



# LEGISLATIVE SESSION PROGRAM

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# 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PROGRAM

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# 2016 LEGISLATIVE SESSION PROGRAM

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# INTRODUCTION

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

To be effective in this mission, San Mateo County reviews and establishes priorities and policy statements at the beginning of each legislative year to help guide its advocacy activities at the state and federal levels. The 2016 Legislative Session Program outlines the County's priorities in the coming year and details the County's legislative policies—providing general direction for advocacy. The 2016 Legislative Session Program reflects the County's commitment to our Shared Vision 2025 of a healthy, livable, environmentally conscious and collaborative community.

## ADVOCACY OF THE COUNTY'S INTERESTS

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

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

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

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

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



The following are the top legislative priorities for San Mateo County in the second year of the 2015-16 State Legislative Session:

**LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES.** The County will strongly oppose legislative actions that change the existing property tax allocation laws in order to redirect local Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) dollars to the state for payment of state program/service obligations. The County will vigorously seek reimbursement funding for past Triple Flip shortfalls, including funding true up amounts, until all revenues owed are paid in full.

**POST-2004 MANDATE REIMBURSEMENT.** The County will oppose efforts to eliminate mandate reimbursement provisions from existing law and supports efforts to require the state to pay the mandate reimbursements currently owed to counties, particularly repayment of post-2004 debts and suspended mandates.

**HEALTH CARE FINANCING.** The County will support efforts to adopt a new funding source for the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax, which will be considered as part of the 2015 Special Session on Health Care and oppose efforts to use any county funding to bridge the funding shortfall. The MCO tax currently provides approximately \$1.1 billion in funding for Medi-Cal services, including administrative funding for the Coordinated Care Initiative (\$130 million) and other critical health care services.

**AFFORDABLE CARE ACT IMPLEMENTATION.** The County will continue to advocate for appropriate and/or expanded administrative and fiscal support to fully implement federal health care reform. The County supports simplified eligibility rules, streamlined eligibility processes, strengthened leveraging of technology to provide consumer-friendly access and minimized consumer burdens in validating eligibility for facilitating renewal of health insurance coverage.

While the Section 1115 Medi-Cal 2020 Waiver has been agreed to in concept and the Special Terms and Conditions have been finalized with the Centers for



Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), there is still much work to be done to implement the fiscal and policy aspects of the agreement. The County will support actions that maximize the drawdown of federal funds for services and facilities ensuring that the County receive their fair share of funding, and obtains the funding necessary for new responsibilities and services.

**COORDINATED CARE INITIATIVE (CCI) AND THE IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (IHSS) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT (MOE).** The County supports the continued implementation of the CCI, or Cal MediConnect, and the current 2012 IHSS MOE.

**TRANSPORTATION.** The County will support proposals that explore long-term funding alternatives to the Gas Tax for local streets and roads projects, as well as interim revenue options to bridge the funding gap in the short-term.

**STORMWATER FUNDING/PROPOSITION 218 MODERNIZATION.** The County will support legislation that would amend Article X of the California Constitution to create a new, optional funding system local agencies can use to finance storm water management, flood control, sewer and water supply projects, set rates for customers to encourage conservation and reduce water and sewer bills for low-income customers. The ability to finance storm water projects would assist the County in complying with the Federal Clean Water Act and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, thus avoiding potential fines and penalties. Furthermore, any local agency that would utilize this optional funding method would be required to adhere to strict accountability, transparency, and ratepayer protections.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS.** The County will continue to support the creation of a permanent statewide source of funding for the construction of affordable housing as a substitute to redevelopment agencies, as well as measures that provide additional funding resources such as the state's affordable housing tax credits, and flexibility to address the affordable housing needs of counties. The County will support proposals that reduce and prevent homelessness; expand the availability of permanent supportive housing; and provide the County with the ability to maximize and leverage available federal, state and local funds to provide services for at-risk, vulnerable and homeless families and single persons.

**NONPROFITS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.** The County will support legislation that increases the property tax exemption of non-profits and religious organizations that provide affordable housing in the County from \$20,000 to \$100,000 annually.

**MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS.** The County will support legislation that would authorize a city selection committee to make appointments to the board of trustees of mosquito and vector districts and decreases the number of cities represented, if a majority of city councils located within the district adopt authorizing resolutions, as a way to add an additional level of oversight and accountability to the appointment process.

