

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.1

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Nathan Kempe spoke regarding the community budget and the need for more affordable housing.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.1**

Online ✓

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Nathan Kempe

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # Public Comment

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 06/13/2024)

BOARD RULES

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Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:10 AM
To: nathan.startingoverstrong@gmail.com
Cc: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Request to Speak Web Submission



Thank you for submitting your request to speak. The Clerk of the Board office has received your request and will be prepared to allow you to speak when your item is called. To attend the meeting, please call (669) 900-6833 and use **Meeting ID # 864 4411 6015 . Password is 20250610**. You will be muted until your item is pulled and your name is called. Please dial in at 9:00 am with the phone number you provided in the form so you can be identified during the meeting.

Submitted on June 9, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Nathan

Last Name

Kempe

Address (Street, City and Zip)

6355 Riverside Ave

Phone

8187496856

Email

nathan.startingoverstrong@gmail.com

Agenda Date

06/09/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

Budget

State your position below

Oppose

Comments

Need a people's Budget

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.2

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Kelly Kneeland, Lawrence Waterman, Kaysi Dexter, Delnita Brown and Angela Shibata spoke regarding IHSS caregivers and the need for higher wages.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.2**



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SPEAKER'S NAME: Kelly Kneeland

Address: 24455 Hemlock Ave

City: Moreno Valley Zip: 92557

Phone #: 840-228-1052

Date: 6-9-25 Agenda # 1.1

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

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(Revised: 04/23/2025)

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SPEAKER'S NAME: Kaysi Dexter

Address: 13687 Sunray Ct

City: Mokono Valley **Zip:** 92553

Phone #: 951 616-7007

Date: 6-6-2025 **Agenda #** Public comment

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

 Support **Oppose** **Neutral**

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I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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(Revised: 04/23/2025)

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SPEAKER'S NAME: DeInita Brown

Address: PO Box 70499

City: Riverside CA Zip: 92513

Phone #: 323-620-7665

Date: June 9 2025 Agenda # public comment

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Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

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SPEAKER'S NAME: Angela Shibata

Address: 64550 Pierson Blvd #43

City: DHS Zip: 92240

Phone #: _____

Date: 6-9-25 Agenda # Public Comment

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.3

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Heather Vaikona spoke regarding her organization Lift to Rise and the need for more funding and affordable housing.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.3**

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.4

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Roy Bleckert spoke regarding Budget priorities.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.4**



Riverside County Board of Supervisors
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SPEAKER'S NAME: Roy Buehler

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____

Date: _____ Agenda # Budget

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.5

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Modesta Rodriguez, Jose Manuel Arredando, Krystal Otworth, Luna Cecena, Luz Gallegos and Kenny Rodgers spoke regarding the need for affordable housing.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.5**

✓

**Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak**

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SPEAKER'S NAME: MODESTA RODRIGUEZ

Address: 83801 Dr. Carson Blvd #1501

City: Indio **Zip:** 92201

Phone #: 760-343-9194

Date: 06-09-2025 **Agenda #** HOUSING BUDGET

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 04/23/2025)

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Riverside County Board of Supervisors
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SPEAKER'S NAME: Krystal O'worth

Address: _____

City: Coachella Zip: 92236

Phone #: (951) 745-5583

Date: 6-9-25 Agenda # 1.1

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose X _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 04/23/2025)

✓

Junta de Supervisores del Condado de Riverside
Solicitud de uso de la palabra

Presentar la solicitud al Secretario de la Junta (a la derecha del podio), Los oradores tienen derecho a tres (3) minutos, sujeto a de las Reglas de la Junta enumeradas en el reverso de este formulario. La Junta Directiva puede limitar la opinión del público sobre cualquier tema, según el número de personas que soliciten hablar y los asuntos de la junta.

NOMBRE DEL ORADOR: Luz Gallegos Luz Gallegos

Dirección: Po Box 1733
(solo si se solicita respuesta por correo electrónico de seguimiento)

Cuidad y Código postal: Perris CA 92570

Teléfono #: 951 - 443 8458

Fecha: _____ Agenda # _____

POR FAVOR, INDIQUE SU POSTURA A CONTINUACIÓN:

Postura sobre el tema del orden del día "ordinario" (no apelado):

_____ Apoyo _____ Oposición _____ Neutral

Nota: Si está aquí para un tema de la agenda que se presentó para "Apelación", indique por separado su postura sobre la apelación a continuación:

_____ Apoyo _____ Oposición _____ Neutral

Le doy mis 3 minutos a: _____

¿Necesitas traductor de español? Sí _____ No _____

Si desea escuchar la reunión en español, los auriculares están disponibles en el área del Secretario de la Junta.

Las validaciones de estacionamiento están disponibles solo para oradores: consulte al Secretario de la Junta.

REGLAS DE LA JUNTA

Solicitudes para dirigirse a la Junta sobre temas de la "Agenda":

Puede solicitar ser escuchado sobre un tema publicado en la agenda. Las solicitudes de audiencia deben presentarse al Secretario de la Junta antes de la hora programada para la reunión.

Solicitudes para dirigirse a la Junta sobre temas que "NO" están en la Agenda:

Sin perjuicio de cualquier otra disposición de estas reglas, el miembro del público tendrá derecho a dirigirse a la Junta durante el segmento de media mañana "Comunicación verbal" de la agenda publicada. Dicho propósito de dirección deberá corresponder a temas que estén bajo la jurisdicción directa de la Junta de Supervisores. SU TIEMPO SERÁ LIMITADO A TRES (3) MINUTOS. La Junta Directiva puede limitar el tiempo del público sobre cualquier tema, según el número de personas que soliciten hablar y los asuntos de la junta.

