

County of San Diego 2025 Legislative Program

Public Comments Received

August 1 – October 5, 2024


Source	Comment
Email	I don't think you guys are handling the homeless issue. You are separating families and wife's from husband's. You need to keep the families together. That way everyone will have love. confidence, and support they need. The solution is not raising the rent. The solution is making it possible for the rent.
Social Media	Open borders
Social Media	Reparations for lockdowns. A closed and secure border. Stop handing out drug paraphernalia to addicts who need help and care, not supplies to continue languishing in their addiction.
Social Media	MORE 🏠 Social housing 🏠 for unhoused elders & ppl with disabilities. County needs to incentivize & help vendors to ensure there is enough availability. Y'all r the licensing authority & know we are missing significant levels of care & replaced it with shelter/homelessness.
Social Media	Utilities cost too much and the water quality is one of the worst in the country. Start there!
Social Media	Can you remind Jim Desmond that using County resources for political purposes is illegal?
Social Media	Deport the migrants and fire all current council members and mayor.
Social Media	Deportation of illegal aliens. CA Gov to recognize the citizens 2A rights. Less taxes Cutting government spending Eliminating CEQA
Social Media	Californias Muslim appreciation and awareness month that you people always ignore. Right after cramming lgbtq down our throat for 2 full months.
Social Media	ensure the safety and affordability of medical cannabis for the sick and dying. fund non profits like new day urban ministries and http://hopeisunlimited.wordpress.com to empower and quasi capitalize captial investment in your socialist state
Engage San Diego	Why do people on general relief and a medical exemption receive a monthly allowance for transportation yet a single parent on cal works and on a medical waiver does not receive the same transportation money? If it's for appointments then cal works families still have appointments even if we are on a medical waiver in fact we most likely have more appointments. Every family should receive this transportation money for everyone that is eligible in a house hold not just general relief and snap programs.

Social Media	The county doesn't care about what we the people think. Just look at what happens at meetings. Nobody listens.
Social Media	Constant geoengineering programs. The people should have a say in whether or not the sun is blocked. We should be giving consent & provided information as to what chemicals are falling down on us. Also, to not be gaslit that it is not happening. If you have eyes, u can see it.
Engage San Diego	When will SD spend needed money on our lakes and reservoir for improvements and upgrades. Newer boats to rent more employees. Stop spending money on people that don't pay taxes
Engage San Diego	The cross-border sewage crisis HAS to be addressed and SOLVED. Don't let another year of this environmental, health and economic crisis go by.
Email	Of highest priority as a legislative effort must be to clean up the toxic waste coming from Mexico that is polluting our beaches in San Diego. This has been a problem for too long with little to no action to correct it. It's time to move past the finger pointing and fix it ourselves. Mexico clearly has neither the resources nor impetus to fix this. It's our beaches and towns, wildlife, tourism, Navy Seals, etc being affected that need protecting. It's an environmental disaster. It should be at the top of the list but seems not to ever make it past the cut line. Please take this on. I will gladly volunteer my time and experience in getting congressional funding to make this happen.
Engage San Diego	I wish I could choose more than 3 interests because this comment is more geared toward climate change and the environment. I noticed that the verbiage in most legislation relating to environmental impacts on San Diego includes earthquakes and wild fires, but fails to include flooding events. Given the most recent winter events and need for FEMA presence in response to influxes of rainwater, I would encourage the inclusion of flood related impacts into all climate change/environmentally influenced legislation (an example would be the tax exemption from 2024)
Social Media	How about reducing your pensions to comparable levels to Social Security levels?
Social Media	Pot Holes.....never seen the roads like this ever in 40 yrs. Side streets and main ones.
Social Media	Stop removing parking spots in favor of bike lanes, Maybe fix the roads that have been ignored for 10 years IE miramar road.
Social Media	Violent criminals with guns, both citizens and illegal immigrants. The gun confiscation laws seem to only impact the majority law abiding gun owners while actively protecting criminals with guns. We need to arm more citizens and provide funded gun training for self defense.
Social Media	As I've responded to @GavinNewsom, @MayorToddGloria, @jim_desmond, and many others - including @LarryTurner4SD, one of our solvable issues is Vet homelessness. Demand that the Fed Govt overturn OTH discharges for conduct borne from mental health issues.

