

2022 Legislative Session Program



SAN MATEO COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Don Horsley, President & District 3
Dave Pine, District 1
Carole Groom, District 2
Warren Slocum, District 4
David Canepa, District 5

Contact

County Manager's Office

400 County Center, 1st Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063
Tel: (650) 363-4123 Fax: (650) 363-1916

Michael Callagy

County Manager

Peggy Jensen

Deputy County Manager

Iliana Rodriguez

Deputy County Manager

Justin Mates

Deputy County Manager

Robert Manchia

Chief Financial Officer

Connie Juarez-Diroll

Chief Legislative Officer

Michelle Durand

Chief Communications Officer

Shireen Malekafzali

Chief Equity Officer

Board of Supervisors

400 County Center, 1st Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

Don Horsley, Board President

Third District

T: (650) 363-4569

Dave Pine

First District

T: (650) 363-4571

Carole Groom

Second District

T: (650) 363-4568

Warren Slocum

Fourth District

T: (650) 363-4570

David Canepa

Fifth District

T: (650) 363-4572



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Introduction



The mission of the County of San Mateo is to protect and enhance the health, safety, welfare and natural resources of the community; and to provide quality services that benefit and enrich the lives of the residents of the County.

To be effective in this mission, San Mateo County reviews and establishes priorities and policy statements at the beginning of two-year each legislative cycle to help guide its advocacy activities at the state and federal levels. The 2022 Legislative Session Program outlines the County's priorities in the coming legislative session and details the County's legislative policies—providing general direction for advocacy. The 2022 Legislative Session Program reflects the County's commitment to our Shared Vision 2025 of a healthy, livable, environmentally conscious and collaborative community.

Advocacy of The County's Interests

While this document attempts to cover the sum of all legislative issues that may have an impact on San Mateo County, it is not comprehensive, complete or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the County will review and take positions on various policy and State Budget items. In consultation with the Board of Supervisors, departments and County Counsel, the County Manager's Office (CMO) will provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on legislative and policy issues affecting County operations and programs. When a recommended position is consistent with existing County policy—as adopted in the County's Legislative Program—the CMO is authorized to prepare a County position letter for signature by the Board President.

If existing policy is not applicable to a particular legislative or State Budget item, the CMO will prepare an analysis, which includes a review of the fiscal, programmatic, and service impact to County operations and services. The items and positions approved by the Board will be added to the County's Legislative Program.

Before pursuing legislation or taking positions on bills, including those sponsored or supported by professional associations, County departments must first seek and secure approval from the CMO. The CMO will review the legislation and determine whether the position sought is consistent with existing Board-approved policy.

All legislation on which the County has taken a position will be closely tracked by the CMO and reported to the Board of Supervisors and departments.

State and federal advocacy teams represent the County's interests based upon the policies contained in the Board-approved Legislative Session Program. In addition to County position letters, Board members and County staff may be asked to testify or meet with relevant legislators or members of the Executive branch to advocate on issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, County staff must first notify and/or confirm approval of the CMO to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the County's Board-approved Legislative Session Program.



State Legislative Priorities

These are the top County legislative priorities for San Mateo County in the second year of the 2022 state legislative session.

Pandemic Response and Recovery



Counties are on the front lines of the COVID-19 state response providing direct services to the community across various sectors, including: emergency response through the activation of Emergency Operations Centers (EOC); county hospitals caring for patients, testing, and preparing for surge; social workers assisting residents newly eligible for social service programs, caring for the homebound and securing facilities to house the homeless; local public health officials evaluating data, conducting disease track and trace,

distributing vaccines and assessing next steps to protect public health; local public safety personnel working to ensure the community is safe despite new responsibilities and court protocols.

Because counties have expended considerable resources due to the pandemic to provide these critical services and because it is anticipated that the need for County services will continue increase at a time of potentially deep recession, the County will focus on maximizing local resources and securing relief (at both the state and federal levels) to assure continued delivery of critical services, including the following actions:

- Advocate for state and federal resources to address local pandemic response efforts, ~~including vaccination efforts, after the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) expiration at the end of 2020~~ that provide direct allocations to state and local governments to offset revenue losses, maximize local flexibility for use of such funds, and allow for expanded time to spend such funds.
- Work with the state to develop an array of county budget stabilization measures to mitigate significant shortfalls and ensure the County can continue to provide essential services to the community.
- Partner with the state to develop potential solutions to shore up local resources—with a particular focus on 1991 and 2011 Realignments.
- Advocate Support for the ongoing state ~~to fund~~ ing the of counties for the caretaking of inmates who cannot be transferred to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation due to COVID-19 restrictions, but who would be best served by the state hospital.

~~Moreover, county health departments are coordinating with state government to equitably distribute COVID-19 vaccines. The County will advocate for strong leadership, close state-local coordination, and transparency to ensure efficient~~
allocation and distribution of pandemic response resources to our most impacted communities.

Given critical shortages of workers in key County departments, the County will support state efforts that expand health care professionals, including physicians, nurses, behavioral health clinicians, the public health workforce and Master of Social Work student pipelines.

Protection of VLF Revenue



The Vehicle License Fee (VLF) Swap (along with the Triple Flip) was an integral part of the 2004 Budget compromise, where in exchange for the ERAF III shift and a permanent reduction to the VLF rate, the State agreed to pay counties and cities for the lost VLF revenue by redirecting a portion of each county's local ERAF as well as the property taxes from non-basic aid schools to counties and cities. This backfill amount was originally based upon the population of cities and counties and is adjusted annually based on

the growth in the assessed value of property within the local agencies' boundaries. Given that under current law there is no statutory mechanism to fully reimburse counties and cities for lost VLF revenues when the funding sources identified in Revenue & Taxation Code 97.70 are insufficient, the County supports State reimbursements as needed on an ongoing basis. *The County supports and will pursue adoption of a permanent legislative fix that ensures it and its cities receive their complete VLF revenues on a timely basis.*

In addition, the County opposes efforts to direct property tax revenues away from local government to pay for State funding obligations.

Economic and Workforce Development



Pre-COVID, San Mateo County had a robust economy with a very low unemployment rate. Since initial shelter-in-place orders, record numbers of people have been furloughed or laid off due to closures of nonessential businesses and travel restrictions. Job losses have been particularly high in the service and hospitality sectors, which employ many of the County's lower income residents and it is unknown if or when those jobs will return. In response, San Mateo County created the SMC Recovery Initiative which convenes local

government agencies, community-based organizations and nonprofits, private partners, and residents to promote inclusive recovery and leverage the collective capacity of the whole community to build a more equitable, health, and connective county. The County views this recovery an opportunity to focus on workforce and economic development goals that also reduce income inequality and create a higher skilled workforce.

As part of the recovery initiative, the County will urge the State to pursue proposals that stimulate job growth in the region, support and incentivize the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises, and help lift economically disadvantaged residents experiencing barriers to employment out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. The County supports proposals that promote economic development, stimulate job growth, and provide career opportunities especially to economically disadvantaged residents, including proposals that:

- Support the technology, healthcare, trade, manufacturing, construction, leisure and hospitality, bioscience, clean energy and creative economies;
- Stimulate regional investment and encourage private sector participation;
- Support and incentivize the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises; and
- Promote economic self-sufficiency by supporting comprehensive employment and training programs that provide supportive services that remove barriers to employment, provide education and job placement, encourage businesses to hire underemployed workers, and improve the retention of workers.

Homelessness



Homelessness is a top priority for the County. To this end, the County has dedicated significant resources towards executing strategies from the County's 2016 Strategic Plan on homelessness to create a Housing Crisis Resolution System to rapidly house people experiencing homeless, including implementation of a coordinated entry system, implementation of prevention and diversion programs, expanded emergency shelter capacity, additional rapid re-housing programs, Homeless Outreach Teams

(HOT), and planning and seeking state and federal funding for a new expanded County Navigation Center ~~Maple Street~~ ~~emergency homeless shelter~~. Throughout the pandemic, the County is working diligently to protect and prevent COVID-19 outbreaks among this vulnerable population and is investing in more permanent housing resources including participation in both Projects RoomKey and HomeKey.

Given the growing depth of the crisis, the County will advocate for state assistance and proposals that advance its efforts to combat homelessness, including additional funding for homeless prevention services and funding specifically dedicated to permanent housing and supportive/wrap around services to help the unhoused achieve more permanent housing solutions. The County also supports ongoing, flexible funding for programs that have evidenced success in keeping individuals permanently housed, outreach programs to meaningfully engage homeless individuals and focused efforts to reduce homelessness among adults over the age of 50 that address the needs of and recognize the particularized causes of homelessness among this age cohort, which is at higher risk of adverse outcomes with a COVID-19 diagnosis. The County will advocate for enhanced flexibility with respect to existing housing funding sources, including but not limited to No Place Like Home, Project HomeKey, as well as the use of public facilities for shelter or other homelessness services. Finally, the County will actively seek state support for ongoing services to be provided ~~the construction of~~ at the new County Navigation Center.

The County will work towards the implementation of a wide range of state funding sources to ensure that it receives its fair share of funding and that the guidelines succeed in increasing housing opportunities and reducing homelessness in the County. In addition, the County will advocate for proposals that fund initiatives that support planning; expand the availability of permanent supportive housing; and provide urban counties with the ability to maximize and leverage available federal, state and local funds to provide services for at-risk and homeless families and single persons. The County will also advocate for the advancement of laws, policies, and funding to help persons who have serious mental illness and addictions receive voluntary and involuntary treatment, as well as supportive services and housing.

Affordable Housing



The County places a high priority on increasing the availability of affordable housing. Since the advent of the County's Affordable Housing Fund in 2013, it has invested ~~\$81.6~~ \$167 million in County funds towards the construction and preservation of approximately ~~3,301~~ 3,737 units (in predevelopment, construction or completed). The County will advocate for policies, regulations and funding opportunities that promote healthy, safe, accessible, service-enriched and affordable housing for people at all income levels near

the jobs, transportation, and other amenities that make counties like San Mateo desirable places to live and result in higher development costs relative to other parts of the state. The County will also continue to advocate for more and

ongoing state funded tax credits and tax-exempt bonds for the development of affordable housing and a more expedited process by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the release of NOFAs and awards.

The County will support extension of AB 3088 (Chiu, Chapter 37, Statutes of 2020) or similar legislation to protect the tenancy of households affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and support the allocation of financial resources to both keep residents stably housed and allow landlords to be adequately compensated for providing safe and affordable housing to residents.

The County will continue to support proposals that revise prior housing legislation to make implementation of new accessory dwelling unit policies reasonable and workable for the County.

The County will support ACA 1, or a similar measure, to amend the California Constitution, subject to approval by voters at a statewide election, to allow a city, county, or special district, with 55% voter approval, to incur bonded indebtedness or impose specified special taxes to fund certain public infrastructure and housing projects. The County will also support SCA 2 or similar legislation to repeal Article 34 of the California Constitution, which requires majority approval by the voters of a city or county for the development, construction, or acquisition of a publicly funded affordable housing project.

Federal Supports for County Health System



The Newsom Administration has several large health initiatives being implemented in 2022 and beyond that are of import to urban counties, including the first phase of CalAIM (enhanced care management, in lieu of services, payments incentives, PATH funding), Home and Community Based Services spending plan, the re-procurement of Medi-Cal managed care plans, and Medi-Cal eligibility and benefit expansions (expanded Medi-Cal to postpartum individuals for 12 months, expand Medi-Cal to undocumented

adults over the age of 50, elimination of the Medi-Cal asset test, Medi-Cal Rx, community health workers). The County will engage in implementation activities impacting its residents. In the fall of 2018, the Newsom Administration unveiled a comprehensive, multi-year approach to improving Medi-Cal: CalAIM. CalAIM was intended to be the framework for California's approach to the renewal of the Section 1115 and 1915(b) federal waivers, both of which were to expire at the end of 2020. However, the Newsom Administration announced that implementation of CalAIM has been delayed due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and that they are pursuing extensions of both waivers through the end of 2021. In the meantime, the County will continue with related advocacy efforts to sustain the county's health system by advocating for:

- Support of the Newsom Administration's efforts to extend federal Section 1115 and 1915B waivers through December 2021.
- Support of additional federal funding for county hospitals, clinics and health systems to address revenue losses due to COVID-19.
- Support of federal efforts to delay implementation of the Medicaid Federal Accountability Rule.
- Support of additional federal funds for the Medicaid program through an additional enhancement to the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The FMAP was increased by six percent to all states in 2020 tied to the public health emergency. Advocate that an additional temporary increase to FMAP funding be part of additional federal relief package(s).

- ~~For resources for counties through the Administration's revised CalAIM proposal, which is anticipated to be released in January 2021.~~
- ~~Support expansion of 211 system to all counties statewide for use during disasters and for everyday connection to health and human services.~~

Telehealth



Telehealth, or the delivery of health care services through electronic information technology, is an effective means to ensure patients, regardless of physical location, can access safe and cost-effective healthcare. Since the passage of California's original telehealth law, the Telemedicine Development Act of 1996, widespread expansion of telehealth throughout the State has been slow and restricted. Broadly, the main factors that limit the widespread adoption of telehealth include restrictions in Medi-Cal reimbursements based on

provider-type, telehealth modality (synchronous, asynchronous, and remote patient monitoring), and the patient's physical location. Although access to telehealth has slowly expanded over the past 20-plus years due to numerous legislative changes, the COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly accelerated the interest in the use of telehealth for both patients and healthcare personnel. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the California Department of Health Care Services issued temporary policy changes during the COVID-19 pandemic have reduced barriers to telehealth access by expanding the list of services that are eligible for reimbursement. Even without a public health emergency, these flexibilities would ensure more individuals have access to affordable healthcare in California. In the County, telehealth visits jumped from 4% of visits pre-pandemic, to 51% during the pandemic. Without telehealth, the volume at the San Mateo Medical Center would be half of what it was pre-pandemic. The County supports efforts to make the recently-issued telehealth flexibilities permanent.

Juvenile Justice Realignment



The 2020 Realignment of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) shifted the responsibility of caring for all justice-involved youth from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to counties. Implemented by With passage of SB 823 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 337, Statutes of 2020) and SB 92 (Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review, Chapter 18, Statutes of 2021) counties are collectively filling at the local level a service delivery void left by the eventual closure of the state Division of

Juvenile Justice. To create positive outcomes, the County will partner with new Office of Youth and Community Restoration, support cross-county collaboration, and advocate for state legislation and resources to promote successful program delivery. this measure increases the counties' responsibility from caring for lower-level youth offenders which make up about 90% of youth in the juvenile justice system to 100% of justice-involved youth. This shift adds about 800 youth who are high-level offenders to the California counties' jurisdictions.

To implement DJJ realignment, the County will advocate for adequate funding to support the increased services we must now provide to this high-needs population. Additionally, we will advocate for local flexibility to develop responses and

partnerships between counties to effectively serve youth, especially those with higher level treatment needs and appropriate oversight and accountability that is commensurate to the responsibility and liability being “realigned” to counties. The County also believes that oversight and accountability measures associated with the most complex youth cases that were last to be realigned should not disrupt the success we have proven with existing juvenile programs and funding streams.

