

COUNTY OF VENTURA

2023
State Legislative Agenda
and Platform



COUNTY of **VENTURA**

Adopted by
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
January 24, 2023

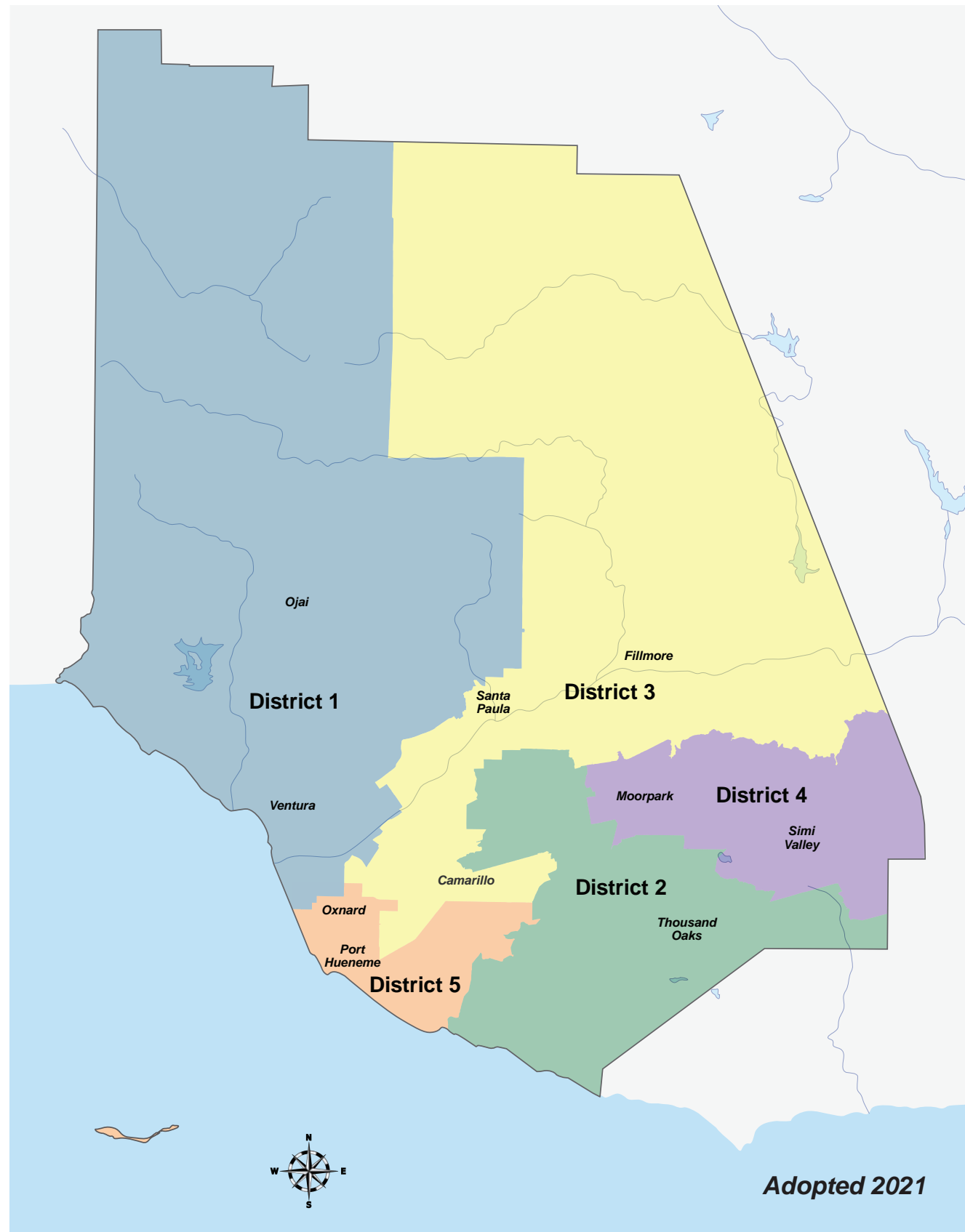


TABLE OF CONTENTS

- County of Ventura Supervisorial Districts *i*
- County of Ventura Board of Supervisors..... 1
- Ventura County’s State Legislative Program..... 2
- About Ventura County 2
- Contacts 2