**PRE-SCHOOL FOR ALL.** The County will support pre-school for all funding efforts at the state level that will advance the goals of the "Big Lift," which seeks

to design a model to deliver 2 years of high-quality preschool for all 3 and 4 year olds beginning in targeted communities.





# COUNTY LEGISLATIVE POLICIES



## AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

### The County Supports:

- 1 Preservation of the County's prime agricultural lands through State Budget proposals that provide funding for long-term protection of these lands and restoration of Williamson Act funding.
- 2 The economic viability of the County's agricultural industry through State Budget proposals that provide funding to growers to develop innovative solutions to new industry challenges, including identification and testing of economically viable alternative crops. The County also supports legislation that encourages new farmers to enter the industry.
- 3 Local access to fresh and healthy foods for the County's residents, specifically legislation and budget proposals that promote and or support local agriculture, community and school gardens and farmer's markets.
- 4 Continued funding of Pest Prevention Program activities at the state level. Specific programs include, Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication, and public education outreach.
- 5 Research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.
- 6 Support through federal legislation or rulemaking actions that authorizes county agricultural inspectors to conduct parcel inspection of "first class" or "priority" mail packages containing plant material to ensure they are clean and free from destructive pests.
- 7 Legislative and budgetary proposals that provide long-term stable funding for county agriculture and/or weights and measures programs.
- 8 Legislation that supports marketplace equity, consumer protection, and



weights and measures programs' statewide integrity.

- 9 Proposals that provide long-term stable funding for county pesticide regulatory activities, such as that established in Senate Bill 1049 (Chapter 741, Statutes of 2003) for county agricultural commissioners but never funded by the state.
- 10 Funding for Weed Management Area groups for the control of harmful nonnative, invasive weed pests.
- 11 Opposes legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not clearly defined and authorized roles for Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers and full funding and resources for activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners or Sealers.
- 12 Opposes legislation creating local mandates or programs that: 1) do not definitively state that marijuana is a legal crop in California; 2) include activities that the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation recognize as illegal; and 3) mandates that do not provide full funding and resources for additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners or Sealers.
- 13 Opposes legislation that would undermine or cancel registration of organic producers with California's Department of Food and Agriculture. Organic producers in California currently register with and pay a fee to the Department of Agriculture to fund organic program oversight to verify agricultural products represented to the public as "organic" are indeed so.

## CHILD SUPPORT

The County Supports:

- 1 Preservation of funding to Local Child Support Agencies.
- 2 Adjustments to local child support agencies and funding allocations that account for cost differences among California counties providing services as funding from the state has remains flat despite program cost increases.
- 3 Changing the rate of interest charged on unpaid child support. Currently, California charges 10 percent per year on a simple basis on any unpaid child support, which is high in today's loan market.
- 4 Increased flexibilities for the administration of Child Support. Flexibility in the Child Support program should include employment support for unemployed and/or underemployed parents.

## ELECTIONS AND VOTING

### The County Supports:

- 1 Proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in state and federal offices.
- 2 All vote-by-mail systems.
- 3 Legislation that increases protections against interfering with the casting of ballots at polling places or by mail, including increasing fines and/or penalties for practices that attempt to impede the voting process.
- 4 Legislation to improve and/or clarify the challenge process for Vote-By-Mail ballots and strengthen voter protections.
- 5 Proposals to allow for secure and effective use of new technologies available in the field of election administration.
- 6 Legislation to authorize the implementation of additional, expanded and alternative voting opportunities.
- 7 Legislation to assist counties in the effective implementation of state mandated changes in the elections process and administration.



## ENVIRONMENT

### The County Supports:

- 1 Maintenance of adequate open space/park lands through increased funding for development easements, needed restoration and rehabilitation activities.
- 2 Efforts to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the environmental resources of the County, its coast and adjacent waters for environmentally sustainable and prudent use by current and future generations.
- 3 Changes in policies and practices that result in a net reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions; increased energy efficiency and conservation efforts that reduce the state's per capita need for energy including electric and fossil fuel; increased production and use of renewable energies that grows the renewable energies "market share" of the state's energy consumption profile; and when necessary, nonrenewable energy development that meets environmental reviews, that maintains or exceeds current environmental and/or emission controls, and that best protects our natural environments and offshore areas.
- 4 Implementation of Assembly Bill 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), the Global Warming Solutions Act that establishes the goal of reducing, by 2020, the state's emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to 1990 levels. Implementation of Executive Order B-30-15 establishing a GHG emission reduction target for the state of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
- 5 Exploration of new funding sources to implement local or state government

programs that benefit the environment such as: watershed protection, groundwater recharge and sustainability, water conservation, GHGs reduction, energy efficiency, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance, Areas of Special Biological Significance compliance, Commute Alternatives programs, and development of alternative energy sources. In addition, new funding sources for compliance with Municipal Regional Permit 2.0 Mercury and PCBs to implement sufficient controls to meet permit load reductions.