Engage San Diego	I hope this is the right forum to share concern about lack of oversight for City of San Diego City planning. Complete process of urban planning, communication and taking feedback from community is completely broken. It requires oversight from County or the State. Historically, corruption and illegal activities were present in San Diego City planning. Recent City Planning update related to University City shows similar signs. It is unacceptable to have same group of people doing the planning and making decision on the Plan. They did not take any feedback from residents although it was provided in forums. They have reduced the main goal of the density increase - affordable housing to a negligible percentage of the new construction in University City. City of San Diego Planning requires strict oversight - otherwise their decisions are made without community feedback and under strong influence of the Investors and their Lobby.
Engage San Diego	Support legislation and funding that would promote and protect outdoor recreation, including but not limited to the development and maintenance of Recreation operation at our Reservoirs, construction of recreational facilities, implementation of recreation programming, outdoor education programs, and the preservation and restoration of natural resources. Seek state and federal grant funding for Reservoir capital improvement projects.
Social Media	Living Wages for more than Management
Social Media	Health care costs
Engage San Diego	Put the crazies and addicts to mental hospital or jail where they belong so normal people, families and business can enjoy and thrive without fear. Safe city is the right of every law abiding taxpayer. Stop protecting the law breakers!!!
Social Media	Close the border, stop illegal immigration.
Engage San Diego	We need clean non toxic air to breath! We need our beaches back.
Engage San Diego	Need more affordable housing and it should be based on what the person taking home. Meaning based on not including taxes. Especially the people who are really working.
Engage San Diego	Environmental concerns in the county, especially in the South Bay (air quality, pollution from sewage)
Social Media	Property rights that remove the unconstitutional powers from San Diego County
Engage San Diego	Continued insurance coverage for homeowners living in wildfire areas. Wells all around me have gone dry. Ours is at 1100'. We could use help setting up community wells. We need to fix homelessness, not just keep moving people around. Goal should be: no people begging on street corners nor living on the side of a road

Engage San Diego	While climate change is huge issue it is not something the county can do a lot about. What we need to get under control is homelessness and the mental health and affordability issues that cause homelessness. We need to get rid of anything that prevents building, encourage small homes to be built and high density apartments. We need single room occupancy for the poorest community members and trailer parks for safe parking. And lots and lots of mental health and substance abuse rehabs beds. The courts can force people into rehab if they are breaking the laws sleeping on the streets.
Social Media	Covid has been done a long time ago. Tell our restaurants to give us back our sidewalks and parking spaces.
Engage San Diego	In the San Diego South Bay Area, we need IMMEDIATE assistance. We need a state of emergency called to help the citizens here. We breathe in toxic air on a daily basis and it is inhumane.
Social Media	HOUSING
Social Media	Removal of these godawful bike lane separators taking over streets at the sake of parking or extra vehicle maneuvering space.
Social Media	TJ pollution into ocean
Social Media	cost of living...all of it.
Engage San Diego	I am writing to today to request that your office create a keep Nutrition Security under the Legislative Program’s Priority Issues section and expand on section L of its policy guidelines section “Nutrition” to include a statement on reducing hunger for children by advocating for Child Nutrition Programs. Research from the San Diego Hunger Coalition and the Huger Free San Diego Advisory Board shows that nearly 1 in 4 people in San Diego County are nutrition insecure, or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or their families. Additionally, their research shows that, 1 in 4 children, 1 in 4 older adults, and more than 2 in 5 persons with disabilities experience nutrition insecurity in San Diego County. In March 2024, the hunger relief sector in San Diego County provided close to 28M million meals across all programs, meeting 80% of the estimated need for food assistance. Of the 28M meals that were provided in March, 15.2M meals came from CalFresh, followed by school meals, food banks and pantries, the WIC program, and meals for older adults. The pie chart below shows the breakdown in more detail. CalFresh is our nation’s most powerful, effective, and equitable solution to nutrition insecurity. Providing households with monthly monetary support, beneficiaries can purchase the food that is most appropriate for the cultural and dietary needs of their household at grocery stores and farmers markets that are convenient for them. The 2018 Farm Bill, an omnibus, multiyear law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs, including SNAP/CalFresh expires this year and will need to be re-authorized. The opportunity to influence how to determine and expand eligibility, identify and remove barriers, and create equitable food assistance is here. We believe the two recommendations below will place the County in a position to meet this moment and create a Farm Bill that works for all. I strongly urge your office to create a specific section for Nutrition Security under the Priority Issues section and include a statement on child nutrition programs. I believe that these

	actions will help position the County to appropriately, proactively, and efficiently advocate to meet the needs of nutrition insecure adults, children, families in my community. Thank you for your time and consideration.
Social Media	Get the “woke” out!
Social Media	Parks with good installations
Email	I would like to propose government funding to help in lowering the premiums for home insurance in wildfire high risk areas of the County.
Email	Voting by smart phones with newest technology...
Engage San Diego	Please consider improving the overall quality of life for San Diego County residents through more emphasis on pathways to careers. Higher education should be weighted as a consideration linked to government employment/appointment/public office. Please also re-introduce civil service exams that are well-constructed to test job skills, and offer the test preparation to outstanding citizens.
Social Media	Clean House. Redistribute Resources. Re Work Vision Mission. Or I Will make sure To flood your system and all those associated. Priority and Order(s) for our Children. Of Any Kind.
Social Media	Lower taxes
Social Media	Not the climate hoax or any other liberal BS
Social Media	You are VILE
Social Media	Follow the Constitution
Community Forum	What is the County's thinking/doing around guaranteed income initiatives? What's the County's thinking around the Governor's (arguably overly aggressive) stance on homelessness? (re: Grant's Pass)
Community Forum	What is the County doing to protect local control?
Community Forum	Is the County currently support any efforts related to health plan/hospital data sharing in the most recent Leg program? Are there conversations around legislative vehicles for this?
Community Forum	Is the County currently supporting any Tobacco, Cannabis, or other controlled substance control efforts or regulation?
Engage San Diego	I believe we should continue to have excellent, healthy care for all.
Social Media	This is hilarious. The county doesn't give a fuck what the public has to say. They have their orders from above. #FuckTheNewWorldOrder