Wildfire, Climate and Resiliency



The Legislature will continue to focus on a variety of topics related to improving statewide resiliency to disasters and adapting to the impacts of climate change, including measures that help fund resiliency work at the local level. The County will continue to advocate for flexible funding at the local level to help prepare, respond and recover from disasters and build for climate readiness.

It will also focus on seeking proactive, sustained investments from state and federal sources to match fire suppression funding and bring about investments that build lasting change to address wildfire. For example, The County will advocate for funding and policies to support mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions, and adapting communities, both for the unincorporated County and in partnership with other jurisdictions. The County will support funding and policy opportunities to advance the development of new and existing housing, as well as other infrastructure, to be climate resilient.

~~A present impact owing to increased instances and intensity of wildfires are the state's investor-owned electric utilities (IOUs) are more frequently utilizing de-energization policies and shutting off electric power, referred to as Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS), to protect against wildfire ignition and to enhance public safety as permitted under California law. These PSPS events have a significant impact on our communities and local economies, oftentimes leaving large segments of the population without power for days at a time. The County will work in collaboration with its associations to engage the IOUs and stakeholder groups to work towards better coordination during PSPS events and ensure for adequate resources and communication to sensitive populations.~~ The County will support ongoing funding streams, disaster aid, and planning funding to grapple with a multi-year drought. In addition, as counties move into the implementation phase of SB 1383's organic waste regulations, the County will continue to advocate for ongoing funding and implementation support, regulatory streamlining, and common-sense approaches to waste reduction.

~~The discussion of utility liability continues to re-emerge as PG&E faces additional liability year after year for igniting wildfires in California. The County will work with its associations to protect the rights of victims and local governments, while holding utilities accountable for their actions. The County will also advocate on recovery efforts and the need to improve our statewide resiliency to disasters. We will continue to advocate for flexible funding at the local level to help prepare, respond, and recover from disasters.~~

San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District Funding



Effective January 1, 2020, the countywide Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District, also known as OneShoreline, was established as an independent government agency to secure and leverage public and private resources and work across jurisdictional boundaries to build solutions to the climate change impacts of sea level rise, flooding, and coastal erosion, and enhance the environment and recreational opportunities. The County will work closely with the District to advocate for State and federal legislation

and agency actions that bring new funding and modify policies and regulations that enable the District to achieve its climate resilience objectives throughout San Mateo County.

Early Childhood Education and The Big Lift Early Learning Initiative



San Mateo County is one of the most affluent counties in the nation, yet in 2020 only thirty-one percent of at-risk third graders were reading proficiently. To address this problem, the County launched The Big Lift in 2014—a bold social venture that gives children the evidence-based boosts they need to read and succeed: two years of high quality preschool, four years of inspiring summer experiences, family engagement and community collaboratives that support literacy and builds school attendance in seven school

districts where reading proficiency rates are under the county average. Over the six-year pilot period, the County has invested over \$30 million in Measure K half-cent sales tax revenue to the program as a statement of commitment to the goal of reaching third grade reading proficiency across the County. Rigorous evaluation shows that The Big Lift children are more likely to enter kindergarten with the skills needed to thrive compared to other children in the county.

In ~~2021~~ 2022, the County of San Mateo will ~~seek~~ support state funding to support evidence-based learning loss interventions. These learning loss efforts are critically needed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Research shows that children in The Big Lift school districts stand to lose significantly more skills as a result of the pandemic compared to their higher income counterparts. Evidence-based tutoring, in addition to other classroom supports, will be deployed in preschool and kindergarten through third grade summer classrooms to help The Big Lift's struggling kids regain skills and stay on the path to kindergarten readiness and third grade reading success.

Childcare and early learning programs like the Big Lift contribute to children's overall healthy growth and development and strengthen families while enabling them to go to work or school. The County believes that these opportunities should be accessible for all children regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, ability, language, economic status, immigration status, and geographic location. The child care and early learning system was fragile prior to the onset of the pandemic as public funds and family fees have not met the cost of operating quality programs and compensating the workforce adequately and the demand for affordable child care and early learning programs has outpaced the supply. The County will support legislative proposals to build a fairly compensated childcare workforce, to build sufficient childcare infrastructure, and to make childcare affordable to all residents. The County will also advocate for state funding for childcare providers to meet public health and safety guidance in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Broadband



We live in the heart of Silicon Valley, but even in San Mateo County we have a significant digital divide between those with high speed Internet access and those with slow speed or no access. The County believes that providing high speed Internet access is the 21st century equivalent to building roads. Providing the infrastructure so that all residents have equal access to online resources is critical to supporting our shared vision of a healthy, safe, prosperous, livable, environmentally conscious, and

collaborative community. Since its launch in 2014, the County's Public WiFi program has been connecting people to the Internet through its free-to-access network at over 100 locations, including parks, community centers, and public spaces

throughout the county. This latest expansion continues the goals of the SMC Public WiFi Project to bring connectivity to underserved communities, support educational opportunities for students, spur local economic development, and provide greater access to County services.

Nothing has made the importance of broadband more apparent than the COVID-19 pandemic, as workers and students move online. While many residents were able to work, learn, or even complete a telehealth visit from home, there were San Mateo County residents who were not able to do so because they lack broadband service at home. This “digital divide” threatens the socioeconomic well-being of these residents, as well as the educational development of many K-12 students. The County will advocate for program reforms and funding to close the digital divide as quickly and completely as possible.

San Mateo County supports the expansion of broadband to all parts of the State and County to drive economic development and job opportunities, support county service delivery, and improve health, education, and public safety outcomes for residents. Broadband must be capable of supporting current technology standards and speeds in order for the County and our residents to realize these benefits. Moreover, we assert that access and adoption are both necessary elements for state or federal legislative or regulatory proposals. We support establishing and maintaining reliable broadband in unserved or underserved communities; promoting the knowledge, skills and behaviors that comprise digital literacy; making broadband affordable for all households; maximizing funding for infrastructure; and reducing infrastructure deployment barriers.

Modernizing the Brown Act and Promoting Safe, Welcoming Public Meetings

The pandemic has brought with it considerable change in the way local public meetings are conducted. The use of technology and other changes instituted to ensure and expand public access through remote participation have broadened opportunities for county elected and appointed officials to connect with constituents and engage members of the public who would otherwise not be able to take time out of their day to participate in public meetings. The Brown Act ensures that public decisions are deliberated on and made in public, at noticed meetings in which the public can participate; however, some of its out-of-date provisions make it difficult for members of boards, commissions, and advisory bodies to participate. The County will support continued access to remote participation for both elected and appointed officials and the public for public meeting. The County will also support solutions to modernize the Brown Act and to foster public meetings that are safe and welcoming for all members of the community.

Equity and Social Justice



The County of San Mateo aims to anchor equity in county government operations, and thus is supportive of legislative efforts that seek to address systemic inequities in our State and locally.



County Legislative Policies



1. Agriculture/Weights and Measures

The County Supports:

- 1.1.** State budget proposals that provide funding for long-term protection of agricultural lands and restoration of Williamson Act funding.
- 1.2.** State budget proposals that provide funding to growers to develop innovative solutions to new industry challenges, including identification and testing of economically viable alternative crops. The County also supports legislation that encourages new farmers to enter the industry.
- 1.3.** Local access to fresh and healthy foods for the County's residents, specifically legislation and budget proposals that promote and/or support local agriculture, community and school gardens and farmer's markets.
- 1.4.** State budget proposals that provide funding to growers for Climate-Smart agricultural practices that protect our agricultural communities and enable large-scale carbon sequestration on the County's working lands.
- 1.5.** The continued use of additional agricultural off-highway use motor vehicle fuel funds at the local level for Agricultural Commissioners in carrying out agriculture code programs under the direction of the Secretary of Food and Agriculture.
- 1.6.** Funding of Invasive Species exclusion and management programs at the state level. Specific programs include: Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication, and public education outreach. The County also supports protecting existing revenue sources and enhancing state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities. The County supports providing full cost recovery for new programs and maintaining or enhancing funding for current programs. The County supports all reasonable efforts by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), County Agricultural Commissioners, and the agriculture industry to acquire funding and to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pest management and eradication activities. The County supports providing flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways. The County supports budgetary efforts to restore and maintain funding for agricultural border stations and supports research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

- 1.7. The provision and protection of local authority for weights and measures device registration fees, and legislation that maintains, extends or eliminates the repeal date in Business and Professions Code Section 12246 pertaining to Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees.
- 1.8. Legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state (Division of Measurement Standards, DMS) and local (Sealer) level for consumer protection, encouraging the use of state general funds for the DMS. The County supports legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of packaged products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the correct product and the quantity of product for which they pay. The County opposes legislation that would allow for industry self-certification of commercial weighing and measuring devices. The County also opposes legislation that would diminish or remove protections now afforded to consumers for transactions measured by weighing or measuring devices or computed by Point-of-Sale systems. The County supports legislation that establishes funding for quantity control and package inspection.
- 1.9. Proposals that provide long-term stable funding for county pesticide regulatory activities. The County supports legislative or budgetary proposals that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment and provides funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides. The County also supports the preemptive status of state pesticide laws and authority provided to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and California Agricultural Commissioners.
- 1.10. State legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Area groups or programs for the control of harmful nonnative, invasive weed pests.
- 1.11. Opposes legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not clearly define and authorize roles for Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers and that do not provide full funding and resources for activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners and/or Sealers.
- 1.12. Opposes legislation that creates local mandates or programs that do not fully fund additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers, impair local land use authority, fail to provide adequate security for commissioners/sealer staff, and/or create interference between cannabis regulation and existing authorities granted to Commissioners/Sealers. The County supports full funding and resources for additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners/Sealers.
- 1.13. Legislation and proposals that enhance funding and resources to support an effective regulatory program for direct marketing. Certified Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's), community and school gardens at both state and local levels.
- 1.14. Opposes legislation that would end the State Organic Program (SOP) registration requirements and fee-based activities performed by the CDFA SOP and Agricultural Commissioners. The County opposes legislation that would eliminate the California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC). The County opposes legislation that would end statewide enforcement of the SOP by CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioners and supports organic program funding allowing agricultural commissioners the authority to verify that agricultural products represented as "organic" are indeed so.
- 1.15. Increased environmental review of new school site proposals to ensure similarity to other developments. The County supports legislation that supports the incorporation of buffers, setbacks and pick-up drop off locations into new school footprints and designs to minimize interference with agricultural operations when schools must be sited in agricultural areas.
- 1.16. Stable funding for programs designed to improve conflict resolutions between humans and wildlife, such as programs designed to curb predator animals from preying on livestock.

A photograph of a sunny day at a playground. In the foreground, a young girl in a pink shirt and black leggings is hanging from a green circular frame. Next to her, a boy in a grey t-shirt and shorts is also hanging from the same frame. They are both smiling and appear to be enjoying the activity. The playground is made of wood chips and has various other structures in the background, including slides and climbing equipment. Other children are visible in the distance, and a house is visible behind the fence.

2. Child Support

The County Supports:

- 2.1.** Increased child support funding. The County supports legislative, administrative and budgetary efforts to fully fund the local child support services program cost of doing business, as well as adjustments to local child support agencies and funding allocations that account for cost differences among California counties providing services. Funding from the state has remained flat despite program cost increases.
- 2.2.** Recognizing child support services as a vital safety net program.
- ~~**2.3.** Changing the rate of interest charged for unpaid child support. Currently, California charges 10 percent per year on a simple basis on any unpaid child support, which is high in today's loan market.~~
- 2.4.** Legislation and proposals to improve the collection of child support orders, including legislation to enable child support agencies to collect child support from non-traditional sources of income, such as gig workers; legislation that would provide local child support agencies greater flexibility to compromise interest on state owed arrears; legislation to change the rate of interest charged for unpaid support currently at 10 percent per year to reflect current loan market rates; and, legislation to include the child support program as a debt collection entity to obtain winnings for owed support from any gaming and/or gambling revenue.
- 2.5.** Increased flexibilities for the administration of Child Support. Flexibility in the Child Support program should include employment support for unemployed and/or underemployed parents.
- 2.6.** Legislative reforms that increase access to child support services, despite the decrease in caseloads statewide, and that allow for automatic referrals for single family households recipients of social and economic service supports.
- 2.7.** Legislative reforms that increase access to services and flexibility for the administration of the Child Support Program. Access to technology such as virtual court hearing platforms, e-applications, e-signatures, e-filing, digital court reporting, etc. The ability to share information across social services agencies that provides the public a one-stop approach to receiving critical help to maintain housing, food, and basic economic needs, especially during times of pandemic.



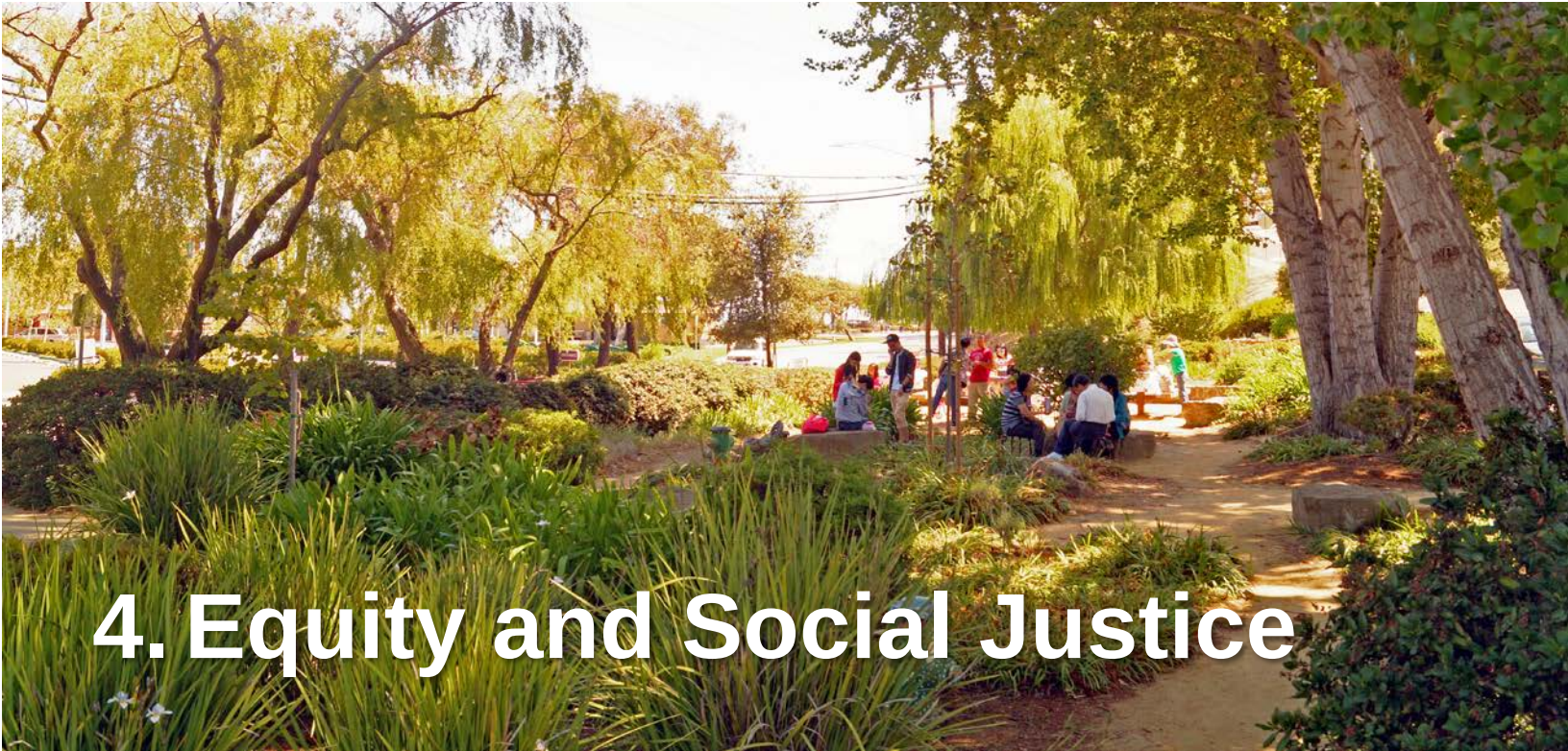
3. Early Learning and Childcare

The County Supports:

- 3.1.** Access to early learning opportunities that are accessible for all children regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, ability, language, economic status, immigration status, and geographic location.
- 3.2.** Increased, protected and stable funding for a comprehensive, high-quality childcare and early learning system serving children from birth to age 13 that includes developmentally appropriate curriculum; a culturally and linguistically responsive approach; inclusive environments conducive to learning and development for all children; robust and authentic family engagement; meaningful connections to comprehensive services and early identification and intervention processes; and effective evaluation, monitoring and support.
- 3.3.** Increased investments and strategies that increase the availability, accessibility and affordability of high-quality childcare services of unique populations of children and their families such as infants/toddlers, dual language learners, children at risk and/or with special developmental and health care needs, children experiencing homelessness, children under the supervision of the child welfare system, children and families who are undocumented, children and families experiencing domestic violence, and children of teen parents.
- 3.4.** Policies for affordable preschool and to advance the goals of the “Big Lift,” which aims to transform early learning by combining high-quality and connected learning experiences from preschool to third grade, with a focus on reducing chronic absence and summer learning loss, as well as engaging families and the broader community to support learning in school and at home.
- 3.5.** Improved data collection, data sharing and integration among programs and agencies that serve young children and families to provide opportunities to understand children’s kindergarten readiness, the various needs of children and their families, and the impact of various services on child development, school readiness, and family self-sufficiency.
- 3.6.** Programs and policies that recruit, retain, and support a diverse, well-educated, well-compensated childcare and early learning workforce and that promote professional development and increased knowledge in key areas such as: trauma informed care, infant and early childhood mental health, and early brain development and cross sector trainings.
- 3.7.** Capacity-building within the childcare and early learning system/workforce to meet all of children’s health and safety

needs including: improving mental, physical, and developmental health; responding to medical or situational crises; and ensuring safe routes to schools.

- 3.8.** Funding and supports for all childcare and early learning settings to ensure environments are safe and healthy.
- 3.9.** A robust emergency response system for childcare and early learning providers to ensure timely access to information and resources in the event of future disasters or emergencies.
- 3.10.** Increased funding that is equitably distributed to develop, finance and maintain new and existing high-quality childcare and early learning facilities.
- 3.11.** A streamlined, single subsidy reimbursement system that reflects the actual, current cost of providing high-quality care that adequately compensates the workforce to achieve salary parity with the K-12 system.
- 3.12.** Income eligibility thresholds for subsidized childcare and early learning services that reflect a region's cost of living.
- 3.13.** Programs and funding for pediatricians, health care providers, and early childhood experts to monitor children's development and provide linkages to community supports.
- 3.14.** Opportunities to pilot new ideas and innovative services to improve outcomes for young children and their families in San Mateo County.



4. Equity and Social Justice

The County Supports:

- 4.1.** The elimination and reversal of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race, sexuality, gender, religion, ability/disability, or socioeconomic status, including the repeal of California's Constitution ban on the use of affirmative action by public agencies.
- 4.2.** Funding, enforcement and expansion of antidiscrimination laws and regulations.
- 4.3.** Policies that ensure that access to and participation in all levels of government are accessible to all, regardless of physical or cognitive ability.
- 4.4.** Investment and technical support for local governments and community-based organizations to address racial inequity at the local level.
- 4.5.** The dismantling of systemic racism throughout government.
- 4.6.** Legislation and regulations that guarantee a living wage for all Californians, regardless of immigration status, race, gender, or ability/disability.
- 4.7.** Policies and programs designed to close the wealth gap and address widespread economic inequality.
- 4.8.** Policies and programs to promote pay equity and close the gender and racial pay gaps.
- 4.9.** Policies that acknowledge the cost and difficulty of developing affordable housing in densely populated, jobs- and amenity-rich counties like the County of San Mateo, relative to other parts of the State, and accordingly prioritize resources create and preserve affordable housing for low-income households in these areas.
- 4.10.** Efforts to end discrimination of lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, queer, or questioning individuals.
- 4.11.** Development of program resources and support for transgender people.
- 4.12.** Opposes efforts to impose a binary definition of "sex" or "gender" or to define "sex" or "gender" based on biology, sex assigned at birth, or similarly restrictive and inaccurate criteria.



5. Elections and Voting

The County Supports:

- 5.1.** Proposals to provide reimbursement to counties for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in state and federal offices.
- 5.2.** Proposals to allow for changes in precincts for Vote Center counties to increase efficiency in elections. Specifically, the County supports changes to the Election Code to allow for more precincts to be consolidated for the Voter's Choice Act (VCA) counties (EC 12241) and to allow increases of the maximum number of voters in a precinct (EC 12223).
- 5.3.** Legislation that increases protections against interfering with the casting of ballots at Vote Centers or by mail, including increasing fines and/or penalties for practices that attempt to impede the voting process.
- 5.4.** Legislation to improve and/or clarify the challenge process for Vote-By-Mail ballots and strengthen voter protections.
- 5.5.** Proposals to allow for secure and effective use of new technologies available in the field of election administration.
- 5.6.** Legislation to authorize the implementation of additional, expanded and alternative voting opportunities.
- 5.7.** Legislation to assist counties in the effective implementation of state mandated changes in the elections process and administration.



6. Emergency Response

The County Supports:

- 6.1.** Advocating for broad county access to technology and infrastructure that offers effective and wide-ranging communications capabilities for alerting the public in emergency situations.
- 6.2.** Full state funding for technology and infrastructure to meet State Department of Justice requirements that counties encrypt emergency radio transmissions.
- 6.3.** Increased funding for reimbursement of emergency 911 dispatch equipment.
- 6.4.** Policies that refer to 911 Emergency Calltakers and Dispatchers as First Responders, and include emergency communicators in legislation impacting law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medical response.
- 6.5.** Promoting funding for counties to address the critical staffing shortages in 911 Communications Centers, through innovative recruitment, hiring and training solutions.
- 6.6.** Passage of the Emergency Telephone Users Surcharge Act, AB 96 (Ting, 2019), or similar legislation.
- 6.7.** Funding for technology and operational changes required to implement a statewide self-registration database system as intended by the Manny Alert Act, AB 911 (Rodriguez, Chapter 686, Statutes of 2019), should implementation be required by the State.
- 6.8.** Advocating for improved coordination between state and local offices of emergency services and state and local departments with health and safety-related responsibilities (e.g. California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Services, and the Emergency Medical Services Authority, and county offices of emergency services, county health agencies and local emergency services agencies).
- 6.9.** Full and flexible funding for on-going emergency preparedness and all hazard planning.
- 6.10.** Grant processes, procedures, and guidelines that allow full funding for personnel in order to carry out emergency management and homeland security mandates.
- 6.11.** Efforts to reform the existing state and federal grant funding structure that result in a streamlined and flexible process for the protection of Californians' physical and fiscal health and wellbeing.

- 6.12.** Full and flexible funding for on-going emergency preparedness exercises and training, focusing on an all hazards approach, at the state and local level.
- 6.13.** Full and flexible funding for emergency communication system interoperability between all local government agencies and the State of California.
- 6.14.** Efforts that would fund undergrounding utilities to remove a common source of ignition and to help prevent wildfires and loss of utility services during disasters.
- 6.15.** All legislative and administrative efforts to maximize and expedite access to Federal and State resources to address both short-term and long-term recovery needs resulting from natural and catastrophic disasters, including acts of domestic terrorism, in the region.
- 6.16.** Improved communication between local governments and investor-owned utilities regarding the timing and deployment of enforced power shutoffs.
- 6.17.** Exploration of, funding for, and deployment of alternative energy storage technologies to provide temporary power supply during enforced shutoffs.
- 6.18.** The requirement that cellphone companies maintain battery backup during power shutoffs.
- 6.19.** Efforts to bring insurance companies and the industry into mitigating the wildland fire problem.
- 6.20.** A vibrant statewide fire response system. The County opposes any negative actions that may impede its operational effectiveness.



7. Environment

The County Supports:

- 7.1. Enhancement and maintenance of its open space and park lands network through increased funding for coordinated improvements for habitat and public access, including strategic use of nature-based techniques to improve parks' natural and built infrastructure resources, as well as resilience for extreme weather and climate change impacts such as fires, and to improve the built environment to reduce stormwater run-off pollution.
- 7.2. Efforts to work with regional partners to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the sustainability of the diverse environmental resources of the County, including its coasts, forests, wetlands, and adjacent waters for habitat and beneficial use by current residents, visitors and future generations.
- 7.3. Changes in policies and practices that result in a net reduction of non-renewable energy use and global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through energy efficiency, including low-income home-weatherization programs; conservation and prioritization of fuel switching from natural gas and liquid fuels such as gasoline to electricity at the state level, at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and by Investor Owned Utilities; phasing out natural gas service; carbon sequestration and carbon farming; efforts that help to reduce the per capita and overall energy use of the state; increased production and use of renewable energies to grow the "market share" of the state's energy consumption profile; and only when absolutely necessary, nonrenewable energy development that meets environmental reviews, and maintains or exceeds current environmental and/or emission controls, and that best protects our natural environments and offshore areas.
- 7.4. Changes in policies and practices that meet the requirements of Assembly Bill 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006); the Global Warming Solutions Act Executive Order B-30-15; Senate Bill 32 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016), which requires the state to slash GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030; Executive Order B-55-18 committing California to total, economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2045; Executive Order N-79-20 setting a goal of 100 percent of all new passenger vehicle to be zero emission by 2035; and any interim emissions reductions goals the County adopts. The County supports local funding needs identified in City and County Climate Action Plans including: funding for mitigation efforts/incentives for government departments and cities.

- 7.5. Changes in policies and practices that result in easier access by local government to resource use data, including: energy, water, fuels, DMV data such as vehicles miles traveled (VMT) by vehicle type and location, and disposed and diverted waste, to enhance the effectiveness of local resource conservation and GHG reduction programs.
- 7.6. Exploration of new funding sources to implement local or state government programs that benefit the environment such as: watershed protection; groundwater recharge and sustainability; water conservation; GHGs reduction; energy efficiency; fuel switching and electrification of existing and new buildings; climate adaptation; resilience and preparedness efforts; National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance; Areas of Special Biological Significance compliance; Commute Alternatives programs; active transportation programs, such as a network of protected bike lanes; and development of alternative energy sources and site- or community-level microgrids. In addition, new funding sources for compliance with stormwater pollution prevention in general, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and Municipal Regional Permits (MRP) Mercury and controls to meet MRP load reduction requirements.
- 7.7. State funding and policy proposals that support the development of an effective and comprehensive countywide and especially regional and statewide measure to adapt and provide community resilience to sea level rise, ocean acidification, wildfire and wildfire smoke, extreme weather (e.g., atmospheric rivers, flooding, excessive heat, drought) and other effects of climate change. The County supports state funding to study the impacts of climate change on the natural and built environment, groundwater, species adaptation and human health impacts, and migration.
- 7.8. Funding and technical assistance to support the Legislative Analyst's Office recommendations from "Preparing for Rising Seas: How the State Can Help Support Local Coastal Adaptation Efforts," which include funding regional collaboratives and adaptation plans, local adaptation planning and projects, standardized methodology for use of climate science in project implementation, streamlined permitting policies, and support for public campaigns.
- 7.9. Funding to support local adaptation plans and resilience planning updates, including embedding climate change adaptation into Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, General Plans, Capitol Improvement Plans, Local Coastal Program updates, Climate Action Plans, and zoning and ordinances.
- 7.10. Funding and technical assistance to develop and implement best practices for climate resiliency in new and existing housing developments and transportation, which include GHG reduction and increased resiliency to climate impacts.
- 7.11. Funding to support implementation of AB 2800 (Chapter 580, Statutes of 2016) at the local level, which would include climate vulnerability assessment of key government owned and/or community serving facilities, development of adaptation strategies and implementation of strategies at a regional scale. Actions could support high-priority sites such as landfills, properties at extreme risk of coastal erosion, voluntary property buy outs for low income residents, wastewater treatment plants and other critical infrastructure.
- 7.12. Funding to support implementation of actions recommended in the AB 691 (Chapter 592, Statutes of 2013) State Lands Commission Sea Level Rise Adaptation reports.
- 7.13. Policies and funding targeted at: supporting disadvantaged communities to plan for climate change; reducing impacts to disadvantaged communities from climate change; ensuring efforts are culturally appropriate and involve the community, reducing any unintended consequences and/or increased energy costs for disadvantaged communities, and; coordinating discussions and planning with health agencies and community-based organizations, including community-led planning efforts. The County supports examples such as funding for disaster prevention, resilience and response, Resilience Hubs, or investments in adaptive infrastructure, such as cooling centers, industrial scale energy storage and micro-grid technology to enable community members to better adapt to the climate crisis. The County supports other examples such as efforts to enable low-income people to access electric

vehicles (EVs) or low carbon vehicles and/or electric bicycles and could include buy backs of polluting vehicles with application of the funds to purchase used EVs, used hybrids, or transit support. The County also supports funding for home weatherization for low-income residents.