- 6 State funding and policy proposals that support the development of an effective and comprehensive countywide and especially regional and statewide measure to adapt to sea level rise, community resilience, and other effects of climate change.
- 7 Implementation of Proposition 39, the Income Tax Increase for Multistate Businesses. The County also supports prioritizing local governments to receive funds for installation of green energy projects.
- 8 Diversion of waste from landfills and mandatory recycling through implementation of Assembly Bill 939 (Chapter 809, Statutes of 1989) and Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011).
- 9 Exploring additional funding sources for continued implementation of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. The current funding (Assembly Bill 939, Chapter 1095 and Statutes of 1989) is from fees imposed per ton of solid waste disposed in the County. As disposal of solid waste decreases and materials recycled or composted increases, assessment of fees on recycled or composted materials should be considered.
- 10 The County will support efforts to improve the CEQA process while maintaining authority at the local level.
- 11 Continued funding for the California Green Business Program.
- 12 New and/or expanded funding for:
  - Improvements to streets and roads that encourage active transportation, such as walking and bicycling, transit, and other carbon-reducing road improvements.
  - Capital investments that expand waste management infrastructure with a priority in disadvantaged communities.
  - Investment in new or expanded clean composting, anaerobic digestion, fiber, plastic, and glass facilities necessary to divert more materials from landfills as these programs reduce GHG emissions and support the state's 75 percent solid waste recycling goal.
  - Wetland restoration projects that provide carbon sequestration benefits, including habitat restoration projects within the California EcoRestore program to support the long-term wealth of the Delta's native fish and

wildlife species.

- Incentives to agricultural operations to invest in energy efficient irrigation technologies that reduce GHG emissions and water use.
- Forest health programs that reduce GHG emissions through fuel reduction



## HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

The County Supports:

- 1 Implementation of climate changes laws, policies and programs at the federal, state and regional levels that incentivize or require physical changes that promote active transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transit, over more sedentary and less environmentally-friendly forms of transportation. This includes aggressive greenhouse gas emissions targets, performance-based policy standards in funding allocation, as well as regional approaches to implementation, and adaptation to all effects of climate change, including but not limited to sea level rise planning. Special attention will be paid to the challenges of the most vulnerable low income communities of color and the strategies needed in those communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- 2 Implementation of economic development strategies and funding to provide affordable housing with special focus on people with low and very low income.
- 3 Efforts to strengthen the Smoke Free Workplace Act by closing specific loopholes in order to protect more employees.
  - 3.1 Efforts to maintain the strongest possible protection against tobacco use by minors, such as changes to taxes, the eligibility age for purchasing cigarettes, application of smoke-free ordinances and classification of e-cigarettes as products subject to anti-smoking regulations.
  - 3.2 Efforts to promote the strongest possible protection against the sale of powdered alcohol to residents of California, which could increase the risk of alcohol use by minors.
- 4 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that would allow local jurisdictions to establish healthy food zones, allowing in only businesses that offer for sale whole or lightly processed foods with no tobacco or alcohol sales.
  - 4.1 Efforts to promote breastfeeding accommodation and availability of space in all types of settings—employment, public accommodations, educational institutions—to facilitate maximum breastfeeding by nursing mothers.



