

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 3.9
(ID # 23167)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, December 12, 2023

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE:

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Adoption of the Mid-Session Update to the 2023-24 Legislative Platform, [All Districts] [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the Mid-Session Update to the 2023-24 Legislative Platform.

ACTION: Consent

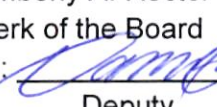
ACTION: Policy


Carolina Salazar Herrera, Deputy Director of Legislative Advocacy 12/7/2023

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Gutierrez, seconded by Supervisor Perez and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: December 12, 2023
xc: E.O.

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

BACKGROUND:

Summary

As described in Board Policy A-27, the County's Annual Legislative Platform (Platform) serves as a guideline for the County's advocacy efforts led through the Executive Office in cooperation with County departments, legislative advocates, and community partners. The Platform serves as a tool for focusing on and achieving the County's primary advocacy goals, as well as a reference for evaluating legislation under consideration at the State and Federal levels.

The following process is used to develop the Platform:

- 1) The Executive Office works with departments to identify challenges and solutions that could involve legislative or regulatory advocacy.
- 2) The Executive Office reviews the collection of challenges and solutions, looks for common themes, and develops a draft document that captures those issues that will most improve County operations and our region.
- 3) The Executive Office presents the Platform to the Board of Supervisors for consideration and adoption.

On January 10, 2023, the Board adopted the 2023-24 Legislative Platform. As we enter the second year of the legislative session, the Executive Office has worked with the Board of Supervisors, and department leaders to identify key policy initiatives the County wants to highlight and/or include in the updated Mid-Session 2023-24 Legislative Platform. These updates are outlined on page 8 of the Platform.

As the State and Federal legislative session continues, the Executive Office will work with the Board of Supervisors and department leaders to develop a comprehensive list of bills that impact the County along with advocacy strategies for the year. Advocacy updates will be provided to the Board of Supervisors as part of the regular Legislative Updates.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. 2023-24 Legislative Platform



2023-24 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM





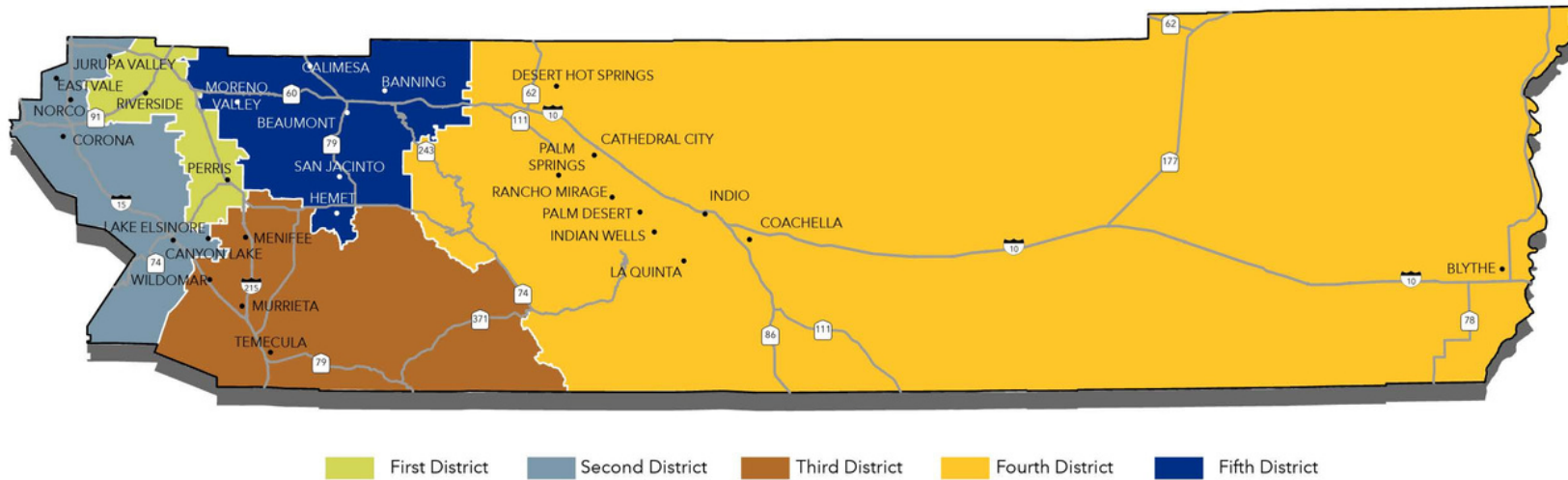
County of Riverside, Board of Supervisors. *2023-24 Legislative Platform*.
Approved January 11, 2023, Board Item 3.3 ID# 20710.