Social Media	I'm hoping you're protecting your unincorporated areas!!! Clean up graffiti, garbage, weeds, homeless and put in some sidewalks and lights! Stop wasting tax payers dollars!
Social Media	<p>Hey Tim Walz! I'm gonna ask you one more Time, were you at Tiananmen Square during the Protest? That's what I thought! How can Americans Trust you when you've Lied about Everything, makes me Wonder about the Horse Milking?</p> 
Email	<p>On behalf of the Downtown San Diego Partnership (DSDP), we ask that you please consider the following priorities for Downtown in the 2025 Legislative Program.</p> <p>For more than two decades, the Downtown San Diego Partnership has worked to advance the economic prosperity and cultural vitality of Downtown San Diego. We are committed to continue advocating for human-center solutions that bring transformative changes to the impacted urban core. This includes our recent announcement of a new five-point Downtown safety plan, focused on reducing crime and improving public safety and cleanliness in Downtown.</p> <p>We know the people who make our Downtown vibrant come from not only the City of San Diego, but from the County of San Diego, and beyond. Whether that's visitors to our arts and performance venues, restaurants, nightlife in the Gaslamp, or employees who commute to our urban neighborhoods for work and enjoy the walkable amenities, we all benefit from Downtown's successes and bear the risks of its ongoing and real challenges.</p> <p>Great downtowns across the world serve a critical role in their local economies – both as workforce centers and as key tourism assets. This is no different in San Diego, where the hospitality and tourism industry our city's second-largest economic sector have a significant connection to Downtown. For example, the volume of visitor traffic is also reflected in Downtown's support of citywide revenue sources like the Transient Occupancy Tax, in which Downtown last year alone contributed more than \$1.7 million to fund significant parts of the City of San Diego's budget including police, fire, parks and libraries. A strong Downtown helps create a strong region for everyone.</p> <p>The DSDP conducts a monthly observational unsheltered count. In the most recent count for August 2024, there were a total of 856 unsheltered individuals counted and 142 tents counted within the 275 blocks of our Downtown. Even though we have seen over a 33% decrease in the amount of unsheltered individuals on our Downtown streets, compared to where we were one year ago, additional resources are needed to continue to help transform our Downtown and make our urban center a stronger hub for the entire region.</p> <p>Based on our experience working in the community, and continued input from our membership, coalition stakeholders, and residents, we have identified the following priorities for your consideration below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement Policy and Programs the Address Crime and the Unclean and Unpleasant Pedestrian Experience, Especially in the Dusk and Overnight Hours

2. Deploy Dedicated Resources to Address the Behavioral Health Episodes, Rampant Drug Use, and Drug Sales on Downtown Sidewalks
3. Implement Funding Resources to Address the Out-of-Control Behavioral Health Crisis
4. Ensure State Policy is Enforced and Adjudicated
5. Achieve a More Realized Clean and Safe Downtown Experience

Although we understand the County does not have jurisdiction over all these policy points – it does play an important role in coordinating and implementing many aspects that ultimately help address many of these issues. We believe that to truly make an impact for Downtown and our region, we all need a seat at the table – and truly advocate at all levels of government. To do so, we ask the County to join us in advocating for the following policy priorities:

Deploy Dedicated Resources to Address the Behavioral Health Episodes, Rampant Drug Use, and Drug Sales on Downtown Sidewalks

- Fully fund and expand the PERT Program. Add a dedicated Downtown homelessness response clinician.
- Assemble a joint law enforcement task force on crime reduction to deploy consistent and aggressive prevention and enforcement in Downtown.
- Ensure that all “book and release” individuals are connected to resources that include transportation from central booking Downtown to resources, last known location or residence. Ensure known criminals and repeat offenders remain in custody or jail.

Implement Legislation and Funding Resources to Address the Out-of-Control Behavioral Health Crisis

- Fully fund, implement, and expand CARE Court.
- Expedite and fully fund Senate Bill 43 conservatorship implementation.
- Ensure that Proposition 1 funding is deployed to the most critical services in the areas most impacted by this crisis.

