AGENDA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STANDING COMMITTEE – LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER – 4th FLOOR HEARING ROOM
1115 TRUXTUN AVE.
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301

All agenda item supporting documentation is available for public review in the County Administrative Office, 1115 Truxtun Ave., 5th Floor, Bakersfield, 93301 during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following the posting of the agenda. Any supporting documentation that relates to an agenda item for an open session of any regular meeting that is distributed after the agenda is posted and prior to the meeting will also be available for review at the same location.

February 10, 2025 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:
Please click the URL to join: Microsoft Teams
Meeting ID: 219 841 917 332
Passcode: 5TC9bw6b

Or join by Phone:
+1 831-296-3421
Phone conference ID: 407 001 615#

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

2. **ROLL CALL:**

3. **Approve Legislative Program Committee meeting dates for calendar year 2025** – APPROVE

4. **2025 State and Federal Legislative Platform** – DISCUSS; MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO APPROVE

5. **Update on Federal issues of interest to the County and direct staff to act as necessary** – RECEIVE AND FILE; PROVIDE DIRECTION

6. **Update on State issues of interest to the County and direct staff to act as necessary –** RECEIVE AND FILE; PROVIDE DIRECTION

7. **Consider direction for new committee business at future meetings –** DISCUSS; PROVIDE DIRECTION

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
   This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address Committee Members on any matter not on this agenda, but under the jurisdiction of the Committee. Committee Members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Committee at a later meeting. Also, the Committee may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future

agenda. SPEAKERS ARE LIMITED TO TWO MINUTES. PLEASE STATE AND SPELL YOUR NAME BEFORE MAKING YOUR PRESENTATION –

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Americans with Disabilities Act
(Government Code Section 54954.2)

Disabled individuals who need special assistance to attend or participate in a meeting of the Board of Supervisors Standing Committee – Election Improvements may request assistance at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Fifth Floor, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, California or by calling (661) 868-3585. Every effort will be made to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities by making meeting material available in alternative formats. Requests for assistance should be made five (5) working days in advance of a meeting whenever possible.

DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Pursuant to Government Code section 84308, members of the Board of Supervisors are disqualified and not able to participate in any agenda item involving contracts (other than competitively bid, labor, or personal employment contracts), franchises, discretionary land use permits and other entitlements if the Board member received more than $250 in campaign contributions from the applicant or contractor, an agent of the applicant or contractor, or any financially interested participant who actively supports or opposes the County's decision on the agenda item since January 1, 2023. Members of the Board of Supervisors who have received, and applicants, contractors or their agents who have made, campaign contributions totaling more than $250 to a Board member since January 1, 2023, are required to disclose that fact for the official record of the subject proceeding. Disclosures must include the amount of the campaign contribution and identify the recipient Board member and may be made either in writing to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors prior to the subject hearing or by verbal disclosure at the time of the hearing.

KERN COUNTY Administrative Office

Nancy Anderson
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Item #3

February 10, 2025

Legislative Program Committee
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PROPOSED 2025 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

This is to request that the LPC review and approve the proposed 2025 Legislative Program Committee (LPC) meeting dates. The proposed meeting dates will recur on the second Monday of each month from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and are as follows:

February 10, 2025
March 10, 2025
April 14, 2025
May 12, 2025
June 9, 2025
July 14, 2025
August 11, 2025
September 8, 2025
October 13, 2025
November 10, 2025
December 8, 2025

Meetings will be held in the 4th Floor Hearing Room of the County Administrative Center and also be available virtually via the Microsoft Teams platform.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that the LPC review and approve the 2025 LPC meeting dates.

Sincerely,

Nancy Anderson
Chief Administrative Officer

NA:TB 2025 LPC Meeting Dates

cc: All County Department Heads
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Townsend Public Affairs

Item #4

February 10, 2025

Legislative Program Committee
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

PROPOSED 2025 STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

This is to request that the LPC review the attached 2025 State & Federal Legislative Platform and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve at the February 25, 2025 meeting. The primary purpose of the platform is to provide a basis for quick response by the County Administrative Office and the County's lobbying firms as issues arise. The platform also identifies the County's legislative priorities to help guide this office and County departments in recommending legislative positions.

The proposed platform has been developed in response to legislative events, broad state and federal policy initiatives, and the County's efforts to ensure equitable program and funding relationships in Sacramento and Washington D.C. In general, the platform calls for local decision making as well as the authority and financial ability to provide local services as efficiently as possible, and it states the County's legislative aim to preserve and build the County's job base and to improve the regulatory climate for business.

The platform also emphasizes the continuing need to preserve local revenues for local purposes and to provide full state and federal funding to counties for mandated programs, including adjustments that reflect the increasing cost of operating these programs. Overall, the platform will serve as a reference point as deliberations proceed on the state and federal budgets and in other policy areas, and copies will be provided to members of our delegation serving in the State Legislature and Congress.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that the LPC review the 2025 State & Federal Legislative Platform and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve the document at its February 25, 2025 meeting.

Sincerely,

Nancy Anderson
Chief Administrative Officer

NA:TB 2025 State & Federal Legislative Platform - LPC

Attachments

cc: All County Department Heads
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Townsend Public Affairs

KERN COUNTY
GROUNDED & BOUNDLESS

2025 State & Federal Legislative Platform

Feb. 10, 2025
Legislative Program Committee

1

Design overhaul and improved accessibility

- Collaboration with departments and other County staff to revise the content of the 2025 Platform.
- Concerted effort to eliminate technical jargon, reduce redundancy, and better inform the public.
- Platform will provide a means for the County to respond rapidly and decisively to proposed legislation and regulatory affairs at the state and federal level.

2

Old versus new format



State Advocacy Priorities

General Legislative Principles

The County will seek to maximize State revenues; full funding for the costs of State programs; additional funding for programs where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues; funding formulae which ensure an equitable allocation of State funding; minimize the adverse impact of State actions; achieve greater flexibility over the use of State funds; secure State assistance whenever possible, especially from non-General Fund sources, to preserve the County's property tax, sales tax, locally imposed taxes or fees, or Vehicle License Fee revenue base; oppose the shift of programs unless control is also shifted and State funding is guaranteed, and oppose new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority.

Programs, Revenue, Fees, and Taxation

- Mandated programs that are not fully funded should be made optional at the local level, and counties should have broad management authority of all mandated programs.
- Support legislation requiring the State to pay interest to counties on all delayed payments for State mandated programs.
- Support legislation to provide State constitutional protection exempting counties from incurring any costs to carry out unfunded mandates.
- Support legislation that advocates local control over program scope and implementation, including the ability to privatize or utilize contract services when it is more effective and cost-efficient to do so.
- Support legislation that reduces the administrative burdens on local government, particularly changes that simplify, consolidate, standardize, reduce, or eliminate data-gathering, reporting, and licensing requirements imposed on counties.
- Support reforms that provide greater authority to generate local revenues for discretionary services and to protect local revenue streams against State budgetary incursions.
- Require that any proposed new or increased fee must represent the actual cost of service delivery.
- Support full continuation of all dedicated realignment revenues from sales tax and Vehicle License Fees for health, mental health, and social services.
- Oppose any efforts to divert county safety behavioral health funding away from the county Behavioral Health Safety Net, including efforts targeting the Mental Health Services Act.
- Oppose any legislation that would enact an oil or gas severance tax on California producers.
- Oppose any legislation that would extend the property tax exclusion for commercial-scale solar projects or provide any such exclusion for hydrogen, direct air capture, or other clean energy industries.
- Support inclusion of County General Fund revenue backfill in the State Budget for losses caused by reductions in local property taxes due to state policies such as the extension of the solar tax exclusion and efforts to dismantle the oil and gas industry in California by denying new permits and implementing policies that restrict the extraction of oil and gas in the state.
- Oppose any legislation that would prohibit local agencies from entering into any form of agreement that would result in the payment, transfer, diversion, or rebate of local revenues to any retailer or other business in exchange for the retailer/business locating or continuing to maintain a place of business within the territorial jurisdiction of the local agency.

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STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

General Legislative Principles

The County seeks full funding for the costs of state programs; additional funding for programs where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues; funding formulae which ensure an equitable allocation of state funding; minimize the adverse impact of state actions; achieve greater flexibility over the use of state funds; secure state assistance whenever possible to preserve the County's property tax, sales tax, locally-imposed taxes, fees, and Vehicle License Fee revenue base; oppose the shift of programs unless control is also shifted and state funding is guaranteed, and oppose new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority.

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities

Public Protection

1.1 Support criminal justice system reforms that account for the unique characteristics, capacities, and environments of California's 58 counties, promote local innovation and flexibility, and foster data collection and sharing for informed decision-making.	1.4 Include local jurisdictions in state-level discussions and decision-making processes regarding changes to the justice system and adopt policies that support incremental change.
1.2 Require any legislation that significantly impacts the prosecution/defense of criminal cases or the overall administration of justice to be accompanied by adequate funding to local district attorneys and public defenders in the performance of their duties.	1.5 Support legislation that provides sufficient funding for local pretrial services rendered by probation departments.
1.3 Require any legislation or voter approved measure that seeks to increase penalties or add treatment, specialty court, or other requirements to criminal offense convictions or adjudications that require monitoring, supervision, and oversight to be accompanied by adequate funding for local agencies.	1.6 Support legislation that provides bond options and other creative and collaborative public financing mechanisms for the renovation and construction of modern juvenile justice facilities.

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3

Strategic Priorities



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The mission of the County of Kern is to exceed the expectations of the communities we serve, changing the way they feel about government, those who manage it, and the services it provides. In alignment with key focus areas established in the County's Strategic Plan, the Legislative Platform seeks to guide legislation that will support the County's goals of maintaining:

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities: Improve health outcomes for all people and neighborhoods and make Kern among the safest communities in the Central Valley to own a business and raise a family. Continue to pursue compassionate homelessness initiatives in collaboration with our cities and community partners, and strengthen our safety net to support those in need.

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality: Make responsible and efficient use of public funds and develop and grow a thriving and resilient economy.

Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability: Invest in physical spaces and cutting-edge technology, provide robust infrastructure and pioneering land-use policies to enable vibrant and sustainable communities.



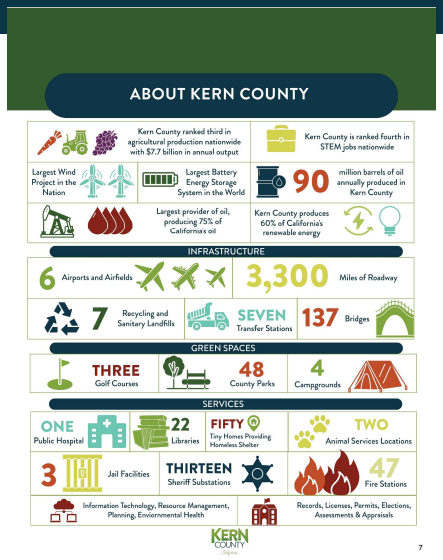
9

Focus on 3 core pillars:

- Healthy, safe, and resilient communities
- Fiscal responsibility and economic vitality
- Reliable infrastructure and sustainability

4

Economic drivers and the Kern way of life

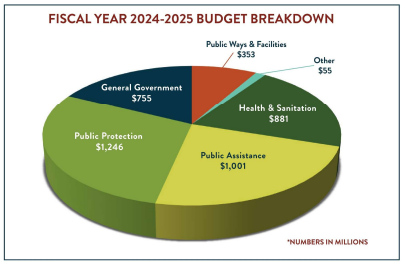


- Highlight Kern's economic staples and output, public infrastructure, and services aimed at enhancing our quality of life.

5

What a government's budget says about its priorities…





CONTACTS

COUNTY STAFF
Thomas Brown
Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs
1115 Truxtun Ave., 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-3159
BrownT@KernCounty.com

STATE ADVOCATES
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Paul Yoder
Chief Lobbyist
1415 L Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814
Paul@SYASLpartners.com

FEDERAL ADVOCATES
Townsend Public Affairs
Ben Goldeen
Chief Lobbyist
600 Pennsylvania Ave SE, Suite 360
Washington, D.C. 20003
BGoldeen@Townsendpa.com

KERN COUNTY

6

- Provide a simplified budget breakdown to help the public connect local spending to legislative and regulatory priorities.