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



1



Supervisor Kevin Jeffries

Cities: Perris, Riverside, and Wildomar

Unincorporated Communities: De Luz, Good Hope, Highgrove, La Cresta, March Air Reserve Base, Mead Valley, Meadowbrook, and Tenaja

2



Supervisor Karen Spiegel

Cities: Canyon Lake, Corona, Eastvale, portions of Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, and Norco

Unincorporated Communities: Canyon Ridge, Coronita, El Cariso, El Cerrito, Gavilan Hills, Home Gardens, Lake Hills, Lake Mathews, Lakeland Village, Rancho Capistrano, Rancho Carrillo, Temescal Valley, Victoria Grove, Warm Springs, and Woodcrest

3



Supervisor Chuck Washington

Cities: Menifee, Murrieta, and Temecula

Unincorporated Communities: Aguanga, Anza, East Hemet, French Valley, Green Acres, Homeland, Lake Riverside, Romoland, Sage, portions of Valle Vista, and Winchester

4



Supervisor V. Manuel Perez

Cities: Blythe, Cathedral City, Coachella, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage

Unincorporated Communities: Bermuda Dunes, Chiriaco Summit, Colorado River communities, Desert Center, Desert Edge, Eagle Mountain, Idyllwild, Indio Hills, Lake Tamarisk, Mecca, Mesa Verde, Mountain Center, North Shore, Oasis, Pine Cove, Ripley, Sky Valley, Sun City, Thermal, Thousand Palms, and Vista Santa Rosa

5



Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez

Cities: Banning, Beaumont, Calimesa, Hemet, Moreno Valley, and San Jacinto

Unincorporated Communities: Cabazon, Cherry Valley, Lakeview, Nuevo, Reche Canyon, San Timeteo Canyon, and portions of Valle Vista and Whitewater.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



Whether a Republican or a Democrat, progressive or conservative, serving a first term or the last, those representing the residents of Riverside County are driven by the singular desire to improve the quality of life for those we serve. This determination to deliver for a constituency that is shared between elected and appointed leaders in the county, cities, tribal nations, Sacramento and Washington D.C., is the why that inspires a common mission.

This platform, more than merely a declaration of initiatives, is meant to be a statement of principles to guide our mutual efforts to develop policies, improve processes, and build partnerships that seek to identify and implement solutions to the challenges our community faces. Only when we know what our goals are, can we ever hope to achieve them.

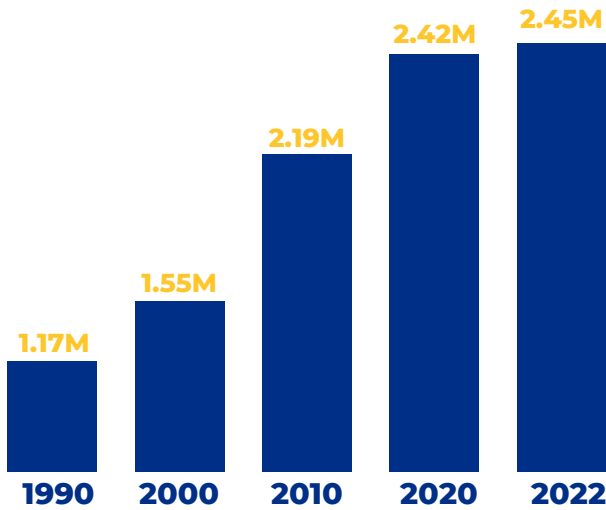
It is our intention that this collection of policy pillars and legislative priorities, taken in conjunction with the strategies we implement to realize them, will serve as a roadmap for our region.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Van Wagenen, Jr.", is positioned above the printed name.

