



County of San Bernardino

2017 State Legislative Platform



The largest of the over 3,000 counties in the U.S. by geographic area and the 12th largest by population, San Bernardino County enjoyed a robust economy prior to the collapse of the housing and financial markets. With the decline of traditional revenue streams such as property and sales tax, the County was forced to make difficult budget decisions. Even as the economy and the State's fiscal condition have slowly started to improve, major fiscal challenges to the County remain.

In order for the County to continue to provide quality services, assistance from the State and continued partnership with the delegation is imperative. In this platform, you will find San Bernardino County's state legislative priorities for 2017.

Based on principles of fiscal stability, preservation of local control, efficient service delivery and operations, and the promotion of inter-agency cooperation, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors provides specific direction and overall policy guidance by adopting a legislative platform annually.

The Platform is arranged by Legislative Priorities, County Sponsored Proposals, Legislative Positions, and Policy Statements. The Legislative Priorities section describes the County's legislative goals and outlines the legislative agenda for the current year. The County Sponsored Proposals section provides a summary of specific statutory changes the County is seeking in the current legislative session. Finally, the Legislative Positions and Policy Statements provide general policy direction when developing a position on pending legislation.

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The Legislative Priorities section describes the County's legislative goals and outlines the legislative agenda for the current year, which includes increasing access to housing, improving the local economy, recovering from the December 2nd Tragedy, reducing and preventing homelessness, and strengthening the region through investments in infrastructure.

INCREASE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

Housing costs play a critical role in the economic stability of families as well as their physical and psychological wellbeing. The Public Policy Institute of California reports 36 percent of mortgaged homeowners and approximately 48% of all renters in California are spending more than one-third of their household incomes on housing. A significant number of San Bernardino County's renters spend more than 50 percent of their income on housing, leaving little to spend on other essential items such as transportation, healthcare and food. Overcrowding for low-income renters in San Bernardino County is twice the national average. The shortfall of affordable and workforce homes increases the burden on families in the County and can undermine family health, stability and children's educational attainment, putting future opportunities at risk and perpetuating a cycle of poverty. In addition to the impact on the family structure, businesses are impacted by the cost of housing. Many employers who leave California or focus future growth outside the State cite affordable housing options for their employees as a major reason for leaving.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for legislation or budget actions that include funding for affordable housing and regulatory reforms that reduce the cost and delivery time of affordable housing and workforce housing projects.

IMPROVE THE LOCAL ECONOMY

The average business operating cost per job in California is 19 percent higher than the national average. This can be attributed to energy and labor costs as well regulatory requirements. Despite these challenges, San Bernardino County is home to one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas in the nation. Its economy is built upon a diverse base of industries ranging from international trade to manufacturing and professional services. In order to ensure our local economy reaches its full potential, policy changes are needed at the State level.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to support legislation or budget actions that will: 1) provide tax relief programs for business recruitment and retention; 2) provide environmental regulatory and permitting reforms that improve California's business climate and competitiveness; 3) attract private capital to stimulate the local economy; and 4) increase career technical training and programs that prepare our workforce to be competitive in the 21st Century.

RECOVERY FROM THE DECEMBER 2ND TRAGEDY

On Wednesday, December 2, 2015, our lives changed forever. Fourteen people were taken from us on that tragic day. Many other county employees were wounded, physically and emotionally. Similar to 2016, this year will be a year dedicated to those that were taken from us, to those who continue to recover from their wounds, and to all of our County employees who help make our organization better every day. As we move forward in recovering we remain committed to addressing the unforeseen impacts of this terrorist act.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for legislation, budget actions or proposals that assist with full recovery.

REDUCE AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a persistent national problem that impacts cities and communities throughout San Bernardino County. According to the most recent Point-In-Time Count Homeless Survey, the number of homeless, 1,887 counted in 2016, represents a 12 percent decrease over the 2015 homeless count. This improvement is a result of investments in

positive programs such as permanent supportive housing, homeless outreach, housing first and rapid re-housing efforts. Despite a decline of the homeless population in San Bernardino County, additional assistance at the state level is needed.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for legislation or budget actions that will: 1) support initiatives to reduce and prevent homelessness; 2) expand the availability of permanent and supportive housing that provides coordinated services; and 3) allow counties to maximize and leverage Federal, State and local funds and programs to provide services for at-risk and homeless individuals.