6

State and Federal budget requests



STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET REQUESTS
Animal Control vehicles - $1.47M
Animal Control clinic and shelter equipment - $600,000
District Attorney criminal division equipment - $826,000
District Attorney forensic science lab equipment - $600,000
Probation Department bullet proof vests - $14,000
Sheriff's Office bullet proof vests and helmets - $390,000
Sheriff's Office helicopter - $6.4M
Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles - $1.2M
Fire Department helicopter - $13M
Fire Department bulldozer w/trailer - $900,000
County First Responder Communications Project radio equipment - $1.5M
Veterans Services parking lot repaving and striping - $110,000
Parks and Recreation improvements - $2M

- Finding additional resources with the aid of our state and federal representatives.
- Striving to enhance quality of life for our residents.

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8

STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

General Legislative Principles

The County seeks full funding for the costs of state programs; additional funding for programs where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues; funding formulae which ensure an equitable allocation of state funding; minimize the adverse impact of state actions; achieve greater flexibility over the use of state funds; secure state assistance whenever possible to preserve the County's property tax, sales tax, locally imposed taxes, fees, and Vehicle License Fee revenue base; oppose the shift of programs unless control is also shifted and state funding is guaranteed, and oppose new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority.

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities

Public Protection:

1.1 Support criminal justice system reforms that account for the unique characteristics, capacities, and environments of California's 58 counties, promote local innovation and flexibility, and foster data collection and sharing for informed decision-making~~System and process changes in the criminal justice system must recognize that the 58 California counties have unique characteristics, differing capacities, and diverse environments. Programs should be designed to promote innovation at the local level and permit maximum flexibility, so that services can best target individual community needs and capacities. Data collection and sharing is additionally critical as counties implement new criminal justice efforts~~.

1.2 Require any legislation that significantly impacts the prosecution/defense of criminal cases or the overall administration of justice to be accompanied by adequate funding to local district attorneys and public defenders in the performance of their duties.

1.3 Require any legislation or voter approved measure~~action~~ that seeks to increase penalties or add treatment, specialty court, or other requirements to criminal offense convictions or adjudications that require monitoring, supervision, and oversight to be accompanied by adequate funding for local agencies.

1.4 Include local jurisdictions in state-level discussions and decision-making processes regarding changes to the justice system and adopt policies that support incremental change.

1.5 Support legislation that provides sufficient funding for local pretrial services rendered by probation departments.

1.6 Support legislation that provides bond options and other creative and collaborative public financing mechanisms for the renovation and construction of modern juvenile justice facilities~~ that accommodate more therapeutics and rehabilitation~~.

1.7 Ensure the coroner can operate independently, conduct investigations, and that each board of supervisors retains the authority to decide whether to have an independent coroner, a combined sheriff-coroner, or a medical examiner~~Support the independent and investigative function of the coroner. The decision as to whether this responsibility should be fulfilled by an independent coroner, sheriff-coroner combination, or a medical examiner must be left to the individual boards of supervisors~~.

1.8 ~~Existing c~~Corrections realignment mandates created by legislation or voter approved measure must deliver sufficient resources to counties for adult and juvenile offenders ~~created by enactment of AB 109 and SB 823~~. Allocation of public safety realignment funds to counties should be based on the number of offenders each county must supervise and each county's associated costs.

~~1.8~~1.9 Support ~~legislation and state action that seeks~~ protection and enhancement~~s~~ of ~~the SB 678 program and J~~juvenile ~~J~~justice funding ~~Realignment Block Grant,~~ including review of the ~~statutory~~ methodologies~~y~~ for calculating incentive payments to probation departments ~~consistent with adopted policies and principles~~.

~~1.9~~1.10Support more education and training of inmates to reduce recidivism.

~~1.10~~1.11 Support efforts at the state and federal level to permit local governments to access third-party payments for health care provided in detention facilities, including medical services provided for those who are accused, but not yet convicted.

~~1.11~~1.12 Support efforts to ensure continuity of benefits for those detained in county detention facilities – adult and juvenile – and for swift reenrollment in the appropriate benefits program upon a detainee's release.

~~1.12~~1.13 Support legislation and state expenditures to promote local law enforcement training, to aid in drug and rural crime prevention, to bolster juvenile justice intervention and prevention efforts, to counteract and prevent gang violence, and to help prepare and equip local law enforcement agencies to fulfill their role in preventing and responding to foreign and domestic terrorist attacks.

~~1.13~~1.14 Support legislation that improves the safety of peace officers and provides sufficient autonomy to local law enforcement agencies to carry out their duties.

~~1.14~~1.15 Support amendments to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) "Gray Book" calculations to adequately reimburse counties for local fire protection resources allocated to State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands and extend the duration of the budgeted and peak fire season to acknowledge California's year-round threat of catastrophic wildfire.

~~1.15~~1.16 Support legislative and budgetary efforts to fund Cal Fire and local fire protection agencies to aid in the removal of dead or dying trees due to the drought and subsequent bark beetle infestation of California's forests.

~~1.16~~1.17 Support administrative improvements in both Cal OES and Cal Fire that result in timely reimbursement of County Fire invoices.

Health & Human Services:

2.1 Support improved funding formulas and annual adjustments for legislatively mandated programs including Foster Care, Child Welfare Services, Child Support Services, CalWORKs, Adoptions, Adult Protective Services, CalFresh, and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). Funding for these services must cover county costs to avoid backfilling funding gaps with limited local resources or cutting services.

2.2 Support legislation that provides sufficient program flexibility to coordinate and consolidate the delivery of services to children, adults, disabled individuals, senior citizens, and veterans as cost-effectively as possible.

2.3 Support increased State subvention of County Veterans Service Offices.

2.4 Support reimbursement that is proportional to the health care burdens of counties having unusual levels of poverty and uninsured populations.

2.5 Support legislation and budget actions that enhance prevention, intervention, diversion, and housing services for mentally ill and chemically dependent individuals as well as delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors.

2.6 Support funding for substance use prevention, intervention, and treatment aimed at combating the ongoing opioid crisis and diverting individuals from the criminal justice system.

2.7 Secure dedicated, flexible funding to support short-term housing for individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders transitioning from homelessness, incarceration, or acute care settings, ensuring full reimbursement to counties for housing and related supportive services ~~housing subsidy pool funding for homeless individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance used disorders and individuals being released or diverted from the prison system~~.

2.8 Support the establishment of a Supportive Living Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide funding for~~grants to help secure and maintain~~ housing and transitional living services for justice-involved young adults 18 to 24 years of age.

2.9 Support legislation to develop county ~~behavioral health~~ funding for mandated ~~increased staffing and support for the~~ implementation of the involuntary commitment program for gravely disabled individuals~~SB 43~~, including but not limited to, behavioral health crisis and substance use services, ~~C~~conservators ~~O~~offices, ~~C~~county ~~C~~counsels, ~~O~~office of ~~P~~patients' ~~R~~rights, and ~~H~~hospital ~~E~~emergency ~~D~~departments. ~~Support supplemental legislation to SB43 that outlines the payment reimbursement process and rate system for substance use only services in the involuntary crisis continuum~~~~integrated school-based behavioral health services with full reimbursement to counties for services~~.

2.10~~9~~ Support legislation that allows for greater local county discretion in the use of behavioral health~~BHSA~~ funding to address local needs and priorities with regards to treatment and housing~~and funding that strengthens the ability of county behavioral health agencies to partner with schools to provide critical school-based services and legislation that strengthens the ability of county behavioral health systems to serve foster youth, including youth placed outside of the county~~.

2.11~~0~~ Support legislation that provides for transparency and accountability by the state regarding timelines for state licensure and certification of new behavioral health programming and facilities~~Oppose any effort to divert Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to new and existing state services instead of the local services for which the funding was designated by California voters~~.

2.12~~1~~ Support funding to provide Medi-Cal match dollars to support operational costs of expanded behavioral health services, including crisis and acute care~~data-driven, distinctly measurable, timely, and clear reporting standards, including reversion timelines, for MHSA expenditures with guidance from the Department of Health Care Services on all reporting standards, deadlines, and formats. Any development or update to reporting or outcome standards should be clearly established with robust county stakeholder engagement, keeping the needs of local communities at the forefront without disruption to current programming levels~~.

~~2.12 Secure funding to implement the Peer Support Specialist certification program to diversify the county behavioral workforce and expand the use of peer support services in Medi-Cal.~~

2.13 Support legislation that allows for improved standards for calculating state reimbursement for Medi-Cal services~~new county behavioral health funding for acquisition and rehabilitation to address short-term crisis stabilization, acute needs, peer respite, and other clinically~~

~~enriched longer-term treatment and rehabilitation opportunities for individuals with behavioral health needs in the least restrictive and least costly setting~~.

~~2.14 Support legislation to develop county behavioral health statewide outcomes and performance measures to increase the understanding of the impact of the county behavioral health delivery system.~~

2.1~~4~~5 Oppose~~Support~~ legislation that creates additional mandates and duties for county behavioral health without the provision of adequate funding to carry out services~~for Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act data collection to better understand the behavioral health needs of those placed on emergency holds~~.

2.1~~5~~6 Oppose legislation that creates additional duties, mandates, and requirements for public guardians, conservators, and administrators without the provision of adequate funding to carry out these services. Any proposal from the Legislature to expand the responsibility of county public conservators of ~~LPS~~ "gravely disabled" individuals must come with ~~additional~~ funding and time for the system to treat and manage the expanded population.

~~2.17 Support for adequate startup and ongoing funding to cover county cost impacts related to the implementation of the CARE Court program. Consideration for funding requirements across multiple county departments including behavioral health, public defender, county counsel, public guardians and conservators, and county social services along with outcomes that are practical and achievable must be prioritized by the Legislature.~~

2.1~~6~~8 Support legislation that allows local jurisdictions, through public-private partnerships and other creative means, the flexibility and funding to explore and implement best practices aimed at addressing homelessness.

~~2.19 Advocate for CalAIM implementation funding to create incentives that help county behavioral health agencies reach specific milestones in the implementation of CalAIM, including coding and medical necessity-related infrastructure changes.~~

2.17~~20~~ Advocate for current probation clients and new probation clients to have continued access to Targeted Care Management who are not enrolled in the Enhanced Case Management program.

~~2.21 Advocate for more commercial coverage from health plans in California to cover behavioral health needs.~~

2.18~~22~~ Advocate for and support legislative, administrative, and budgetary efforts that modernize the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) funding allocation methodology and secure equitable child support program funding to assist families and children in achieving financial self-sufficiency.

2.19~~23~~ Support legislation enhancing the flexibility of the child support program in establishing, enforcing, and collecting child support orders.

2.20~~24~~ Support legislation promoting equal access to justice through greater efficiency and broad delivery of Child Support Services tailored to the unique needs of parents and families using available and emerging technology and innovations.

2.2~~1~~5 Support ongoing efforts by the Department of Child Support Services to expand collaborative community and supportive-services partnerships that broaden program awareness to the public, help parents and families succeed, and reduce poverty.

~~2.226 Support legislation that provides sufficient program flexibility and ongoing funding to cover the cost of coordinating and providing robust services to children and families served by Child Support Services.~~

2.22~~37~~ Restore current funding and support future allocations that are equitable and representative of service-level demand for the California Works Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Single Allocation.

2.2348 Oppose efforts to implement new In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provisions that adjust the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) without simultaneously allocating offsetting revenue for counties.

2.2459 Support increased funding for senior nutrition that will allow more adults over age 60 to receive meals.

2.252630 Support additional funding to Adult Protective Services to prevent elder/dependent abuse, self-neglect, and scams.

2.262731 Support legislation that provides local health authorities with standardized methodologies for accurately testing and reporting cases of Valley Fever and promotes a collaborative relationship between state and local officials to educate, raise awareness for, and eradicate the disease.

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality

Programs, Revenues, Fees, and Taxation:

3.1 Mandated programs that are not fully funded should be made optional at the local level, and counties should have broad management authority of all mandated programs.

3.2 Support legislation requiring the State to pay interest to counties on all delayed payments for State mandated programs.

3.3 Support legislation to provide State constitutional protection exempting counties from incurring any costs to carry out unfunded mandates.