Ensure State Policy is Implemented, Enforced and Adjudicated

- Support Proposition 36 (amendments to Proposition 47) and ensure that if passed Proposition 36 is fully enacted in City of San Diego.
- Education, adoption, and implementation of the recently signed State of California retail theft bill package – (i.e. retail theft restraining orders).
- Ensure gateways to Downtown are clean and clear on State property (2nd Ave, 4th Ave, 10th Ave, and Imperial Ave.) pursuant to Executive Order from the Governor.

Email	<p>I am writing to today to request that your office create a keep Nutrition Security under the Legislative Program’s Priority Issues section and expand on section L of its policy guidelines section “Nutrition” to include a statement on reducing hunger for children by advocating for Child Nutrition Programs.</p> <p>Research from the San Diego Hunger Coalition and the Huger Free San Diego Advisory Board shows that nearly 1 in 4 people in San Diego County are nutrition insecure, or are unable to provide three, nutritious meals per day for themselves and/or their families. Additionally, their research shows that, 1 in 4 children, 1 in 4 older adults, and more than 2 in 5 persons with disabilities experience nutrition insecurity in San Diego County.</p> <p>In March 2024, the hunger relief sector in San Diego County provided close to 28M million meals across all programs, meeting 80% of the estimated need for food assistance.</p> <p>Of the 28M meals that were provided in March, 15.2M meals came from CalFresh, followed by school meals, food banks and pantries, the WIC program, and meals for older adults. The pie chart below shows the breakdown in more detail.</p> <p>CalFresh is our nation’s most powerful, effective, and equitable solution to nutrition insecurity. Providing households with monthly monetary support, beneficiaries can purchase the food that is most appropriate for the cultural and dietary needs of their household at grocery stores and farmers markets that are convenient for them.</p> <p>The 2018 Farm Bill, an omnibus, multiyear law that governs an array of agricultural and food programs, including SNAP/CalFresh expires this year and will need to be re-authorized. The opportunity to influence how to determine and expand eligibility, identify and remove barriers, and create equitable food assistance is here. We believe the two recommendations below will place the County in a position to meet this moment and create a Farm Bill that works for all.</p> <p>I strongly urge your office to create a specific section for Nutrition Security under the Priority Issues section and include a statement on child nutrition programs. I believe that these actions will help position the County to appropriately, proactively, and efficiently advocate to meet the needs of nutrition insecure adults, children, families in my community.</p>
Social Media	Hello can you please direct me to your whistleblower process?
Social Media	#RemoveRenner
Social Media	Close the Border, and deport illegal aliens.
Social Media	I would like to override the bill Gavin newsom signed making it illegal to ask for ID when casting your vote in light of so many entering our country illegally. This would most likely interfere with our fair elections and not serve the U.S. Citizens.
Social Media	Trump Vance '24 Take America Back!
Engage San Diego	Homeless need a housing choice voucher I appealed Jerome Davidson of SDHC said no I do need housing tho couch surfing is homeless

Email	<p>Recommendations from Children First Collective San Diego</p> <p>Federal Sponsorship Proposal</p> <p>B. Seek a change in law that would permanently adjust the federal Child Tax Credit to be administered monthly and fully refundable.</p> <p>Federal and State Sponsorship Proposal</p> <p>B. Seek a change in law that would streamline the facilitation of direct cash aid by counties, and waive guaranteed income from income calculation for public benefits.</p> <p>Priority Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health Suggested Additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “This system is rooted in a regionally distributed and coordinated model that is data-driven, culturally responsive, and age-appropriate from birth through adulthood.” ○ “In pursuit of upstream prevention, and because research now confirms that 50% of people suffering from a mental health disorder had symptoms starting before they reached adulthood, the County of San Diego will commit to creating a child and youth behavioral health continuum framework and support legislation which would infuse this system of care with adequate resources to meet the need, particularly enhancing the availability of developmental screenings, services, and protective factors for young children across all care settings.” • Early Care and Education Suggested Additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “The County of San Diego commits to full implementation of its adopted Child Care Blueprint.” ○ “The County of San Diego will support reforms that reduce existing gaps in pay and opportunity, and enhance, rather than duplicate, existing public investments, including referral pathways. ○ “Additionally, the County of San Diego will intentionally work to support and uplift the struggle of private tuition based programs in which the true cost of care is more than parents can afford to pay. These efforts combined support targeted, long-term, and ongoing investments which bolster the sustainability of existing child care settings, including the enhancement of child care business resilience.” • Equity and Justice Suggested Additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Achieving Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The County will engage with legislation that dismantles barriers encountered by Black, Indigenous and other people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with intellectual and physical disabilities, and other populations in all aspects of life, including, but not limited to, healthcare, maternal and infant
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health, child and elder care, education, criminal justice reform, housing, environmental justice, economic development, and wealth generation.”

