

County of San Diego

Government Affairs & Legislative Advocacy

August 6, 2026

Christina (Chrisy) Hennrichs, *Legislative Policy Advisor in Office of Economic Development & Government Affairs (EDGA)*



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

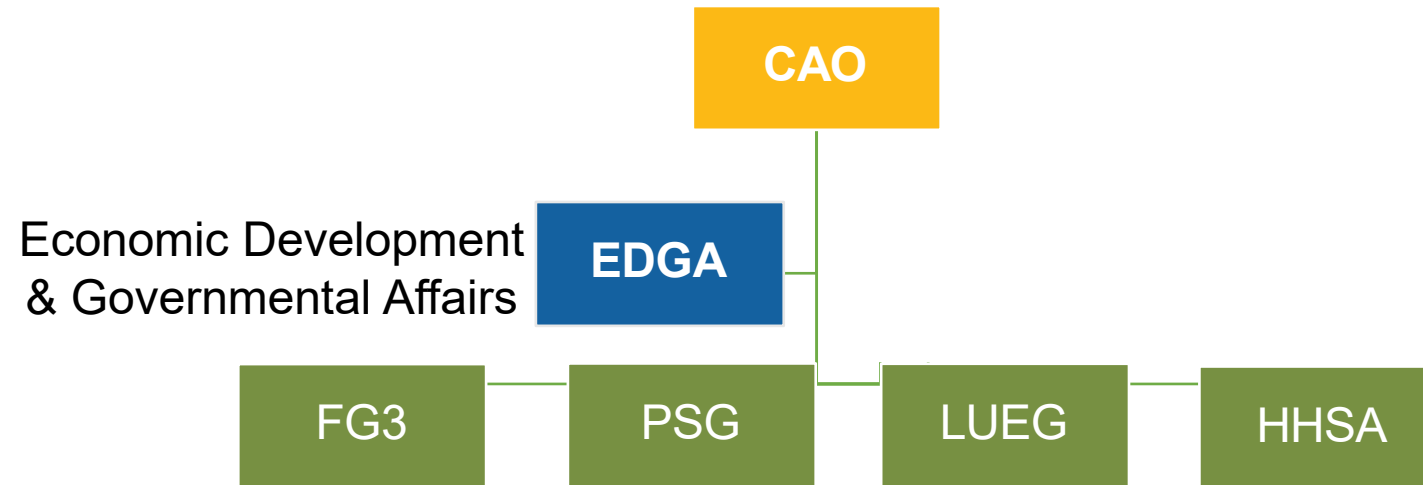
Goals for Today

- 2026 & 2027 Legislative Program
- 2026 Behavioral Health Advocacy
- Avenues to Advocate



County Legislative Org Structure

COUNTY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



Legislative Program

The Legislative Program provides guidance and authority for the County's advocacy efforts at the state and federal levels.

It has three components:

- Sponsorship Proposals
- Priority Issues
- Policy Guidelines



2027 Legislative Program

Timeline (Early August 2026 - December 2026)

Departmental Review of 2026 Legislative Program

Public Comment Period (August – September)

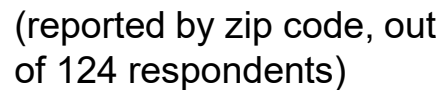
Share Feedback - Community Forum or Engage Page

EDGA Drafts (October – November)

Board of Supervisor Review/Approval (December 2026)



- EDGA received **189 public comments** between August 4 and September 5, 2025.
- **45 participants** attended virtual community forum on August 27, 2025.