3.4 Support legislation that advocates local control over program scope and implementation, including the ability to privatize or utilize contract services when it is more effective and cost-efficient to do so.

3.5 Support legislation that reduces the administrative burdens on local government, particularly changes that simplify, consolidate, standardize, reduce, or eliminate data-gathering, reporting, and licensing requirements imposed on counties.

3.6 Support reforms that provide greater authority to generate local revenues for discretionary services and to protect local revenue streams against State budgetary incursions.

3.7 Require that any proposed new or increased fee must represent the actual cost of service delivery.

3.8 Support full continuation of all dedicated realignment revenues from sales tax and Vehicle License Fees for health, mental health, and social services.

3.9 Oppose any efforts to divert county safety behavioral health funding away from the county Behavioral Health Safety Net, including efforts targeting the Mental Health Services Act.

3.10 Oppose any legislation that would enact an oil or gas severance tax on California producers.

3.11 Oppose any legislation that would extend the property tax exclusion for commercial-scale solar projects or provide any such exclusion for hydrogen, direct air capture, or other clean energy industries.

3.12 Support inclusion of County General Fund revenue backfill in the State Budget for losses caused by reductions in local property taxes due to state policies such as the extension of the solar tax exclusion and efforts to dismantle the oil and gas industry in California by denying new permits and implementing policies that restrict the extraction of oil and gas in the state.

3.13 Oppose any legislation that would prohibit local agencies from entering into any form of agreement that would result in the payment, transfer, diversion, or rebate of local revenues

to any retailer or other business in exchange for the retailer/business locating or continuing to maintain a place of business within the territorial jurisdiction of the local agency.

3.14 Oppose any legislation that reallocates, redistributes, or otherwise alters the collection of local tax revenues from retailers/businesses that serve as the place of sale of tangible property delivered to and received by purchasers in the territorial jurisdiction of another local agency.

Economic Development:

4.1 Oppose regulatory barriers including permitting issues, fees, and taxes on businesses in California and the streamlining of government to improve business startups and job creation and retention.

4.2 Support manufacturing retention and expansion programs as well as tools to create and expand manufacturing jobs and capacity throughout Kern and California.

4.3 Support the Office of Military Base Retention and Reuse to provide ongoing assistance and support to communities with closed bases, as well as communities with active installations, to ensure the continued viability, retention, and overall health of military communities in California.

4.4 Support the formation of a California Space and/or Aerospace Commission to support the health and competitiveness of space, aerospace, and aviation industries in California and serve to enhance the business climate and opportunities for marketing, visibility, business attraction, and retention in these burgeoning industries.

4.5 Support Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (iBank) mission to issue tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds, provide financing to public agencies, provide credit enhancements, acquire or lease facilities, and leverage state and federal funds while also providing low-cost financing to public agencies for infrastructure projects that help create jobs in Kern and California.

4.6 Support Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) as program links between federal, state, educational, and private resources designed for small businesses and one-stop access to free business counseling, planning, marketing, and training programs.

4.7 Support tourism efforts to attract tourist dollars to Kern and efforts to promote agricultural, historic, and natural resources tourism throughout the County.

4.8 Support efforts to retain film production in the State and County, and continued collaboration between the State and the efforts of regional and local film commissions.

4.9 Support adequate and efficient electrical grid and transmission infrastructure development that provides timely electrical service to customers and electrification of new projects.

4.10 Support legislation that protects and enhances the viability and competitiveness of domestic agricultural and livestock commodity production systems.

Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability

Land Use:

5.1 Support legislation that promotes local land use authority and that authorizes, but does not mandate, the formation of regional alliances.

5.2 Support legislation that focuses on innovative ways to spur traditional and affordable housing development to meet local housing demands.

Environmental Quality:

6.1 Retain the ability to manage programs efficiently, cost-effectively and without excessive permitting requirements.

6.2 Support streamlining of environmental regulations and consolidation of permitting to reduce costs and unnecessary delays.

6.3 Support legislative reforms that will prevent the California Environmental Quality Act from being used to halt environmentally sound projects and provide for reasonable and appropriate exemptions.

6.4 Support the implementation of the State Endangered Species Acts that balances social and economic benefits with species protection and ensures that policies are based on good science.

6.5 Support the creation of a statewide commission to address recycling and waste diversion goals and the significant challenges posed by mandated organic waste facilities and operations~~SB 1383 (Chapters 395, 2016)~~.

6.6 Support a flexible approach to addressing state climate change initiatives that use~~s~~ incentives to meet technically achievable goals ~~in reducing emissions~~.

Energy:

7.1 Oppose legislation that seeks to phase out fossil fuels.

7.2 Oppose legislation that imposes additional taxes or monetary penalties on oil and gas production.

7.3 Oppose legislation that promulgates redundant and unnecessary regulation of the oil and gas well permitting processes.

7.4 Oppose legislation that seeks to supplant local permitting and siting of renewable energy facilities with processes managed and administered by State regulators.

7.5 Support legislation that enables local jurisdictions to site, permit as approve or deny, and impose necessary mitigation for carbon capture and sequestration projects, direct air capture projects, hydrogen, CO_2 pipelines, and any other method of carbon management.

7.6 Support restoring counties' authority to assess alternative energy facilities, such as large-scale commercial solar, which currently benefit from assessment exclusions and oppose efforts to exempt or exclude other renewable energy facilities from county property tax assessment.

7.7 Support the procurement of agricultural wood waste and other biomass baseload power by electrical utilities and other load-serving entities in California.

7.8 Support legislation that seeks greater transparency, oversight, and adequate compensation to property owners (homes and businesses) for the disruptions caused by Investor-Owned Utility Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events.

Water & Agriculture:

8.1 Support stable water supplies for urban and agricultural users in the County and expand facilities for storing, banking, conveying, distributing, conserving, and reclaiming water; flood control and storm water management, and enhancing and restoring wetlands and open space.

8.2 Support the water infrastructure funding and any legislation that seeks to improve water conveyance restoration to the Kern-Friant Canal and other projects that furnish an adequate supply of water to Kern and throughout California.

8.3 Support a Delta conveyance system to deliver water to the California Aqueduct ~~while protecting the Delta ecosystem~~.

8.4 Support CEQA exemption for certain water infrastructure improvements/developments.

8.5 Support legislative efforts that enable counties to successfully implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and promote water conservation issues and the development of additional stormwater and water quality funding tools.

8.6 Oppose legislation that adds additional administrative or legal burdens to local water well permitting and local groundwater management efforts.

8.7 Support legislative and regulatory actions that protect and enhance the county's agricultural resources, agritourism, and preserve its ranching and agricultural heritage.

8.8 Support restoration of Williamson Act subvention payments to encourage farmland and open space preservation or modification of the program to allow more flexibility for landowners to find alternative uses for property with water limitations.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

9.1 Support legislation that provides equitable State funding for roads, highways, airports, and public transit and that promotes the timely development of local transportation projects at counties' discretion.

9.2 Support continued State funding and assistance formulas for grade separation projects, maintaining existing funding levels that ensure adequate resources are available to counties for road maintenance, and state traffic congestion relief projects.

9.3 Oppose legislation that shifts taxation from fuel sales taxes, which are constitutionally guaranteed for local transportation.

9.4 Support the equitable and responsible deployment of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure that preserves local jurisdictions' ability to negotiate on behalf of the public interest.

9.5 Support the immediate abandonment of the California High-Speed Rail Project and reassignment and/or reappropriation of remaining State funds to local projects and programs that will provide immediate benefit to Kern County residents.

9.6 Oppose enforcement of the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation on local governments unless adequate funding is provided by the state for implementation.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

General Legislative Principles

The federal government should recognize the inalienable right of state and local governments to participate in the decision-making process of a federal system. It should further recognize that because local government is the closest to the citizenry, it is often best equipped to deliver services and administer programs. Strong county government is an essential component and partner in the effective operation of national-state-local government activities. The County will seek to support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding; support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large rural counties; oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County; oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County; support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds; support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments; and oppose Federal preemption of state and local government authority.

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities

Public Protection:

10.1 Support increased Federal expenditures to assist local law enforcement agencies with crime prevention and prosecution, technology improvements, forensic science, and training.

10.2 Support increased Federal expenditures to help prepare and equip local law enforcement agencies to fulfill their role in preventing and responding to foreign and domestic terrorist attacks.

10.3 Support standardized guidelines for consent decrees and stipulated judgements across the nation to create consistency among monitorships, minimize costs, and avoid conflicts of interest by following the best practices established and implemented by the U.S. Department of Justice ensuring compliance with such agreements are attainable, effective, and affordable.

10.43 Support Federal policies that recognize and enhance the safety of people and the livability of communities by dedicating significant Federal resources for disaster planning, mitigation and recovery that are provided directly to both state and local governments. These resources should provide for coordinated planning and education and should encourage the use of innovative approaches that result in positive changes.

10.54 Support changes in current Federal policy that would allow a person receiving Federal benefits who has been charged with a crime, but not convicted, to continue to be eligible for entitlements – including, but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Veterans Administration health care

and disability insurance, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits – until such time as they may be convicted and sentenced to an institution.

10.65 Advocate for full Federal reimbursement of state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented immigrants through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Although it is the Federal Government's responsibility to protect and secure our nation's borders, counties incur millions of dollars in un-reimbursed expenses each year as a result of housing undocumented individuals who violate state or local laws.

10.76 Petition Congress to continue providing adequate funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to support local domestic violence shelters, services for victims of human trafficking, and other victims of violent crime.

10.87 Support continued efforts for criminal justice reform, particularly legislation such as the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program~~Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act~~ (JMHCP~~MIOTCRA~~) aimed at reducing the significant number of mentally ill individuals admitted to local jails each year.

10.98 Support Federal grants aimed at supplementing opioid abuse prevention and treatment activities.

10.109 Support expenditures to assist county public safety agencies in preparing and executing an early warning system and evacuation plan for communities downstream from the Lake Isabella Dam, which is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

10.1~~0~~ Support increased Federal efforts to prevent and respond to wildland fires through local assistance and through active and robust fuel management programs aimed at promoting healthy forests.

10.1~~2~~1 Support administrative improvements in the U.S. Forest Service that result in timely reimbursement of County Fire invoices.

Health & Human Services:

11.1 Support federal healthcare reform that provides adequate ongoing funding to California's rural and safety-net hospitals, ensuring they can care for indigent and uninsured populations. Advocate for reimbursement that reflects the healthcare burdens of counties with high levels of poverty and uninsured residents~~Federal health care reform that ensures hospitals operating as California's safety net receive sufficient continued Federal funding to care for the indigent and uninsured populations they are mandated to serve~~.

11.2 Support federal-state-local partnership for financing and delivering Medicaid services, including the 340B drug program.

11.3 Support Federal legislation that provides flexibility to coordinate and consolidate the delivery of health and human services as cost-effectively as possible, as well as sufficient funding to fulfill mandated responsibilities in these areas.

11.4 Support increased Federal funding for public health activities such as detecting and combating bioterrorism and pandemic disease, immunizations, maternal and child health, and food safety.

~~11.5 Support funding for emergency preparedness and response, trauma care, and health care for the uninsured.~~

~~11.6 Support reimbursement that is proportional to the health care burdens of counties having unusual levels of poverty and uninsured populations.~~

11.5~~7~~ Support funding aimed at diverting mentally ill and chemically dependent individuals from the criminal justice system and into behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment.

~~11.8 Support funding for substance use prevention, intervention, and treatment aimed at combating the ongoing opioid crisis.~~

~~11.9 Oppose proposals that would increase the County's unreimbursed costs of providing and administering health and human services, such as health care for uninsured or indigent residents.~~

11.~~6~~10 Support Federal legislation that improves access to health care for veterans by bringing primary and specialty care services closer to the patient, reducing wait times, and providing easy to understand medical and administrative patient information.

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality

Programs, Revenues, Fees, and Taxation:

12.1 Support Federal efforts to address certain domestic needs in partnership with counties and that adequately provide for county administrative costs, provide flexibility to adjust to local needs and circumstances, provide for long-term program planning, and provide for program stability.

12.2 Support government reform that shares the benefits of the federal government's taxing ability with state and local government in a more equitable and non-restrictive manner. When possible, shared revenues should be provided in the form of block grants.