- 7.14.** Funding and technical assistance to support regional climate collaboratives of agencies, community leaders and businesses, aimed at reaching carbon neutrality and implementing climate resilience strategies, including capacity building programs and technical support for grant proposal development.
- 7.15.** When allocating state funding to disadvantaged communities, the County supports changing the definition of disadvantaged communities to the Under-Resource Communities definition used in PRC 71130(g). The definition appropriate to the region is: Underrepresented communities (URCs) are defined as groups that do not meet the state definition of a Disadvantaged Community (DAC) or Economically Distressed Area (EDA) but yet are below the median household income for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. URCs are also defined as groups that have a history of disproportionately less representation in water or other environmental policy and/or projects and include, but are not limited to, African-Americans, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, members of the California Indian Tribes, Latinos, Middle-Easterners, or LGBTQ; individuals experiencing homelessness; new immigrants or individuals who are undocumented; youth and elderly populations; members of unincorporated communities; and small, independent organizations.
- 7.16.** Implementation of Assembly Bill 184 (Chapter 338, Statutes of 2017), the Planning for Sea Level Rise Database. The County also supports guidance or information related to implementation of Senate Bill 379 (Chapter 608, Statutes of 2015) related to the inclusion of climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in the safety elements of county/city general plans.
- 7.17.** Implementation of Assembly Bill 841 (Chapter 372, Statutes of 2020). The County supports prioritizing local governments and school district projects for additional rounds of funding for installation of green energy projects and ventilation efficiency in light of COVID-19. The County also supports prioritizing local governments and schools districts for funding for projects in energy conservation, renewable energy, and microgrid-type projects, to improve disaster and climate resiliency (e.g. actions to address heat and smoke) of school buildings.
- 7.18.** Policies and coalitions of local governments that work to enhance funding to local governments from the CPUC administered Public Goods Funds and reduce local government program evaluation based on a Total Resource Cost (TRC) test model, and which recognize the vital role the state places on local governments to coordinate long-range GHG reduction programs.
- 7.19.** Diversion of waste from landfills and mandatory recycling and composting through implementation of Assembly Bill 939 (Chapter 809, Statutes of 1989), and Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011), and Assembly Bill 1826 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014).
- 7.20.** Exploring additional funding sources, or the broadening use of existing funding, for continued implementation of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. The current funding (Assembly Bill 939, Chapter 1095 and Statutes of 1989) is generated from fees imposed per ton of solid waste disposed in the County. As disposal of solid waste decreases and materials recycled or composted increases, assessment of fees on materials disposed out of the County and on recycled or composted materials should be reconsidered. The County supports development of additional funding mechanisms for local governments for the continued implementation of integrated waste management plans beyond fees assessed on disposal of solid waste.
- 7.21.** Funding for local jurisdictions to comply with the Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (MORe) program created by Assembly Bill 1826 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014), Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011) and the Mandatory Commercial Recycling (MCR) program created by Assembly Bill 341(Chapter 476, Statutes of

2011). The County also supports funding for businesses and jurisdictions to implement Senate Bill 1383 (Chapter 395, Statutes of 2016) Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP): Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reductions.

- 7.22.** Funding for the reduction of stormwater pollution and litter in unincorporated areas.
- 7.23.** Efforts to streamline and facilitate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and regional permitting processes while maintaining authority at the local level, as well as seeking opportunities to coordinate restoration project permitting.
- 7.24.** Continued funding for the California Green Business Network, the state arm of the local San Mateo County and state California Green Business Program, including flexible or ongoing funding sources, such as Cap and Trade that will support similar programs that holistically address energy, water, solid waste, storm water, pollution prevention and transportation alternatives.
- 7.25.** Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that provide a uniform approach to the phase out of polystyrene, plastics and packaging of consumer products, as well as single use plastics.
- 7.26.** New and/or expanded funding for:
 - 7.26.1.1.** Efforts to prioritize significant and regionally coordinated investments in public transportation. Enhancement of existing and deployment of new public transit systems that reduce VMTs to 20 percent by 2030.
 - 7.26.1.2.** Improvements to streets and roads that encourage active transportation, such as walking and bicycling, transit, and other carbon-reducing road improvements, and reduction of the volume of stormwater pollution transported through storm drains and roadways.
 - 7.26.1.3.** Capital investments that expand reuse and recycling market management infrastructure with a priority in disadvantaged communities.
 - 7.26.1.4.** Investment in new or expanded clean composting, anaerobic digestion, fiber, plastic, and glass facilities necessary to divert more materials from landfills as these programs reduce GHG emissions and support the state's 75 percent solid waste recycling goal.
 - 7.26.1.5.** Wetland restoration projects that provide carbon sequestration benefits, including habitat restoration projects within the California EcoRestore program to support the long-term wealth of the Delta's native fish and wildlife species.
 - 7.26.1.6.** Restoration projects to reclaim landfill areas that are at risk and vulnerable to sea level rise.
 - 7.26.1.7.** Wetland projects along the San Francisco Bay and along the San Mateo County coast that will support adaptation to climate change impacts and community resilience.
 - 7.26.1.8.** Incentives to agricultural operations to invest in energy efficient irrigation technologies that reduce GHG emissions and water use, and that support agricultural and ecosystem resilience in response to changes in droughts and extreme storms.
 - 7.26.1.9.** Completion and maintenance of regional trails along the bay, the coast and linking the bay to the sea for the County area of the Santa Cruz Mountains.
 - 7.26.1.10.** The restoration and improvement of the County's historic buildings and trails such as the Sanchez Adobe and the Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail, and other sites of significance to Indigenous stakeholders.
 - 7.26.1.11.** Playgrounds and pocket parks that enhance the quality of life for the community.
 - 7.26.1.12.** Local agencies that manage State Parks lands, such as San Bruno Mountain.

- 7.27. Use of Cap and Trade and/or other climate related funding for forest management, stewardship and wildfire fuel reduction, including fuel load reduction programs for low-income, disabled, or elderly property owners at high risk of wildfire; carbon sequestration on agricultural working lands; reclamation at landfills; and blue carbon in wetlands and marshes.
- 7.28. Funding and planning tools for reduction of fire hazards on County lands (or as part of multi-jurisdiction partnerships) to reduce fire hazards, particularly at the urban interface, including funding for monitoring and alerting tools and fire evacuation improvements.
- 7.29. Funding for promoting and implementing regenerative and carbon-sequestering, and resource-conserving agricultural practices.
- 7.30. Cattle grazing for natural resources objectives (i.e., butterfly habitat on San Bruno Mountain).
- 7.31. Obtaining state funding to develop a comprehensive Restoration Plan for Pescadero Marsh, building off of the effective partnerships State Parks and the San Mateo Resource Conservation District have fostered to implement the Butano Channel Resilience fish passage and coastal flooding project in Butano Creek at Pescadero Creek Road, or funding to address costly implementation of the Pescadero/Butano Sediment Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).
- 7.32. Procurement of state funding to plan and implement watershed level restoration and improvement of sediment management for salmonid habitat, water quality, and reduction in coastal flooding impacts to the community of Pescadero and other County coastal communities.
- 7.33. Sustainable forest management in previously clear-cut or timber harvested uplands to restore forest habitat to late seral stage forest conditions, address sources of sediment associated with old logging roads and legal creek crossings, and restore floodplain connectivity to trap sediment upstream for a more naturally functioning ecological system in the Pescadero and Butano watersheds.
- 7.34. Support for policy and funding that leads to reduced risk for fire from utility infrastructure assets, or that requires land owners to provide access to easements for fire-prevention maintenance, and technologies that circuit break electricity supply the instant an anomaly is sensed.
- 7.35. Funding that leads to zero net energy or zero net carbon new construction.
- 7.36. Legislation and policy that support a safe transition from traditional municipal water supplies to on-site or wastewater treatment plant sources of recycled water, through building code or state standards deployment.
- 7.37. Policies that make energy-related regulatory proceedings more accessible to the public.
- 7.38. Policies that change road maintenance funding to be tied to miles traveled by all vehicles, rather than on fuel sales.
- 7.39. Policies requiring streamlined permitting for projects related to electrification of homes and businesses, especially heat pump water heaters, electric panel upgrades, and heat pump space heating.
- 7.40. Policies, funding, and incentives to develop workforce development programs to create a pathway to clean economy jobs.
- 7.41. Policies that make it easier to record data and track progress of programs using an equity lens.
- 7.42. Oppose legislation that would grant immunity to fossil fuel companies from liability for climate change damages under either federal or state law.



8. Health and Hospitals

The County Supports:

8.1. Health

- 8.1.1. Reducing costs, increasing revenue and providing flexibility in the use of state and federal funds for San Mateo County Health.
- 8.1.2. Providing stable funding for the local healthcare services and programs that will continue to be needed.
- 8.1.3. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support affordable and culturally competent health services.
- 8.1.4. Policies that promote and permit the development of multidisciplinary teams in order to facilitate identification, assessment and coordination of services to vulnerable and at-risk populations served by counties to ensure continuity of care.
- 8.1.5. Laws that require Health Care Districts (HCDs) to fund healthcare for the remaining uninsured.
- 8.1.6. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote equal access to health services for LGBTQ people, and training funds for county personnel to address LGBTQ concerns relating to health services.
- 8.1.7. Implementation of laws and regulations which require health as an equally shared consideration in all General Plan development.
- 8.1.8. Policies, campaigns and funding to expand civic participation across populations to improve community cohesion, social capital, and self-efficacy to increase mental and physical health.
- 8.1.9. Policies, funding and regulations that improve the economic position of low-income people bearing the burden of the poorest health inequities, through enhancements to the Earned Income Tax Credit, wage policies, guaranteed income (GI) or universal basic income (UBI) and other efforts to raise the incomes of working poor families.
- 8.1.10. Policies, regulations and funding that improves healthy neighborhoods through increased affordable housing opportunities, integrated and complete urban planning and design, connection between new residential

development and transportation investment, community stability, and increased community engagement in decision-making processes that shape their communities.

- 8.1.11. Advancing policies and funding to implement and expand robust Restorative Justice Practices, school connectedness and other social emotional health within school culture to keep children and youth in school and lower punitive disciplinary policies.
- 8.1.12. Policies and programming to advance a healthy, sustainable food system and healthy food access, including local food sourcing to institutions.
- 8.1.13. Implementation of laws and standards that provide paid leave for new biologic or adoptive parents.
- 8.1.14. Funding and programming that expands violence prevention initiatives.
- 8.1.15. Policies and programs to develop community economic capacity and jobs.
- 8.1.16. Legislation that creates intentional pathways for increasing leadership and workforce positions that represent the population diversity by race, culture, gender identity and sexual orientation.
- 8.1.17. Legislation that protects immigrant and undocumented workers from wage theft, poor working conditions, and immigration related employer retaliation.
- 8.1.18. Advancing racial health equity through workforce development, data analysis, improved standards and policy advancements.
- 8.1.19. Policies and enforcement to end discrimination based on real or perceived immigration status and racial identity in workplaces, housing, healthcare, social services and other public areas.
- 8.1.20. Modifying the Brown Act such that people with disabilities who are homebound can participate via technology.

8.2. Aging & Adult Services (AAS):

- 8.2.1. Proposals and funding that promote the coordination of services such as Older Americans Act Programs, In-Home Supportive Services, Caregiver Resource Centers, Community-Based Adult Services, Multipurpose Senior Services Program and Adult Protective Services into an integrated long-term care system.
- 8.2.2. Continuing the Coordinated Care Initiative/Partners for Independence activities with the Health Plan of San Mateo, which gives San Mateo County the flexibility to spend money on long-term services and support services in ways that most benefit the client.
- 8.2.3. Solutions and funding for the region's housing crisis that address the needs of lower to middle income older adults, at-risk populations such people aging with disabilities, the elderly, including homeless LGBTQ and formerly incarcerated older adults.
- 8.2.4. Solutions and funding to prevent the eviction of seniors and persons with disabilities (SPDs), who frequently live off fixed incomes or finite savings, from their residences in order to prevent SPDs from falling into homelessness.
- 8.2.5. Funding for programs like Great Plates, which address food insecurity as well as issues unique to SPDs such as social isolation and loneliness, which place them at higher risk for negative physical and mental health outcomes.
- 8.2.6. Continuing efforts to maximize collaboration and develop homelessness prevention programs that target highly vulnerable SPDs that are built on evidence-based rapid rehousing principles and coupled with short-term intensive case management services to keep SPDs housed in a setting of their choosing and connected to a medical home.
- 8.2.7. Proposals that advance the implementation of the State's Olmstead Plan, which prohibits unnecessary institutionalization of individuals with disabilities and ensures people with disabilities have a right to live in the community and receive services in their own homes.

- 8.2.8. Legislation that allows for enhanced confidentiality and suppression of DMV records for adult protective services social workers as a way of providing them with greater protections against threats and physical assaults by those they are investigating.
- 8.2.9. Proposals that expand Medi-Cal's Assisted Living Waiver program (ALW) to enable older adults and persons with disabilities to safely and healthily age in place in a community setting of their choosing.
- 8.2.10. Proposals that expand the federal poverty level eligibility limits for Medi-Cal and state portion of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits to increase middle income seniors' access to home- and community-based services and assisted living options that enable them to age in place in the least restrictive setting.
- 8.2.11. Legislation that identifies state funding for mandated county Public Guardian Probate conservatorships.
- 8.2.12. Legislation that would promote the expansion of health-related programs including nutrition (congregate and home delivered meals).
- 8.2.13. Legislation addressing the education, prevention, and specialized intervention and treatment of substance abuse (e.g.; polypharmacy) among older adults.
- 8.2.14. Implement the County's *Age-Friendly Initiative* that promotes *Dementia Friendly* practices that will allow older adults to age in place and take a more active role in their communities.
- 8.2.15. Legislation or budgetary actions to provide a tax credit to individuals who provide in-home care.
- 8.2.16. Continuing and strengthening collaborative efforts with the San Francisco Veterans Administration to streamline In-Home Supportive Services and Public Authority processes to best serve newly housed homeless San Mateo County veterans at Colma Veteran's Village.

8.3. Behavioral Health & Recovery Systems (BHRS)

- 8.3.1. Efforts to modernize the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), but opposes efforts that would redirect these dollars which have become an integral part of the County's mental health system.
- 8.3.2. Advocating for flexibility to allow for the use of MHSA funding for services for homeless and criminal justice involved individuals with a primary or sole diagnosis of substance use disorder (SUD) to better target their medical needs.
- 8.3.3. Using an outcomes-based model for distribution of MHSA funds developed with county behavioral health departments that reflect statewide and local priorities in place of current percentage distributions.
- 8.3.4. Providing stable funding and increased access for mental health and drug and alcohol services through full implementation of state and federal mental health and drug and alcohol parity laws.
- 8.3.5. Providing stable funding for children enrolled in special education programs that require mental health services as well as for alcohol and other drug services.
- 8.3.6. Providing stable funding for locked long-term care and ancillary services for people with behavioral health problems, including Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers under 16 beds.
- 8.3.7. Promoting integration of mental health and alcohol/drug services with primary care services through opportunities presented by the state's Medicaid waivers and efforts to reform laws that prevent sharing of clinical information among providers and health plans serving the same person.
- 8.3.8. Eliminating of the Institute for Mental Disease Exclusion from Medi-Cal and Medicaid.
- 8.3.9. Advocating for access for early intervention and prevention services for foster youth and a reduction in administrative barriers to mental health services.

8.3.10. Increased funding for inmate management, programming, supervision, and substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and other inmate services.

8.3.11. Establishing supportive housing programs for justice-involved individuals who are living with mental illness and are either homeless or at risk of homelessness.

8.4. Correctional Health Services (CHS)

8.4.1. Increasing options for adult mediation as a strategy for jail diversion including confidentiality protection similar to that provided for juveniles.

8.4.2. Efforts to overcome the barriers of money bail, mandatory fines, and court fee surcharges that can exacerbate the financial security of low-income populations.

8.4.3. Efforts to end the use of criminal records to determine eligibility for critical aspects such as housing and employment that support effective reentry into society.