2026 Behavioral Health Advocacy Report

150+ State
BH Bills
Tracked

H.R. 1:
8 Bills
Supported

Budget
Advocacy

Federal
Action Letters

Examples Requested

MCRT Benefit – Enacted State Budget \$42.2 million thru June 30, 2027

Acute Inpatient Psychiatric Hospital Staffing Levels - CDPH

IMD Exclusion – HR 5462 (Goldman) The Michelle Alyssa Go Act

AB 96 (Jackson) Mental Health: Peer Support Specialists Certification

Proposition 36

OMB Proposed Rule Change to Grant Making Process



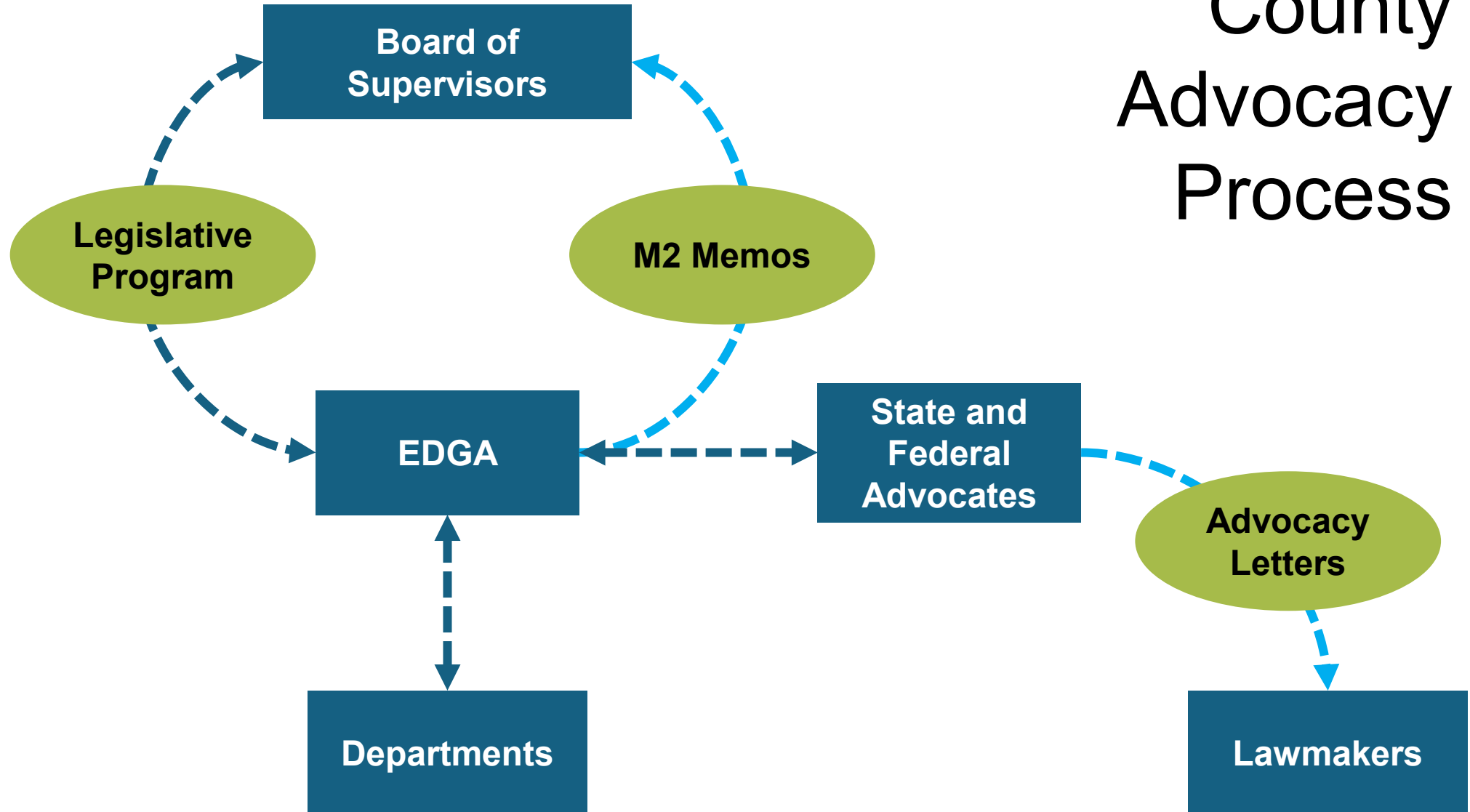
Other Bills Tracking

- Major themes
 - Influence of AI in health care
 - CARE Act
 - Conservatorships
- SB 28 (Umberg) CARE Court Program
- SB 1016 (Blakespear) CARE County Program & Court Evaluations



A - 74
POLICY

County Advocacy Process



Questions?



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

END

2026 Priority Issues

Advancing Housing Solutions

Bolstering the Behavioral Health System

Combating Climate Change and Protecting the Environment

Ensuring Safe Communities

Reducing Homelessness

Safeguarding the Social Safety Net

Responding to the Tijuana River Valley Sewage Crisis



2025 Advocacy Report

1400+ Bills
Tracked

42 Bill
Positions

81 Board
Memos

15 Federal
Action
Letters

Ensuring Safe Communities

Climate Change and the Environment

Affordable Housing

Equitable Access to Health and Social Care

Nutrition Security

Top 5 Priority
Issues addressed
in Bill Positions