STRENGTHEN THE REGION THROUGH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

A well-performing and maintained transportation network is vital to economic development, allowing businesses to expand, jobs to be created and commerce to be transported efficiently. In addition to the economic benefits, there are environmental and quality of life benefits as well, as free flowing traffic generates less pollution, and commuters are able to spend more time with their families. According to a recent report, the deficit for roads and bridges repair statewide stand in excess of \$78 billion over 10 years. As the population and economy continue to grow, especially the goods movement sector, there will be more cars and trucks on increasingly crowded and poorly maintained roads and local highways.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to support legislation and budget actions that: 1) expedite transportation project delivery and provide flexibility in the administration of transportation programs and funding; 2) protect existing funds dedicated to local transportation/transit improvements; 3) promote and expand alternative financing programs; 4) improve mobility options for the public; 5) mitigate the impacts of freight and congestion on the County's residents; and 6) improve the County's ability to maintain its infrastructure.

The County Sponsored Proposal section includes specific statutory changes that the County is seeking in the current legislative session. Sponsoring bills provide a proactive opportunity to advance the County’s legislative goals and agenda. This is accomplished by working with the legislative delegation, statewide associations and regional stakeholders.

ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
<p>Access to Recreational Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life</p>	<p>Ayala Park, which is located in the unincorporated area of Bloomington and under the jurisdiction of the Bloomington Recreation and Park District (BRPD) is located adjacent to Interstate 10 and surrounded by industrial properties. Last year, the BRPD distributed surveys focused on gathering direct input relative to the capacity of current facilities and programs offered by the BRPD, while identifying their future recreation needs for Ayala Park. One of the most notable items from the survey data was the limiting factors for visiting the park, where 76 percent of youth households noted personal safety a major concern for them and 36 percent felt that there was a lack of facilities available to them. Numerous studies have shown that levels of pollution are much higher in close proximity to freeways, and are especially harmful to young children. In response to the concerns raised by the residents, the County has identified a potential relocation area that would complement the new community library, better serve existing and new neighborhoods, and provide increased opportunities for physical activity through interconnected open space. In order to relocate the park approval, is needed from the State because the BRPD received grants funds that restrict the use of property acquired and developed to the purpose for which the funding was requested, unless authorized by the Legislature.</p>	<p>The County will sponsor or co-sponsor legislation that will relocate Ayala Park to a more functional location.</p>

ISSUE	SUMMARY	ACTION
Attract, Retain and Grow Manufacturing	<p>The County is experiencing a slow but steady recovery from the nation’s historic recession. Manufacturing continues to maintain a prominent position in the County’s economy due to the convenient rail and major highway access to and from major airports, seaports, and markets. The growth and sustainment of the manufacturing sector is important to continued economic growth in the region.</p>	<p>The County will sponsor or co-sponsor legislation that incentivizes manufacturing in the region.</p>
Promote Responsible Recreation	<p>The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program was created in 1971 out of the critical need to better manage growing demands for off-highway (OHV) recreation, while at the same time foster respect for private property rights and protect California’s natural and cultural resources. The State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation administers the OHV grant program which provides funding to cities, counties, appropriate districts and non-profit organizations to provide OHV recreation and OHV-related activities. The Sheriff’s OHV enforcement team provide services to the 6 areas within the jurisdiction of the Department’s Barstow, Colorado River, Twin Peaks, and Victor Valley stations. The program is scheduled to sunset in 2017.</p>	<p>Sponsor or co-sponsor legislation that would extend the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation Program beyond 2017.</p>

The Legislative Positions and Policy Statements provide general policy direction when developing a position on pending legislation and is broken into areas of cultural, educational and recreational services, environmental protection and health, flood control and water resources, governance, finance and operations, health and human services, and public safety and first responders.

CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL SERVICES

Promote opportunities and access to cultural, educational and recreational services within the County that add to the quality of life of residents and visitors.

Support legislation, proposals and budget actions that: 1) provide residents and tourist with access to County facilities that promote knowledge, education, lifelong learning, recreation/leisure and cultural enrichments; 2) preserve and protect the conservation of the County's natural and historical land resources, including sustainable multi-use on public lands; and 3) provide funding for services that enhance the quality of life for County residents.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HEALTH

Promote environmental sustainability that strikes a balance with the local economy.

Support legislation, budget actions or programs that enhance environmental quality that balance the interest of the local economy.

Oppose legislation, budget action and proposals that reduces environmental quality funding to the region.

FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES

Protect life, property and public health through responsible management of natural resources.

Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) promote sound management of natural resources; 2) assist local jurisdictions by removing unnecessary barriers and costs associated with environmental regulations; 3) fund the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of watershed management or flood control projects; and/or 4) maintain or improve upon the supply of adequate potable water.

GOVERNANCE, FINANCE AND OPERATIONS

Improve the delivery of county services, reduce mandates on local government, and promote effective management of county programs by allowing local control.

Support legislation and budget actions that provide: 1) flexibility to administer federal, state or local programs; 2) decision-making authority over the use of state funds, including directing grants or mandatory pass-through allocations; 3) the utilization of technology and innovation to streamline County services; 4) the elimination of unnecessary, redundant, or overlapping requirements or regulations for program eligibility, funding maintenance of efforts, monitoring, permitting or reporting; 5) constitutional protections of all local revenues; and 6) adequate funding for programs the County operates on behalf of the state.

Oppose legislation and budget actions that will adversely impact County operations by: 1) preempting the County's authority; 2) eroding local control; 3) limiting the ability to operate in a reasonable and cost-effective manner; 4) transferring programs from the state to counties unless program control and flexibility are also shifted and adequate funding is guaranteed; 5) exposing the County to unreasonable litigation; 6) increasing County responsibilities or expenses without a viable, adequate and dedicated source of revenue; and/or 7) reducing the County's share of total funding through formula allocations or reductions.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Enhance safety-net services and invest in programs that strengthen the community and improve the lives of residents.

Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) fully fund the cost of Federal and State mandated health and human service programs; 2) provide and protect funding formulas for services that ensure an equitable allocation of State funding and reflect complete, accurate and total caseloads and administrative costs; 3) promote local control over health and human service programs; 4) provide greater flexibility to ensure programs are delivered efficiently and in a cost-effective manner; 5) provide for the health, safety and well-being of county residents; 6) diminish poverty and stimulate the local economy; and/or 7) hold counties exempt from fiscal penalties when the State does not provide adequate funding.

Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) transfer health and human service programs from the State to the County unless program control and adequate funding is guaranteed; 2) propose funding formulas that adversely impact and impede the ability of the County to deliver health and human services; and/or 3) erode local control of the administration of health and human service programs.

LAND USE

Strengthen the County through strategic and planned development.

Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) promote local authority to adopt or plan for orderly growth and development; 2) increase local control and regulatory authority over land use, zoning, renewable energy, subdivisions and annexations; 3) make the preservation of farmland and land suitable for farming economically feasible for property owners and local government; and/or 4) streamline the California Environmental Quality Act and other regulatory processes.

Oppose legislation that: 1) erodes local land use authority; 2) uses air quality and/or climate change policy as a vehicle to restrict or remove local land use authority; and/or 3) imposes unfunded land use and general plan mandates.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND FIRST RESPONDERS

Preserve and protect the safety of the public, law enforcement and first responder personnel.

Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) provide adequate resources to deliver services; 2) provide flexibility and local discretion in the administration of programs; 3) ensure the safety of the public, property of County residents, law enforcement and first responder personnel; 3) mitigate any potential unintended impacts associated with Proposition 47 and 57; 4) plan for, respond to, and receive reimbursement for emergency disasters, acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events; and 5) ensure continued funding for adult criminal justice facilities and programs that will meet the needs created by public safety realignment.

Oppose legislation and budget actions that: 1) reduce funding at the state and local level for public safety programs; 2) compromise the safety of the public, local law enforcement or first responder personnel; and/or 3) impede the local law enforcement or first responders' ability to deliver services.