8.4.4. Providing support to local healthcare services and programs that serve clients in the criminal justice system.

8.4.5. Providing financial relief for correctional health responsibilities, such as Medi-Cal-related cost containment/revenue generation methods.

8.4.6. Funding for structural modifications, personal protective equipment and sanitary supplies, and other safety measures necessary to protect the health and safety of justice-involved individuals, as well as staff, from transmissible diseases.

8.5. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

8.5.1. Modifications in statute that would allow paramedics to be used and reimbursed for their services in alternative healthcare settings and would allow them to be involved not only in evaluating and transporting patients to emergency departments, but in the provision of care or transportation to the most appropriate destination, including alternate destinations when medically appropriate.

8.5.2. Legislation and regulatory measures that maintain or strengthen the authority and governing role of Counties and their Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies, or LEMSAs, to plan, implement and evaluate aspects and components of the EMS system.

8.5.3. Measures that enhance the ability of each LEMSAs medical director to maintain medical control of the local EMS system.

8.5.4. Measures that improve the quality and delivery of EMS and prehospital patient care.

8.5.5. Measures that protect the confidentiality of the quality improvement process and promote information sharing between providers, hospitals, and LEMSAs.

8.5.6. Measures that encourage the participation of EMS system providers and hospitals in evidenced-based research.

8.5.7. Measures that provide for adequate and stable funding for LEMSAs and EMS systems components including but not limited to: EMS administration, trauma systems, specialty centers (e.g. trauma, pediatric, cardiac, stroke), ambulance transport, emergency and disaster preparedness and response, and uncompensated care by emergency department physicians and on-call specialists.

8.6. Environmental Health Services (EHS)

- 8.6.1. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support and improve public health protection, support and improve the quality and scope of environmental health programs through the state and promote uniformity in implementing such programs.
- 8.6.2. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support the principles of Product Stewardship (also known as Extended Producer Responsibility) that directs all participants involved in the life cycle of a product to take shared responsibility for the environmental and human health impacts that result from the production, use and end of life handling of a product.
- 8.6.3. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote a philosophy of a Green Chemistry initiative to develop a consistent means for evaluating risk, reducing exposure, encouraging less toxic industrial processes, and identifying safer, non-chemical alternatives. A Green Chemistry initiative should ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach to increase accountability and effectiveness of environmental programs across state and local government.
- 8.6.4. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote food safety and food worker rights to health-care, paid sick leave and insurance.

8.7. Health Administration (Safety Net Financing)

- 8.7.1. Legislation to allow the use of State capital improvement funds for County facility capital projects, including clinics and other public health facilities, while preserving the option to revise and/or expand a project's scope at the County's discretion.
- 8.7.2. Proposals to preserve the 1991 Realignment funding for counties and the County-specific funding formula established in AB 85 (Chapter 24, Statutes of 2013) to support indigent healthcare and other services.

8.8. Family Health Services (FHS)

- 8.8.1. Providing stable funding for home visiting and other case management services for families at risk for poor health and social outcomes and reauthorizing and increasing funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.
- 8.8.2. Funding high-quality medical, dental and mental health supports to families, particularly families with small children. Supports should include health promotion and disease self-management programs in order to keep families healthy in the community.
- 8.8.3. Improving care for children with special health-care needs through the Whole Child Model (WCM) program for Medi-Cal eligible California Children's Services (CCS) program members in Medi-Cal managed care. WCM integrates Health Plan of San Mateo and CCS Administration program functions to improve continuity of care and facilitate effective and efficient program administration.
- 8.8.4. Efforts to promote breastfeeding accommodation and availability of space in all types of settings—employment, public accommodations, educational institutions—to facilitate maximum breastfeeding by nursing mothers.
- 8.8.5. Efforts to promote and support breastfeeding initiation programs to support new mothers and infants, particularly programs designed to provide culturally sensitive support to nursing mothers.
- 8.8.6. Establishing the California Fruit and Vegetable EBT Pilot Project, which requires the department, in consultation with the Dept. of Food and Agriculture and stakeholders with experience operating CalFresh nutrition incentive programs, to include within the EBT system a supplemental benefits mechanism that allows an authorized retailer, as defined, to deliver and redeem supplemental benefits. The County supports defining supplemental benefits to mean additional funds delivered to a CalFresh recipient's EBT card upon purchase of California-grown fresh fruits

and vegetables using CalFresh benefits, and to be redeemed only for purchases allowed under CalFresh at an authorized retailer.

- 8.8.7. Assuring that implementation of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) data collection within programs targeting children are guided by appropriate clinical guidance on age-appropriate asking of questions and respect for youth's confidentiality in addressing issues of gender transition or sexual identity.
- 8.8.8. The Women Infants and Children's Program and other efforts to promote healthy eating by the Department of Agriculture.
- 8.8.9. Promoting appropriate information sharing between the state and local home visiting programs serving pregnant women enrolled in FFS Medi-Cal to streamline outreach and enrollment of these women into available programs.
- 8.8.10. Targeted Case Management funding for virtual visits for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 8.8.11. WIC waivers that would continue to allow virtual/telephonic encounters that eliminate the physical presence requirements as well as eliminate the requirement for certain health information for up to 30 days after the national state of emergency has been lifted.
- 8.8.12. Policies and funding to ensure an adequate supply of vaccines, equitable distribution of vaccines, and culturally-competent community outreach and education, including support for programs that utilize trusted community messengers, around the health and safety of vaccine science.

8.9. Health Coverage Unit (HCU)

- 8.9.1. Implementation of laws or regulations that promote streamlined and "no wrong door" processes for consumers to be screened and enrolled in public benefits programs such as Medi-Cal and subsidized health coverage through Covered California to maximize coverage and reduce reliance on scarce safety net healthcare resources.
- 8.9.2. Modifying eligibility requirements so that those formerly incarcerated on drug charges are eligible for Medi-Cal, food stamps and other public benefits.
- 8.9.3. Promoting funding for technology and local capacity for outreach and enrollment and retention of health care coverage programs, including funding to support successful enrollments in Medi-Cal.
- 8.9.4. Promoting appropriate information sharing between state and local government entities to streamline administration of public health coverage programs, such as facilitating information sharing among Covered California, the Department of Health Care Services and Counties that offer locally supported health coverage programs for those who are ineligible for Federal/State programs. The County supports enabling staff or community partners that assist in Administration of Medi-Cal to access the minimally necessary information required to assist residents in obtaining or keeping Medi-Cal coverage. The County also supports exploring opportunities for a Certified Enrollment Assistor Portal in the new statewide automated welfare system.
- 8.9.5. Improving opportunities for County specialty mental health plans, California Children's Services and In-Home Supportive Services programs to be able to securely receive information about clients' Medi-Cal coverage to reduce burdens on beneficiaries for retaining key health and social services supports.
- 8.9.6. Addressing the high cost of living in the cost-sharing and premium tax credit calculations that are based on federal or state-wide standards to more accurately reflect the financial realities for residents of San Mateo County.
- 8.9.7. Medi-Cal coverage expansion for vulnerable, low-income residents who rely on local indigent coverage and/or Medi-Cal with a Share of Cost. Continue to prioritize the expansion of coverage for vulnerable older adults as well as undocumented parents of children to support overall family well-being.

8.9.8. Adjusting Medi-Cal Share of Cost thresholds to reflect changes in cost of living.

8.9.9. Streamlining Medi-Cal enrollment by having an express lane eligibility for Medi-Cal eligible Women, Infants and Children (WIC) beneficiaries.

8.10. Health Information Technology (HIT)

8.10.1. Promoting funding for technology and local capacity for outreach and enrollment and retention of health-care coverage programs, including funding to support successful enrollments in Medi-Cal.

8.10.2. Promoting updated and efficient State information technology systems to allow for more efficient assessment of resident eligibility in Medi-Cal.

8.10.3. Promoting appropriate information sharing between recognized organizations (state, local and federal) that help boost the behavioral and social determinants of health (human services, housing, residential care/nursing homes, substance use recovery programs, full service partnerships, etc.) and organizations that address medical determinants of health (hospitals, doctors, clinics) to streamline administration of public health coverage programs, enhance continuity of care, and solves the root cause(s) of poor health outcomes.

8.10.4. Promoting the collection of demographic data that includes voluntary self-identification of information on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity, as well as the appropriate information sharing among county departments and between state and local government entities and funding for efficient information sharing systems to address the significant disparities in health and welfare faced by youth, seniors, undocumented persons, communities of color, persons with disabilities and LGBTQ communities.

8.10.5. Enhancing cybersecurity through investment in infrastructure and training improving data confidentiality, integrity, availability, and patient safety.

8.10.6. Improving usability through designing and implementing EHRs that are more intuitive and that more readily support clinical workflow, reducing documentation burden and making data more usable for clinical decision-making.

8.10.7. Innovating care delivery through enhancing connectivity between health professionals and their patients, improving quality of care without increasing spending.

8.11. Public Health, Policy & Planning (PHPP)

8.11.1. Implementation of laws, regulations, and policies that recognize racism as a public health crisis and support for programs that directly address systemic racism and its impact on public health.

8.11.2. Funding for and implementation of laws and regulations to build equity throughout all communities.

8.11.3. Implementation of laws, regulations, and policies that ensure the privacy and confidentiality of persons contacted by contact tracers and other public health tracking systems, promote cultural and linguistic diversity of the contact tracing workforce, protect the health and safety of the contact tracing workforce, and allocate funding for the provision of contact tracers and other mechanisms to track the spread of disease.

8.11.4. Implementation of laws, regulations and plans that educate residents about the risks of Cannabis use and monitors the adverse impacts of cannabis.

8.11.5. Implementation of regulations, policies and plans that allocate resources to local health departments and/or funds chronic disease prevention strategies (e.g. sugar sweetened beverage and/or alcohol taxation) and integrates chronic disease programs that reduce health disparities and treats the root causes of health inequities.

- 8.11.6. Implementation of regulations and policy that strengthen local surveillance and data use for overdose prevention activities and expands access to high quality evidence-based drug treatment programs and harm reduction services.
- 8.11.7. Implementation of laws, regulations and plans that invest substantial resources to local health departments to combat and prevent communicable disease through immunizations, epidemiological surveillance, disease investigation and laboratory testing.
- 8.11.8. Legislation that advocates for maintaining adequate health realignment funding to support the delivery of local public health services and enhance communicable disease infrastructure.
- 8.11.9. Legislation, policy and entities (e.g. California Strategic Growth Council) that promote and fund a Health in All Policies approach in communities, neighborhoods, housing, schools, transportation, food systems, health equity, climate change, etc.
- 8.11.10. Legislation, regulations and policy that funds and increases state and local public health laboratory infrastructure, workforce and new technology including but not limited to advanced molecular detection and whole genome sequencing.
- 8.11.11. Legislation and policy that supports the improvement of vital records operations and the generation of statistics by improving data quality and services.
- 8.11.12. Implementation of laws, regulations and plans that authorize the Health Officer to require a person seeking import of a dog or cat into the state to have a health certificate by a licensed veterinarian within 10 days of travel and have their animal vaccinated against rabies, and or DHPP/ FELV at least 21 days prior to travel.
- 8.11.13. Proposals that provide funding for sexually transmitted disease (STD) essential case management programs, contact investigations, and partner testing and treatment for STDs.
- 8.11.14. Efforts to reduce consumption of sugar sweetened beverages.
- 8.11.15. Limiting the availability and access of particularly harmful forms of sugary products that are easily absorbed in the body and contribute significantly to a fatty liver, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular risk.
- 8.11.16. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote the safe use and sale of produce from small community and school gardens in retail food facilities, farmer's markets and schools.
- 8.11.17. Funding and programming that expands access to free or affordable health-promoting, high-quality school (including pre-schools) meals.
- 8.11.18. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that would allow local jurisdictions to establish healthy food zones, allowing in only businesses that offer for sale whole or lightly processed foods with no tobacco or alcohol sales.
- 8.11.19. Efforts to promote the strongest possible protection against the sale of powdered alcohol to residents of California, which could increase the risk of alcohol use by minors.
- 8.11.20. Efforts to strengthen the Smoke Free Workplace Act by closing specific loopholes in order to protect more employees.
- 8.11.21. Efforts to maintain the strongest possible protection against tobacco use by minors, such as changes to taxes, the eligibility age for purchasing cigarettes, application of smoke-free ordinances and classification of e-cigarettes as products subject to anti-smoking regulations.

- 8.11.22. Implementation of laws, regulations and policies that enhance the ability of County Animal Control and Licensing agencies to provide cost effective and human animal control services.
- 8.11.23. Implementation of laws, regulations and plans that prevent injury, increase safety and improve active forms of transportation, such as Vision Zero, infrastructure improvements, affordable and accessible public transportation, safe active transportation planning and design standards, and safety education and promotion programming.
- 8.11.24. Expanding support for trauma-informed approaches, including a focus on resources to implement early childhood intervention and prevention programming, including ACEs and other screenings early.
- 8.11.25. Funding, policies and standards that enable strong alignment of the business needs of mission-driven institutions with their mission by improving access to institutional economic benefits through targeted workforce, procurement, and investment opportunities.
- 8.11.26. Laws, regulations and programs that support the training and employment of peer support networks for navigating and providing health services in both adult and youth health and social services arenas.

8.12. San Mateo Medical Center (SMMC)

- 8.12.1. Revisions to federally qualified health center and rural health clinic services reimbursement and scope change procedures, including support for two visits taking place on the same day at a single location, expansion of values-based payments and screenings, and simplification of the process for updating FQHC rates.
- 8.12.2. Opposing proposals to reduce, repeal, alter or limit the ACA that impact Medi-Cal eligibility expansions or otherwise impact current subsidized segments of the health care system.
- 8.12.3. Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that make permanent the telehealth flexibilities authorized during the COVID-19 public health emergency and allow the use of audio-only as well as audio-video modalities and provide equitable reimbursement to in-person visits.
- 8.12.4. Opposing Medicare and Medicaid payment policy changes with negative impacts, in particular policy changes impacting safety net hospitals, including changes to: Disproportionate Share Hospital payments, such as stopping impending Medicaid DSH allotment reductions, and freezing Medicare DSH cuts; or 340B drug pricing program, eligibility administrative or reporting requirements; or Medi-Cal managed care program design that impact supplemental rate range payments.
- 8.12.5. Securing funding to address the impact of COVID-19 that recognizes the disproportionate effects of COVID-19 on the population served by public SMMC, including the preservation of other financial and policy relief that supports the ability of SMMC to meet the needs of the safety net population it serves, such as enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage and Medi-Cal coverage of COVID-19 related services regardless of eligibility scope.
- 8.12.6. Implementation of laws, regulations and innovative programs that support access to affordable and culturally competent oral health services, including access to dentists, for all ages (pregnant women, children, adults, elderly), and particularly to those with special healthcare needs and/or disabilities.
- 8.12.7. Actions to increase access to equitable care and support the use of race, ethnicity, language preference, and other sociodemographic data.
- 8.12.8. Programs and services to address social risk factors of the patients we serve, including, but not limited to, food insecurity, homelessness, housing instability, and transportation access.