- I. Overall State Legislative Principles and Policies 3
- II. New Bill Requests..... 4
- III. State Funding Opportunities 4
- IV. Major Policy Issues by Department..... 5
 - 1. Agricultural Commissioner 5
 - 2. Airports..... 6
 - 3. Animal Services..... 6
 - 4. Area Agency on Aging 6
 - 5. Child Support Services 7
 - 6. County Executive Office..... 7
 - 7. District Attorney 9
 - 8. Fire District 9
 - 9. Harbor Department..... 10
 - 10. Health Care Agency..... 10
 - 11. Human Services Agency 11
 - 12. Information Technology Services 12
 - 13. Library 13
 - 14. Probation 13
 - 15. Public Defender 14
 - 16. Public Works Agency..... 14
 - 17. Resource Management Agency 15
 - 18. Sheriff’s Department 16

COUNTY OF VENTURA SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS



COUNTY OF VENTURA – BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Supervisor Matt LaVere
First District



Supervisor Jeff Gorell
Second District



Supervisor Kelly Long
Third District



Supervisor Janice S. Parvin
Fourth District



Supervisor Vianey Lopez
Fifth District

VENTURA COUNTY'S STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Ventura County's legislative program has as its goal the development and maintenance of good, sound, and effective local government. The purpose of the legislative program is to secure legislation that benefits the County and its residents while seeking to mitigate or oppose legislation that would adversely impact the County's delivery of service; to secure state funding through the grant and/or appropriations process; and to shape public policy in priority areas that impact County government.

The State Legislative Agenda and Platform is adopted by the Board of Supervisors each year to provide a framework from which the legislative program will operate and a foundation for more effective advocacy on behalf of Ventura County. It contains principles that are basic to County government and can be used to shape State policies for the benefit of Ventura County.

The State Legislative Agenda and Platform provides specific parameters within which the Board, County Executive Officer, County agencies/departments, and the County's legislative advocates may represent County positions on legislation when time is an issue and immediate communication on behalf of the County is necessary. Once adopted, it serves as a tool for focusing on and achieving the County's legislative goals while providing a reference for evaluating pending legislation under consideration at the State level.

ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY

Ventura County, formed January 1, 1873, is located north and west of Los Angeles County, east of Santa Barbara County, and south of Kern County and covers 1,873 square miles. While the county is known for its stunning 42 miles of coastline, the peaks of the Los Padres National Forest account for nearly 50 percent of the landmass in the northern portion of the county. Fertile valleys in the southern half of the county make Ventura County a leading agricultural producer. Ventura County has a strong economic base that includes major industries such as biotechnology, health care, education, agriculture, advanced technologies, oil production, military testing and development, and tourism.

Under the guidance of the Board of Supervisors, the approved County annual budget of more than \$2 billion serves to assist vulnerable adults and children, provide public safety, protect public health, and improve the quality of life for the county's nearly 900,000 residents. In alignment with key focus areas established in the County Strategic Plan, services are provided to residents by more than 8000 dedicated public servants working in 23 different agencies, departments, and special districts.

Contacts

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I. OVERALL STATE LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

- A. The County supports efforts to preserve the financial resources of local governments by requiring the State to fully reimburse the County for all costs related to State-mandated programs.
- B. The County supports efforts to ensure local discretionary control over governance issues, land use authority, and delivery of services.
- C. The County supports constitutional protections that guarantee a dedicated ongoing revenue stream for programs realigned from State to local control.
- D. The County supports a constitutional guarantee of an equitable, dependable, and predictable revenue stream to support local governments that, to the extent possible, links programs to their source of funding and achieves fiscal neutrality for Counties.
- E. The County supports the elimination of State-mandated caps or restrictions on local fees, thereby allowing the County to set local fees in order to achieve cost recovery to the extent approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- F. The County supports additional mandate relief including elimination of unnecessary, redundant or overlapping eligibility, funding, maintenance of effort, monitoring, permitting, or reporting requirements.
- G. The County opposes efforts to impose sanctions on the County because of the State's failure to comply with Federal regulations.
- H. The County supports legislation that would limit or minimize the County's exposure to tort/liability claims.
- I. The County supports all legislative and administrative efforts to maximize and expedite access to State resources to address health emergency and disaster preparation, response and recovery needs.
- J. The County supports efforts to obtain consent of California's voters before allowing the State of California to transfer control of local financial resources from local governments to State government.
- K. The County opposes statewide ballot initiatives that directly impact County operations and lack an identified, new long-term funding source.
- L. The County supports proposals that maintain the fiscal stability of the County's retirement system while opposing legislation that would increase the County's financial obligation for retirement benefits.
- M. The County supports proposals that would designate the Board of Supervisors as the sole authority to grant retirement benefits.
- N. The County supports legislation that would refine circumstances under which employees are entitled to disability retirement.