Jeffrey A. Van Wagenen, Jr.
County Executive Officer

RIVERSIDE COUNTY'S RAPID GROWTH

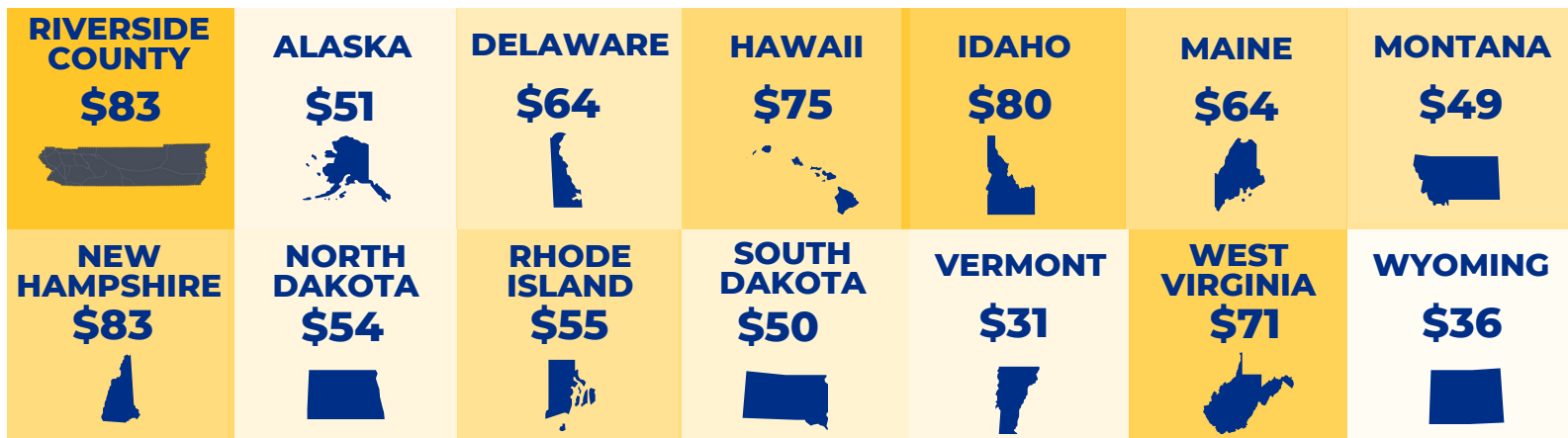
POPULATION 1990-2022



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

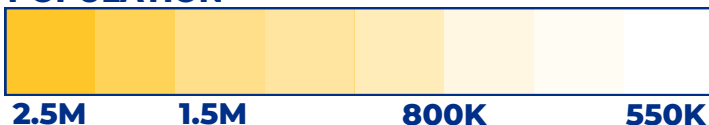
Riverside County is experiencing rapid population growth; from the period of 1990-2020, the average growth in population per year was 41,592. The County of Riverside is the fourth most populous county in California and the tenth most populous county in the United States. Since 1990, the county's population has more than doubled.

GDP LARGER THAN 13 STATES



GDP IN BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

POPULATION



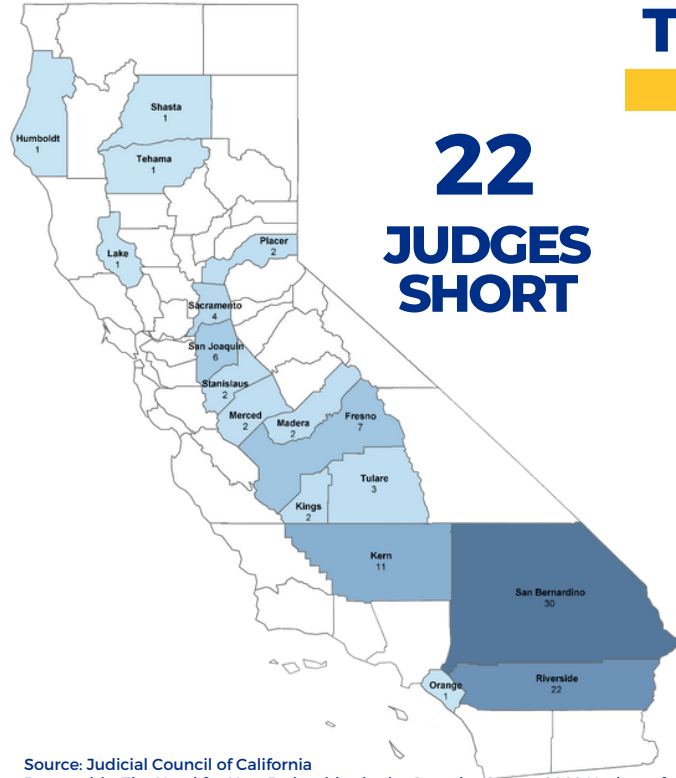
Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
U.S. Department of Commerce
Gross Domestic Product by State,
2021 Real Gross Domestic Product