- 5 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that improve the quality and scope of environmental health programs through the state and promote uniformity in implementing such programs.
- 6 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support the principles of Product Stewardship (also known as Extended Producer Responsibility) that directs all participants involved in the life cycle of a product to take shared responsibility for the environmental and human health impacts that result from the production, use and end of life handling of a product.
- 7 Implementation of laws regulations and programs that provide a uniform approach to the phase out of polystyrene, plastics and packaging of consumer products.
- 8 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote food safety and food worker rights to health care, paid sick leave and insurance.
- 9 Implementation of laws and standards that promote a living wage.
- 10 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote the safe use and sale of produce from small community and school gardens in retail food facilities, farmer's markets and schools.
- 11 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote a philosophy of a Green Chemistry initiative to develop a consistent means for evaluating risk, reducing exposure, encouraging less-toxic industrial processes, and identifying safer, non-chemical alternatives. A Green Chemistry initiative should ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach to increase accountability and effectiveness of environmental programs across state and local government.
- 12 Implement laws and regulations which require health as an equally shared consideration in all General Plan development.
- 13 Funding high-quality medical, dental and mental health supports to families, particularly families with small children. Supports should include health promotion and disease self-management programs in order to keep families healthy in the community.
- 14 Providing stable funding for home visiting and other case management services for families at risk for poor health and social outcomes and reauthorizing and increasing funding for Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.
- 15 Reducing costs, increasing revenue and providing flexibility in the use of state and federal funds for the Health System.
- 16 Improving care for elderly and disabled residents by:
  - Implementing the Coordinated Care Initiative by giving San Mateo the flexibility to spend money on long-term support services in ways



that most benefit the client.

- Continuing the Nursing Home Diversion Program. This grant program has helped older Americans and veterans remain independent and to support people with Alzheimer’s disease to remain in their homes and communities.
- 17 Establishing inflation and caseload adjustments for the federal Older Americans Act so this funding stream can keep pace with increases in cost and demand.
  - 18 Modifying laws and regulations so that people with sex offender labels who are no longer a threat to the community can be placed in appropriate care facilities.
  - 19 Improving care for children with special health care needs by unifying California Children’s Services (CCS) Administration program with the Health Plan of San Mateo using a CCS waiver for pilot programs—and continued improvements to enable more effective and efficient administration of the program.
  - 20 Modifying eligibility requirements so that those formerly incarcerated on drug charges are eligible for Medi-Cal, food stamps and other public benefits.
  - 21 Providing financial relief for correctional health responsibilities, such as Medi-Cal-related cost containment/revenue generation methods.
  - 22 Promoting funding for technology and local capacity for outreach and enrollment and retention of health care coverage programs, including funding to support successful enrollments in Medi-Cal.
  - 23 Promoting appropriate information sharing between state and local government entities to streamline administration of public health coverage programs, such as facilitating information sharing among Covered California, the Department of Health Care Services and Counties that offer locally supported health coverage programs for those in-eligible for Federal/State programs.
  - 24 Implementation of laws or regulations that promote streamlined and “no wrong door” processes for consumers to be screened and enrolled in public benefits programs such as Medi-Cal and subsidized health coverage through Covered California to maximize coverage and reduce reliance on scarce safety net healthcare resources.
  - 25 Modifications in statute that would allow paramedics to be used and reimbursed for their services in alternative health care settings and would allow them to be involved not only in evaluating and transporting patients to emergency departments, but in the provision of care or transportation to the most appropriate destination, including alternate destinations when medically appropriate.

- 26 Legislation and regulatory measures that maintain or strengthen the authority and governing role of Counties and their Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies, or LEMSA's, to plan, implement and evaluate aspects and components of the EMS system.
- 27 Providing stable funding and increased access for mental health and drug and alcohol services through full implementation of state and federal mental health and drug and alcohol parity laws.
- 28 Providing stable funding for children enrolled in special education programs that require mental health services as well as for alcohol and other drug services.
- 29 Providing stable funding for locked long-term care and ancillary services for people with behavioral health problems, including Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers under 16 beds.
- 30 Promoting integration of mental health and alcohol/drug services with primary care services through opportunities presented by the state's Medicaid waivers and efforts to reform laws that prevent sharing of clinical information among providers and health plans serving the same person.
- 31 Providing stable funding for the local healthcare services and programs that will continue to be needed even after health care reform is fully implemented.
- 32 Laws that require Health Care Districts (HCDs) to provide health care to the remaining uninsured.
- 33 Providing support to local healthcare services and programs that serve clients in the criminal justice system.
- 34 Providing stable funding for alcohol and other drug services through California alcohol and other drug services through a California alcohol tax.
- 35 Providing regulatory protection for the confidentiality of After Action Reports developed in response to an emergency incident to ensure reports are honest and comprehensive without fear of public retaliation or law suits.
- 36 Increasing options for adult mediation as a strategy for jail diversion including confidentiality protection similar to that provided for juveniles.
- 37 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support affordable and culturally competent health services.
- 38 Modification in the Brown Act such that people with disabilities who are homebound can participate via technology.
- 39 Elimination of the Institute for Mental Disease Exclusion from Medi-Cal and Medicaid.