II. NEW BILL REQUESTS

None.

III. STATE BUDGET REQUESTS

- A. **Matilija Dam Ecosystem Restoration Project.** The proposed project would assist in the removal of Matilija Dam and the restoration of the Ventura River Watershed.
- B. **New Animal Shelter Phase 1.** The Ventura County Animal Shelter serves residents in the unincorporated area and eight of the county's ten cities. Phase 1 of the project would fund the expansion of the existing footprint of the property and construct several new structures in preparation for Phase 2.
- C. **Family Justice Center-Emergency Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Shelter Housing, Oxnard.** The project would establish on-site at the Ventura County Family Justice Center in Oxnard administrative services and emergency shelter beds for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault who have been displaced as a result of their victimization.
- D. **Harvest Medical Pavilion.** The proposed project would construct a new rural-based acute care 49-bed hospital and accompanying ambulatory medical and specialty clinics in the Heritage Valley.
- E. **Teen Center at Saticoy Park.** The proposed project scope includes necessary improvements needed to design and construct an addition to the Saticoy Boys and Girls Club facility for a teen center.
- F. **Jose Flores Community Center Expansion in Saticoy.** The proposed project consists of acquisition and development of a neighboring parcel to be converted to a gathering space with a passive-use park with picnic tables and benches.
- G. **Prueter Library Improvements in Port Hueneme.** The proposed project scope includes necessary improvements needed to modernize existing infrastructure and upgrade the building's exterior in partnership with the City of Port Hueneme.
- H. **Dentistry and Optometry Services for Disadvantaged and Underserved Communities.** The proposed project would establish and expand needed services for dentistry and optometry for disadvantaged and underserved communities.
- I. **Ventura County Integrated Justice Information System Upgrade.** The County of Ventura currently operates its Integrated Justice Information System on a platform that was built more than 20 years ago. This new integrated justice system would seek to leverage new software functionality to ensure that information is appropriately shared between 39 local, State, and Federal agencies.
- J. **Radio Communication Upgrade.** The proposed project would implement a radio system that would serve the County and other city-based public safety entities with enhanced mobile apparatus, facility equipment, and expanded digital communication channels.

IV. MAJOR POLICY ISSUES – BY DEPARTMENT

1. Agricultural Commissioner

- A. The County supports proposals that would fully fund the California High Risk Pest Exclusion, detection, eradication, and management programs to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests in California by inspection of materials shipped into and out of Ventura County at locations such as U.S. Postal Distribution Centers and plant nurseries.
- B. The County supports efforts to promote the implementation of sustainable pest management strategies to reduce reliance on the most toxic pesticides, to promote programs to educate the public on safe pesticide use and their impacts, and to prevent the introduction of new invasive pests.
- C. The County supports methods that would fully fund County pesticide regulatory activities, including proposals that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee for regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public, and the environment and provide funding for education, outreach, and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.
- D. The County supports legislation that would increase the environmental review of new school site proposals similar to other developments. When schools must be sited in agricultural areas, mitigations such as buffers, setbacks, and pick-up/drop-off locations should be incorporated onto the new school footprint and designed to minimize interference with agricultural operations.
- E. The County supports legislation and regulations that preserve and enhance funding resources and authority for weights and measures, fruit and vegetable quality control, food safety, direct marketing, and organic inspection activities that provide consumer protection, equity, and environmental justice in the marketplace.
- F. The County opposes legislation that would weaken existing consumer protection laws and regulations.
- G. The County supports legislation to eliminate the sunset provision and fee limits in State law that will prohibit the County from collecting fees to cover the cost of its State-mandated weights and measures program.
- H. The County opposes legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not provide 100 percent funding, authority, security, and resources for cannabis and industrial hemp regulatory activities conducted by County agricultural commissioners.
- I. The County supports efforts to fully fund programs for the control of invasive weeds and woodboring pests. Funding for these efforts will facilitate and promote soil carbon sequestration/health that supports water retention ability to enhance fire resiliency, land productivity, and biodiversity conservation/regenerative ecosystems.
- J. The County supports efforts to promote agritourism to provide access to locally grown fresh and healthy foods for the County's residents and supports local farms and ranches, community and school gardens, and farmers markets.