- 8.12.9. Modifications to the Medi-Cal program design to improve downstream effects on public health care systems and the vulnerable patients it serves, including changes in health plan reimbursement, covered benefits, authorization and administration requirements. (CalAIM)
- 8.12.10. Funding mechanisms to permit adequate reimbursement of the Virtual Dental Home model to expand access to oral health services in non-traditional settings.
- 8.12.11. Adequate reimbursement for dental services under the Denti-Cal program to increase the number of participating Denti-Cal providers.
- 8.12.12. Providing forensic evaluations for victims of violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse and ensuring timely and accurate processing of evidence. (Keller Center)
- 8.12.13. Resolving conflicting laws regarding adolescent sexual assault victim rights.
- 8.12.14. Utilizing a Child Advocacy Center model to evaluate concerns of child sexual abuse.
- 8.12.15. Incentives, policies, and programs that support the retainment and recruitment of high quality staff at all levels, including loan programs to increase access to necessary education and trainings, regulatory changes to allow properly trained immigrants to work in the health field, licensure reciprocity with other states, and scope of practice expansions which allow properly-trained personnel to contribute to our health system at their fullest capacities.



9. Housing

The County Supports:

- 9.1. Policies, regulations and funding to address the housing needs of all persons, especially homeless households and lower-income residents, including persons receiving wrap-around services and case management from the County; people with disabilities; emancipated youth; transitional age youth; CalWORKs participants; farmworkers; the elderly; institutionalized persons who cannot be discharged due to lack of stable housing; former foster youth; homeless youth including homeless LGBTQ youth; *homeless veterans*, and; the formerly incarcerated.
- 9.2. Policies, regulations and funding that encourage Second Units (a.k.a. “Accessory Dwelling Units” or “ADUs”) including banning local owner occupancy requirements for properties with Second Units and allowing existing unpermitted Second Units to be inhabited unless correcting code violations is necessary to protect health and safety.
- 9.3. Additional funding for the development of affordable housing and related infrastructure, including grants, together with policies and regulations that allow those funds to be used for maximum benefit in San Mateo County.
- 9.4. Policies, regulations and funding that support the long-term preservation of existing affordable housing, both deed-restricted units and those which are rented at below-market rates outside of government regulation.
- 9.5. Policies that recognize the higher costs of development in densely populated, job- and amenity-rich counties like the County of San Mateo and the importance of prioritizing affordable housing resources in such areas, from both (1) an equity perspective, to promote access to jobs and amenities for low-income households, and (2) an environmental perspective, to prevent long commutes faced by low-income workers who cannot afford market rate housing in high-cost areas.
- 9.6. Additional funding for supportive services and operations of affordable housing to enable the County to target more affordable units for persons with high service needs and extremely low-incomes, especially platforms structured as ongoing annual support rather than one-time payments.
- 9.7. Legislation, policies and entities (e.g. California Strategic Growth Council) that promote and fund healthy, thriving, and resilient communities for all, including increased affordable housing opportunities including missing middle housing, integrated and complete urban planning and design, connection between new residential development and

transportation investment, climate adaptive housing, community stability, and increased community engagement in decision-making processes that shape their communities.

- 9.8. ~~Smart Growth~~ Climate adaptive housing efforts and other land use decisions including the facilitation of appropriate mixed-use developments along efficient public transportation corridors.
- 9.9. Examination of current rules and standards that benefit lower density development (over high-density development) and automobile-oriented development (over transit and pedestrian and bicycle movements and safety).
- 9.10. Preserving land use authority of local governments by allowing jurisdictions that have adopted inclusionary zoning ordinances, such as San Mateo County, to take the intended and predictable effect of the ordinance into account when calculating availability of adequate zoned capacity to meet their Regional Housing Needs Allocation.
- 9.11. Policies that allow for the development of regional strategies to meet obligations under the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).



10. Human Resources

The County Supports:

- 10.1.** Legislation that provides a local option to implement employee compensation or benefit changes, as directed by the Board of Supervisors.
- 10.2.** Opposing legislation that mandates or authorizes compensation or benefit changes without approval of the Board of Supervisors.
- 10.3.** Opposing legislation that would increase employee benefits without system reforms that would offset increased employer costs.
- 10.4.** Opposing efforts to eliminate defined benefit pensions for public employees, and “one size fits all” mandated pension reforms. Instead, the County supports flexibility and local control of pension systems and reform by the local agency, especially in the case of County pension systems subject to the County Employees Retirement Law of 1937.
- 10.5.** Efforts to prevent unreasonable increases in Workers' Compensation costs and changes that will mitigate increasing medical costs and provide fair and reasonable indemnity benefits.
- 10.6.** Opposing legislation that expands existing or creates new presumptions related to injuries, illnesses, diseases, or physical conditions and that can be claimed as job related for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement.
- 10.7.** Opposing legislation that eliminates current requirements that employees demonstrate on-the-job exposure in order to qualify for workers' compensation or service-connected disability retirement benefits.
- 10.8.** Efforts to expand reimbursement for the work of all public employees serving in their capacity as Disaster Service Workers.
- 10.9.** Legislation modifying the Fair Labor Standards Act to permit adjustable work schedules to meet the needs of both management and labor.
- 10.10.** Opposing labor-related legislation that would impede the County's exercise of its managerial rights or that would hinder the County's flexibility in addressing changing conditions.

- 10.11.** Opposing proposals that would expand the Public Safety Officers Bill of Rights or similar provisions to non-peace officer employees.
- 10.12.** Opposing proposals that would limit an employer's access to information on its own devices, servers and other sources of information.
- 10.13.** The creation and implementation of education, training, internship, recruitment, and retention programs for public sector workers.
- 10.14.** Legislation that addresses and combats discrimination based on age, disability, disease status, gender identity, language, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.
- 10.15.** Proposals which permit the full implementation of the County's Living Wage Ordinance.

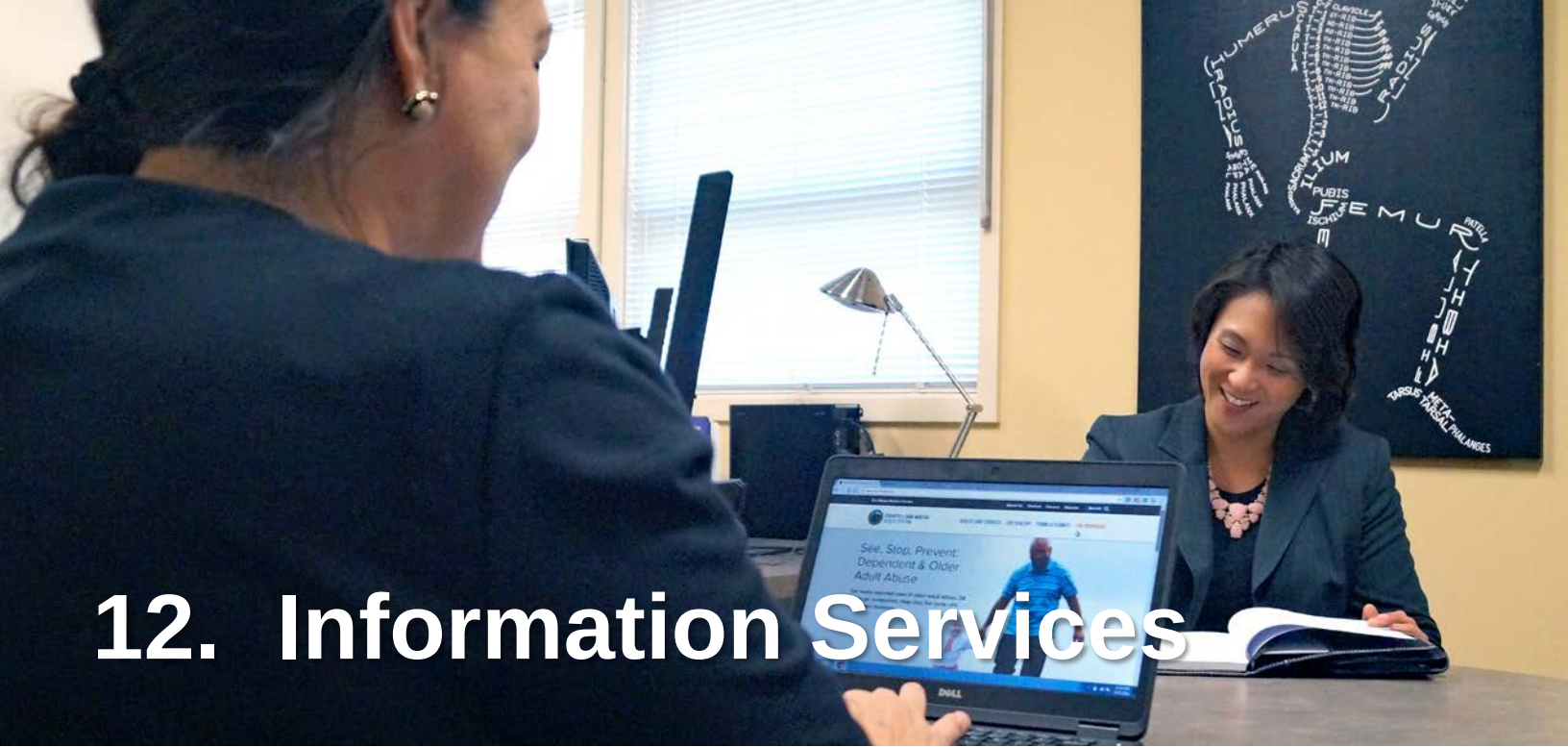


11. Human Services

The County Supports:

- 11.1.** Preservation and increased funding for human service programs realigned to counties and advocate for an appropriate level of funding during the new Medi-Cal funding methodology negotiations with the state.
- 11.2.** Adjustments to county human service fund allocations that account for the higher cost of living/operation differences among California counties in providing services.
- 11.3.** Increased funding for foster parent recruitment and retention and greater funding flexibility for foster care services, which are critical to adequately protect children in need and to continue the implementation of Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP).
- 11.4.** Implementation of policies, programs and services to assist and improve outcomes for LGBTQ foster youth, and transitional age youth and immigrant youth in foster care.
- 11.5.** Ensuring ongoing funding to support victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and policies that protect foster youth who have suffered from sexual exploitation.
- 11.6.** Implementation of policies that secure housing opportunities for emancipated foster youth, CalWORKs families and veterans.
- 11.7.** Advocating for access for early intervention and prevention services for foster youth and a reduction in administrative barriers to mental health services.
- 11.8.** Flexibility in the definition for non-related legal guardianships in support of the implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) to place foster youth in home settings.
- 11.9.** Policies to improve CalFresh benefits access to former foster youth, AB 12 Non-Minor dependents, and college students.
- 11.10.** Elimination of reductions to penalties related to the failure to meet the work participation rate in CalWORKs.
- 11.11.** Allowing for County flexibility in the work component and permissible activities that contribute to work participation rates in CalWORKs.

- 11.12.** Advocating for policies to enhance or increase the Earned Income Tax Credit for low income individuals and families in high cost of living counties.
- 11.13.** Ensuring counties have the financial, personnel and information technology support system to implement the new CalSAWS single statewide eligibility determination system.
- 11.14.** Preventing the loss of affordable healthcare and other public assistance for residents who are impacted by increases to local and state minimum wage increases.
- 11.15.** Policies that will increase the available childcare slots, especially for infant and toddler aged children.
- 11.16.** Promoting programs and services that assist and recognize the role of fathers in the development and well-being of their child(ren).
- 11.17.** Promoting funding for training of county personnel to address LGBTQ concerns relating to human services.
- 11.18.** Strategies and accountability measures to provide awareness and guidance to foster parents on how to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning youth to ensure that the youth feel safe, welcomed, and affirmed in foster care placements.
- 11.19.** Advocating and supporting funding opportunities to construct homeless shelters and/or transitional housing for homeless individuals and families.
- 11.20.** Advocating for dedicated and ongoing state/federal funding for homeless prevention programs and homeless services.
- 11.21.** Continuing to advocate and support programs and services to veterans.
- 11.22.** Funding to address a significant increase in human waste, litter, hazardous materials and other harmful debris associated with homeless encampments.



12. Information Services

The County Supports:

- 12.1.** Statewide policies that ensure construction, expansion, operation and maintenance of local government public internet projects.
- 12.2.** Balanced approaches to address the need for equitable connectivity for residents, businesses, and underserved communities that utilize private companies (such as Comcast, Verizon, AT&T, etc.) and are augmented by free publicly available programs to enable those who cannot afford, or access, commercial services for internet access.
- 12.3.** Funding for implementing and operating public programs that reduce the digital divide and increase digital equity in all areas of the County.
- 12.4.** Coordination of projects and policies locally between the County, School Districts, and Cities to enhance the community-wide approach to digital equity.
- 12.5.** Permanent authority to use bond funds, tax measure funds, and Public, Educational, and Governmental Access (PEG) funds to reduce the digital divide and increase digital equity.
- 12.6.** Flexibility for alternative project delivery methods on digital divide infrastructure projects.
- 12.7.** Policies that enable the use of infrastructure, such traffic signals, street lights, public right-of-way, public buildings, cellular towers, and commercially developed building roof tops, as locations for placing public broadband equipment via a coordinated and streamlined policy approach and approval process.
- 12.8.** Opposes linking local and state level digital divide and digital equity funding with Federal level surveys or data based on gross estimations of connectivity, such as census data.
- 12.9.** Opposes solutions that rely 100 percent on private corporations providing the solution to these challenges as past practices have shown private companies have not been successful in solving this challenge.



13. Libraries

The County Supports:

- 13.1.** Restoration of the California Library Services Act which provided funding for libraries to support resource sharing of electronic and physical items among all libraries.
- 13.2.** Restoration of funding to support Lunch at the Library programs, that provide meals to children during the summer months when schools are closed.
- 13.3.** Restoration of funding to support the Career Online High School programs which helps adults complete their high school diploma online.
- 13.4.** Infrastructure needs such as building improvements, generators, air filters, air conditioners, PPE etc., and the vital role libraries play in supporting communities during times of crisis.
- 13.5.** Increased lifelong learning support for early education, afterschool programming, student success cards, adult and youth literacy, career support and economic development, veterans' services and assistance to vulnerable populations.
- 13.6.** Legislation which supports broadband access for communities including public WiFi, lendable hotspots and library broadband improvements to support education, workforce development, and community well-being. AB 34 (Muratsuchi) was introduced the 2020-21 session with the goal to close the digital divide by investing in statewide broadband infrastructure and increasing access to high-speed internet in unserved and underserved communities throughout the state.
- 13.7.** Legislation which would allow construction bonds and special taxes for libraries to pass with a lower vote threshold (from current two-thirds to 55%). ACA 1 (Aguiar-Curry) was reintroduced for the 2020-21 session.