- 40 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support access to affordable and culturally competent oral health services, including access to dentists, for all ages, and those with special healthcare needs and/or disabilities.



## HOUSING

### The County Supports:

- 1 Solutions and funding for the region's housing crisis that address the needs of homeless, lower-income residents, emancipated youth, transitional age youth, CalWORKs participants and at-risk populations including the housing needs of farmworkers, people with disabilities, the elderly and the formerly incarcerated.
- 2 Efforts to preserve affordable and accessible housing and the development of new affordable and accessible housing through additional funding for local housing trust funds, funding of the state housing trust funds, and efforts to expand the use of Cap and Trade funds for smart housing developments in coastal counties.
- 3 Smart Growth efforts and other land use decisions that facilitate appropriate mixed-use developments along efficient public transportation corridors.
- 4 Examination of current rules and standards that benefit lower density development (over high density development) and vehicular movement at the expense of pedestrian traffic and safety. While the County supports development incentives for Smart Growth related activities, the County opposes efforts to divert or restrict funding usage to specific programs.
- 5 Preserving land use authority of local governments by allowing jurisdictions that have adopted inclusionary zoning ordinances, such as San Mateo County, to take the intended and predictable effect of the ordinance into account when calculating availability of adequate zoned capacity to meet their Regional Housing Needs Allocation.
- 6 Adopting legislation that would expressly authorize cities and counties to establish inclusionary requirements as a condition of housing development.
- 7 Expansion of the California Assisted Living Waiver Pilot Project so that senior low-income residents of the County may use Medi-Cal benefits to pay for affordable assisted living services in a residential setting.
- 8 Consideration of an amendment to the definition of "source income" in the state's law forbidding non-discrimination in housing rentals to also include specific federal, state or local housing assistance or subsidies paid either to the tenant or directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant.
- 9 Legislation to help preserve housing rental units for CalWORKs families.



## HUMAN SERVICES

### The County Supports:

- 1 Preservation and increased funding for human service programs realigned to counties in 1991.
- 2 Adjustments to county human service fund allocations that account for the cost differences among California counties in providing services.
- 3 Preservation of children's protective services, participation and funding.
- 4 Maximum flexibility to institute innovative practices in child welfare and foster care such as "wrap around" services and multi-discipline service approaches.
- 5 Increased funding for foster parent recruitment and retention and greater funding flexibility for foster care services, which are critical to adequately protect children in need.
- 6 Ensure ongoing funding to support victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and to support policies that protect foster youth who have suffered from sexual exploitation.
- 7 Adoption of statewide guidelines on best practices in providing care to foster youth in need of psychotropic drug medication.
- 8 Elimination of reductions to penalties related to the failure to meet the work participation rate in CalWORKs.
- 9 Increased flexibilities for the administration of CalWORKs. Flexibility in the CalWORKs program should include income eligibility standards for childcare and flexibility with the 24 Month Time Clock for Welfare-to-Work clients.
- 10 Allowing for county flexibility in the work component and permissible activities that contribute to work participation rates in CalWORKs.
- 11 Elimination of the Maximum Grant Rule in the CalWORKs program.
- 12 Ensure counties have the financial, personnel and information technology system support that is required to maintain ongoing mandate of the Affordable Care Act.
- 13 Preventing the loss of affordable healthcare and other public assistance for residents who are impacted by increases to local and state minimum wage increases.
- 14 Increased funding for the food allocation to SSI/SSP recipients.
- 15 Programs and services that assist and recognize the role of fathers in the development and well-being of their child(ren).



## PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE

### The County Supports:

- 1 Constitutional protections that provide guaranteed and adequate state funding for counties' new responsibilities related to 2011 Public Safety Realignment, and will oppose any efforts that transfer additional program responsibilities to counties without adequate funding, constitutional protections, and safety needs of the local system
- 2 The development of a permanent and equitable Public Safety Realignment funding formula that rewards strategies to reduce recidivism.
- 3 Preservation of funding for local public safety efforts, including inmate housing, security, programming, health, juvenile probation and prevention programs, mental health and drug and alcohol programs.
- 4 Continue efforts to maximize opportunity for reimbursement for inmate medical care, including option available under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as pursuing funding for increased needs resulting from realignment. Mitigate liabilities in areas such as health, mental health, American with Disabilities (ADA) and other areas of legal concern.
- 5 Preservation of funding and, in the future, seek additional funding for an expanded, more robust and comprehensive drug court.
- 6 Full state funding for court security costs provided by the County.
- 7 Full funding for the cost of booking and processing of persons arrested by public entities in the County as authorized in Government Code 29553(b).
- 8 Increased funding and regulation for domestic violence and prohibited persons compliance firearms programs.
- 9 Ensure continued state funding for adult criminal justice facilities that will meet the needs created by realignment, i.e., programming space, substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc.
- 10 Policies that help it better it implement Proposition 47, as well as mitigate local criminal justice impacts.
- 11 Efforts to protect the County's autonomy to operate an inmate phone system that allows for increased Inmate Welfare Fund revenue and continues its ability to protect the safety of jail staff, the inmate population and the public.
- 12 Increased funding for inmate management, programming, supervision, and substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and other inmate services.
- 13 Legislation to amend PERS regulations that dis-incentivize consolidation and contracting out of police services.

- 14 Continued review of the alignment of Chief Probation Officer selection, appointment and retention authority with funding. The County also supports cautious review of any potential separation of adult and juvenile probation activities.
- 15 Efforts to align law library costs, including facilities maintenance, with trial courts rather than the County.
- 16 Corrections reforms established within the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) that are developed through collaboration of state and local governments and criminal justice agencies that are adequately funded to build upon successful, existing programs. Full state funding for any new requirements imposed on the Community Corrections Partnership.
- 17 State funding for local jail construction projects, which recognize the importance of inmate programs and services such as educational, vocational and treatment services and provides flexibility that meets the unique characteristics of each county.
- 18 The implementation and increased funding for support services for juvenile probation and prevention programs, such as tattoo removals and job training.
- 19 Alternatives to youth incarceration, such as restorative justice programs.
- 20 Alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.



## PUBLIC WORKS

The County Supports:

- 1 Statewide policies that ensure construction expansion, rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of local infrastructure as priorities.
- 2 Balanced with the need for environmental protection, the streamlining and coordination of regulatory requirements so that routine projects can be processed without delay, expectation for routine work can be established and the costs of both initial construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of local infrastructure can be effectively reduced.
- 3 Funding for regulations on storm water management required by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to fund activities consistent with municipal storm water permit requirements.
- 4 Coordinating regulatory agency permitting requirements for maintenance and capital improvement projects to avoid conflicting requirements from state agencies and streamlining delivery of projects.
- 5 Funding to support implementation of California Air Resource Board regulatory mandates relating to diesel powered construction equipment.

- 6 Permanent authority to use the Design-Build and Construction Manager (CM) At Risk project delivery methods.
- 7 Allowing the use of the “Integrated Project Delivery” (IPD) method for delivering construction projects over \$1 million.
- 8 Flexibility for alternative project delivery methods on infrastructure projects.



## STATE BUDGET

### The County Supports:

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



## TAX AND FINANCE

### The County Supports:

- 1 Preservation of existing revenues and revenue authority. The County opposes efforts to expand Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements, as MOEs tend to penalize more progressive counties that implement programs before the statewide program.
- 2 Maintenance of property tax revenues directed to local government. The County opposes efforts to direct property tax revenues away from local government.
- 3 The existing property tax allocation laws, which return surplus Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) dollars to local taxing entities. The County strongly opposes legislative actions, which would utilize ERAF for payment of state program/service obligations.
- 4 A lower voter threshold for special taxes to 55 percent.
- 5 Efforts to allocate funding through block grants, which allow for maximum flexibility in the use of funding within designated programs.
- 6 Federal funding mechanisms that allow funding to flow directly to local governments rather than through state government.
- 7 Increased ability to utilize state or local matching funds to draw down additional federal funds.
- 8 Economic development efforts that grow the California and local economy in a sustainable (environmental and economic) fashion.
- 9 Increased funding for county infrastructure needs, should such funds be available.



## TRANSPORTATION

### The County Supports:

- 1 Allocation of formulas that ensure the County receives its fair share of infrastructure bond funding by reflecting, in part, the variation in the cost of living and doing business among the state's diverse communities
- 2 The protection from diversion or borrowing of the federal or state gas tax.
- 3 Prohibitions on the delayed pass-through of state transportation funding (HUTA) to counties caused by state budget delays.
- 4 Consideration of additional and/or dedicated statewide ongoing revenue sources that support local operations and maintenance of existing and future infrastructure needs.