2. Airports

- A. The County supports maintaining dedicated State funding and restricting the use of the Aviation Trust Fund only for its intended purpose.
- B. The County supports State programs and funding to assist non-hub airports in developing and sustaining viable air service.
- C. The County supports legislation that ensures compatible land use and development in the vicinity of the County airports.
- D. The County supports proposals that would provide more flexibility for State agencies, such as Cal Trans Division of Aeronautics, to administer grant funds.
- E. The County supports amending the California Public Utilities Code (PUC) to include the Federal Aviation Administration Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) protected surfaces within the PUC, Section 21659, Hazards Near Airports Prohibited.
- F. The County supports the development and transition to alternative piston engine aviation fuels in a manner that does not negatively impact general aviation.

3. Animal Services

- A. The County supports proposals and funding that would lead to a reduction in the current overpopulation of pets through pet sterilization; innovative re-homing of lost pets from local shelters; the close regulation of companion animal breeding practices to ensure that animals have basic humane care; mandatory rabies vaccination; clearer legislation related to lost/found animals and transfer of ownership.

4. Area Agency on Aging

- A. The County supports proposals that would increase awareness of and prevent elder and dependent adult abuse to include the following: increase funding for elder abuse prosecution and prevention programs; expedite reimbursement or restitution to seniors victimized by financial crimes; increase the penalties for those convicted of crimes against seniors; and supports legislation that includes money transmitters in the definition of mandated reporters of suspected elder abuse and require licensed persons to report the known or suspected instance of financial abuse of an elder or dependent adult immediately, or as soon as possible, to the local adult protective services agency or local law enforcement.
- B. The County supports legislation to expand the existing Assisted Living Waiver and Adult Family Homes for Older Adults to Ventura County to enable eligible seniors and adults with disabilities to reside in a community setting to support aging with dignity.

- C. The County supports the California Master Plan for Aging and the Ventura County Master Plan for Aging and initiatives that increase services and supports to allow people to continue living in the community, provides opportunities for engagement, addresses equity and inclusion in service delivery, allows individuals to maintain their health and wellbeing, and provides for economic security. This includes supporting increases in funding for existing programs that is commensurate with cost of living and population increases.
- D. The County supports funding and efforts to move towards community-based services and age-in-place programs as opposed to nursing home placement to include supporting legislation that fully funds the Older Californians Act (Linkages, Respite, Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Center, and Brown Bag Programs) as well as modernizes and updates it to respond to the changing and growing needs of the senior population; provides State funding for the Family Caregiver Support Program, the senior nutrition program, funding for in-home care (and respite) for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia; and funding to help strengthen and expand Aging and Disability Resource Center's ability to help seniors and people with disabilities access resources and services.
- E. The County supports funding for senior adult education programs specializing in technology, training, access, and resources.
- F. The County supports efforts to increase the monthly spending allowance for Medi-Cal Medically Needy Only beneficiaries without impacting Medi-Cal payment rates.

5. Child Support Services

- A. The County supports funding that will enable the program, as part of the social safety net, to reach unserved families and decrease child poverty.
- B. The County supports legislation that facilitates family access to program services, increases access to justice, and eases administrative burdens.
- C. The County supports legislation that will preserve the ability of local agencies to maintain local control of the Child Support program.
- D. The County supports the sharing of information through local agency collaboration and automating data exchange between agencies to improve services to families.
- E. The County supports legislation that creates, enhances, or preserves the child support program's ability to use effective collection tools and methods.

6. County Executive Office

- A. The County supports workers' compensation reform that protects financial resources for self-insureds, reasonable benefits for injured workers, and protects employers against workers' compensation fraud.
- B. The County supports changes to the mechanism for allocating housing credits in Housing Elements and/or how jurisdictions report units in Annual Housing Production Reports that facilitate sustainable development, smart growth, and the provision of affordable housing.