14. Parks

The County Supports:

- 14.1.** Increased funding opportunities for the restoration and preservation of redwood forests, mixed evergreen forests, grasslands, coastal scrub, oak woodlands, watersheds, wetlands and riparian corridors.
- 14.2.** Increased funding opportunities for local and/or state government programs that benefit natural resources, including, but not limited to: watershed protection; landscape restoration of forests, grasslands, coastal scrub and riparian corridors; introduction/reintroduction of endangered species to native habitat; and eradication of non-native and invasive species.
- 14.3.** Increased funding opportunities to complete regional trail networks, including, but not limited to, the San Francisco Bay Trail, California Coastal Trail, Crystal Springs Regional Trail, Bay-to-Sea Trail and Ohlone-Portola Heritage Trail.
- 14.4.** Increased funding opportunities for projects that reduce barriers to access to greenspace and support equitable access to parks and open space for all communities.
- 14.5.** Increased funding opportunities for the reduction of wildfire hazards in County parks and open space.
- 14.6.** Use of Cap and Trade and/or other climate related funding for forest management, active stewardship and wildfire fuel reduction.
- 14.7.** Modification of grant program requirements to reflect regional differences in median household income and more equitably distribution of grant funding throughout the state.
- 14.8.** Efforts to work with regional partners to protect, conserve, restore and preserve the sustainability and diversity of natural resources throughout the County, including its coasts, forests, wetlands and riparian corridors for habitat and beneficial use by current residents, visitors and future generations.
- 14.9.** Efforts to ensure ecosystem resiliency through implementation of landscape restoration projects that reestablish and rebuild altered natural systems.

- 14.10.** Efforts to create efficiencies in permitting and regulatory compliance for environmentally beneficial projects and to allow state agencies to maintain fidelity to statutory requirements while more easily permitting efforts to building resilience.
- 14.11.** Efforts to create efficiencies in permitting and regulatory compliance for projects that reduce wildfire fuel loads and mitigate catastrophic wildfire risk to communities.
- 14.12.** Restoration projects that provide carbon sequestration benefits, including restoration and preservation of redwood forests, mixed evergreen forests, watersheds and grasslands.
- 14.13.** Cattle grazing for natural resources objectives (i.e., butterfly habitat on San Bruno Mountain).

A photograph of two law enforcement officers in dark blue uniforms and white helmets, sitting on white and black Sheriff's Office motorcycles. The motorcycles have "Dep. M. Col. Sanders" and "Dep. J. Goulart" written on the front fairings. The officers are wearing sunglasses and have communication equipment on their helmets. They are positioned in front of a blue corrugated metal wall with yellow and black striped safety barriers on the sides.

15. Public Safety and Justice

The County Supports:

- 15.1.** Constitutional protections that provide guaranteed and adequate state funding for counties' new responsibilities related to 2011 Public Safety Realignment and will oppose any efforts that transfer additional program responsibilities to counties without adequate funding, constitutional protections and safety needs of the local system.
- 15.2.** The development of a permanent and equitable Public Safety Realignment funding formula that rewards strategies to reduce recidivism.
- 15.3.** Full funding for local public safety programs that have historically been supported by fines and fees within the criminal justice system. AB 1869 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 92, Statutes of 2020) repealed the County's authority to collect various fines and fees and appropriated monies for five years to backfill a portion of the revenue loss.
- 15.4.** Preservation of funding for local public safety efforts, including inmate housing, security, programming, health, juvenile probation and prevention programs, mental health and drug and alcohol programs.
- 15.5.** Continuing efforts to maximize opportunity for reimbursement for inmate medical care, including option available under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as pursuing funding for increased needs resulting from realignment. The County also supports mitigating liabilities in areas such as health, mental health, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other areas of legal concern.
- 15.6.** Preservation of funding and, in the future, seeking additional funding for an expanded, more robust and comprehensive drug court.
- 15.7.** Full state funding for court security costs provided by the County.
- 15.8.** Full funding for the cost of booking and processing of persons arrested by public entities in the County as authorized in Government Code 29553(b).
- 15.9.** Increased funding for local law enforcement to enhance community engagement efforts as well as technology that supports further information sharing between law enforcement and the community to prevent and reduce crime.

- 15.10.** Increased funding and regulation for domestic violence and new prohibited person's compliance firearms programs.
- 15.11.** Ensuring continued state funding for adult criminal justice facilities that will meet the needs created by realignment, i.e., programming space, substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc.
- 15.12.** Policies that help the County better implement Proposition 47, as well as mitigate local criminal justice impacts.
- 15.13.** Increased funding for inmate management, programming, supervision, and substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and other inmate services.
- 15.14.** Efforts to ensure that counties that did not provide in-person visitation under the Board of State and Community Corrections rules prior to 2016 will be reimbursed or funded for the mandate to reconfigure existing facilities.
- 15.15.** Legislation that allows for the consolidation and contracting out of police services and opposes efforts to amend PERS regulations to dis-incentivize these practices.
- 15.16.** Continued review of the alignment of Chief Probation Officer selection, appointment and retention authority with funding. The County also supports cautious review of any potential separation of adult and juvenile probation activities.
- 15.17.** Efforts to align law library costs, including facilities maintenance, with trial courts rather than the County.
- 15.18.** Corrections reforms established within the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) that are developed through collaboration of state and local governments and criminal justice agencies that are adequately funded to operate safe and secure jails and build upon successful, existing programs. The County also supports full state funding for any new requirements imposed on the Community Corrections Partnership.
- 15.19.** State funding for local jail construction projects, which recognize the importance of inmate programs and services such as educational, vocational and treatment services and provides flexibility that meets the unique characteristics of each county.
- 15.20.** The implementation and increased funding for support services for juvenile probation and prevention programs, such as tattoo removals and job training.
- 15.21.** Alternatives to youth incarceration, such as restorative justice programs.
- 15.22.** Alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.
- 15.23.** Promoting funding for training of county personnel to address LGBTQ concerns relating to public safety and policies relating to LGBTQ concerns.
- 15.24.** Efforts to guide the youth of San Mateo County towards their full potential through impactful programs, which foster relationships between the Sheriff's Office and the community.
- 15.25.** Promoting an environment that encourages continuous improvement and innovation. We strive to be leaders in modern policing, acting on input and feedback from our communities and colleagues, constantly implementing best-practices and exploring alternative solutions to current issues.
- 15.26.** Efforts to enhance services to victims of human trafficking incidents, raise awareness of human trafficking within the community and foster greater collaborative efforts among all who fight modern-day slavery.
- 15.27.** Increased funding to provide continuous de-escalation training to comply with SB 230 (Law Enforcement: use of deadly force: training: policies). The Sheriff's Office has developed an ECIT (Enhanced Crisis Intervention Training) program that will train Deputies in the best tactically and legally sound de-escalation tactics to use on persons who suffer from mental illness and are in crisis. ECIT allows us to maintain compliance with SB 230.

- 15.28.** Increased funding to provide continued and updated law enforcement training on implicit bias. This training will allow law enforcement officers the ability to impact their perceptions and behaviors, while managing bias. Continued training on this perishable skill will enhance our ability and legitimacy with the diverse communities we serve.



16. Public Works

The County Supports:

- 16.1.** Statewide policies that ensure construction expansion, rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of local infrastructure as priorities.
- 16.2.** Balanced with the need for environmental protection, the streamlining and coordination of regulatory requirements so that routine projects can be processed without delay, expectation for routine work can be established and the costs of both initial construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of local infrastructure can be effectively reduced.
- 16.3.** Funding for implementing programs and regulations on storm water management required by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to fund activities consistent with municipal storm water permit requirements.
- 16.4.** Coordinating regulatory agency permitting requirements for maintenance and capital improvement projects to avoid conflicting requirements from state agencies and streamlining delivery of projects.
- 16.5.** Funding to support implementation of California Air Resource Board regulatory mandates relating to diesel powered construction equipment.
- 16.6.** Permanent authority to use the Design-Build and Construction Manager (CM) At Risk project delivery methods.
- 16.7.** Flexibility for alternative project delivery methods on infrastructure projects.
- 16.8.** Policies that promote marketplace equity between Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs that offer electricity customers cleaner energy, increased choice, and local control, and investor operator owned utilities and other market actors.
- 16.9.** Policies that create a favorable regulatory environment for CCA energy programs and their customers, including appropriate changes to the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) exit fee calculation.
- 16.10.** Policies that support the successful operation and local control of CCA energy programs and support the ability of Peninsula Clean Energy Authority to achieve its mission to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by expanding access to sustainable and affordable energy solutions.

- 16.11.** Opposes linking certain transportation funding with housing production. The recently approved SB 1 is intended to allocate much needed funding to address deferred maintenance of the transportation system that has occurred due to past revenues not meeting demonstrated maintenance needs. There is no nexus between maintenance of our transportation system and housing production. Withholding transportation funding to encourage housing production would have a devastating effect.



17. State Budget

The County Supports:

- 17.1.** Timely and full funding for state-mandated and partnership programs, particularly repayment of post-2004 debts and suspended mandates. The County will oppose efforts to eliminate mandate reimbursements from existing law.
- 17.2.** Increased flexibility in program and service implementation and the elimination of programs not properly funded by state and/or federal funds.
- 17.3.** The principle that reliable, predictable and equitable funding should be provided to local governments, including schools, cities, special districts and counties. This support includes the proper allocation of existing tax revenues.
- 17.4.** In concept, the reduction in funding for various programs and activities only when the concomitant requirement to provide such programs and activities is relieved. The Board has not considered what specific programs would be acceptable for reductions in funding and expressly reserves its ability to take a position on this issue should it arise during the current legislative session and any pertinent special sessions.
- 17.5.** Restoration of historic reductions in local government funding and increased flexibility in implementing and administering services.
- 17.6.** The existing 1991 realignment funding allocation formula.
- 17.7.** Improvements to the Senate Bill 90 (Chapter 1406, Statutes of 1972) mandate reimbursement process that simplify the claiming requirements, expedite the process, and provide sufficient reimbursement to counties. The County also opposes the practice of mandate suspension as a state budget solution. Local governments should be provided the opportunity to comment on proposals to suspend mandates and then be provided adequate time to end program services.
- 17.8.** Increases in alcohol taxes as well as changes in state government's business practices that lead to greater economies and improved program outcomes, should timely and full funding for programs not be maintained.
- 17.9.** Performance-based budgeting at the state level.

- 17.10.** Legislation to ensure a mechanism to enable the state to fully fund required vehicle license fees (VLF) payments to local governments. The county needs a permanent solution to the problem that arises when there are insufficient funds to cover VLF payments to local governments.



18. Tax and Finance

The County Supports:

- 18.1.** Preservation of existing revenues and revenue authority. The County opposes efforts to expand Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements, as MOEs tend to penalize more progressive counties that implement programs before the statewide program.
- 18.2.** Maintenance of property tax revenues directed to local government. The County opposes efforts to direct property tax revenues away from local government.
- 18.3.** The existing property tax allocation laws, which return surplus Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) dollars to local taxing entities. The County strongly opposes legislative actions, which would utilize ERAF for payment of state program/service obligations.
- 18.4.** Appropriate flexibility and sufficient resources to implement Proposition 19, a property tax reform measure approved by voters in November 2020.
- 18.5.** A lower voter threshold for special taxes to 55 percent.
- 18.6.** The issuance or sale of revenue bonds by the state for projects that are financed, owned, operated, or managed by the state or any joint agency that exceed \$2 billion dollars without voter approval.
- 18.7.** Efforts to allocate funding through block grants, which allow for maximum flexibility in the use of funding within designated programs.
- 18.8.** Federal funding mechanisms that allow funding to flow directly to local governments rather than through state government.
- 18.9.** Increased ability to utilize state or local matching funds to draw down additional federal funds.
- 18.10.** Economic development efforts that grow the California and local economy in a sustainable (environmental and economic) fashion.
- 18.11.** Increased funding for county infrastructure needs, should such funds be available.

- 18.12.** Collaboration with other local government entities operating in San Mateo County to allow for a countywide perspective of proposed legislation impacting the allocation/distribution of local property taxes. Local governments in San Mateo County should work together to ensure the protection of local property taxes.
- 18.13.** Continued assessment of computer programs where such programs are integral to taxable business property and are necessary for the proper functioning of that property for the purpose for which it was designed.
- 18.14.** Utilization of a valuation methodology consistent with other business personal property for assessment of commercial aircraft.



19. Transportation

The County Supports:

- 19.1.** Allocation of formulas that ensure the County receives its fair share of infrastructure bond funding by reflecting, in part, the variation in the cost of living and doing business among the state's diverse communities.
- 19.2.** Allocation of formulas that ensures San Mateo County transit agencies receive a fair share of proceeds from any new regional funding sources for operations or transit infrastructure investment.
- 19.3.** Legislation that does not alter local control, governance or funding for San Mateo County Transit agencies without the express consent of the affected San Mateo County Transit agency boards of directors.
- 19.4.** The protection from diversion or borrowing of the federal or state gas tax.
- 19.5.** Prohibitions on the delayed pass-through of state transportation funding (HUTA) to counties caused by state budget delays.
- 19.6.** Protection of dedicated statewide ongoing revenue sources, including recently approved Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Account (RMRA) funding sources that support local operations and maintenance of existing and future infrastructure needs.
- 19.7.** Updating, adjusting and/or indexing the current gas tax. Pursuing alternative funding strategies including vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- 19.8.** The Legislative Analyst's Office recommendation to require a statewide transportation needs assessment every five years, if the assessment has no fiscal impact on County funds or revenues.
- 19.9.** The implementation and funding for affordable transportation for low-income youth and families.
- 19.10.** Funding for active transportation infrastructure, education and encouragement programs, as well as bike/pedestrian improvements.
- 19.11.** Funding to promote and implement micro-mobility strategies and other emerging transportation trends.
- 19.12.** Improved safety measures for active transportation and improved transit access to reduce congestion and air pollution.
- 19.13.** Funding for adaptation of transportation systems to climate change impacts.



Federal Legislative Priorities

These are the top federal legislative policies for San Mateo County in the 117th congress second session.

Overview

As Congress reconvenes for the second session of the 117th Congress, it faces a packed agenda in a legislative year that will be shortened by the upcoming midterm elections and remains buffeted by the persistent coronavirus pandemic. The first session of the 117th Congress convenes with the Democrats assuming control of the House, the Senate and the White House for the first time in over a decade. This newfound control of the federal government will come down to Vice-President Kamala Harris's vote in the Senate, and only 11 members in the House. The last time such conditions were met was 20 years ago.

It is anticipated that COVID-19 will be the primary focus of the incoming Biden Administration. In addition, infrastructure, climate change/energy policy, and healthcare will also be at the forefront of the Biden Administration agenda. Given the new President's long-standing relationships with Democratic leaders and Congress writ large, there is some optimism that some of these key initiatives will have an opportunity to be realized in statute.

The Following is a List of Priority Areas for the County:

COVID-19/County Fiscal Stability. With critical funding for COVID-19 response running out at the end of 2020, The County will support continued COVID-19 relief/economic stimulus that will help California counties respond to and recover from the pandemic. The County will also make county fiscal relief and federal investment in other key programs major priorities for any current and/or future coronavirus response measures moving through Congress.

COVID-19/Public Health Support. The County supports federal funding in the following areas to help it respond to the COVID-19 pandemic: testing, contact tracing, vaccinations and vaccination-related activities, surveillance, containment and mitigation, and electronic health data systems, among other pandemic health support activities.

