



Supervisor Vianey Lopez *Fifth District*

Regional Defense Partnership Makes Annual Washington Trip



Last month, I joined fellow Regional Defense Partnership (RDP) board members – including RDP Executive Director Gene Fisher, County Supervisor Kelly Long, and City of Port Hueneme Mayor Martha McQueen-Legohn, Sr. – for an annual trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with elected and appointed leaders regarding Ventura County's military facilities, defense contractor industry, and its impact on our regional economy.

This year's trip focused on top issues for Naval Base Ventura County (NVBC) and partners, including addressing aging infrastructure, workforce, and the resiliency of the base.

The Regional Defense Partnership – also known as RDP, is a community-based collaborative partnership of representatives bringing together local city and county elected officials and select members of the local community to advocate for the preservation and enhancement of our military facilities in Ventura County as well as to strengthen existing military and community partnerships in an effort to attract new military missions to the bases. For almost two decades NBVC has been identified as the County's largest employer. Directly and indirectly supporting thousands of jobs, they have a huge economic impact on our county.

When communities show strong support through partnerships, and local alignment with base priorities, they help ensure installations are seen as indispensable. RDP leads the effort for this in Ventura County.

Communities Represented

Central and Southern portions of the City of Oxnard, City of Port Hueneme, Oxnard Plain, Oxnard Shores, Mandalay Bay, Silver Strand, Hollywood Beach, Hollywood by the Sea, Channel Islands Harbor, California State University Channel Islands, Naval Base Ventura County, California Air National Guard, Oxnard Airport, Ormond Beach Wetlands, and Channel Islands National Park.

Contact My Office

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Celebrating Women's History Month in Ventura County



In the month of March, we honor the incredible women who have courageously paved the way for progress in education, professional access, and leadership in our community and beyond. This is why I was thrilled to bring forth a proclamation designating March as Women's History Month in Ventura County. I am grateful to Shane Meserve of Ventura County Justice for All for sharing a few words with the Board of Supervisors and accepting the recognition on behalf of the Justice for All organization.

Did you know?

- Over 85 of 180 countywide publicly elected office seats in Ventura County are held by women.
- Three of the six highest ranking elected officials representing Ventura County are women.
- Eleven of the 26 County Agency Director positions are held by women.

Watch the [Women's History Month proclamation](#).

2025 Women of the Year in Ventura County

Each year during Women's History Month, California State Senators and Assemblymembers bestow the honor of "Women of the Year" to local influential individuals.

This year, Senator Monique Limón honored a group of women leading the way in the 21st Senate District.

Ventura County recipients included:

- LaRita Joice Montgomery, Chair, Martin Luther King Jr. Committee of VC
- Pattie Braga, Exec Dir, Ventura County Leadership Academy
- Tammy I. Glenn, Exec Dir, National Volunteer Caregiving Network; VC CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly
- Marlyss Munguia Auster, President / CEO, Visit Ventura

- Vanessa Rauschenberger, General Manager, Gold Coast Transit District

Assemblymember Steve Bennett honored Ventura County Clerk and Recorder Michelle Ascencion as Woman of the Year for the 38th Assembly District. County Clerk Ascencion is a longtime Ventura County resident, and first woman and person of color elected as County Clerk and Recorder in Ventura County's 150-year history.

I would like to extend my congratulations to the Women of the Year for all that they do in our community. Thank you for inspiring future generations of women and girls to strive for excellence.

County Accepts \$6.8m State Grant to Address Homelessness

Ventura County recently accepted \$6.8 million from the State of California's Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program. Since 2020 the County of Ventura has received a total of \$23,049,530 in HHAP funds. The funds have served 3,768 Ventura County residents, with 1,448 of those residents gaining permanent supportive housing.

Criminal Justice Training Center Graduates Large Class

Local law enforcement agencies gathered at the end of March to mark the graduation of one of the largest classes ever – sixty-nine graduates - from the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center. Graduates of the training center were selected by and are now set to join local law enforcement agencies, including Oxnard Police Department, Ventura County Sheriff's Department and the Ventura Police Department.

Surrounded by nearly 1700 friends and family, graduates walked across the stage to receive their diplomas to cheers of "that's my brother" "that's my sister" and "that's my nino!" Congratulations to these new deputies and officers.



Ventura County Continues Support for Additional Housing

At the March 18th Board of Supervisors meeting our Board received an update on the County's Housing Element – the section of the County's General Plan that addresses the regional housing needs for the unincorporated areas of the County.

Of particular interest was an update on local efforts to meet the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). The state-wide RHNA process is used to plan for affordable housing needs across the state for low- and moderate-income households. Under RHNA, the unincorporated areas of the County are expected to add 1,262 new units between 2021 and 2029. Since 2021, 1,063 new units were added, reaching 84 percent of the allocation.

View more from the [County's General Plan and Housing Element](#) update.