- 5 Updating, adjusting and/or indexing the current gas tax. Pursuing alternative funding strategies including vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- 6 The Legislative Analyst's Office recommendation to require a statewide transportation needs assessment every five years, if the assessment has no fiscal impact on County funds or revenues.
- 7 The implementation and funding for affordable transportation for low-income youth and families.



# 2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The following are the top federal legislative priorities for San Mateo County in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress, Second Session:

In 2016, San Mateo County will remain focused on federal policy relevant to the health, economic development, education, public safety, and infrastructure needs of its residents.

With the establishment of the County Office of Sustainability, increased interaction with the federal departments involved in climate change such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Energy, Commerce, Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Interior, and Transportation, as well as the White House will be undertaken. Given that 2016 is the last year of President Barack Obama's second term in office, the Administration is expected to advance the President's priorities through Executive Action and federal department activity. All the elements that surround the climate change agreements reached during the International Summit in Paris in December 2015 are expected to be a major focus.

In addition, the Administration is expected to continue to seek opportunities to bolster the needs of the middle class in consumer actions, banking, small business, housing and veteran's affairs to name a few.

Outreach designed to align with the County special task forces on affordable housing and veterans will also be a focal point to match up potential sources of federal funding across several departments. This includes supporting ongoing annual federal funding mechanisms, whether as direct or pass through formula programs, and seeking out and applying for discretionary grants emerging from federal departments.

**OVERVIEW:** In October 2015, Congress enacted a revised bipartisan two-year budget deal intended to end years of gridlock and ongoing threats of federal government shutdowns. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 was negotiated between the White House and top congressional leaders and set totals for two years of federal funding while raising the debt ceiling.





The new budget agreement extends the nation's debt limit through 2017 and sets its spending levels through September of that year. It raises the spending caps set in place in 2011 that required \$80 billion in sequester cuts. These caps set by the former budget resolution were \$523 billion for defense spending to \$493.5 billion for non-defense program spending. The new agreement raises defense spending to \$548 billion and non-defense spending to \$518 billion, and it suspends the statutory limit on public debt until March 15, 2017. With this as a backdrop, federal program spending for FY 2016 was held at FY 2015 levels through a Continuing Resolution through mid-December. Congress combined all 12 spending bills into one—the Omnibus—which totaled \$1.8 trillion, and the President signed the remainder of FY 2016 spending totals into law on December 18, 2015.

The new budget agreement includes long-term entitlement reforms to the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program—the first major reform to Social Security since 1983—and prevents a spike in Medicare B premiums for millions of seniors. Like previous deficit reduction measures, some federal programs are held harmless, including many of importance to the County such as Medicaid, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Child Support Enforcement. Other domestic discretionary programs may experience slight increases based on the newly agreed upon totals: Workforce Investment Act programs, Ryan White HIV/AIDS grants, Section 8 housing vouchers, Byrne Justice Assistance grants, and State Criminal Alien Assistance Program.

In 2016, San Mateo County will support maintaining current federal funding levels in order to protect key safety net programs and increasing funding for other programs that impact ongoing services and future improvements. As the Presidential campaign season unwinds, with numerous Republican and Democratic candidates remaining, national domestic programs and defense department measures will likely receive more political campaign attention than bipartisan Congressional action. Nevertheless, San Mateo County will remain vigilant in efforts to advance its support for and objections to relevant issues as 2016 federal activity unfolds.

The following is a list of priority areas for the County:

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT.** Recently, the County established the Office of Sustainability affirming its commitment to a reduction of the County's carbon footprint. As attention to climate change continues to grow during the last year of the Obama Administration, the County will continue efforts to seek federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, Energy, Interior, Health and Human Services and Transportation to advance its environmental goals. This will include activities to support implementation of federal clean air and clean water programs, emerging technologies development, entrepreneurship and workforce training, as well as programs to improve and sustain the built environment for business, residential and recreational areas within the County.

**MEDICAID.** As one of the big three federal entitlement programs, Medicaid continues to be a target for savings in the any future Congressional negotiations.



The federal Medicaid program provides the critical funding for the health care safety net, which reimburses providers and hospitals for what would otherwise be unreimbursed medical care. Any substantial cuts to Medicaid would reduce patient access to services and decrease funding to San Mateo County health programs. This would be troubling to the County because Medicaid funding reductions would also undercut local efforts to transform outreach and care with the ongoing implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The County will oppose efforts to cut Medicaid, including implementation of a block grant, and institution of a blended FMAP rate, and urges alternative funding mechanisms to meet the critical goal of establishing balance in the federal budget. The County also urges the permanent elimination of the Institute for Mental Disease exclusion from Medi-Cal and Medicaid.