- C. The County supports efforts to expand financial resources for the development and preservation of affordable housing.
- D. The County supports funding for the development, acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of housing/shelters for persons who are homeless, at risk of becoming homeless, or those who are disabled.
- E. The County supports investment in equitable and inclusive economic development with a focus on building competitive industries, prosperous communities, and promoting economic vitality in key sectors including arts and culture.
- F. The County supports sustainable, long-term funding for early childhood development programs.
- G. The County supports efforts to identify a location along State Route 118 in Moorpark that would convert the “mini-site” weigh station to a full-service California Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility.
- H. The County supports cost-effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the use of grants, loans, and incentives to assist local governments in the implementation of greenhouse gas reduction programs.
- I. The County supports legislation that incentivizes local renewable energy production and local energy sustainability, including protection of local autonomy to administer energy efficiency programs, and install and utilize integrated distributed energy resources.
- J. The County supports legislation that promotes energy efficiency programs overseen by local governments.
- K. The County supports funding and incentives for electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, including for transit vehicles and trucks.
- L. The County supports legislative efforts and regulatory rule-making that promote the use of renewable fuels and forms of energy and streamlining the process for implementing projects.
- M. The County supports legislation that provides financial and operational incentives for emerging technologies in renewable energy production.
- N. The County supports funding for microgrid projects.
- O. The County supports legislation that would require public notification by the owner when any natural gas leak occurs.
- P. The County supports funding for wildfire prevention efforts, including undergrounding utilities and the removal of dead trees and other nonfire-resistant species.
- Q. The County supports efforts to ensure Californians have access to reasonably priced fire insurance.
- R. The County supports gun control legislation that reduces the likelihood of accidental or intentional homicides, in particular mass homicides, and that limits access to firearms for individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others.

- S. The County supports the hazardous materials clean-up of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory per the adopted Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) and support the actions, partnerships, and legislation to promptly implement the clean-up per the AOC.
- T. The County supports efforts that would lead to the implementation of BEACON’s (Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Ocean and Nourishment) beach nourishment projects.
- U. The County supports all efforts to protect our local military bases from closure and encroachment, supports funding for infrastructure, and the work of the community coalition known as Regional Defense Partnership for the 21st Century (RDP-21).

7. District Attorney

- A. The County supports funding to investigate and prosecute internet crimes against children, particularly crimes involving child abuse sexual material.
- B. The County supports funding to investigate and analyze untested rape and sexual assault kits for the presence of DNA evidence that can lead to criminal apprehension and prosecution.
- C. The County supports funding and legislation that will keep firearms away from prohibited persons subject to convictions, restraining orders and forfeiture proceedings.
- D. The County supports funding for on-site emergency shelter beds for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault at Family Justice Centers, as well as legislation that will establish permanent state and federal funding for Family Justice Centers across California and the nation.
- E. The County supports state and federal funding for local agencies, including Behavioral Health, the District Attorney, and the Public Defender, to implement mental health and addiction recovery programs for low-level offenders.

8. Fire District

- A. The County supports initiatives to ensure the financial viability of the Fire District as well as the public safety services it provides. Specific focus is on forward planning, prevention measures and response enhancements to “all-hazard” emergency incidents, local, State, and Federal.
- B. The County supports efforts to bring insurance companies and the industry into mitigating the wildland fire problem and providing affordable insurance to property owners.
- C. The County supports a vibrant statewide fire response system and opposes any negative actions that may impede its operational effectiveness.

9. Harbor Department

- A. The County supports dedicated State staffing for management of boating infrastructure funds and restricting the use of the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund only for its intended purpose.

10. Health Care Agency

- A. The County supports timely reimbursement from the State and Federal payors for services provided by the County and State funding relative to non-Federal match.
- B. The County supports construction funding to permit compliance with State earthquake retrofit requirements for acute care hospital facilities. When appropriate, the County supports proposals that would extend the deadline for hospital earthquake retrofitting.
- C. The County supports additional funding for the health care system, including the County Medical System, health services for homeless individuals, Federally Qualified Health Centers, telehealth, electronic medical records and other health infrastructure, Medicare waivers, Medicaid waivers, Disproportionate Share Hospital funding, the 340B program, and enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) funding.
- D. The County supports legislation that will provide or maintain the funding for preventative health care for all ages which include proposals for women's health services that encourage early prenatal care, continued funding of Family Planning, Access, Care and Treatment (Family PACT program) which provides access to health care for low-income women, and Children's Medical Services (CMS) Programs which include the preventive health strategies embedded into California Children Services (CCS) and all Child Health Disability Prevention Programs (CHDP).
- E. The County supports full funding for public health departments to prevent, control, and treat communicable disease, prevent and control chronic diseases, and prevent health inequities.
- F. The County supports full funding of uncompensated health care and preventative services.
- G. The County supports the preservation of the medical control of the Medical Director of the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency.
- H. The County supports the preservation of County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency authority and governing role to plan, implement, and evaluate a countywide EMS system.
- I. The County opposes efforts which would limit the authority of the Local Emergency Medical Services Agency Medical Director in taking disciplinary action against a holder of an Emergency Medical Technician certificate.
- J. The County supports efforts to maintain an independent State Emergency Medical Services Authority aligned with the Department of Health and Human Services.
- K. The County supports efforts to increase the number of qualified essential health care professionals through programs that support education for undergraduate and graduate students to enter the fields of Public Health, Laboratory Sciences, Primary Care, Specialty Care, and other professional fields supporting the health care industry.