12.3 Support the maintenance and development of state and local infrastructure through federal tax exemptions for state and municipal debt and by special taxing and expenditure programs to meet priority needs. Kern supports the right of counties to issue governmental debt for essential public services by marketing bonds to investors with interest on such bonds remaining totally exempt from federal taxation.

12.4 Support full payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) whenever the federal government removes or withholds otherwise productive property from the property tax rolls. PILT payments should receive full cost of living adjustments annually and include active military installations in the payment formula.

~~12.5 Support continued full funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program by which local government is reimbursed for the cost of providing services to property tax-exempt Federal lands and installations.~~

~~12.6 Support PILT amendments to include active military installations in the payment formula.~~

12.~~5~~7 Support Federal expenditures that fully utilize the flight and weapons research, development, test, and evaluation capabilities of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and Edwards Air Force Base.

Community Development & Workforce Investment:

13.1 Support Federal investment in local infrastructure and workforce training.

13.2 Support Federal investment programs that target economic development and workforce training in communities experiencing higher levels of poverty and chronically high unemployment.

13.3 Support full and continued funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), public and assisted housing, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.

13.4 Support Federal funding for local education and workforce training investment that matches the requirements for growing and emerging industries.

13.5 Support an improved and streamlined regulatory climate for private enterprise.

13.6 Support legislation, policies, and programs, including Opportunity Zones and other designations, that expand community revitalization and economic development tools.

Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability

Environmental Quality:

14.1 Support streamlining environmental regulations.

14.2 Support Federal Endangered Species Act amendments that balance social and economic benefits ~~with species protection~~ and ensure that policies are based on good science.

Energy:

15.1 Support regulatory streamlining and exemptions to speed the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities that will help to increase U.S. energy independence and support business and all forms of energy production.

15.2 Support Federal legislation that encourages the exploration and use of American energy resources to help reduce the price of energy and increase local economic output.

Water & Agriculture:

16.1 Support federal advocacy for stable water supplies for urban and agricultural users in the County and enactment of Federal appropriations to assist funding of programs that expand facilities for storing, banking, conveying, distributing, conserving, and reclaiming water; flood control and storm water management, and enhancing and restoring wetlands and open space.

16.2 Support legislation to provide funding for renewal, enhancement, and maintenance of community potable water systems.

16.3 Support efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to rewrite the Waters of the U.S. rule to ensure that the rule provides clarity, and the agencies consult with state and local governments.

16.4 Support policies that increase the export of agricultural commodities and development of trade policies with foreign governments that expedite new market access for commodities grown in Kern County.

16.5 Support the implementation of comprehensive and permanent immigration reform, including the enhancement of the H-2A program to promote year-round employment opportunities to fulfill the needs of Kern County agriculture.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

17.1 Support legislation to increase, streamline, and improve flexibility of Federal funding for the repair and maintenance of roads, highways, airports, and public transit and that promotes the timely development of local transportation projects at local government's discretion.

17.2 Support Federal investment in local infrastructure and actively advocate for new revenues to bolster the county road systems ~~through programs such as the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA) and the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant program~~.

17.3 Support the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and actively engage in legislative efforts to increase Federal funding for local airports, including funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).

17.4 Oppose policies that promote urban or environmental encroachment upon the future ability of our military installations to fulfill missions critical to national defense.

2025

STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM





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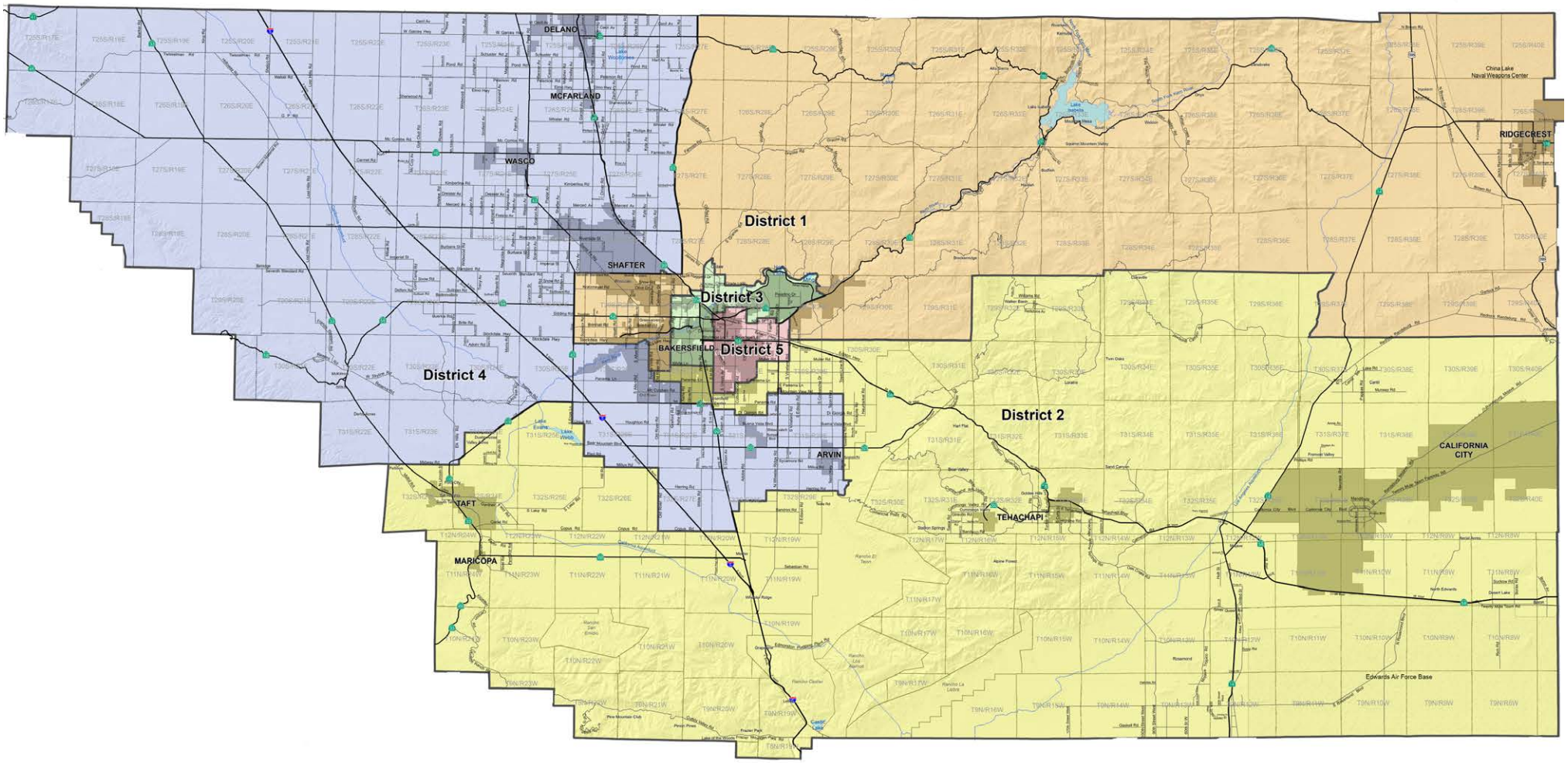
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KERN COUNTY SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS



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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Supervisor Phillip Peters
First District



Supervisor Jeff Flores
Third District



Supervisor Chris Parlier
Second District



Supervisor David Couch, Vice Chairman
Fourth District



Supervisor Leticia Perez, Chair
Fifth District

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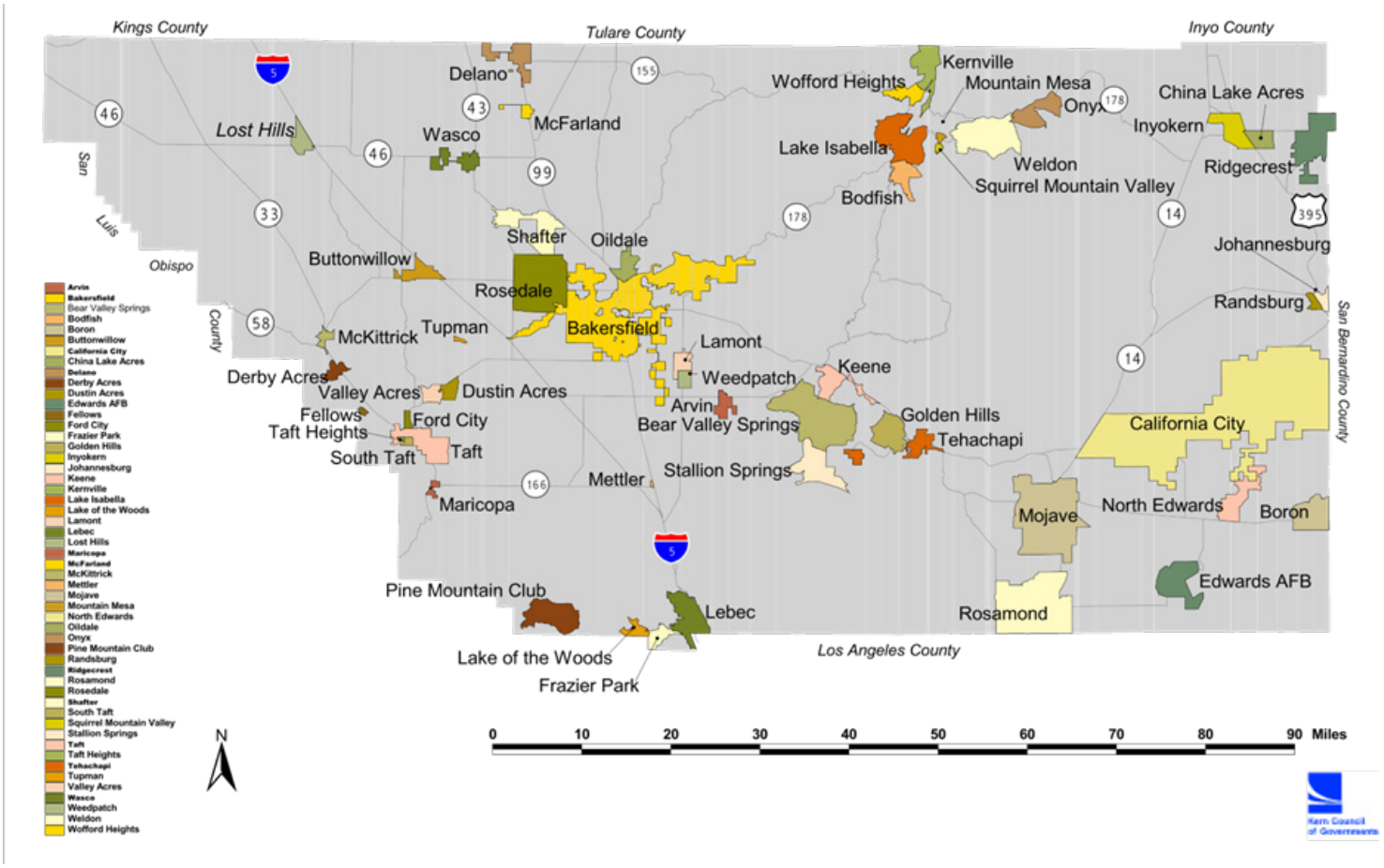


ABOUT KERN COUNTY

OUR COUNTY AND COMMUNITY

Kern County is a general law county with a rapidly growing population that now stands at approximately 917,000. Situated at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, Kern County has more than 8,000 square miles of valley farmland, foothills, mountains, and the Mojave Desert. The county's economy relies primarily on agriculture, petroleum extraction, and the development of renewable energy (solar, wind, and battery storage) and emerging energy technology (carbon capture and sequestration, direct air capture, lithium mining operations, and hydrogen production). There is also a strong aviation, aerospace, and military presence evidenced by Edwards Air Force Base, the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station, and the Mojave Air and Space Port.