- Economic Justice
 - “The County of San Diego will pursue waivers to preclude considering guaranteed income as household income in assessing eligibility for other public benefits, in order to not adversely penalize recipients.”
 - “The County of San Diego will continue to explore the administration of direct cash aid, both as a form of prevention and emergency assistance.”
 - “The County of San Diego will amend the Federal Legislative agenda to indicate support for a basic income guarantee and advocate for it at the federal level.”
- Homelessness Suggested Additions:
 - “The County will advocate for legislation and funding that provides effective prevention, intervention, and access to affordable housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, with the overarching goal being that any homelessness in our region can become rare, brief, and non-recurring.
- Nutrition Security Suggested Additions:
 - “Recent data reports show that one in four San Diegans, one in three children, struggle with nutrition security, part of a concerning trend in the rise of food insecurity across the country.”

2025 Policy Guidelines Recommendations (Highlights are additions.)

Guiding Principles

- Support the reauthorization of federal bills that benefit the County including, but not limited to, infrastructure, transportation, the Farm Bill (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Older Americans Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the expanded Child Tax Credit, and/or the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009.

General Government

5. Support legislation that would eliminate financial and service level maintenance-of-efforts requirements, promoting flexible allocation and distribution of state and federal funding.
8. Support legislation that improves cross-system integration of funding sources and cross-sector collaboration.
15. Support local and state legislation to uphold an affirmative vote by simple majority of voters for revenue measures on citizen ballot initiatives.

A. Equity

5. Continue efforts to increase community-level feedback and input on County priorities and operations.

B. Disaster

4. Support legislation which enables the County and municipalities to keep updated disaster plans for sectors, including but not limited to, child care, elder care, animal services, etc.

5. Support legislation which provides greater flexibility for the use of cash transfer to households impacted by disaster.

C. Economic and Workforce Development

5. Support legislation that aids working parents and parent job seekers, including by bundling child care assistance within workforce development, supporting student parents, reforming child support programs to remove disincentives to work for non-custodial parents, increasing wage payments during family leave, and supporting family strengthening through access to basic needs like housing and nutrition assistance.

K. Immigrant Services

3. Support legislation that would allow for greater Immigrant and Refugee participation in state and federal tax credit programs, including but not limited to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit.

II. Health and Human Services

A. Behavioral Health

2. Support efforts to increase accessibility and funding for quality substance use and/or mental health services for infants, toddlers, children, youth, adults, older adults, and families.

9. Support efforts to address the behavioral health workforce deficit.

10. Support efforts to address the gap in services and for young children and their caregivers, including addressing the sustainability of funding for child and youth behavioral health services.

B. Child Care and Development

2. Support legislation that promotes and protects parent choice of child care and education programs.

3. Support the expansion of legislation designed to help offset the high cost of child care, including but not limited to the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC), The Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP), and the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit.

4. Support state and federal legislation that promotes local investments in the early care and learning workforce, including but not limited to funding the cost of care.

D. First 5 Commission

3. Support efforts that sustain and grow revenue for First 5 San Diego. Local funding to replace tax revenue lost because of the flavored tobacco tax ban. Otherwise First 5 programs will immediately decline.

M. Homelessness

2. Support legislation that would increase funding for programs providing services and support to those individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

	<p>3. Support legislation which enables greater flexibility of funding intended to address homelessness, including the use of direct cash aid to help keep people in their homes.</p>
Email	<p>Recommendations from San Diego for Every Child San Diego for Every Child seeks to cut the experience of child poverty in half in San Diego County by 2030. We believe support in the following legislative priorities will help meet that aim. Please note that highlighted text is recommended text in addition to existing text.</p> <p>STATE SPONSORSHIP PROPOSALS</p> <p>F. Statewide Guaranteed Income Feasibility Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon conclusion of state-sponsored guaranteed income pilots, create a statewide Guaranteed Income Feasibility Study. <p>FEDERAL SPONSORSHIP PROPOSALS</p> <p>B. Expanding the Child Tax Credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a change in law that would permanently adjust the federal Child Tax Credit to be administered monthly and fully refundable. <p>C. Modernizing SNAP Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a change in law that would expand qualifying CalFresh (SNAP) EBT purchases to include hot, prepared foods. <p>D. Housing Aid Flexibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a change in law that would offer flexibility in the administration of housing benefits as direct cash aid. <p>FEDERAL AND STATE SPONSORSHIP PROPOSALS</p> <p>B. Waiving Guaranteed Income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a change in law that would streamline the facilitation of direct cash aid by counties and waive guaranteed income from calculation for public benefits. <p>C. Renter’s Tax Credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek a change in state and federal tax code that would establish a Renter’s Tax Credit. <p>2025 Suggested Priority Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health Suggested Additions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “This system is rooted in a regionally distributed and coordinated model that is data-driven, culturally responsive, and age-appropriate from birth through adulthood.” ○ “In pursuit of upstream prevention, and because research now confirms that 50% of people suffering from a mental health disorder had symptoms starting before they reached adulthood, the County of San Diego will commit to creating a child and youth behavioral health continuum framework and support legislation which would infuse this system of care with adequate resources to meet the need, particularly enhancing the

availability of developmental screenings, services, and protective factors for young children across all care settings.”