TIMELY ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**22
JUDGES
SHORT**

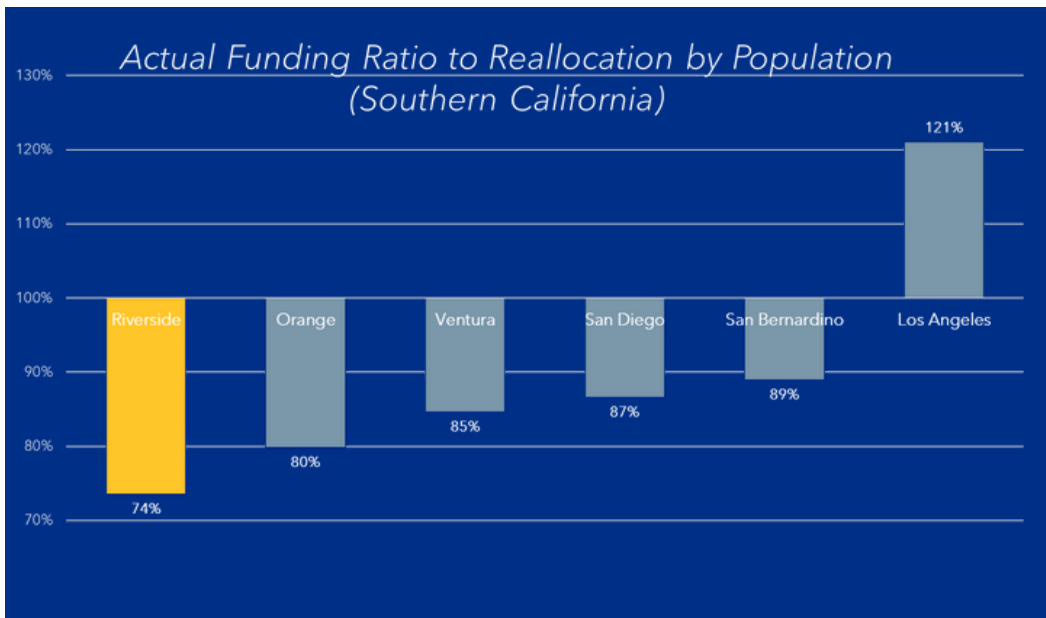
As the fastest growing County in California, the County's share of state and federal resources have not kept up with the pace of population growth.

The lack of access to justice impacts communities and hinders County departments from delivering services in a timely manner.



Source: Judicial Council of California
 Report title: The Need for New Judgeships in the Superior Courts: 2022 Update of the Judicial Needs Assessment
 Statutory citation: Government Code section 69614(c)(1) and (3)
 Figure A1. 2022 Judgeship Needs Map: Number of Judges Needed in California Courts Based on Workload

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FUNDING DISPARITIES



The County of Riverside ranks 56th in per capita funding for behavioral health. This is due to antiquated funding formulas based on 1991 and 2011 population counts.



LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM MID-SESSION UPDATE

As we enter the second year of the two-year legislative session there are some key policy initiatives the County wants to highlight and/or include in the 2023-24 Legislative Platform within each of the following advocacy strategies:

LEGISLATION

- **CARE Act:** The County will work with the State to inform the policy making process and advocate for full reimbursement of costs to the County.
- **Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis:** The County will advocate for legislation that helps address the fentanyl and opioid crisis.
- **Homelessness:** The County will advocate for greater consistency in funding streams that allow for innovation and improved service delivery.
- **Integrated Service Delivery:** The County will support policy proposals that remove barriers that limit the County's ability to focus on constituent-centered service delivery, advocating for the expansion of multi-disciplinary teams, and increased funding of innovative models.
- **Vulnerable Children and Adults:** The County will advocate for solutions that address the complex needs of this population, particularly those in foster care.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FUNDING

- **Access to Justice:** The County will advocate for the funding of SB 75 (Roth) judgeships and to keep existing courthouses open.
- **Digital Divide:** The County will advocate for more equitable investments in infrastructure and affordable access to broadband.
- **Military Facilities:** The County will advocate for continued investment in March Air Reserve Base and the Naval Surface Warfare Center and support policies support the mission of the bases.
- **Prison Closures:** The County will advocate for State funding to assist and invest in communities impacted by prison closures.
- **Electric Vehicle (EV) Infrastructure:** The County will advocate for equitable investment of access to EV infrastructure throughout the County.
- **Mobile Home Parks:** The County will advocate for further investment in safe and stable housing.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Ben Clark Training Center (BCTC):** The County will continue to identify state and federal partners to participate in the development of our regional public safety training campus.

POLICY PILLARS

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

These policy pillars guide the County's commitment to improve the quality of life for all those who live, work, and enjoy life in Riverside County.



FAIR & EQUITABLE FUNDING

Advocate for full funding that meets the needs of Riverside County's growing and diverse communities.



LOCAL GOVERNANCE REQUIRES LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Advocate for policies and initiatives that enhance local discretion in delivering services and resources.



BREAKING BARRIERS & BUILDING BRIDGES

Advocate for removing barriers that limit the County's ability to innovate and focus on constituent-centered service delivery.

BETTER DATA • BETTER DISCUSSIONS • BETTER DECISIONS

The County of Riverside commits to continuous improvement and innovation. The County collects, evaluates, and uses data to make better decisions that are focused on uplifting community voices and delivering results.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The County of Riverside will continue to do its part to meet California's housing needs, uplifting the region and partners to better connect and serve current and future residents.

The County's legislative priorities advance the advocacy goals and are guided by the following legislative priorities. The legislative priorities in this document are a reflection of the direction set forth by the Board of Supervisors, with expertise and guidance provided by department leaders. These four legislative priorities will guide how the County engages in advocacy for the coming year.