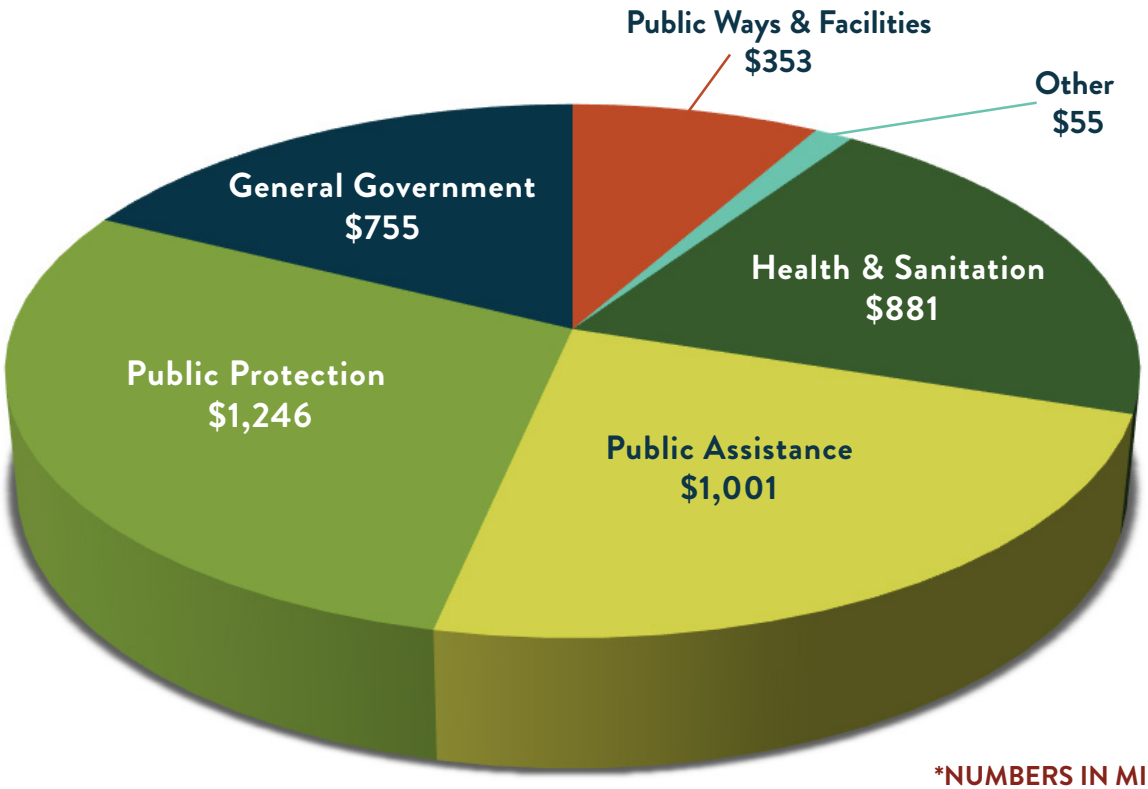
As a full-service community, Kern County recognizes the need for active legislative engagement at the state and federal levels to protect and enhance the interests of Kern County's residents and businesses. Accordingly, County officials maintain close relationships with state and federal representatives to advocate, influence, and monitor pertinent legislation.





ABOUT KERN COUNTY

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET BREAKDOWN



*NUMBERS IN MILLIONS

CONTACTS

COUNTY STAFF

Thomas Brown
Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs
1115 Truxtun Ave., 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301
(661) 868-3159
BrownT@KernCounty.com

STATE ADVOCATES

Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Paul Yoder
Chief Lobbyist
1415 L Street, Suite 1000
Sacramento, CA 95814
Paul@SYASLpartners.com

FEDERAL ADVOCATES

Townsend Public Affairs
Ben Goldeen
Chief Lobbyist
600 Pennslyvania Ave SE, Suite 360
Washington, D.C. 20003
BGoldeen@Townsendpa.com

KERN COUNTY
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ABOUT KERN COUNTY

Kern County ranked third in agricultural production nationwide with $7.7 billion in annual output

Kern County is ranked fourth in STEM jobs nationwide

Largest Wind Project in the Nation

Largest Battery Energy Storage System in the World

90 million barrels of oil annually produced in Kern County

Largest provider of oil, producing 75% of California's oil

Kern County produces 60% of California's renewable energy

INFRASTRUCTURE

6 Airports and Airfields

3,300 Miles of Roadway

7 Recycling and Sanitary Landfills

SEVEN Transfer Stations

137 Bridges

GREEN SPACES

THREE Golf Courses

48 County Parks

4 Campgrounds

SERVICES

ONE Public Hospital

22 Libraries

FIFTY Tiny Homes Providing Homeless Shelter

TWO Animal Services Locations

3 Jail Facilities

THIRTEEN Sheriff Substations

47 Fire Stations

Information Technology, Resource Management, Planning, Enviornmental Health

Records, Licenses, Permits, Elections, Assessments & Appraisals

KERN COUNTY - California -



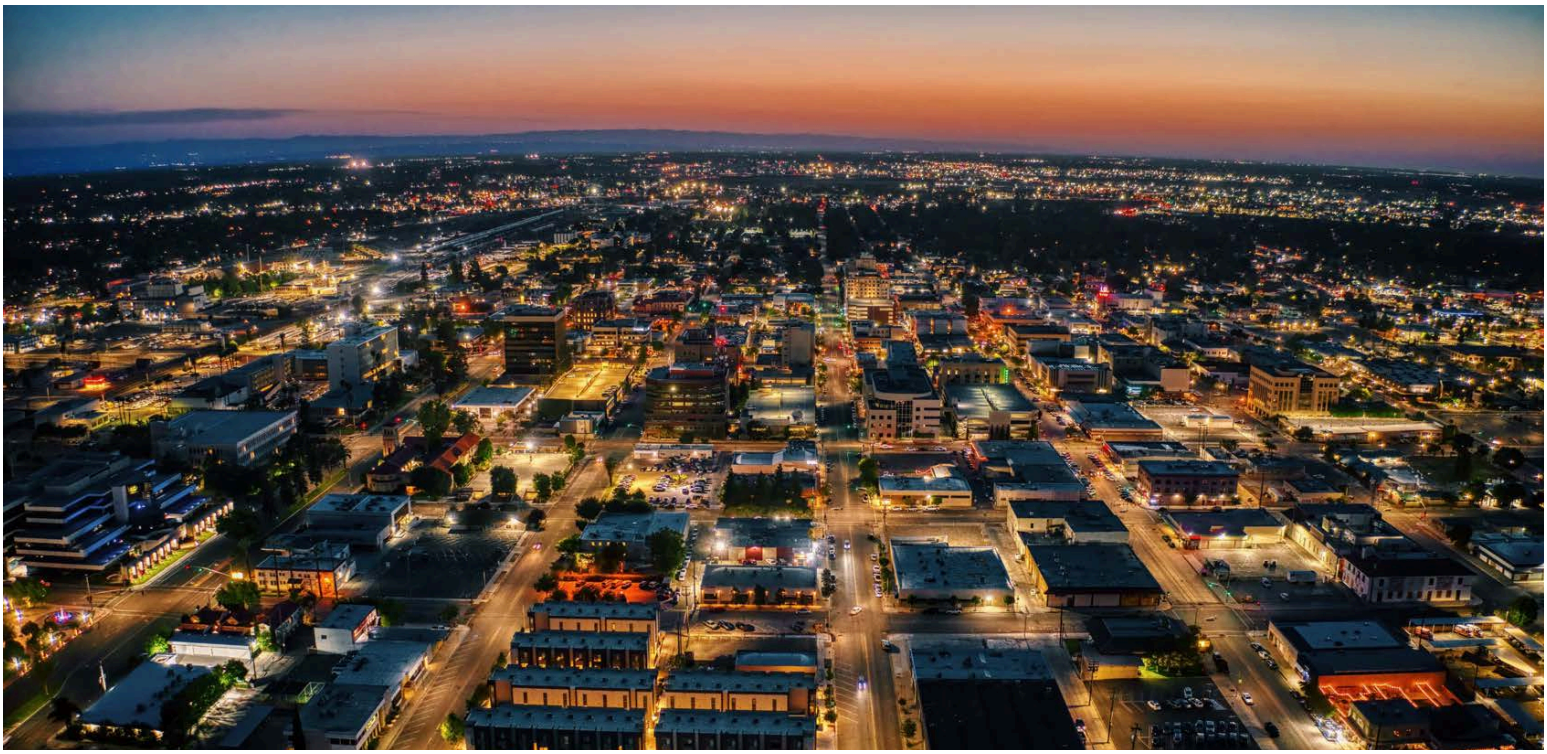
ABOUT KERN COUNTY

KERN COUNTY'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The purpose of this Legislative Platform is to clearly outline the position of the County on priority issues and matters that impact the County's ability to operate effectively, while allowing flexibility for the consideration of additional legislative and budgetary issues that arise during the legislative session.

Overall, the County of Kern supports legislation that provides governmental decision making at the level closest to the people whenever it is likely to produce the most effective and efficient results. We support further reforms in the federal-State-local fiscal relationship that will improve the County's ability to finance and efficiently administer both mandated and discretionary services while opposing legislation that creates mandates without federal or State funding sources to carry them out.

It is also our general legislative aim to preserve and build the County's job base and to improve the regulatory climate for private enterprise. We support federal and State investment in local infrastructure; federal-State-local initiatives to provide venture capital; tax and financial incentives that will encourage the growth of new and existing businesses in the County; and development and funding of a local education and workforce training investment plan that matches the requirements of growing and emerging industries.





ABOUT KERN COUNTY

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The mission of the County of Kern is to exceed the expectations of the communities we serve, changing the way they feel about government, those who manage it, and the services it provides. In alignment with key focus areas established in the County's Strategic Plan, the Legislative Platform seeks to guide legislation that will support the County's goals of maintaining:

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities: Improve health outcomes for all people and neighborhoods and make Kern among the safest communities in the Central Valley to own a business and raise a family. Continue to pursue compassionate homelessness initiatives in collaboration with our cities and community partners, and strengthen our safety net to support those in need.

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality: Make responsible and efficient use of public funds and develop and grow a thriving and resilient economy.

Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability: Invest in physical spaces and cutting-edge technology, provide robust infrastructure and pioneering land-use policies to enable vibrant and sustainable communities.



KERN COUNTY
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2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Animal Control vehicles - $1.47M
Animal Control clinic and shelter equipment - $600,000
District Attorney criminal division equipment - $826,000
District Attorney forensic science lab equipment - $600,000
Probation Department bullet proof vests - $14,000
Probation Department patrol vehicles - $1.2M
Probation Department youth detention center repainting - $250,000
Probation Department youth detention Camp Owen reroofing - $1.5M
Probation Department youth detention Crossroads parking lot replacement - $650,000
Probation Department youth detention recreation center - $4.5M
Probation Department youth detention electronic safety check system - $750,000
Probation Department youth detention electronic equipment checkout system - $800,000
Probation Department youth detention locker replacement at Crossroads - $50,000

KERN COUNTY
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2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

STATE AND FEDERAL BUDGET REQUESTS

Sheriff's Office bullet proof vests and helmets - $390,000
Sheriff's Office helicopter - $6.4M
Sheriff's Office patrol vehicles - $1.2M
Sheriff's Office search and rescue vehicles - $450,000
Sheriff's Office search and rescue command trailer - $800,000
Sheriff's Office cell site simulators - $1M
Sheriff's Office range training building - $270,000
Fire Department helicopter - $13M
Fire Department bulldozer w/trailer - $900,000
County First Responder Communications Project radio equipment - $1.5M
Veterans Services parking lot repaving and striping - $110,000
Parks and Recreation improvements - $2M
Airport infrastructure improvements - $2M

KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

General Legislative Principles

The County seeks full funding for the costs of state programs; additional funding for programs where service needs have outpaced stagnant or slow growing revenues; funding formulae which ensure an equitable allocation of state funding; minimize the adverse impact of state actions; achieve greater flexibility over the use of state funds; secure state assistance whenever possible to preserve the County's property tax, sales tax, locally imposed taxes, fees, and Vehicle License Fee revenue base; oppose the shift of programs unless control is also shifted and state funding is guaranteed, and oppose new unfunded mandates unless they promote a higher priority.