- L. The County supports efforts to expand access to dental health services for low-income and Medi-Cal eligible clients, including increasing the Denti-Cal reimbursement fees for providers, and supporting school-based dental disease prevention programs.
- M. The County supports State legislation or budget actions that will raise Medi-Cal hospital rates.
- N. The County opposes any diversion or supplantation of any County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding, while preserving the County's ability to flexibly serve individuals with mental health conditions.
- O. The County supports local determination of prioritization of MHSA funded projects.
- P. The County supports funding to help address housing and residential treatment services for people with mental illness as well as increased funding for local inpatient psychiatric units, residential treatment, and hospitals.
- Q. The County supports efforts and funding that would promote the development of a full continuum of care model for mental health treatment including additional crisis stabilization units in Ventura County.
- R. The County supports increased funding for all populations served by the local behavioral health system.
- S. The County supports increased funding for education, intervention, and treatment programs related to the opioid and fentanyl epidemic.
- T. The County seeks funding and legislative support for the expansion of Family Medicine Residency Training programs to further improve the availability and access of primary care physicians at the local, state, and national level.
- U. The County supports a State solution to address the financing model and financial shortfall for Safety Net Health Systems.
- V. The County supports new and ongoing investment in a diverse set of services and supports to provide needed assistance to our communities as part of a comprehensive pandemic response and recovery.

11. Human Services Agency

- A. The County supports efforts that increase system integration and allow for more streamlined data sharing in order to better support vulnerable populations and to address the social determinants of health.
- B. The County supports eligibility modifications and program enhancements that reduce barriers to access, improve service to clients, promote administrative simplification, and improve the equity and efficiency of public social services programs.
- C. The County supports new programs and services, accompanied by shared financial strategies and flexibilities, that expand the County's ability to provide services to vulnerable residents throughout the continuum of need, including prevention, early intervention, and after-care services.

- D. The County supports additional funding to support the true costs of implementing state-mandated programs that serve vulnerable individuals. This includes the adoption of funding policies that minimize the County's share of cost or supplement Realignment funding for programs like In-Home Supportive Services and the Public Authority, Child Welfare Services, Adult Protective Services, and the Public Administrator and Public Guardian. The County also supports funding to reimburse counties for increased annual costs associated with the administration of Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, and CalFresh.
- E. The County supports legislation, program enhancements, and policies that reinforce work and workforce support programs that help to lift families out of poverty and provide pathways to self-sufficiency.
- F. The County supports programs and initiatives, accompanied by new funding, aimed at reducing the number of families and individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, particularly those initiatives aimed at expanding housing options and comprehensive support services that lead to self-sufficiency.
- G. The County supports programs and initiatives, accompanied by new funding, that allow the provision of existing services and resources to individuals who are underrepresented and disproportionately impacted by economic downturns.
- H. The County supports programs and initiatives, accompanied by new funding, that equitably address the digital divide, digital literacy, and provide access to the most vulnerable residents of the County.
- I. The County supports legislation that addresses any challenges related to the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act, including redefining housing options for foster youth, providing support and flexibility for youth with complex care needs, adding options for transitional housing for foster youth, and ensuring funding is available for continued service provision to youth as they age out of foster care.
- J. The County supports legislation that would fully fund mass care and shelter efforts, including planning, preparation, implementation and operational costs, for equitable response and recovery and supporting individuals with disability, access and functional needs.

12. Information Technology Services

- A. The County supports efforts that would provide for the improvement of broadband availability, accessibility, competition, and performance in Ventura County.
- B. The County supports legislation and technology enhancement efforts that will strengthen and improve cybersecurity for the public, businesses, and government.
- C. The County supports efforts to enhance the privacy of sensitive data concerning individuals but does not place burdensome regulations on businesses and the free flow of information.
- D. The County supports funding and initiatives to modernize public safety technology and infrastructure.
- E. The County supports funding and initiatives to enhance science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) programs.

- F. The County supports legislation that stimulates interoperability, innovation, fosters competition, reduces barriers to entry, and facilitates growth for hi-tech entrepreneurs and technology businesses.
- G. The County supports legislation that facilitates open data and transparency while opposing legislation that will burden County operations.

13. Library

- A. The County supports ongoing funding for the California Library Services Act (CLSA) that fosters resource sharing among libraries, particularly in rural areas where funding challenges persist.
- B. The County supports an increase in funding for the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC), which provides high-speed broadband for public libraries.