I Financially Stable and Results Oriented Service Delivery

II Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Neighborhoods

III Thriving, Robust, and Diverse Economy

IV Paving the Way for Resilient, Ready, and Connected Communities

Financially Stable & Results Oriented Service Delivery

- Financial responsibility is a cornerstone of all of the County's efforts. As stewards of taxpayer dollars, the County will advocate to bring a fair share of state and federal resources to the County.
- The County advocates for funding that takes into account the unique needs of Riverside County communities, environment, geography, and future growth.
- The County continuously pushes to fix outdated funding formulas that do not take into account recent and future population growth.
- Delivering results is the focus, not simply delivering services. The County will work to fix the fractured funding streams that prevent the County from streamlining services.
- Aggressive pursuit of external funding opportunities is key, and the County will advocate for changes when necessary, including ensuring there is fair competition and regional funding opportunities when appropriate.
- The County supports expanding its ability to fund community, public-private partnerships.



General Governance

- Support reform efforts that improve the County's ability to more efficiently administer and be reimbursed for the costs of administering current and proposed programs.
- Pursue funds to support County priorities to help non-revenue generating agencies provide adequate service levels.
- Support legislation which resolves antiquated funding formulas that are inequitable and do not consider the current and future population growth of the County.
- Support initiatives which allow the County to make the best use of its bonding and financing authority.
- Support funding for the County to assist the administration of essential services.
- Support regulatory changes to add local data to the state electronic reporting system for specific or unique populations.

Financially Stable & Results Oriented Service Delivery



Results Oriented Service Delivery

- Advocate for and support legislative, administrative, and budgetary efforts to revise the funding allocation methodologies for County social service agencies to ensure that the County receives proper funding which reflects the current and future population growth of the County.
- Support efforts that allow for expanded sharing of information through local agency collaboration and automated data exchange between agencies.
- Provide flexible funding for supportive services and multi-disciplinary service teams.
- Support efforts to streamline and modernize the systems by which County specific data is administered and reported to the state and federal government.
- Support efforts that help meet the needs of the families the County serves, increasing compliance with court orders while removing unnecessary burdens and obstacles.
- Support a dedicated funding stream to fund preventive health services or activities that improve community health outcomes.
- Support legislation that provides increased access for community veteran service organizations (CVSOs) to Department of Veteran Affairs information systems.

II Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Neighborhoods

- Keeping Riverside County communities safe is of utmost importance.
- By supporting policies that expand local climate resiliency and emergency response, the County helps protect communities from the impacts of climate change.
- Dedication and devotion to reducing poverty, improving economic conditions, and systemic equity are key focus areas.
- The County is committed to whole person health, and the innovation of social services to support families in an integrated manner, rather than department by department or program by program.
- The removal of barriers, transformation of service delivery, and results are some key measures of the County's success.
- Building and serving the Riverside County of tomorrow is achieved by planning, investing, and innovating today.
- The County was selected to be one of the first seven counties to implement CARE Court. The County will convene local partners and connect with state leaders to successfully implement CARE Court and help inform the statewide roll out in December 2024.



Public Safety

- Advocate for increased funding of public safety.
- Support efforts to fund prevention programs.
- Support additional and ongoing funding to reduce violence and promote safer communities.

Access to Justice

- Support efforts to fund local courts that better meet the judicial needs of County residents, including advocating for the creation of new judgeships and funding formulas that support local needs.
- Support courthouse projects which help meet the needs of current and future residents.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Support legislative, regulatory, and funding measures that maintain or strengthen the authority and governing role of the County and its Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) to plan, implement and evaluate all aspects of the EMS system.
- Support measures that improve the quality, operational efficiency and systems based approach to EMS.
- Promote initiatives that encourage the equitable participation, funding and support of EMS system providers and hospitals.

II Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Neighborhoods

Disaster Preparedness, Management, and Response

- Support maximum reimbursement of costs and damages associated with wildfires, floods, extreme weather, or other natural disasters, for the County and residents.
- Rebuild housing and communities impacted by disaster and support revolving loan fund models which quickly deploy housing-related disaster assistance.
- Provide climate resilience grants seeking to fortify existing homes and reduce the vulnerabilities of new homes.
- Promote policies which invest in preparedness and rapid recovery of emergency disasters.
- Support policies and programs which provide increased access to social services for residents following emergency disasters, including reimbursing the cost to the County.
- Support funding opportunities for counties to prepare and fund cybersecurity.