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities

Public Protection

1.1 Support criminal justice system reforms that account for the unique characteristics, capacities, and environments of California's 58 counties, promote local innovation and flexibility, and foster data collection and sharing for informed decision-making.	**1.4** Include local jurisdictions in state-level discussions and decision-making processes regarding changes to the justice system and adopt policies that support incremental change.
1.2 Require any legislation that significantly impacts the prosecution/defense of criminal cases or the overall administration of justice to be accompanied by adequate funding to local district attorneys and public defenders in the performance of their duties.	**1.5** Support legislation that provides sufficient funding for local pretrial services rendered by probation departments.
1.3 Require any legislation or voter approved measure that seeks to increase penalties or add treatment, specialty court, or other requirements to criminal offense convictions or adjudications that require monitoring, supervision, and oversight to be accompanied by adequate funding for local agencies.	**1.6** Support legislation that provides bond options and other creative and collaborative public financing mechanisms for the renovation and construction of modern juvenile justice facilities.



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Public Protection

1.7 Ensure the coroner can operate independently, conduct investigations, and that each board of supervisors retains the authority to decide whether to have an independent coroner, a combined sheriff-coroner, or a medical examiner.	**1.13** Support legislation and state expenditures to promote local law enforcement training, to aid in drug and rural crime prevention, to bolster juvenile justice intervention and prevention efforts, to counteract and prevent gang violence, and to help prepare and equip local law enforcement agencies to fulfill their role in preventing and responding to foreign and domestic terrorist attacks.
1.8 Corrections realignment mandates created by legislation or voter approved measure must deliver sufficient resources to counties for adult and juvenile offenders. Allocation of public safety realignment funds to counties should be based on the number of offenders each county must supervise and each county's associated costs.	**1.14** Support legislation that improves the safety of peace officers and provides sufficient autonomy to local law enforcement agencies to carry out their duties.
1.9 Support protection and enhancement of juvenile justice funding including review of the methodologies for calculating incentive payments to probation departments.	**1.15** Support amendments to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) "Gray Book" calculations to adequately reimburse counties for local fire protection resources allocated to State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands and extend the duration of the budgeted and peak fire season to acknowledge California's year-round threat of catastrophic wildfire.
1.10 Support more education and training of inmates to reduce recidivism.	**1.16** Support legislative and budgetary efforts to fund Cal Fire and local fire protection agencies to aid in the removal of dead or dying trees due to the drought and subsequent bark beetle infestation of California's forests.
1.11 Support efforts at the state and federal level to permit local governments to access third-party payments for health care provided in detention facilities, including medical services provided for those who are accused, but not yet convicted.	**1.17** Support administrative improvements in both Cal OES and Cal Fire that result in timely reimbursement of County Fire invoices.
1.12 Support efforts to ensure continuity of benefits for those detained in county detention facilities – adult and juvenile – and for swift reenrollment in the appropriate benefits program upon a detainee's release.	



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Health & Human Services

2.1 Support improved funding formulas and annual adjustments for legislatively mandated programs including Foster Care, Child Welfare Services, Child Support Services, CalWORKs, Adoptions, Adult Protective Services, CalFresh, and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS). Funding for these services must cover county costs to avoid backfilling funding gaps with limited local resources or cutting services.

2.2 Support legislation that provides sufficient program flexibility to coordinate and consolidate the delivery of services to children, adults, disabled individuals, senior citizens, and veterans as cost-effectively as possible.

2.3 Support increased State subvention of County Veterans Service Offices.

2.4 Support reimbursement that is proportional to the health care burdens of counties having unusual levels of poverty and uninsured populations.

2.5 Support legislation and budget actions that enhance prevention, intervention, diversion, and housing services for mentally ill and chemically dependent individuals as well as delinquent and/or emotionally disturbed minors.

2.6 Support funding for substance use prevention, intervention, and treatment aimed at combating the ongoing opioid crisis and diverting individuals from the criminal justice system.

2.7 Secure dedicated, flexible funding to support short-term housing for individuals with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders transitioning from homelessness, incarceration, or acute care settings, ensuring full reimbursement to counties for housing and related supportive services.

2.8 Support the establishment of a Supportive Living Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to provide funding for housing and transitional living services for justice-involved young adults 18 to 24 years of age.

2.9 Support legislation to develop county funding for mandated implementation of the involuntary commitment program for gravely disabled individuals, including but not limited to, behavioral health crisis and substance use services, conservators offices, county counsels, office of patients' rights, and hospital emergency departments.

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2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Health & Human Services

2.10 Support legislation that allows for greater local county discretion in the use of behavioral health funding to address local needs and priorities with regards to treatment and housing.	**2.16** Support legislation that allows local jurisdictions, through public-private partnerships and other creative means, the flexibility and funding to explore and implement best practices aimed at addressing homelessness.
2.11 Support legislation that provides for transparency and accountability by the state regarding timelines for state licensure and certification of new behavioral health programming and facilities.	**2.17** Advocate for current probation clients and new probation clients to have continued access to Targeted Care Management who are not enrolled in the Enhanced Case Management program.
2.12 Support funding to provide Medi-Cal match dollars to support operational costs of expanded behavioral health services, including crisis and acute care.	**2.18** Advocate for and support legislative, administrative, and budgetary efforts that modernize the California Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) funding allocation methodology and secure equitable child support program funding to assist families and children in achieving financial self-sufficiency.
2.13 Support legislation that allows for improved standards for calculating state reimbursement for Medi-Cal services.	**2.19** Support legislation enhancing the flexibility of the child support program in establishing, enforcing, and collecting child support orders.
2.14 Oppose legislation that creates additional mandates and duties for county behavioral health without the provision of adequate funding to carry out services.	**2.20** Support legislation promoting equal access to justice through greater efficiency and broad delivery of Child Support Services tailored to the unique needs of parents and families using available and emerging technology and innovations.
2.15 Oppose legislation that creates additional duties, mandates, and requirements for public guardians, conservators, and administrators without the provision of adequate funding to carry out these services. Any proposal from the Legislature to expand the responsibility of county public conservators of gravely disabled individuals must come with funding and time for the system to treat and manage the expanded population.	



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Health & Human Services

2.21 Support ongoing efforts by the Department of Child Support Services to expand collaborative community and supportive-services partnerships that broaden program awareness to the public, help parents and families succeed, and reduce poverty.	**2.24** Support increased funding for senior nutrition that will allow more adults over age 60 to receive meals.
2.22 Restore current funding and support future allocations that are equitable and representative of service-level demand for the California Works Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Single Allocation.	**2.25** Support additional funding to Adult Protective Services to prevent elder/dependent abuse, self-neglect, and scams.
2.23 Oppose efforts to implement new In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) provisions that adjust the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) without simultaneously allocating offsetting revenue for counties.	**2.26** Support legislation that provides local health authorities with standardized methodologies for accurately testing and reporting cases of Valley Fever and promotes a collaborative relationship between state and local officials to educate, raise awareness for, and eradicate the disease.



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality

Programs, Revenue, Fees, and Taxation

3.1 Mandated programs that are not fully funded should be made optional at the local level, and counties should have broad management authority of all mandated programs.	**3.5** Support legislation that reduces the administrative burdens on local government, particularly changes that simplify, consolidate, standardize, reduce, or eliminate data-gathering, reporting, and licensing requirements imposed on counties.
3.2 Support legislation requiring the State to pay interest to counties on all delayed payments for State mandated programs.	**3.6** Support reforms that provide greater authority to generate local revenues for discretionary services and to protect local revenue streams against State budgetary incursions.
3.3 Support legislation to provide State constitutional protection exempting counties from incurring any costs to carry out unfunded mandates.	**3.7** Require that any proposed new or increased fee must represent the actual cost of service delivery.
3.4 Support legislation that advocates local control over program scope and implementation, including the ability to privatize or utilize contract services when it is more effective and cost-efficient to do so.	**3.8** Support full continuation of all dedicated realignment revenues from sales tax and Vehicle License Fees for health, mental health, and social services.

KERN COUNTY
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2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Programs, Revenue, Fees, and Taxation

3.9 Oppose any efforts to divert county safety behavioral health funding away from the county Behavioral Health Safety Net, including efforts targeting the Mental Health Services Act.

3.10 Oppose any legislation that would enact an oil or gas severance tax on California producers.

3.11 Oppose any legislation that would extend the property tax exclusion for commercial-scale solar projects or provide any such exclusion for hydrogen, direct air capture, or other clean energy industries.

3.12 Support inclusion of County General Fund revenue backfill in the State Budget for losses caused by reductions in local property taxes due to state policies such as the extension of the solar tax exclusion and efforts to dismantle the oil and gas industry in California by denying new permits and implementing policies that restrict the extraction of oil and gas in the state.

3.13 Oppose any legislation that would prohibit local agencies from entering into any form of agreement that would result in the payment, transfer, diversion, or rebate of local revenues to any retailer or other business in exchange for the retailer/business locating or continuing to maintain a place of business within the territorial jurisdiction of the local agency.

3.14 Oppose any legislation that reallocates, redistributes, or otherwise alters the collection of local tax revenues from retailers/businesses that serve as the place of sale of tangible property delivered to and received by purchasers in the territorial jurisdiction of another local agency.



KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Economic Development

4.1 Oppose regulatory barriers including permitting issues, fees, and taxes on businesses in California and the streamlining of government to improve business startups and job creation and retention.	**4.6** Support Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) as program links between federal, state, educational, and private resources designed for small businesses and one-stop access to free business counseling, planning, marketing, and training programs.
4.2 Support manufacturing retention and expansion programs as well as tools to create and expand manufacturing jobs and capacity throughout Kern and California.	**4.7** Support tourism efforts to attract tourist dollars to Kern and efforts to promote agricultural, historic, and natural resources tourism throughout the County.
4.3 Support the Office of Military Base Retention and Reuse to provide ongoing assistance and support to communities with closed bases, as well as communities with active installations, to ensure the continued viability, retention, and overall health of military communities in California.	**4.8** Support efforts to retain film production in the State and County, and continued collaboration between the State and the efforts of regional and local film commissions.
4.4 Support the formation of a California Space and/or Aerospace Commission to support the health and competitiveness of space, aerospace, and aviation industries in California and serve to enhance the business climate and opportunities for marketing, visibility, business attraction, and retention in these burgeoning industries.	**4.9** Support adequate and efficient electrical grid and transmission infrastructure development that provides timely electrical service to customers and electrification of new projects.
4.5 Support Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (iBank) mission to issue tax-exempt and taxable revenue bonds, provide financing to public agencies, provide credit enhancements, acquire or lease facilities, and leverage state and federal funds while also providing low-cost financing to public agencies for infrastructure projects that help create jobs in Kern and California.	**4.10** Support legislation that protects and enhances the viability and competitiveness of domestic agricultural and livestock commodity production systems.

KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability

Land Use

5.1 Support legislation that promotes local land use authority and that authorizes, but does not mandate, the formation of regional alliances.

5.2 Support legislation that focuses on innovative ways to spur traditional and affordable housing development to meet local housing demands.



KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Enviornmental Quality

6.1 Retain the ability to manage programs efficiently, cost-effectively and without excessive permitting requirements.	**6.4** Support the implementation of the State Endangered Species Acts that balances social and economic benefits with species protection and ensures that policies are based on good science.
6.2 Support streamlining of environmental regulations and consolidation of permitting to reduce costs and unnecessary delays.	**6.5** Support the creation of a statewide commission to address recycling and waste diversion goals and the significant challenges posed by mandated organic waste facilities and operations.
6.3 Support legislative reforms that will prevent the California Environmental Quality Act from being used to halt environmentally sound projects and provide for reasonable and appropriate exemptions.	**6.6** Support a flexible approach to addressing state climate change initiatives that use incentives to meet technically achievable goals.



KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Energy

7.1 Oppose legislation that seeks to phase out fossil fuels.

7.2 Oppose legislation that imposes additional taxes or monetary penalties on oil and gas production.

7.3 Oppose legislation that promulgates redundant and unnecessary regulation of the oil and gas well permitting processes.

7.4 Oppose legislation that seeks to supplant local permitting and siting of renewable energy facilities with processes managed and administered by State regulators.

7.5 Support legislation that enables local jurisdictions to site, permit as approve or deny, and impose necessary mitigation for carbon capture and sequestration projects, direct air capture projects, hydrogen, CO2 pipelines, and any other method of carbon management.

7.6 Support restoring counties' authority to assess alternative energy facilities, such as large-scale commercial solar, which currently benefit from assessment exclusions and oppose efforts to exempt or exclude other renewable energy facilities from county property tax assessment.