14. Probation

- A. The County supports community prevention and early intervention programming to address juvenile gang involvement, truancy, substance abuse, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and delinquency.
- B. The County supports proposals that would provide funding of juvenile and adult programs to suppress the addiction to controlled substances and facilitate the treatment of severe chemical dependency, including medically assisted treatment.
- C. The County supports revenue opportunities for local jurisdictions to establish evidence-based programs targeting mentally ill and domestic violence offenders.
- D. The County supports revenue opportunities for local jurisdictions to establish evidence-based programming in the community (community-based organizations) targeting criminogenic risk factors for both adult and juvenile offenders. Revenue support to include training for community providers to deliver programs supported by research, for organizations to operate utilizing continuous improvement plans and program evaluations using outcomes, and for subsidized treatment for offenders.
- E. The County supports funding to provide services for the emerging adult population, ages 18 to 25, in the areas of transitional housing and placement, intensive case management and mentoring, advanced independent living skills, and vocational training and job placement. This includes services to youth in the Secure Youth Treatment Facility within the Juvenile Facilities.
- F. The County supports funding to enhance the creation of community-based interventions and approaches aimed to reduce racial and ethnic disparities within the local juvenile justice system.
- G. The County supports funding to expand the use of jail alternative programs and approaches that are proven to have success in lowering recidivism rates among adult and juvenile offenders. This would include funding for pretrial assessments and monitoring services for adult offenders.

- H. The County supports funding for facility modifications to repurpose vacant juvenile detention buildings to be used for other types of youthful offenders in need of residential services and treatments and/or other probation services.
- I. The County supports funding for removing barriers and providing services to the adult and juvenile offenders in the community. This would include funding for mobile probation outreach vehicles and services.

15. Public Defender

- A. The County supports funding for the office of the Public Defender so that indigent defendants receive the required constitutional level of representation.
- B. The County supports the establishment of a State sentencing/overcrowding commission.
- C. The County supports a multi-agency approach to implementing the Stepping Up Initiative in order to reduce the number of adults with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in county jails.
- D. The County supports the development and funding of community-based, non-jail alternatives that enhance community trust, public safety, lower rates of recidivism, and preserve taxpayer resources.

16. Public Works Agency

- A. The County supports legislative efforts to develop funding policies and incentives that will ensure adequate funding for the maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of aging vital public works infrastructure in Ventura County.
- B. The County supports funding for the repair and replacement of aging flood protection infrastructure including channels, dams, and levees.
- C. The County supports funding for expansion of local pedestrian and bicycle usage and alternate transportation modes.
- D. The County supports funding and incentives for multi-modal transportation and complete streets, including flexible design requirements for State highways serving as local roads, and installation and repair of sidewalks, particularly in low-income areas.
- E. The County supports and encourages the development of State regulations and procedures that promote the commonsense implementation of both State and Federal resource protection laws and ensure that both State and Federal agencies work together in a coordinated, uniform, and predictable fashion in order to enable efficient, consistent, and cost-effective compliance with these resource protection laws.
- F. The County encourages and supports enhanced communication, collaboration and coordination between State and Federal regulatory agencies in order to expedite the delivery of vital public works projects and minimize regulatory redundancy, process inefficiencies, and agency conflicts.

- G. The County supports legislation that provides greater accuracy in tracking and reporting the jurisdiction, source or origin, and content of wastewater for disposal.
- H. The County supports efforts to require the disposal of wastewater, including produced water, through wastewater treatment plants where available as opposed to groundwater injection wells.
- I. The County supports legislative efforts and regulatory rulemaking at the State level promoting environmental sustainability by incentivizing manufacturer's incorporation of design elements using nontoxic products which increase the recyclability of a product at the end of its useful life.
- J. The County supports funding for programs which divert all recyclables or reusable materials from landfills.
- K. The County supports legislative efforts to provide financial and technical assistance, and permit streamlining, for the development of local water supply enhancement projects which promote resource sustainability including but not limited to groundwater and seawater desalination, underground water storage facilities, recycled water, rainwater capture, and distribution system interconnection projects designed to reduce dependence on imported water.
- L. The County supports legislative efforts that focus water quality improvements on pollutant source control versus treatment control methods.
- M. The County supports efforts that would include iron and manganese as a constituent that would qualify for grant funding for remediation for tap water.