**HEALTH CARE REFORM IMPLEMENTATION.** The County continues to support implementation of the Affordable Care Act and full funding for its administration and programs, specifically comprehensive primary care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, among others.

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

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

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

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

**TANF REAUTHORIZATION.** The County will continue to promote provisions in the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to restore state and county flexibility in a way that provides matching up, stabilization activities with families’ individual needs, while maintaining the focus on work activities under TANF, and recognizing that “work first” does not mean “work only.”



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

**HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** The County has established the Closing the Jobs/Housing Task Force and will seek out and support innovative applications for affordable housing. Therefore, the County supports increased funding levels for affordable housing programs, including the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), and Sustainable Communities among others. The County is also very supportive of efforts to preserve the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) as it is the largest source of affordable housing construction funding as comprehensive tax reform unfolds under the new Congressional leadership. Finally, the County will continue monitoring and advocating for federal housing programs that offer increased investment for local efforts within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Department of Commerce and its Economic Development Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the White House.

**VETERANS.** The County will advocate for administrative changes to the VA to increase the processing rate of veterans' benefits as disability compensation, pension and survivor benefits. Although nationally, the rate of the backlog has decreased by 84 percent since 2013, there are still too many cases pending. The County will seek out federal discretionary programs to assist its veterans with social service needs.

**PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE.** The County confronts many issues related to funding for current and future justice programs and supports Congressional actions to reform sentencing and other justice department efforts to address arraignments, time served and reentry transition. The County will continue to support and seek out additional funding through Byrne Justice Assistance Grants (JAG), COPS, SCAAP, Homeland Security grants, and other justice assistance grants.

**PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM.** The County supports legislative and administrative remedies that would help expand residential PACE programs.

**INFRASTRUCTURE.** The County supports a dedicated federal funding stream for local bridges, both on- and off-system. In addition, the County supports further streamlining of the regulatory and project delivery processes; promoting programs that increase safety on the existing transportation system; and initiatives that protect previous and future investments via system maintenance and preservation.

The County will monitor implementation of the newly enacted surface transportation programs under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act, or FAST, which was signed into law on December 4, 2015 for five years. The

County will continue to review the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, the largest discretionary program within the Department of Transportation, to identify potential regional collaborations that might be able to compete effectively for funding.

**PEST PREVENTION PROGRAMS.** The County will advocate for increased funding for invasive pest exclusion and pest prevention programs, an issue of interest to the County's Agriculture, Weights and Measures Commissioner.

**JET FUEL.** The County will continue to monitor the Federal Aviation Administration "Final Policy Amendment" to its "Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue," first published 15 years ago in the Federal Register at 64 Fed. Reg. 7696, February 16, 1999 ("Revenue Use Policy"). The Amendment formally adopts FAA's interpretation of the Federal requirements for use of revenue derived from taxes including sales taxes on aviation fuel imposed by both airport sponsors and governmental agencies, local and State, that are non-airport operators. The rule restricts the use of local sales taxes to certain aviation-related purposes only, and its implementation is being negotiated with assistance from the state. The County will support legislation that would reverse the FAA's jet fuel tax revenue rule.

**TAXES.** The County will continue to support federal remote sales tax legislation—the Marketplace Fairness Act—and other proposals that would authorize state and local governments to secure tax collection and remittance from remote sellers as local governments are losing billions of dollars in uncollected sales tax revenues under the current system.

**IMMIGRATION REFORM.** Given the County's growing immigrant population, and the number of departments directly or indirectly impacted by aspects of the ongoing debate within Congress and during the Presidential race, this is a major issue for the County. The County urges Congress to continue to work towards a comprehensive immigration reform bill which creates a path to citizenship; reinforces that immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility; and provides reimbursement to counties for services provided to immigrants.

**EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING.** The County will continue its proactive outreach to support federal funding of its early childhood education programs, especially The Big Lift. It will also seek further workforce support for teens, high school drop outs and underemployed young adults. In addition, with enactment of the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA), the County will seek out and support implementation efforts that provide ongoing and new opportunities for funding of its current initiatives in early childhood, elementary and secondary education.