7.7 Support the procurement of agricultural wood waste and other biomass baseload power by electrical utilities and other load-serving entities in California.

7.8 Support legislation that seeks greater transparency, oversight, and adequate compensation to property owners (homes and businesses) for the disruptions caused by Investor-Owned Utility Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events.



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Water & Agriculture

8.1 Support stable water supplies for urban and agricultural users in the County and expand facilities for storing, banking, conveying, distributing, conserving, and reclaiming water; flood control and storm water management, and enhancing and restoring wetlands and open space.

8.2 Support the water infrastructure funding and any legislation that seeks to improve water conveyance restoration to the Kern-Friant Canal and other projects that furnish an adequate supply of water to Kern and throughout California.

8.3 Support a Delta conveyance system to deliver water to the California Aqueduct.

8.4 Support CEQA exemption for certain water infrastructure improvements/developments.

8.5 Support legislative efforts that enable counties to successfully implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and promote water conservation issues and the development of additional stormwater and water quality funding tools.

8.6 Oppose legislation that adds additional administrative or legal burdens to local water well permitting and local groundwater management efforts.

8.7 Support legislative and regulatory actions that protect and enhance the county's agricultural resources, agritourism, and preserve its ranching and agricultural heritage.

8.8 Support restoration of Williamson Act subvention payments to encourage farmland and open space preservation or modification of the program to allow more flexibility for landowners to find alternative uses for property with water limitations.

KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Transportation & Infrastructure

9.1 Support legislation that provides equitable State funding for roads, highways, airports, and public transit and that promotes the timely development of local transportation projects at counties' discretion.	**9.4** Support the equitable and responsible deployment of telecommunications and broadband infrastructure that preserves local jurisdictions' ability to negotiate on behalf of the public interest.
9.2 Support continued State funding and assistance formulas for grade separation projects, maintaining existing funding levels that ensure adequate resources are available to counties for road maintenance, and state traffic congestion relief projects.	**9.5** Support the immediate abandonment of the California High-Speed Rail Project and reassignment and/or reappropriation of remaining State funds to local projects and programs that will provide immediate benefit to Kern County residents.
9.3 Oppose legislation that shifts taxation from fuel sales taxes, which are constitutionally guaranteed for local transportation.	**9.6** Oppose enforcement of the Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation on local governments unless adequate funding is provided by the state for implementation.



KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

General Legislative Principles

The federal government should recognize the inalienable right of state and local governments to participate in the decision-making process of a federal system. It should further recognize that because local government is the closest to the citizenry, it is often best equipped to deliver services and administer programs. Strong county government is an essential component and partner in the effective operation of national-state-local government activities. The County will seek to support proposals which would provide a greater share of total available Federal funding to the County or California, and oppose proposals which would reduce the County's or State's share of total funding; support proposals which would provide local governments with greater decision-making authority over the use of Federal funds, and which provide for direct grants or mandatory pass-through allocations to large rural counties; oppose proposals which would impose new unfunded mandates on the County; oppose proposals which would finance increased spending for one program by cutting other programs of greater benefit to the County, or which would result in a net revenue loss or a cost shift to the County; support proposals to reduce or relax match requirements which hinder the ability of financially distressed state and local governments to receive or utilize Federal funds; support Federal fiscal relief for financially distressed state and local governments; and oppose Federal preemption of state and local government authority.

Healthy, Safe, and Resilient Communities

Public Protection

10.1 Support increased Federal expenditures to assist local law enforcement agencies with crime prevention and prosecution, technology improvements, forensic science, and training.

10.2 Support increased Federal expenditures to help prepare and equip local law enforcement agencies to fulfill their role in preventing and responding to foreign and domestic terrorist attacks.

10.3 Support standardized guidelines for consent decrees and stipulated judgements across the nation to create consistency among monitorships, minimize costs, and avoid conflicts of interest by following the best practices established and implemented by the U.S. Department of Justice ensuring compliance with such agreements are attainable, effective, and affordable.

10.4 Support Federal policies that recognize and enhance the safety of people and the livability of communities by dedicating significant Federal resources for disaster planning, mitigation and recovery that are provided directly to both state and local governments. These resources should provide for coordinated planning and education and should encourage the use of innovative approaches that result in positive changes.



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Public Protection

10.5 Support changes in current Federal policy that would allow a person receiving Federal benefits who has been charged with a crime, but not convicted, to continue to be eligible for entitlements – including, but not limited to Medicare, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Veterans Administration health care and disability insurance, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits – until such time as they may be convicted and sentenced to an institution.

10.6 Advocate for full Federal reimbursement of state and local costs of incarcerating undocumented immigrants through the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Although it is the Federal Government's responsibility to protect and secure our nation's borders, counties incur millions of dollars in un-reimbursed expenses each year as a result of housing undocumented individuals who violate state or local laws.

10.7 Petition Congress to continue providing adequate funding for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to support local domestic violence shelters, services for victims of human trafficking, and other victims of violent crime.

10.8 Support continued efforts for criminal justice reform, particularly legislation such as the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCP) aimed at reducing the significant number of mentally ill individuals admitted to local jails each year.

10.9 Support Federal grants aimed at supplementing opioid abuse prevention and treatment activities.

10.10 Support expenditures to assist county public safety agencies in preparing and executing an early warning system and evacuation plan for communities downstream from the Lake Isabella Dam, which is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

10.11 Support increased Federal efforts to prevent and respond to wildland fires through local assistance and through active and robust fuel management programs aimed at promoting healthy forests.

10.12 Support administrative improvements in the U.S. Forest Service that result in timely reimbursement of County Fire invoices.



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Health & Human Services

11.1 Support federal healthcare reform that provides adequate ongoing funding to California's rural and safety-net hospitals, ensuring they can care for indigent and uninsured populations. Advocate for reimbursement that reflects the healthcare burdens of counties with high levels of poverty and uninsured residents.	**11.4** Support increased Federal funding for public health activities such as detecting and combating bioterrorism and pandemic disease, immunizations, maternal and child health, and food safety.
11.2 Support federal-state-local partnership for financing and delivering Medicaid services, including the 340B drug program.	**11.5** Support funding aimed at diverting mentally ill and chemically dependent individuals from the criminal justice system and into behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment.
11.3 Support Federal legislation that provides flexibility to coordinate and consolidate the delivery of health and human services as cost-effectively as possible, as well as sufficient funding to fulfill mandated responsibilities in these areas.	**11.6** Support Federal legislation that improves access to health care for veterans by bringing primary and specialty care services closer to the patient, reducing wait times, and providing easy to understand medical and administrative patient information.



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Vitality

Programs, Revenue, Fees, and Taxation

12.1 Support Federal efforts to address certain domestic needs in partnership with counties and that adequately provide for county administrative costs, provide flexibility to adjust to local needs and circumstances, provide for long-term program planning, and provide for program stability.

12.2 Support government reform that shares the benefits of the federal government's taxing ability with state and local government in a more equitable and non-restrictive manner. When possible, shared revenues should be provided in the form of block grants.

12.3 Support the maintenance and development of state and local infrastructure through federal tax exemptions for state and municipal debt and by special taxing and expenditure programs to meet priority needs. Kern supports the right of counties to issue governmental debt for essential public services by marketing bonds to investors with interest on such bonds remaining totally exempt from federal taxation.

12.4 Support full payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) whenever the federal government removes or withholds otherwise productive property from the property tax rolls. PILT payments should receive full cost of living adjustments annually and include active military installations in the payment formula.

12.5 Support Federal expenditures that fully utilize the flight and weapons research, development, test, and evaluation capabilities of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake and Edwards Air Force Base.

KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Community Development & Workforce Investment

13.1 Support Federal investment in local infrastructure and workforce training.	**13.4** Support Federal funding for local education and workforce training investment that matches the requirements for growing and emerging industries.
13.2 Support Federal investment programs that target economic development and workforce training in communities experiencing higher levels of poverty and chronically high unemployment.	**13.5** Support an improved and streamlined regulatory climate for private enterprise.
13.3 Support full and continued funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), public and assisted housing, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) programs.	**13.6** Support legislation, policies, and programs, including Opportunity Zones and other designations, that expand community revitalization and economic development tools.



KERN COUNTY
California



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES BY POLICY AREA

Reliable Infrastructure and Sustainability

Enviornmental Quality

14.1 Support streamlining environmental regulations.	**14.2** Support Federal Endangered Species Act amendments that balance social and economic benefits and ensure that policies are based on good science.

Energy

15.1 Support regulatory streamlining and exemptions to speed the development of renewable energy generation and transmission facilities that will help to increase U.S. energy independence and support business and all forms of energy production.	**15.2** Support Federal legislation that encourages the exploration and use of American energy resources to help reduce the price of energy and increase local economic output.

KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Water & Agriculture

16.1 Support federal advocacy for stable water supplies for urban and agricultural users in the County and enactment of Federal appropriations to assist funding of programs that expand facilities for storing, banking, conveying, distributing, conserving, and reclaiming water; flood control and storm water management, and enhancing and restoring wetlands and open space.	**16.4** Support policies that increase the export of agricultural commodities and development of trade policies with foreign governments that expedite new market access for commodities grown in Kern County.
16.2 Support legislation to provide funding for renewal, enhancement, and maintenance of community potable water systems.	**16.5** Support the implementation of comprehensive and permanent immigration reform, including the enhancement of the H-2A program to promote year-round employment opportunities to fulfill the needs of Kern County agriculture.
16.3 Support efforts by the Army Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency to rewrite the Waters of the U.S. rule to ensure that the rule provides clarity, and the agencies consult with state and local governments.	



KERN COUNTY
- California -



2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Transportation & Infrastructure

17.1 Support legislation to increase, streamline, and improve flexibility of Federal funding for the repair and maintenance of roads, highways, airports, and public transit and that promotes the timely development of local transportation projects at local government's discretion.	**17.3** Support the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and actively engage in legislative efforts to increase Federal funding for local airports, including funding for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).
17.2 Support Federal investment in local infrastructure and actively advocate for new revenues to bolster the county road systems.	**17.4** Oppose policies that promote urban or environmental encroachment upon the future ability of our military installations to fulfill missions critical to national defense.



KERN COUNTY
- California -



STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

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Item #5

MEMORANDUM

To:	Kern County Board of Supervisors Legislative Program Committee Supervisor Phillip Peters, District 1 Supervisor Jeff Flores, District 3
From:	Ben Goldeen, Federal Advocacy Director, Townsend Public Affairs Spencer Street, Senior Associate, Townsend Public Affairs Cori Takkinen, Vice President, Townsend Public Affairs Christopher Townsend, President, Townsend Public Affairs
Date:	February 10, 2025
Subject:	Legislative Program Committee Federal Affairs Report

Discussion of Introduced Federal Legislation

H.R. 22 (Roy) Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act

H.R. 22 would require states to obtain proof of citizenship in person before registering an individual to vote in a federal election and require states to remove non-citizens from existing voter rolls.

H.R. 337 (Costa) Groundwater Recharge Technical Assistance Act

H.R. 337 would redirect unobligated funds provided by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for western water infrastructure toward technical assistance efforts for groundwater recharge projects.

H.R. 338 (Costa) Every Drop Counts Act

H.R. 338 would amend the Small Water Storage and Groundwater Storage Project competitive grant program established by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to make it easier for groundwater projects to qualify for funding. It would also increase the amount of water these projects can store in order to qualify for the funding.

Discussion of Federal Legislation in Development

Budget Reconciliation Act

Congress is developing a budget reconciliation bill aimed at extending and potentially amending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and providing funding for defense and border security. Proposals to offset the costs of the legislation range from making changes to Medicaid reimbursement and eligibility, possibly altering the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, and changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, among other proposals.

Fiscal Year 2025 and Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations

Congress has until March 14, 2025 to enact funding for FY25. FY26 appropriations will be developed later in the spring and through the summer.

Surface Transportation Reauthorization
Congress will aim to reauthorize federal surface transportation programs in 2026. We will preview this process and begin a discussion of goals.

National Defense Authorization Act
The NDAA has been enacted each year for six decades. The bill is developed in the spring, committee markup is in the late spring or early summer, consideration by the full House and Senate takes place over the summer, and conference negotiations and final passage take place in the fall.

Farm Bill
Legislation authorizing and funding federal agriculture, food, nutrition, and rural development programs will need to be approved before September 30, 2025.