17. Resource Management Agency

- A. The County supports proposals that encourage and provide financial assistance to local governments to preserve and enhance the environment through energy conservation, development of renewable energy sources, restrictions on offshore development, coastal, wetlands and waterways protection, farmland and habitat preservation, and development of alternative transportation modes.
- B. The County supports efforts to fund programs that encourage additional parkland and open space.
- C. The County opposes the erosion of existing and future local land use controls or the creation of multiple, uncoordinated or conflicting regulations in the area of State and local permitting and resource protection.
- D. The County supports legislation that will enable local governments to balance preservation of agriculture and open space, water supply, and other physical constraints with housing production in meeting state housing element goals; allow units produced through inclusionary housing policies and shared units through Homeshare to count toward meeting housing goals ; and recognize local land use initiatives and smart growth policies such as the Guidelines for Orderly Development in the establishment of housing needs assessment.

- E. The County supports legislation that streamlines the environmental review process for development without compromising environmental quality standards or the public's ability to review and comment.
- F. The County supports legislation to provide financial assistance to local governments to update their Local Coastal Programs (LCPs), as well as legislation that brings greater clarity and predictability to the Coastal Commission's policies, processes and schedules for reviewing and acting on LCP amendments.
- G. The County supports legislation that specifies Sea Level Rise (SLR) is a regional issue and acknowledges the limitations of local governments to resolve the complexities of SLR on a County, City or project level basis. The County supports a consistent and regional approach to this multi-jurisdictional issue to ensure not only the continued existence of critical coastal infrastructure but the health, safety and welfare of California coastal communities for generations to come.
- H. The County supports funding to address/mitigate the impacts of Sea Level Rise and to protect our coastal resources and communities including Naval Base Ventura County.
- I. The County supports full State funding of the ocean water quality monitoring program.
- J. The County supports the continued adoption and implementation of State requirements for oil and gas production to ensure that oil and gas development activities, including the disposal of wastewater, do not pose a significant risk to water supplies, people, or natural resources.
- K. The County supports legislation that develops a clear plan, timeline, and funding mechanism to adequately assure the reclamation of all oil sites and infrastructure; in addition, the County supports legislation that sets a finite time limit on the maintenance of oil wells in idle status.
- L. The County supports legislation or regulatory changes that clarifies a local Housing Element "Site Inventory" which contains excess properties shall not be presumed an unacceptable site in the next Housing Element update solely because no housing was constructed on the site.
- M. The County supports legislation and funding to facilitate and streamline the issuance of Building Permits for new construction, especially for new housing.
- N. The County supports legislation that helps fund the retrofitting of existing homes in vulnerable Fire Hazard areas/communities so that existing older buildings can be made more resistant to ignition during wildfires thereby making these older communities more resilient.

- B. The County supports funding for programs that support Intelligence Led Policing strategies.
- C. The County supports funding for the purchase of equipment and training for law enforcement.
- D. The County supports continued funding for programs to enforce statutes regulating the use of Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV).
- E. The County supports continued funding to allow the Sheriff to support United States Forest Service public safety personnel.
- F. The County supports funding to backfill lost revenue for inmate welfare programs.
- G. The County supports continued funding for the Office of Traffic Safety Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training program grants to reduce traffic collisions as well as alcohol, drug, and marijuana impaired driving.
- H. The County supports funding to track, combat, and treat opioid and methamphetamine addiction.
- I. The County supports funding for jail construction and front-line law enforcement, as well as funding for Standards and Training for Corrections officers.
- J. The County supports funding for regional multi-disciplinary targeted gang suppression and prevention programs.
- K. The County supports efforts that acknowledge the costs of and provide appropriate resources for the storage, retrieval, and, where required, editing of video and audio recordings captured by County personnel.
- L. The County supports funding to address the treatment needs of those with serious mental illness who are detained in County facilities.
- M. The County supports funding for vocational training for incarcerated individuals.
- N. The County supports funding to address discharge planning activities that take into account the needs of homeless and mentally ill individuals as they transition back into the community following release from a local detention facility.
- O. The County opposes efforts to prevent local participation in State Asset Forfeiture Programs.
- P. The County supports funding for the investigation, mitigation, and dismantling of human trafficking organizations.
- Q. The County supports programs that fund prevention, investigation, and enforcement strategies for combating organized retail theft.

18. Sheriff's Department

- A. The County supports continued funding for gang violence reduction that utilizes evidence-based programs to help high-risk youth develop problem solving, decision-making and communication skills, and that encourage partnerships with community-based organizations.





COUNTY *of* VENTURA

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND PLATFORM