Ventura Superior Court Welcomes Two New Judges

On March 14, I was delighted to join Judge Matthew P. Guasco at the formal enrobement ceremony for Judges Carla J. Ortega and Julia A. Snyder as they took their solemn oaths and joined the Ventura County Bench. With these new appointments well over half of the 21 judges serving on the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura are women.



Law Enforcement Panel Discussion with the Fifth District Youth Advisory Council



As part of their role as Youth Commissioners, the Fifth District Youth Advisory Council expressed great interest in learning about local law enforcement and their role in creating a safe and healthy Ventura County.

I was honored to welcome Oxnard Police Chief Jason Benites, Port of Hueneme Police Chief Michael T. Federico, and Ventura County Sheriff Department Commander Trina Newman to participate in a panel discussion with the youth on the Council.

The Youth Commissioners asked the panelists a broad range of questions regarding budgets, community partnerships, recruitment, and how officers manage stress. The Council and the panelists demonstrated passion for their communities by engaging in thoughtful dialogue about police department operations and how they ensure the safety of our communities.

I send my appreciation to Chief Benites, Chief Federico, and Commander Newman for meeting with our local youth leaders.



Celebrating National Nutrition Month in Ventura County

At our March 11th Board of Supervisors meeting, I led the Board in proclaiming March as National Nutrition Month in Ventura County.

The proclamation recognized three local organizations working to highlight the importance of healthy food and the role it plays in a community's well-being: Ventura County Farm to School, Gold Coast Health Plan, and Saticoy Food Hub. Thank you to Anna Jackson, Erin Slack, and Sierra Doehr for joining us to be recognized as we highlight the important topics of nutrition and its correlation to overall well-being.



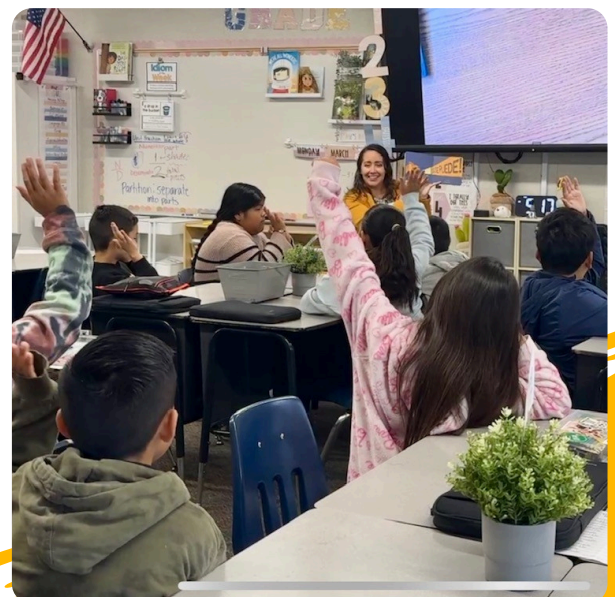
Check out Ventura County's YouTube channel to view the [National Nutrition Month](#) proclamation and more!

Reading Across America at Williams Elementary

It was an honor to join Williams Elementary School again this year to read to a group of lively third graders as part of the annual Read Across America Week celebration.

I brought along a book of my own to share with the class – *The Life of / La vida de Dolores: a Bilingual Picture Book Biography* by Patty Rodriguez and Ariana Stein.

Read Across America invites readers of all ages to dive into books that spark curiosity, broaden horizons, and unite communities.



Port Hueneme's Prueter Library to Re-open May 2025

Library has New Mural and APCD Clean Air Facility Designation

As the Ray D. Prueter Library in Port Hueneme nears its grand reopening, it is also on the way to being designated a Clean Air Facility, meaning the library can be used as a place of respite during unhealthy air conditions, including during wildfires.

The designation is made by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VC-APCD), who also approved the library's application for a \$200,000 grant for some of the HVAC improvements that will help the Library earn the clean air designation. An additional \$200,000 in Library funding was reallocated by the Board of Supervisors to allow for upgrades of all nine of the Library's HVAC units under one project and timeline.

The community is invited to attend the grand reopening celebration of the Ray D. Prueter Library, including the addition of a beautiful new mural that will welcome patrons at the entrance. The celebration and mural reveal will be held on **Saturday May 3, 2025 from 11:00am to 1:00 pm.**

Don't miss the fun!



*Paletas at
Southwinds Park*

Come Have a Paleta at the Park!

On April 26th I am kicking off my first "Paletas in the Park." This is an opportunity to come meet me in the park, have a paleta and chat with me.

I am delighted to be joined by a special guest, Oxnard City Councilmember Michaela Perez. Together, we want to hear from you, what's happening in our communities, hear your thoughts, and answer questions.

I hope to see you on April 26th at Southwinds Park from 12 - 2pm!

UPCOMING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

Tuesday, April 29, 2025
8:30 AM

Tuesday, May 13, 2025
8:30 AM

In-Person at the
County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Ave, Ventura, CA 93009

Online at:

<https://www.ventura.org/board-of-supervisors/agendas-documents-and-broadcasts/>