Older Americans Act
The OAA provides funding for county programs supporting older adults including the Family Caregiver Support Program and In-Home Supportive Services, among other aging and adult services. A reauthorization of the Act is under discussion.

County Legislative Positions

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Latest Major Action
H.R. 471	Fix Our Forests Act	Rep. Bruce Westerman	Support	This bill establishes requirements for managing forests on federal land, including requirements concerning reducing wildfire threats, expediting the review of certain forest management projects, and implementing forest management projects and other activities.	House, passed 279-141 1/23/2025 Received in the Senate 1/28/2025

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Jeff Flores..... District 3
David Couch..... District 4
Leticia Perez..... District 5

KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Adam Schiff
U.S. Senate
SD-B40B, Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: H.R. 471 (Westerman), Fix Our Forests Act - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Padilla and Senator Schiff,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for H.R. 471, the *Fix Our Forests Act* and urge its prompt consideration and enactment into law. This bipartisan legislation offers significant advantages for Kern County by enhancing the ability to withstand devastating wildfires and protecting communities in the wildland-urban interface.

Wildfires continue to pose a prominent threat to Kern County. 2024 saw several major wildfires burn within the County including our largest on record. The Borel Fire, active within Sequoia National Forest, burned more than 59,000 acres and destroyed hundreds of structures. Prior to that, the County faced similar devastation during the 2016 Erskine Fire (over 47,000 acres burned) and the 2021 French Fire (over 26,000 acres burned).

The Kern County Legislative Platform calls for support for increased federal efforts to prevent and respond to wildland fires through local assistance and through active and robust fuel management programs aimed at promoting healthy forests. This priority highlights the crucial role that federal resources play in mitigating the growing wildfire risk in Kern County.

H.R. 471 makes important progress and offers invaluable tools to enhance the health of our forests, strengthen our at-risk communities, and establish enhanced partnerships with the federal government to improve overall safety in our County.

This bill was recently passed in the House of Representatives; therefore, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you shepherd H.R. 471 through the Senate and urge its swift passage into law.

Sincerely,

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Hon. Bruce Westerman, Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources
The Hon. Scott Peters, Member of Congress

January 20, 2025



The Honorable Mike Rogers
Chairman, House Armed Services Committee
2216 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: ROCKET ENGINEERING, ANALYSIS AND COLLABORATION HUB (REACH) AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE. PROGRAM ELEMENT 91211F. CATEGORY CODE 319-442. PROJECT NUMBER FSPM163502.
SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Rogers:

We write to you today to express our **SUPPORT** for the proposed Rocket Engineering, Analysis, and Collaboration Hub (REACH) at Edwards Air Force Base (Edwards AFB) (Program Element 91211F, Category Code 319-442, Project Number FSPM163502). This innovative facility will address the vital need for additional and improved space for Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)'s rocket propulsion programs, help advance critical technologies for national defense and support quality job creation and economic dynamism in Kern County and the Antelope Valley.

For more than half a century, AFRL Rocket Propulsion Division (AFRL/RQR) at Edwards AFB has made significant and pioneering contributions to our national security through testing materials, fuels and propulsion devices, such as the engines of every US ICBM system and technologies in "new space" vehicles. Despite this

storied history, there has been insufficient investment in facilities to keep pace with requirements for research, development, test and evaluation. Today, ARFL/RQR Branch functions and personnel are scattered across eleven facilities, ranging in age from 40+ to 60+ years, long past the end of their useful lifespans.

AFRL and the United States Space Force need properly sized and configured facilities to support existing research activities, secure space and advanced rocket modeling and simulation capabilities and enable new collaboration with academia and industry in distribution A work areas. REACH will address the critical need for supporting multiple classification levels, collaboration space for the surge in public-private partnerships and expanding AFRL/RQR's ability to work with space industry entrepreneurs, academia and international partners.

In 2020, B3K Prosperity, a regional economic collaborative serving Kern County, Calif., together with partners spanning the public, private and civic sectors, identified aerospace and defense as an opportunity industry with the capacity to fuel economic growth in the region and create quality jobs for local residents. A significant factor contributing to the potential of our region's aerospace and defense sector is our unmatched concentration of Department of Defense and federal innovation assets, including AFRL/RQR, Edwards AFB, NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center and the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD). However, despite the presence of these incredible assets, our region has largely failed to unlock the potential of existing Department of Defense and federal innovation to drive economic dynamism. Since 2021, B3K Prosperity has collaborated with partners within the region and across the state to nurture an innovation ecosystem through accelerating tech transfer and transition, developing K-16 career pathways and building a skilled workforce aligned to industry and Department of Defense needs, supporting the growth of private sector employers in the industry and advocating for infrastructure investments to enable a thriving and self-sustaining ecosystem.

Concurrently, aerospace, space and defense have emerged as a priority sector for other regions across California, namely the Central Coast and Los Angeles County, and a statewide network of aerospace, space and defense stakeholders has emerged to collaborate and support efforts that address the needs and priorities of this vital sector across city and county lines.

REACH will provide a centralized modern and secure facility, replacing woefully outdated buildings and fragmented workspaces and providing much needed space to expand collaborative innovation among DoD, academia, entrepreneurs and industry. In doing so, REACH will not only advance national security priorities but also help unlock the potential of AFRL/RQR as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation, both within the region and across the broader California aerospace, space and defense ecosystem.

For these reasons and more, we urge your support for REACH.

Sincerely,

Georgia Petropoulos, President & CEO
B3K Prosperity

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

Senator Shannon Grove
State Senate, 12th District

Assemblyman Tom Lackey
State Assembly, District 34

Stephen Farmer, Executive Director
China Lake Alliance

Ronald Strand, City Manager
City of Ridgecrest

Richard Chapman, CEO
Kern EDC

Marquette Hawkins, Mayor
City of California City

Drew Mercy, Executive Director
AV EDGE

Greg Garrett, City Manager
City of Tehachapi

Joshua Boswell, Vice President of Policy & Economic Development
REACH Central Coast

Richard J. Loa, Mayor
City of Palmdale

Rebecca McCourt, Executive Director
Ridgecrest Chamber of Commerce

George Hodgkinson, President
Mojave Chamber of Commerce

Scott O'Neil, Executive Director
Indian Wells Valley EDC

Derek Kirk, Senior Advisor for Economic Policy
Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, State of California

Janelle Capra, President & CEO
Bakersfield Chamber

Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

Item #6

1415 L Street
Suite 1000
Sacramento
CA, 95814
916-446-4656

MEMORANDUM

To:	Kern County Board of Supervisors Legislative Program Committee Supervisor Philip Peters, District 1 Supervisor Jeff Flores, District 3
From:	Paul Yoder, Partner, SYASL Dylan Elliott, Advocate, SYASL
Date:	February 10, 2025
Subject:	Legislative Program Committee State Affairs Report

Discussion of Proposed State Legislation

Meadow's Field Airport Flight Expansion Study

Senator Hurtado will soon introduce legislation that would require the Department of Transportation to develop a plan to increase flight availability at Meadows Field Airport. In doing so, the bill will ask the Department to work with the County and other state and federal partners. Specifically, the bill calls for a market study that identifies high priority routes and assesses demand for additional flight to and from Meadows Field Airport.

SB 222 (Wiener): Affordable Insurance and Climate Recovery Act

This bill would allow individuals impacted by natural disasters, private insurance companies, and the state's FAIR Plan to bring civil action against "a party responsible for a climate disaster or extreme weather or other events attributable to climate change due to the responsible party's misleading and deceptive practices or the provision of misinformation or disinformation about the connection between its fossil fuel products and climate change and extreme weather or other events attributable to climate change."

AB 303 (Addis): Battery Energy Safety & Accountability Act

This bill would rescind the California Energy Commission's ability to approve battery energy storage system projects through the opt-in certification process created by AB 205 (Assembly Budget Committee, 2022) and would require the Commission deny any applications for battery energy storage projects still pending at the time of this bill's enactment. Additionally, AB 303 would establish siting restrictions on these kinds of projects.

AB 283 (Haney): In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act

This bill would expand the definition of "public employer," to include an employer who is subject to the In-Home Supportive Services Employer-Employee Relations Act, which the bill would create. Additionally, it would establish a method for resolving disputes regarding wages, benefits, and other

terms and conditions of employment between the state and recognized employee organizations representing individual providers.

Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority Bill Proposal

SYASL is aware of a proposal being pitched in Sacramento that would have consequential impacts on the adjudication process under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This proposal has already elicited serious concerns from the California Chamber of Commerce, Western Growers Association, and others.

Wildfire Insurance

Following the devastating and costly wildfires in Southern California, the future of wildfire insurance in the state is more uncertain. As of February 5th, State Farm, California's largest insurer, estimates that it has paid out $1 billion across 8,700 claims. These numbers are all but sure to increase. Further, the FAIR Plan has reached exposure rates that are unsustainable, and – generally - further increases to insurance premiums seem inevitable in the near future. The Los Angeles fires took place only weeks after Insurance Commissioner Lara announced new regulations requiring insurers to provide coverage in wildfire-prone areas while allowing them to raise rates based on reinsurance and climate risk assessments. The Governor will sign legislation to provide assistance to Los Angeles and Ventura local governments and their constituents. And, the Senate just announced a bipartisan plan for year round Cal FIRE coverage (with details to follow).

Budget Related Matters

Proposition 36 Implementation Funding

Currently, the Governor's January proposed budget does not include any additional funding for counties to implement Proposition 36. In fact, the current proposal seeks to reduce CDCR funding, citing an expectation for a decreasing prison population in the next several years.

VOCA Support for Ongoing State Funding

In the current fiscal year's budget, the State backfilled federal dollars for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to the tune of $103 million in one-time funding. As the State sets up and funds the new California Crime Victims Fund within the State Treasury (created by AB 2432 [Gabriel, 2024]), it may be advantageous to advocate for further VOCA backfill funding in the Budget. Presently, there is no such funding proposed by Governor Newsom.

Housing Element Update

While not a budget specific matter, this issue is included here as there are fiscal ramifications associated with the State continuing to delay approval of the County's housing element update. SYASL has been in regular contact with County staff about how best to proceed as strategically as possible on this.

County Legislative Positions

Establishing a Board Appointed Registrar of Voters

The Board has opted to support seeking a statutory addition to include Kern County in the list of counties authorized to appoint a Registrar of Voters. This change will be made through the Senate Committee on Local Government's omnibus bill.

Bill Number	Bill Title	Sponsor	Position	Summary	Status
SB XX	Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025	Senate Committee on Local Government (Chair Durazo)	Support	This bill includes allowing the Kern County Board of Supervisors to appoint a Registrar of Voters, among other things.	Not yet introduced

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KATHLEEN KRAUSE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Kern County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, California 93301
Telephone (661) 868-3585
TTY Relay 800-735-2929

January 28, 2025

Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025 – SUPPORT

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors in support of the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025; specifically, the amendment to Government Code Section 26802.5 to add Kern County to the current list of counties authorized to appoint a Registrar of Voters separate from the County Clerk.

Government Code Section 26802.5 has been amended multiple times over the years to add general law counties and provide a local option to Boards of Supervisors related to their governmental structures. Amending the law does not mandate or make any changes but simply provides an option for the Board of Supervisors to take future action. The County Clerk, as ex-officio Registrar of Voters, is an essential and critical function of county government. The position is often combined with other county officers and here in Kern the County Clerk/Registrar of Voters is currently combined with the Auditor-Controller functions. Although the County Clerk and Auditor-Controller often have overlapping data, documents and clientele, the Registrar of Voters typically functions independently from these other responsibilities.

Per current statute, there are 14 counties with the ability to appoint a Registrar of Voters separately from the County Clerk. The need to parse duties often stems from increasing demands of the Registrar of Voters Office. The proposed changes included in the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025 would add Kern to this list of counties so that the structure of the department can be reviewed in the future by the Board of Supervisors and Kern will be equipped with the flexibility it needs to continue its pursuit of organizational excellence.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors is pleased to support the Local Government Omnibus Act of 2025 and respectfully requests that this Committee advance this measure through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Leticia Perez, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

CC: Honorable Members, Senate Elections Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Kern County Auditor-Controller-County Clerk
Kern County Counsel
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange