trial Release Department in Los Angeles County** – This proposal would expand the definition of “criminal justice agencies” to include pretrial release departments, allowing an independent agency like the County’s Justice, Care and Opportunities Department (JCOD) to establish an independent pretrial division capable of offering a wide array of client services along with the traditional aspects of a pretrial operation. The proposal would also protect discussions between clients and service providers from use by law enforcement in any subsequent court action. Additionally, it would allow JCOD to access criminal history information necessary to run the traditional components of a pretrial operation.

**SB 1169 (Stern): Modernizing Flood Control Borrowing Capacity** – This proposal would modernize the Los Angeles County Flood Control Act by eliminating the outdated \$4.5 million debt limit on federal loans, and aligning repayment terms with those of the standardized, federal Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Program and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Infrastructure Financing Program. Modernizing borrowing capacity and aligning with these federal programs’ terms would provide the County access to critical financial assistance programs to finance projects which would safeguard communities from climate-induced flood risks and bolster water infrastructure.

**SB 1441 (Allen): Examination of Petitions** – This proposal would require the examination of insufficient petitions requested by petition proponents to conclude no later than 60 days after it commenced and, would require the proponent to reimburse all costs incurred by the county elections official due to the examination that exceeds ordinary operational and staffing costs.



## County-Sponsored Budget Proposals

### **Repurpose and Reimagine the Challenger Memorial Youth Center**

- This proposal will continue to advocate for \$25 million in one-time funding for the Challenger Reimagined Project, which is a multiphase repurposing of the Challenger Memorial Youth Probation Facility in the Antelope Valley led by the County's Department of Economic Opportunity, in collaboration with the Board and other County departments providing subject matter expertise during each phase. The Challenger Project aims to help under-served and under-resourced youth transition safely and securely to an independent adulthood. The program will serve participants (ages 18-25 who were involved with the criminal justice or foster care systems, or who are homeless) who will live on the Challenger campus for 6-18 months while they are offered educational pathways and career training, as well as mental health services and robust life-skills instruction.

### **Public Defenders/Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act**

- This proposal would amend language in the CARE Act related to funding for legal representation for respondents in CARE Act proceedings. Current law authorizes the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission at the State Bar (State Bar) to appoint a qualified legal services project (QLSP), as defined, to represent the respondent. If no legal services project has agreed to accept these appointments, a public defender or other counsel working in that capacity shall be appointed to represent the respondent. While existing law states that the Legal Services Trust Fund Commission may enter into exclusive or nonexclusive contracts, or amend existing contracts, on a bid or negotiated basis, or award grants, the statute is silent on how often the State Bar will disburse these funds or seek qualified legal services projects to provide legal counsel. In response, the State Bar has determined it will allocate funds after a Request for Proposals (RFP) on an annual basis. Note that in Los Angeles County, as with six of the seven counties in Cohort 1 of the CARE Act, no QLSP applied to manage the legal services funding. The only county in which there is a QLSP is San Francisco. As such, in Los Angeles County, the office of the Public Defender is providing legal representation.

The State Bar's decision to issue RFPs for annual funding would provide inconsistent funding for respondent's counsel and be disruptive to either the qualified legal services projects or the public defenders operations, as well as to respondents who may have to switch counsel during their participation in CARE Court. CEO-LAIR staff is currently working with the Administration to develop a budget proposal to ensure funding is allocated for a period of three to five years for legal representation for CARE Court respondents.

04/29/2024



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**Legislative  
Affairs &  
Intergovernmental  
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**Samara Ashley  
Assistant Chief Executive Officer**

**Marvin Deon II  
Chief Legislative Representative  
MDeon@ceo.lacounty.gov**

1100 K Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, California 95814  
W: (916) 441-7888  
C: (916) 261-9642