- Early Care and Education Suggested Additions:
 - “The County of San Diego commits to full implementation of its adopted Child Care Blueprint.”
 - “The County of San Diego will support reforms that reduce existing gaps in pay and opportunity, and enhance, rather than duplicate, existing public investments, including referral pathways.”
 - “The County of San Diego will intentionally work to also support and uplift the struggle of private tuition-based programs, in which the true cost of care is more than parents can afford to pay.”
- Equity and Justice Suggested Additions:
 - Achieving Equity
 - “The County will engage with legislation that dismantles barriers encountered by Black, Indigenous and other people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with intellectual and physical disabilities, and other populations in all aspects of life, including, but not limited to, healthcare, maternal and infant health, child and elder care, education, criminal justice reform, housing, environmental justice, economic development, and wealth generation.”
 - Economic Justice
 - “The County of San Diego will pursue waivers to preclude considering guaranteed income as household income in assessing eligibility for other public benefits, in order to not adversely penalize recipients.”
 - “The County of San Diego will continue to explore the administration of direct cash aid, both as a form of prevention and emergency assistance.”
 - “The County of San Diego will amend the Federal Legislative agenda to indicate support for a basic income guarantee and advocate for it at the federal level.”
- Homelessness Suggested Additions:
 - “The County will advocate for legislation and funding that provides effective prevention, intervention, and access to affordable housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, with the overarching goal being that any homelessness in our region can become rare, brief, and non-recurring.
- Nutrition Security Suggested Additions:
 - “Recent data reports show that one in four San Diegans, one in three children, struggle with nutrition security, part of a concerning trend in the rise of food insecurity across the country.”

- The County will support and advocate for legislation to provide more access to vital nutrition programs for San Diegans, including but not limited to initiatives which incentivize and expand purchasing power for fresh fruits and vegetables.

2025 Policy Guidelines Recommendations

Guiding Principles

- Support the reauthorization of federal bills that benefit the County including, but not limited to, infrastructure, transportation, the Farm Bill (the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, the Older Americans Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the expanded Child Tax Credit, and/or the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009.

General Government

5. Support legislation that would eliminate financial and service level maintenance-of-efforts requirements, promoting flexible allocation and distribution of state and federal funding.
8. Support legislation that improves cross-system integration of funding sources and cross-sector collaboration.
15. Support local and state legislation to uphold an affirmative vote by simple majority of voters for revenue measures on citizen ballot initiatives.

A. Equity

5. Continue efforts to increase community-level feedback and input on County priorities and operations.
6. Support legislation to stabilize grant funding for free tax outreach and preparation services by community-based organizations.

B. Disaster

4. Support legislation which enables the County and municipalities to keep updated disaster plans for sectors, including but not limited to, child care, elder care, animal services, etc.
5. Support legislation which provides greater flexibility for the use of cash transfer to households impacted by disaster.

C. Economic and Workforce Development

5. Support legislation that aids working parents and parent job seekers, including by bundling child care assistance within workforce development, supporting student parents, reforming child support programs to remove disincentives to work for noncustodial parents, increasing wage payments during family leave, and supporting family strengthening through access to basic needs like housing and nutrition assistance.

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	<p>II. Health and Human Services</p> <p>A. Behavioral Health</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support efforts to increase accessibility and funding for quality substance use and/or mental health services for infants, toddlers, children, youth, adults, older adults, and families. 9. Support efforts to address the behavioral health workforce deficit. 10. Support efforts to address the gap in services and for young children and their caregivers, including addressing the sustainability of funding for child and youth behavioral health services. <p>B. Child Care and Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support legislation that promotes and protects parent choice of child care and education programs. 3. Support the expansion of legislation designed to help offset the high cost of child care, including but not limited to the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC), The Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP), and the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit. 4. Support state and federal legislation which more easily enables local supports of the early care and learning workforce needs. <p>D. First 5 Commission</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Support efforts that sustain and grow revenue for First 5 San Diego. Local funding to replace tax revenue lost because of the flavored tobacco tax ban. Otherwise First 5 programs will immediately decline. <p>M. Homelessness</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Support legislation that would increase funding for programs providing services and support to those individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. 3. Support legislation which enables greater flexibility of funding intended to address homelessness, including the use of direct cash aid to help keep people in their homes.
Email	<p>Recommendations from Jewish Family Service of San Diego</p> <p>Below please find highlighted sections of additions and changes to the original text from the County’s 2024 Legislative Priorities and Guidelines.</p> <p>Federal Sponsorship Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek support for legislation that would revise the federal Family First Prevention Services Act to explicitly include economic and concrete support services as an allowable evidence-based program or services category. <p>Priority Issues</p> <p>EARLY CARE, SUPPORT, AND EDUCATION</p>

- Suggested addition: The County will support legislation that reduces inequities by recognizing and prioritizing resources for those populations the resources are greatly needed.

EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Achieving Equity -

- “The County will engage with legislation that dismantles barriers encountered by Black, Indigenous and other people of color, women, LGBTQIA+ communities, people with intellectual and physical disabilities, and other populations in all aspects of life, including, but not limited to, healthcare, maternal and infant health, child and elder care, education, criminal justice reform, housing, environmental justice, economic development, and wealth generation.”

NUTRITION SECURITY

- Recent data reports show that one in four San Diegans, one in three children, struggle with nutrition security, part of a concerning trend in the rise of food insecurity across the country. ... The County will support and advocate for legislation to provide more access to vital nutrition programs for San Diegans, including but not limited to initiatives which incentivize and expand purchasing power for fresh fruits and vegetables....

IMMIGRATION

-Services at this welcome site should focus on assisting migrants to travel safely to their final destinations nationwide. Services should include case management, travel and transportation assistance, medical services, legal support and respite sheltering. With a firm plan in hand, the County will advocate consistently at the state and federal level for funding, acquisition of a site, and ongoing staffing and services support, including for mid to longer term case management. The plan also supports our regional partners to seek philanthropic matching funds for this effort as additional sources of funding.”

Policy Guidelines

Economic and Workforce Development

1. Support legislation that would increase access to wealth and/or improved living standards that promotes and sustains diversity, innovation, competition, and entrepreneurship.
2. Support legislation that facilitates the State’s engagement with federal small business technical assistance grants.
3. Support legislation that provides seed grants, loans, and technical assistance for low-income small business owners and microentrepreneurs
4. Support legislation that would provide financial incentives and opportunities for filming in San Diego County.
5. Support legislation that bolsters innovation for green industries throughout the region and expands access for residents in San Diego County to green jobs with family-supporting wages.
6. Support legislation that would expand the number and type of sectoral training programs.

7. Support legislation that would expand flexible funding for subsidized employment programs that train for in-demand jobs with prospects of rapid career advancement.

II. Health and Human Services

A. Behavioral Health

9. Support efforts to address the behavioral health workforce deficit, especially recruiting diverse workforce that is culturally inclusive and inclusive language accessibility.
10. Support efforts to address the gap in services and for young children and their caregivers, including addressing the sustainability of funding for child and youth behavioral health services.

B. Child Care and Development

1. Support measures that enhance the overall quality, affordability, capacity, accessibility, safety and pay equity of early care and education (child care development) programs.

C. Children and Youth

1. Support legislation that reduces the impact of trauma to children and their families by promoting primary prevention through nurturing relationships and environments, building up protective factors in families and communities, and creating equitable pathways to wellness.

E. Issues Affecting Older Adults and Persons with Disabilities

1. Support efforts to increase resources and services available to vulnerable adults and the individuals who provide them with care. Including case management to help older adults navigate resources that help them age in place with dignity.
2. Support legislation that promotes the sustainability of the In-Home Supportive Services Program through programmatic changes, workforce development, and appropriate cost sharing mechanisms between the State and counties.
3. Engage in efforts that would support programs to assist older adults to age where they choose, including rental subsidies, access to affordable housing, nutrition assistance, transportation access (including consistent source of funding for the County's current No-Cost Older Adults Transportation program and its expansion), housing retrofit, assisted living support, access to technology tools and training, and end of life care.

F. Maternal Child Health

2. Support post-natal maternal/parental health.

L. Nutrition

1. Support legislation and/or actions that expand access to affordable and nutritious food and provide funding for associated case management.

M. Homelessness

1. ...

	<p>2. Support legislation that would increase funding for programs providing services and support to those individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Including consistent source of funding for safe parking lot programs that provide case management.</p> <p>3. Support legislation which enables greater flexibility of funding intended to address homelessness, including the use of direct cash aid to help keep people in their homes.</p> <p>N. Housing</p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. Support demonstration programs for Direct Rental Assistance (DRA) at the local, state and federal levels, including designated demonstration sites under HUD’s Move to Work (MTW) program, for people eligible for Housing Choice Vouchers to reduce administrative burdens on both landlords and participants.</p> <p>K. Immigrant Services</p> <p>2. Support legislation that would increase access to legal counsel for Immigrants, including Refugees, TPS, parolees, asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors.</p> <p>I. Self-Sufficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support CDSS efforts to reform the TANF/CalWORKs program, including but not limited to participation in statewide and national pilots and demonstrations focused on replacing the Workforce Participation Rate, including opportunities authorized by section 302 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. • Support legislation that would increase flexibility and accessibility of social safety net programs such as CalWORKs, CalFresh, and General Relief including removal of asset test
Email	<p>The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) provides this letter of input regarding the County of San Diego’s proposed 2025 Legislative Program. As the largest local Chamber on the west coast representing approximately 2,200 regional businesses and 300,000 jobs, our organization is committed to creating and promoting region-wide economic development opportunities and business-friendly policies that strengthen regional and binational commerce. Last year, the Chamber provided a letter outlining our suggestions for the County’s 2024 Legislative Program and were pleased that many were incorporated into the final iteration. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions on the County’s engagement on state and federal legislation.</p> <p>The Chamber encourages the County to advocate for legislation that promotes economic resilience, lowers regulatory hurdles, enhances access to capital for businesses and entrepreneurs, and creates more opportunities for San Diego’s industries to flourish. A strong business community is essential to our local economy and vital for the County's overall health and prosperity. The 2024 Legislative Program identifies County Priority Issues as (1) Affordable Housing, (2) Behavioral Health, (3) Climate Change & the Environment, (4) Data Infrastructure, (5) Early Care, Support, & Education, (6) Ensuring Safe Communities, (7)</p>

Equitable Access to Health and Social Care, (8) Equity & Justice, (9) Homelessness, (10) Nutrition Security, (11) Older Adults, (12) Reproductive Health Care, (13) Transportation, and (14) Veterans. While we understand the need for a broad range of priorities, the Chamber believes the local business climate should be a priority identified in the 2025 Legislative Program through an additional priority area. We also request that Affordable Housing, Behavioral Health, Early Care & Education, Transportation, and Veterans remain top priority issues for the County.

Strengthened Business Climate (Recommended New Priority Area)

Local businesses are the backbone of San Diego’s binational economy. Supporting legislation that enhances San Diego County’s local business climate and economy is essential for fostering growth, innovation, and job creation. San Diego boasts a diverse economy, with key industries such as biotechnology, defense, and

tourism, contributing significantly to the region’s approximately \$282 billion GDP. By advocating for policies that reduce regulatory burdens, increase access to capital, and promote workforce development, we can strengthen the region’s competitiveness and ensure long-term economic sustainability. Tailored legislative efforts will not only help local businesses thrive but also attract new investment, benefiting the entire region. The 2024 Legislative Program alludes to these issues, but the Chamber asks that the business climate becomes a designated priority in the 2025 Legislative Program.

Housing

San Diego County’s housing crisis impacts residents and families across the County as well as the local housing and development industry, creating challenges for the entire community. To address this, it is crucial for the County to prioritize supporting legislation that reduces the cost of building new housing across all categories, including affordable, middle-income, and market-rate housing. Streamlining permitting processes and cutting regulatory red tape is essential for enabling more residential development throughout the County. We appreciate the specific mention of affordable housing and agree this is a critical sector, but it should be noted that middle-income housing is also crucial for our County’s residents and employees and should also be a priority. The 2024 Legislative Program supports our request to prioritize all types of housing, not just affordable housing. We ask this be replicated in the 2025 Legislative Program.

IJ4. Support funding, legislation, or administrative action that facilitates and incentivizes the production of moderate to middle-income housing in the 80-120% AMI range.

IIIN1. Support legislation that increases administrative flexibilities related to the production and preservation of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing.

Environmental Sustainability

The Chamber supports the transition to cleaner energy and more sustainable practices but believes proposals must be balanced and reflect the economic realities of our region. Addressing our changing climate is important and corporations in San Diego County are leading the charge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the County should prioritize supporting legislation that provides local control and local funding to help both industry and community members transition to clean energy, without further burdensome regulations. It is important that the County supports legislation that includes incentive-based programs that encourage the business community to continue to adopt green technologies without costly mandates.

Tijuana River Valley Transboundary Pollution Crisis

There is no greater threat to environmental and public health than the Tijuana River Valley transboundary pollution crisis. We greatly appreciate Chair Nora Vargas’s leadership and partnership with key regional stakeholders on this issue and believe it needs to be a top priority. While water quality has its own section that includes the crisis, legislation that will not only improve water quality but also fund personal protective equipment for affected residents and fund the necessary fixes for the International Boundary and Water Commission’s South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Healthcare

San Diego County is home to 45 hospitals and approximately 8,000 hospital beds and is a hub for healthcare innovation and high-quality care. Our hospitals also play a significant role in our region’s economy, providing thousands of jobs to County residents. Given this importance, we ask that the County prioritize supporting legislation that will secure crucial state and federal funding for healthcare providers and shield providers from cuts that could compromise patient care. The County took important steps in 2024 to explore how Medi-Cal reimbursement rates could be improved for healthcare providers, including via the formation of a task force to study the issue and make recommendations. We encourage the County to continue this work by creating innovative local solutions for increasing reimbursement rates while also advocating to the State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) and to the California Legislature for adequate reimbursement rates and stability in healthcare funding levels.

Child Care & Early Childhood Education

The Chamber continues to partner with the County on the Child Care Blueprint to address the crisis of childcare affordability and accessibility. The 2024 Legislative Program ensures that childcare incentives for employers and elimination of obstacles to provide childcare are prioritized, and we ask that this continues in the 2025 Legislative Program.