



County of San Bernardino

2020

State Legislative Platform



The largest of over 3,000 counties in the U.S. by geographic area and the 12th largest by population, San Bernardino enjoys a robust and diverse economy.

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 2020.

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, and Legislative Positions and Policy Statements. The Legislative Priorities section describes the County's legislative goals and outlines the legislative agenda for the current year, while the Legislative Positions and Policy Statements provide general policy direction when developing a position on 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 include access to care, expanding recreational opportunities and access to Prado Park, increase access to housing, and reducing and preventing homelessness.

ACCESS TO CARE

In preparation for the renewal of the 1115 and 1915B federal waivers, both which expire in 2020, the Administration released a comprehensive, multi-year approach to simplify and streamline Medi-Cal. The Medi-Cal Healthier California for All will have implications for many county health and human services functions, including behavioral health services, social services, county public health hospitals, and other programs.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for legislation, budget action, or administrative proposals that: 1) preserve the safety net through a replacement framework that; 2) does not disadvantage enrollees' access to primary and preventative care; 3) provides adequate funding for services and program administration; 4) allows for flexibility and coordination of services at the local level; and/or 5) allows for the continuance and expansion of innovative care delivery models.

EXPAND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS TO PRADO PARK

The County of San Bernardino operates the 2,280 acre Prado Regional Park in Chino on a leasehold obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), all of which lies within the Corps' Santa Ana River Main Stem/Prado Dam project area. The County is in the process of developing a master plan to improve Prado Regional Park with amenities and activities that focus on improving the outdoor and recreational experiences of park patrons. The County was the recipient of Proposition 70 park grant funds approved by California voters in 1988. Subsequent State legislation authorized the County to sell agricultural preservation land acquired with the original grant funds and use the sale proceeds to acquire replacement property. Pursuant to California law, the County may acquire park and/or open space land in fee or perpetual easements with the Proposition 70 land sale proceeds.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for legislation, budget actions, or administrative proposals that: 1) increase access and 2) permit the County to use Proposition 70 funds or other resources to improve Prado Park.

INCREASE ACCESS TO HOUSING

Housing costs play a critical role in the economic stability of families as well as their physical and psychological well-being. 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, budget actions, administrative proposals, or regulations that include: 1) an equitable amount of funding for housing in the County; 2) programs that increase access to housing; and 3) regulatory reforms that reduce the cost and delivery time of affordable housing and workforce housing.

IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES

Similar to other parts of the State, untreated mental illness greatly affects the residents of San Bernardino County. To provide effective services and treatment for those who suffer from mental illness or who are at risk of mental illness,

California voters approved Proposition 63 - the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA). In 2014, through the implementation of the MHSA, San Bernardino County serves over 100,000 residents per fiscal year through a continuum of prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services. The costs of these preventative mental health programs are small, compared to the benefits to the recipients.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for legislation, budget actions, administrative proposals, or regulations that will 1) preserve MHSA funding and programming; 2) align MHSA funding around statewide target outcomes; 3) promote the integration of treatment for mental health, substance use disorders, primary and specialty care; 4) increase flexibility in the utilization of MHSA innovation funds; and/or 5) improve access to necessary mental health services.

REDUCE AND PREVENT HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a persistent national problem that impacts cities and communities throughout San Bernardino County. According to the 2019 Point-In-Time Count Homeless Survey, the number of homeless was 2,607. A comparison of the last two counts revealed that 489 more persons were counted in 2019, which represents an increase of 23.1%. Despite our investments in positive programs such as permanent supportive housing, homeless outreach, and aggressive use of the “housing first” and “rapid re-housing” protocols, the homeless population in San Bernardino County continues to grow.

The County will work with the delegation, statewide associations, local agencies and other stakeholders to advocate for legislation, budget actions, administrative proposals, or regulations that will: 1) support initiatives to reduce and prevent homelessness; 2) ensure the County receives an equitable share of funding aimed at addressing homelessness and affordable housing; 3) expand the availability of permanent and supportive housing that provides coordinated services; and 4) allow counties to maximize and leverage Federal, State and local funds and programs to provide services for at-risk and homeless individuals.

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, economic development, environmental protection and health, flood control and water resources, governance, finance and operations, health and human services, housing and land use, public safety and first responders, and transportation and infrastructure.

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 tourists 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Improve the economy through attracting investment, creating and retaining a skilled workforce, and reducing unnecessary and overburden some regulations.

Support legislation, budget actions, or proposals 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND HEALTH

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

Support legislation, budget actions, and programs that 1) enhance environmental quality that balance the interest of the local economy and balanced energy solutions that provide the County with the decision-making authority and resources needed to achieve the state's climate goals; and 2) require regulatory agencies to better reflect and accommodate the unique characteristics and needs of local communities.

Oppose legislation, budget actions and proposals that reduce environmental quality funding to the region or compromises the health of the community.

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 State-mandated health and human service programs; 2) create, 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; 7) hold counties exempt from fiscal penalties when the State does not provide adequate funding; 8) improve and increase the accessibility and quality of supportive services for vulnerable populations; 9) promote data sharing and coordination between agencies to improve service delivery; 10) align state regulations to improve outcomes; and/or 11) remove categorical funding restrictions allowing for greater local authority to achieve desired outcomes.

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 service programs; 3) erode local control of the administration of health and human service programs; and/or 4) negatively impact health and human services program sustainability.

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; and/or 3) make the preservation of farmland and land suitable for farming economically feasible for property owners and local government.

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 and property of County residents, and law enforcement and first responder personnel; 4) mitigate any potential unintended impacts associated with Proposition 47, 57 and bail reform 5) plan for, respond to, and receive reimbursement for emergency disasters, acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events; and 6) 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 local law enforcement or first responders' ability to deliver services.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Connect communities through strategic investments in local and regional transportation and infrastructure projects.

Support legislation and budget actions that: 1) expedite infrastructure projects and provide flexibility in the administration of infrastructure programs and funding; 2) protect existing funds dedicated to local transportation projects 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; 6) improve the County's ability to maintain and modernize our infrastructure; and 7) develop an inland port.

Oppose legislation and budget actions that impact and compromise local and regional projects.