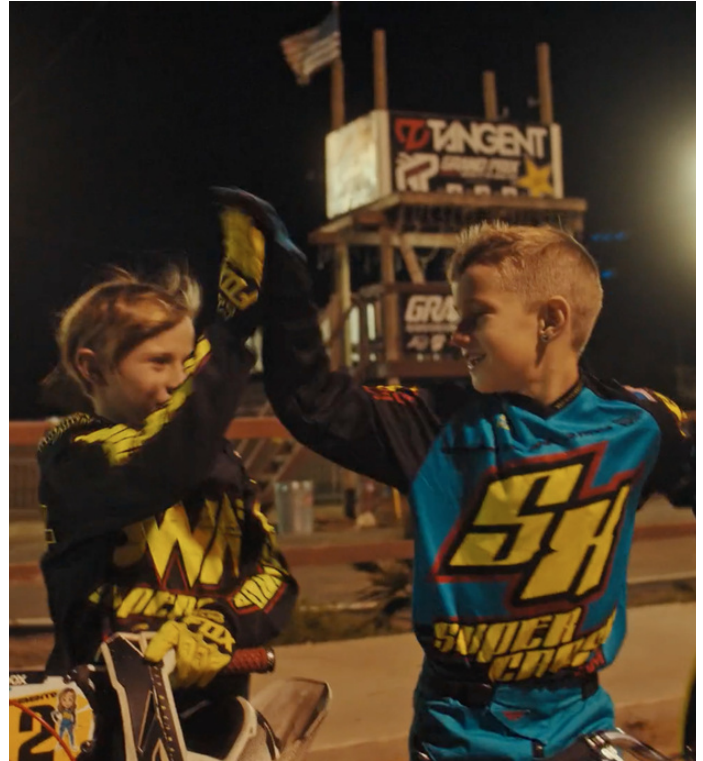
Prevention, Intervention, and Access Saves Lives

- Pursue an update to the allocation of state funds for healthcare (realignment).
- Support expanded access to health coverage that streamlines Medicaid (Medi-Cal) enrollment and retention.
- Encourage the allocation of new revenue streams in an equitable manner across all local health jurisdictions.
- Support efforts to reduce health disparities and improve health equity.
- Oppose efforts to change the definition of Public Charge and any initiative that would restrict or remove access to health coverage and services.
- Support revision of payment structure so that payment rates are uniform across in-person, telephonic, Telehealth, and video calls with health care providers that improve access to healthcare, integration, value, and efficiency.
- Support efforts to enhance funding for public health, public safety net, and behavioral health systems.
- Support increased and flexible state and federal funding and resources directed at building the capacity of local public health departments and infrastructure to combat and control communicable diseases.

II Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Neighborhoods

Prevention, Intervention, and Access Saves Lives (continued)

- Support increase in Medicaid reimbursement, as California has one of the lowest rates of reimbursement in the country.
- Oppose cuts to Medicaid and Medicare that would cut reimbursement or restrict eligibility or services.
- Support renewal of the Medicaid (Medi-Cal) waiver, and/or new waiver replacement funding/programs in follow up to the Medi-Cal waiver.
- Strongly support updating Medi-Cal rules to ensure that incarcerated patients do not lose coverage upon intake into jails or while in the care of the Correctional System.
- Support Medi-Cal reimbursement for medical and behavioral health services provided to incarcerated individuals.
- Support policies and legislation that improve chronic pain management and reduce inappropriate prescribing of opioids without creating barriers to accurate and safe patient care.
- Effect legislation that would allow teaching institutions to be reimbursed for the graduate medical education as a percentage of Medicaid reimbursements and not just Medicare, as many public hospitals are teaching hospitals with a large majority of Medicaid patients.
- Support preservation and increases in funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers, including legislation to allow reimbursement for mental health and clinical services on the same day.
- Support expansion of access to dental care and preventive services.
- Support funding models to promote access to forensic examinations for cases of domestic violence and child abuse.
- Protect the 340B federal drug program, and pharmacy reimbursement, from any legislative or administrative changes that would restrict or negatively impact patients.
- Eliminate or delay cuts to Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) funding and oppose restrictive changes and/or cuts to supplemental payments to public hospitals.
- Advocate for increased funding for counseling, claims assistance to access benefits, and education for veterans as well as their dependents and survivors.
- Seek to improve nutrition, obesity, and fitness education programs as well as health literacy and reduce food insecurity.
- Change the method of reporting HIV/AIDS cases; the County could receive 50% more funding to better address the needs of the HIV/AIDS population and improve the health outcomes and healthcare costs of this population.
- Support efforts to increase funding to adequately address lead poisoning prevention and case management activities.