Health Care Reform Implementation. If the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the ACA in the case of *California v. Texas*, millions of Californians would lose their health insurance and millions of others would lose important protections provided under the law. For California counties, repeal of the ACA would mean one in three residents covered by Medi-Cal could lose health coverage or face substantial coverage limits. In addition, safety-net hospitals and other health providers that serve low-income individuals and families would be forced to scale back investments in health care programs and services. Finally, with more than a quarter of patients with serious mental illness relying on federal Medicaid program dollars, Medi-Cal expansion under the ACA has played a critical role in providing mental health services and substance abuse treatment to Californians, including people experiencing homelessness. The outcome of the Supreme Court case and possible Congressional action will influence the direction of potential health care policy in 2021.

The County supports the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and full funding for its administration and programs, specifically comprehensive primary care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, among others and opposes its repeal. The County supports continual improvement of the ACA by addressing unresolved issues such as the "kid glitch" and regional/cost-of-living adjustments for cost-sharing and premium support.

Of the many problem areas that patients face as they navigate the health care system, the issue of unexpectedly high medical bills has been gaining more attention as more patients and their families are impacted. The practice of "surprise medical billing" by the health care industry can be as devastating to many American families as the injury or illness. The County will vigilantly monitor legislative proposals aimed at fixing surprise medical billing, such as direct-pay methods.

The Health System opposes federal policy changes that erode the Medi-Cal program. The program's expansion and related Waivers have allowed the Health System to make major strides in providing high quality and comprehensive healthcare to the most vulnerable residents in our community. Repeal and/or changes that reduce ACA could lead to increases in the County's uninsured population, thereby, increasing the number of persons on the County's Access for Everyone (ACE) Program. It is also believed that if people lose coverage, they may only seek care under emergency circumstances, which would erode years of work to encourage access primary preventative care and result in increased emergency room visits. ~~The State has resumed efforts to finalize its proposal for the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) initiative, which was delayed in 2020 and is expected to include the State's Medicaid Sections 1115- and 1915(B) Waivers and related funding mechanisms.~~ With California having received the federal authority necessary to implement the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM), a framework that encompasses broad-based delivery system, program, and payment reform across the Medical program, the County will continue to support advocate for proposals that: 1) protect and expand Medi-Cal funding, eligibility, and covered services, including through the CalAIM initiative; and 2) educate and promote access to available health care services for immigrant families and children, such as Medi-Cal and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Medicaid. As one of the big three federal entitlement programs, the federal Medicaid program provides the critical funding for the health care safety net, which reimburses providers and hospitals for what would otherwise be unreimbursed medical care. Any cuts to Medicaid would reduce patient access to services and decrease funding to San Mateo County health programs. This would be troubling to the County because Medicaid funding reductions would also undercut local efforts to transform outreach and care with the ongoing implementation of the ACA.

The County will oppose efforts to cut Medicaid, including implementation of a block grant, and institution of a blended Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) rate, and the provision of per-capita payments based on states' historical Medicaid spending patterns in return for increased administrative flexibility in designing and administering the program. The County supports the extension of federal Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) allotments (delay cuts) to protect funding for uncompensated uninsured costs. California continues to be one of the lowest Medicaid spending states based on a per-capita basis, potentially locking the state in to a very low federal allotment. Moreover, to the extent that state administrative and benefit costs exceed what is covered by the block grant, counties are at risk of assuming the financial liability for those costs.

Overall, the County supports assuring that actions to address the federal budget deficit do not erode the strength of Medicaid or Social Security.

Health Services. The County will advocate for the advancement of preventative health care demonstrations to support wellness across multiple areas such as nutrition, schools, transportation and other infrastructure, conservation, housing, and the built environment. This includes federal proposals and initiatives to update and advance:

- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIPP)
- Older Americans Act
- Second Chance Act
- Safe and Complete Streets Act
- Livable Communities Act
- Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act
- Clean Air Act
- Women Infants and Children's Program and other efforts to promote healthy eating by the Department of Agriculture.

Specifically, the County supports establishing inflation and caseload adjustments for the federal Older Americans Act so this funding stream can keep pace with increases in cost and demand.

Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). CHIP is currently funded through FFY 2027. The County supports full funding of CHIP and continuing the percentage point boost in the federal contribution over the normal 65 percent federal match for CHIP.

Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy. The County supports efforts to maximize opportunities for reimbursement for inmate medical care, including options available under the ACA such as the Medi-Cal Inmate Claiming Program.

42 CFR Part 2. Through the CARES Act, Congress amended 42 U.S.C. § 290dd-2, the statute underlying 42 CFR Part 2, to align more closely with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). The Department of Health and Human Services is set to develop regulations to implement these changes in the Spring of 2021. The County supports the swift issuance of a rule by the HHS to assure changes initiated by the CARES Act are realized without delay. The County supports that SAMHSA's regulations mirror HIPAA to balance patient privacy and provider access to comprehensive medical information.

Child Welfare Services. The County supports increased funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care. The County also supports increased financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, and access to health care.

In addition, the County supports retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and elimination of outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances. Finally, the County supports federal funding to address the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

SNAP Funding. The County will advocate for no further reductions in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or CalFresh, which provides food subsidies to some of the neediest residents in the County. The County will also advocate for program improvements efforts to block the granting of SNAP waivers to the state.

LGBTQ Rights. The County strongly supports full human rights for LGBTQ people. The County supports the promotion of equal access to health services for LGBTQ people. Additionally, the County supports the promotion of funding for training of county personnel to address LGBTQ concerns relating to human services.

Housing and Economic Development. The County supports increased funding levels for affordable housing programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CBDG), HOME, Emergency Solution Grants (ESG), Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), and Sustainable Communities among others. The County is also very supportive of efforts to preserve the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) as it is the largest source of affordable housing construction funding and must be included in any comprehensive tax reform that unfolds under the new Congressional leadership.

The County will continue to support increased funding and unit count allocations for all federal rental or operating assistance programs including Section 8, Mainstream, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), the Family Unification Program (FUP), Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH), and Section 202.

The County will continue monitoring and advocating for federal housing programs that offer increased investment for local efforts within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Department of Commerce and its Economic Development Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the White House. Finally, the County aims to minimize the negative impacts from potential changes to the Housing Choice Voucher program on households with one or more members who lack citizenship status (i.e. Mixed Status Households) which may result in the termination of federal housing subsidy for the entire family.

State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). The County supports protection and enhancement of SCAAP funding, a key source of federal funding. The County will oppose efforts to restrict statutory language that would authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to transfer a significant percentage of SCAAP funding to other justice accounts and supports its long-term reauthorization.

Victims of Crime Act Funding (VOCA). The County supports continued and increased funding for VOCA, which is allocated to counties through competitive grants administered by Cal OES. These funds help support domestic violence shelters, services for victims of human trafficking, and other services for victims of violent crimes.

Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). The County support continued funding for VAWA grants, which fund direct services to women who are the victims of violent crime. Counties depend on VAWA funds for CBOs that provide services, including housing, treatment, and other direct-victim services.

Cannabis Policy. With the passage of Proposition 64 in November 2016, California has joined seven other states that have legalized marijuana for recreational purposes. As this change in law is not consistent with federal policy on marijuana, there will be several issues, primarily in the areas of banking, finance and taxation that will need to be addressed. The County will work through the state and its associations in seeking guidance on how to address this ongoing issue.

Property Assessed Clean Energy Program. The County supports legislative and administrative remedies that would help expand residential PACE programs.

Energy & Environment. The County will continue efforts to seek federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Commerce, Energy, Interior, Health and Human Services and Transportation to advance its environmental and sustainability goals. This will include activities to support implementation of federal clean air and clean water programs, emerging technologies development, entrepreneurship and workforce training, as well as programs to improve and sustain the built environment for business, residential and recreational areas within the County. The County will oppose actions to defund science programs that provide critical information on climate change and will continue its participation within the global effort. These include NASA satellite data on sea level changes, carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere, research on climate impacts to our ecosystems, oceans, and communities collected by the National Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey, among others. As San Mateo County continues the work of mapping its sea level rise erosion and shoreline change, as well as plans for continued analysis of the changing bay and coast side, it is critically important that these data sources be sustained.

Infrastructure. The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 provides \$973 billion over five years from Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 through FY 2026, including \$550 billion in new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power and energy, environmental remediation, public lands, broadband and resilience. As Congress works to implement IIJA, counties will be able to access transportation funds in three ways: 1) meeting certain eligibility criteria for formula funds to public transit systems and airports; 2) receiving suballocations from the State; and 3) applying directly to the U.S. Department of Transportation or the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) for competitive grant opportunities. The County will be working closely with its state and regional partners to identify and apply for IIJA funding for County projects as these dollars are made available.

The County supports enactment of a robust federal infrastructure plan, including development of a 21st-center water infrastructure, investments in school, broadband, housing, and renewable energy. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) ensured solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) through 2020. However, the federal gas tax has lost its purchasing power much like the state gas tax since it was last increased in 1991. Thus, the The County supports a dedicated federal funding for the nation's transportation needs, including local bridges, both on- and off-system, interstates, primary roads and public transportation as well as freight and pipeline safety. In addition, the

County supports further streamlining of the regulatory and project delivery processes; promoting programs that increase safety on the existing transportation system; and initiatives that protect previous and future investments via system maintenance and preservation.

The County will continue to review federal funding under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which was reauthorized in 2020 and makes funding available for disaster and construction projects on water-related infrastructure like dams and levees. The County will also continue to review the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program, the largest discretionary program within the Department of Transportation, to identify potential regional collaborations that might be able to compete effectively for funding.

Pest Prevention Programs. The County will advocate for increased funding for invasive pest exclusion and pest prevention programs, an issue of interest to the County's Agriculture, Weights and Measures Commissioner.

Weed and Invasive Plant Management. The County will support federal legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Area groups or programs for the control of harmful nonnative, invasive weed pests.

Parcel Inspection at USPS and Private Parcel Carriers. The County will support legislation or rulemaking actions that authorize county agricultural inspectors to conduct parcel inspection of "first class," "priority," or "Express" mail packages containing plant material profiled by pest detection canines.

Jet Fuel. The County will continue to monitor the Federal Aviation Administration "Final Policy Amendment" to its "Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue," first published 15 years ago in the Federal Register at 64 Fed. Reg. 7696, February 16, 1999 ("Revenue Use Policy"). The Amendment formally adopts FAA's interpretation of the Federal requirements for use of revenue derived from taxes including sales taxes on aviation fuel imposed by both airport sponsors and governmental agencies, local and State, that are non-airport operators. The rule restricts the use of local sales taxes to certain aviation-related purposes only, and its implementation is being negotiated with assistance from the state. The County will support legislation that would reverse the FAA's jet fuel tax revenue rule and support legislative efforts designed to clarify that local voter approved sales tax revenues derived from the sale of aviation fuel are not subject to provisions of federal law that require the proceeds of certain taxes to be spent on airport capital and operating costs. As reauthorization of the federal aviation programs will be required by the end of March 2018, the County will closely follow its development regarding the jet fuel revenue rule.

Taxes. Under the new Biden Administration, there is discussion to repeal the portion of the Tax Reform Act that limits personal deductions to \$10,000 on state & local taxes, as well as on real property. The County will monitor this issue closely. The County supports federal remote sales taxes policies that allow state and local governments to secure tax collection and remittance from remote sellers.

Municipal Bonds. The County supports preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds that provide critical funding for public facilities, infrastructure and development. Provisions like the tax exemption for municipal bond interest have been part of the federal tax code for over 100 years, helping to efficiently and safely finance trillions of dollars in public works projects, and were continued in the tax reform law passed at the end of 2017.

Immigration Reform. The County of San Mateo recognizes, values, and will continue to work to protect the rights of all San Mateo County residents, regardless of their ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or immigration status. Further, the County will continue to promote and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the community and provide and ensure access to quality services that benefit and enrich the lives of all County residents. Specifically, the County supports positive health conditions and due process rights for immigrants detained in detention centers. The County will oppose efforts to require it to use its resources to enforce civil federal immigration law as it believes that enforcement of federal civil immigration law is the responsibility of the federal government. The County urges Congress to continue to work towards a comprehensive immigration reform bill which creates a path to citizenship, and to protect DREAMERS—minors brought into the country by undocumented adults—from deportation.

The County supports providing legal aid to immigrant and refugee communities under threat. Additionally, the County supports a reversal of the Trump Administration's public charge rule.

Veterans. The County will advocate for administrative changes to the VA to increase the processing rate of veterans' benefits as disability compensation, pension and survivor benefits. The County will continue to support and seek increases in federal discretionary programs to assist its veterans with social service needs such as housing, workforce training and healthcare for prevention, substance abuse and mental health.

Education & Workforce Training. The County will continue its proactive outreach to support federal funding of its early childhood education programs, especially The Big Lift. The County will continue its support of federal efforts that provide ongoing and new opportunities for funding of its current initiatives in early childhood, elementary and secondary education, and will continue advocacy for public education improvements. It will also seek further workforce support for teens, high school drop outs and underemployed young adults.

Public Wi-Fi. The County continues all efforts to increase public Wi-Fi, especially for low income and/or rural residents. For this reason, the County continues its efforts with a nationwide initiative coordinated by the National Institute of Standards & Technology and the National Telecommunications & Information Administration, both of which are part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. To advance goals in this arena, the County helps lead the NIST/NTIA Public Wi-Fi Cluster as part of the leadership team, which is comprised of federal, state, private sector and non-profit organizations. As the only County government member of the leadership team, the County will be at the forefront of devising national policy to increase public private partnerships and advance public Wi-Fi access for all residents.

Net Neutrality. The County supports net neutrality—the principle that all online traffic should be treated equally—and supports laws and policies that restore all net neutrality protections.

Elections. The County supports a consistent predictable and dedicated federal funding stream to assist counties with meeting the significant federal requirements already imposed on local governments administering election. The County also supports federal efforts to combat cybersecurity threats in a way that is inclusive of county election and technology officials.

Resilience. Extreme weather events and natural disasters are occurring more frequently and becoming more severe. Among other challenges, California has been confronted with persistent drought conditions, warming temperatures, and insect infestations, all of which have led to an unprecedented tree mortality crisis. Dead and dying trees, combined with the rapid growth of the wildland urban interface, have been identified as key factors in the devastating fire seasons in recent years and will continue to increase the likelihood of more severe wildfires in the future. On the heels of historic wildfires, the County has also confronted severe winter storms, which have caused flooding, mudslides, and severe damage, the County will advocate for federal assistance and pre-disaster mitigation funding to help counties prepare for and recover from the aftermath of devastating events. While Congress approved a major disaster reform bill in 2018, FEMA has yet to implement several major provisions of the law, including one that would provide assistance to state and local governments for building code implementation and enforcement. The agency also has yet to define the terms “resilient” and “resiliency.”

Disaster Preparedness. The County supports increased federal resources to counties for disaster planning, mitigation and recovery. Counties often serve as the nation's first line of defense before and after disasters strike, thus the County supports increased federal investment in support of local emergency management capabilities that improve public safety and environmental stewardship, along with social and economic security. Finally, the County supports rapid federal reimbursement of local costs associated with major disasters and encourages the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to administer policies and regulations on a consistent manner during any presidentially declared disaster or emergency throughout the country.