II Safe, Sustainable, and Healthy Neighborhoods



Behavioral Health and Wellness

- Support efforts to acquire funds for behavioral health infrastructure.
 - Advocate for behavioral health payment reform to improve the quality of County behavioral health services and to create greater efficiencies within the public behavioral health system.
 - Invest in new state funding for diversion programs including new opportunities for justice system-involved individuals living with mental illness.
 - Support waiver proposals that promote behavioral health integration, including through incentives and easing of regulatory barriers.
- Support efforts to improve quality outcomes and drive delivery system transformation through value-based initiatives, modernization of systems and payment reform.
 - Oppose proposals that seek to divert or restrict Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds currently allocated to the public behavioral health system.
 - Support funding for the development and implementation of community mental health and substance abuse plans.
 - Support measures that increase access to behavioral health and wellness professionals for First Responders.
 - Advocate for increased funding for care coordination, behavioral health counseling and wellness programs for older adults and persons with disabilities.
 - Support efforts to increase behavioral health services to foster youth.
 - Advocate for flexibility to design prevention programs to encourage the provision of base funding to state and local health departments with additional funding available on a competitive basis.
 - Advocate for additional equitable investments in the state's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) entitlement to meet the increasing needs of children with behavioral health conditions.
 - Support policies that offer enhanced and embedded clinical mental health services within the various Public Health Nursing/Maternal Child & Adolescent Health (MCAH/PHN) and other community-based programs designed toward alleviating Maternal Mental Health Disorders (MMHDs).
 - Advocate for funding to increase the number of school sites with on-site integrated services including county behavioral health and medical services.
 - Strongly support the continuation of the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) model. This model has afforded counties an invaluable opportunity to build more comprehensive continuums of care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with substance use disorders while working to improve quality and deliver positive treatment outcomes.
 - Support strategies to streamline funding and program complexities of the California Children's Services (CCS) program to meet the demands of the complex medical care and treatment needs for children with certain physically disabling conditions.
 - Monitor the CCS program and seek protections against increased county program costs.
 - Oppose any efforts to require counties to provide funding for the CCS program beyond their Maintenance of Effort (MOE).

III Thriving, Robust, and Diverse Economy

- The County is focused on spurring economic opportunities for businesses to grow and thrive.
- Support state and federal efforts for regional economic development to include industry cluster strategy.
- Support efforts for inclusive economic development to elevate the County, focusing on growth, sustainability, equity, and competitiveness.
- Support efforts to incentivize business growth and relocation which will promote work-life balance.
- The County focuses on increasing high-quality childcare, as it is integral to creating opportunities for current and future workforce.



Educational Attainment & Workforce Development

- Support state and federal efforts to more adequately fund County staff to administer mandated programs.
- Support efforts to address healthcare workforce needs that could improve access for patients and/or create efficiencies within the system.
- Support federal and state efforts to increase cybersecurity, physician assistant, social worker, and veterinary service workforce pathways.
- Support efforts which expand USDA backing for veterinarians in the public sector.
- Support policies that encourage businesses to participate in the County's Veteran-Friendly Business program.

Agriculture

- Oppose any reductions in funding and services, or increased costs to agricultural businesses.
- Promote and protect the agricultural industry of the County and its environment, ensuring the health and safety of the County's citizens, and fostering confidence and equity in the marketplace.
- Support efforts to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests and diseases harmful to agriculture, including strengthening inspections at borders.

Improving Economic Conditions

- Support legislation to decrease food insecurity and advance policy, systems, and environmental changes that improve systemic resiliency.
- Create regional poverty thresholds that accurately reflect the cost of food, clothing, shelter, and other living expenses. Adjust thresholds by region to account for variation in the cost of living. When counting families' resources to determine whether they fall below the poverty line using families' post-tax income.
- Decrease or eliminate interest on child support arrears from the current ten percent per annum.
- Support legislation that provides for payment of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) for all military retirees, regardless of the percentage of their service-connected disabilities.
- Support legislation that eliminates the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)-Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset.
- Support legislation that eliminates the requirement for war-time service as an eligibility requirement for non-service connected and death pension.



IV Paving the Way for Resilient, Ready, and Connected Communities

- The County supports meaningful investments that aid transportation and infrastructure in a manner that accounts for the region's growing population, traffic congestion, safety, as well as environmental and health impacts.
- Water conservation is not enough, which is why the County will advocate for more storage, improved conveyance, new supply, and regulatory certainty.
- Commitment to an equitable expansion of broadband and transportation infrastructure that focuses on access and meaningful investments, especially in hard to reach communities is critical to the County's future.
- The County supports grid and energy resiliency for current and future growth needs.
- Riverside County is a desirable place to live, and the County is dedicated to preserving and expanding housing affordability for all.
- Expansion opportunities to fund parks, open space, trails, and habitat conservation are vital for the quality of life of Riverside County residents.
- The County celebrates the rich history of the Native American tribal nations that have called this land home for generations, seeks to build on our cooperative relationships, and supports joint priorities that advance our region.



Equitable Access to Broadband

- Support policies that ensure all residents have equal opportunity access to broadband internet service, especially in hard-to-reach communities.
- Support funding aimed at addressing the digital divide and improving access to technology as it impacts equitable access to health care and education.

Transportation

- Pursue legislation and funding to increase safety on local roads and highways.
- Support federal efforts to develop both the French Valley and the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airports.
- Support development of a multimodal transit system that promotes equitable access, choice, and environmental sustainability, while maximizing competitiveness for state and federal funding.
- Support efforts to reduce project delivery timelines while maintaining important environmental protections.
- Oppose legislative proposals or implementation measures that hinder a just transition to multimodal transportation systems in Riverside County.

IV Paving the Way for Resilient, Ready, and Connected Communities



Housing for All

- Support initiatives that make sustainable investments in infrastructure development.
- Ensure existing funding programs distribute funding throughout the State and allow funding to be earmarked for new and innovative approaches.
- Support initiatives that increase the amount of funding to develop affordable housing, with an emphasis on housing earmarked for homeless households.
- Support policies that allow older adults and persons with disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities.
- Advocate for increased funding of low-income senior housing with specialized housing case management services to support seniors as they transition into permanent housing.
- Support legislation that expands rental subsidy programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.
- Support broad policy efforts to focus on prevention of homelessness, such as expanded rental and housing options for all very low-income Californians and those with behavioral health needs.
- Create an ongoing sustainable state revenue source modeled after the Homeless, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program.
- Provide funding to expand the number of permanent supportive housing units statewide. Specifically, provide an annual allocation to fund the HHAP over a five-year period of time.

IV Paving the Way for Resilient, Ready, and Connected Communities



Connecting with Nature

- Support incentives for counties to preserve farmland, open space, habitats, and expanded recreation, including increased funding.
- Monitor proposed federal land policies to ensure that the interests of County agencies are reflected in the policy making process.
- Support incentives and secure funding to expand access to public lands through development of multi-use trails.
- Secure funding for the County to purchase properties identified as suitable Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) facilities to establish legal, County-owned public OHV riding.

Sustainability

- Support funding opportunities for the County to transition to more sustainable models of energy, fuel, and water use.
- Conserving water is important but is not enough to guarantee Riverside County's future water supply, which is why the County will advocate for policies and meaningful investments in storage capacity, improved conveyance, new supply, and regulatory certainty of water supply.
- Support legislation that encourages the development of conversion technologies by removing legislative/regulatory barriers to them and by granting diversion credit on behalf of those jurisdictions that make use of them.
- Support legislation that encourages the development of, and/or removes barriers to, compost facilities.



ADVOCACY GOALS

DRIVE POLICY, IMPACT THE PROCESS, AND LEAD PARTNERSHIPS

Policy

- Provide a framework to analyze local, state, and federal policy proposals.
- Advance policy priorities locally, regionally, in Sacramento, and in Washington, D.C.
- Identify and aggressively seek funding opportunities and strategies that align with current and future needs.

Process

- Position County leaders as leading subject matter experts.
- Pursue state and federal funding appropriations and support regulatory guidelines that advance the goals and needs of the Riverside County.

Partnerships

- Convene regional partners to identify and advance joint priorities.
- Work with cities, special districts, and community leaders to craft solutions and joint strategies that elevate the Inland Empire and Southern California regions.

ADVOCACY STRATEGY

LEGISLATION

- Monitor proposed legislation, regulatory rulemaking, and funding opportunities at the state and federal levels.
- In collaboration with legislative representatives, propose legislation to advance countywide goals.
- Work with County leadership and lobbying teams to identify bills of interest to the County at the state and federal levels.
- During each legislative session, review bills of interest and propose positions and advocacy strategies for priority bills.
- Track professional association participation among department leaders and work collaboratively to advance County priorities.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS AND FUNDING

- Monitor, review, and submit comments on regulatory rule-making proposals of interest.
- Seek funding allocations at the state and federal levels.
- Identify funding policies that negatively impact Riverside County and propose alternatives.
- Raise major regulatory issues to state and federal elected officials, identifying opportunities for proposed solutions.
- Prioritize, submit, and support congressionally directed spending proposals.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

- Conduct a gap analysis in partnership with County departments, and develop a stakeholder engagement plan to address needs.
- Provide expertise on emerging issues through regular communication with state and federal agencies.
- Host meetings, tours, and provide briefings for elected officials and agencies.
- Provide regular updates to state, federal, and local elected officials and their staff members.
- Identify opportunities for the Board of Supervisors and department leaders to present or provide testimony on pertinent issues.
- Work with the Board of Supervisors and department leaders to prepare for advocacy days, and other opportunities to advance legislative priorities with leaders and stakeholders.

PARTNERSHIPS

- Support regional partners through joint legislative language, letters of support, and strategic partnerships.
- Work collaboratively to align grant and other funding opportunities to bolster regional outcomes.



Executive Office
4080 Lemon Street, 4th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501
www.RivCoNOW.org