Presentaciones de Power Point/Material Impreso:

Los oradores que tengan la intención de realizar una presentación formal de PowerPoint o proporcionar material impreso deben notificar a la Oficina del Secretario de la Junta antes de las 12 del mediodía del lunes previo a la reunión de la Junta del martes, asegurándose de que la Oficina del Secretario tenga suficientes copias de todos los materiales impresos y al menos una (1) copia del CD de PowerPoint. Se proporcionará a cada supervisor copias del material impreso entregado al secretario (antes de la fecha límite del lunes al mediodía). Si necesita utilizar el proyector "Elmo" en la reunión de la Junta, asegúrese de que su material sea claro y tenga el contraste adecuado, notificando al Secretario con suficiente antelación a la reunión su intención de utilizarlo. Se prohíbe a los oradores traer carteles a la sala de audiencias.

Límites de oradores individuales:

Los oradores individuales están limitados a un máximo de tres (3) minutos. La Junta Directiva puede limitar el tiempo del público sobre cualquier tema, según el número de personas que soliciten hablar y los asuntos de la junta. Suba al podio cuando el Presidente diga su nombre y comience a hablar de inmediato. Lleve el micrófono a su boca para que la junta directiva, la audiencia y el sistema de grabación de audio lo escuchen claramente. Una vez que comiences a hablar, se encenderá la luz "verde" del podio. La luz "amarilla" se encenderá cuando le quede un (1) minuto. Cuando le queden 30 segundos, la luz "amarilla" comenzará a parpadear, lo que indica que debe terminar rápidamente sus comentarios. Se acaba el tiempo cuando la luz "roja" parpadea. El Presidente respeta estrictamente un límite de tres (3) minutos por orador. **Nota: Si tiene la intención de dedicar su tiempo a una "Presentación grupal /organizada", indíquelo claramente en la parte inferior del reverso de este formulario.**

Presentaciones Grupales/Organizadas:

Las presentaciones grupales/organizadas con más de un (1) orador se limitarán a nueve (9) minutos a discreción del Presidente. El organizador de la presentación recibirá automáticamente los primeros tres (3) minutos, y los seis (6) minutos restantes cedidos por otros oradores, según lo solicitaron en un formulario de "Solicitud para hablar" completado y claramente indicado en la parte inferior delantera de la forma.

Dirigiéndose a la Consejo y Reconocimiento por parte del Presidente:

El Presidente determinará el orden en que los oradores se dirigirán al Consejo, y convocará a todos los oradores en pares. El primer orador debe subir inmediatamente al podio y comenzar a dirigirse a la Junta. El segundo orador deberá ubicarse en uno de los pasillos de la cámara para poder subir rápidamente al podio después del orador anterior. Esto es para permitir una reunión de la Junta eficiente y oportuna, brindando a todos los asistentes la oportunidad de exponer sus argumentos. Los oradores tienen prohibido realizar ataques personales y/o utilizar lenguaje vulgar, grosero, o profano mientras hablan con los miembros de la Junta, el personal, el público en general y/o los participantes de la reunión. Tal comportamiento, a discreción del Presidente de la Junta, puede resultar en la expulsión de las Cámaras de la Junta por parte de los Agentes del Alguacil.

✓

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SPEAKER'S NAME: Kenny Rodgers

Address: 45823 Hwy 74
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: Palm Desert **Zip:** 92261

Phone #: 478-284-1705

Date: 6/5/25 **Agenda #** _____

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

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_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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(Revised: 06/13/2024)

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.6

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Maricela Martinez spoke in opposition to the Mead Valley housing project.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.6**

✓

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SPEAKER'S NAME: MANICIA MARTINEZ

Address: 21600 BAILLET ST

City: Perris CA **Zip:** 92570

Phone #: 951 450 9309

Date: 6-09-25 **Agenda #** Budget

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ **Support** _____ **Oppose** _____ **Neutral**

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I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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(Revised: 04/23/2025)

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Spanish Speaker ✓

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
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SPEAKER'S NAME: Luana Cecena

Address: _____

City: Mecca Ca Zip: 92254

Phone #: _____

Date: 6-9-25 Agenda # 1-1

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

neutral Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

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I give my 3 minutes to: _____

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(Revised: 04/23/2025)

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.7

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Augustin Clemente spoke regarding the need for more Spanish speaking doctors in the Coachella Valley.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.7**

Spanish Speaker ✓

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak

Submit request to the Clerk of the Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Agustin Clemente

Address: 68990 Harrison st

City: Thermal Ca Zip: 92274

Phone #: 760 408 4684

Date: 6-9-25 Agenda # 1.1

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

Neutral Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

(Revised: 04/23/2025)

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Flores, Kate

From: Vonya Quarles <vonya@startingoverinc.org>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 2:48 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Budget comment from Starting Over, Inc.
Attachments: SOI Budget Letter to Riv Co BOS.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Please see attached file.

Peace and blessings

Vonya Quarles
Pronouns: She, hers, Ms.
Executive Director

"All that you touch, you change. All that you change, changes you."
- OCTAVIA BUTLER

My working day may not be your working day. Please don't feel obliged to reply to this e-mail outside of your normal working hours.



Starting Over, Inc.

Transitional Housing, Reentry Services,
Policy Advocacy & Civic Engagement

Vonya Quarles

6355 Riverside Ave. Suite 100
Riverside CA 92506
vonya@startingoverinc.org

951.898.0862

06/09/2025

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Members of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my thoughts and concerns regarding the proposed 2025/2026 County Budget allocations. First, I want to commend the County for taking proactive steps to engage the community through the Budget Survey and the Tele Town Hall meetings. These are important efforts toward participatory governance and transparency.

The Budget Survey, while a positive step, could benefit from clearer categories and more accessible response options in the future. Nonetheless, the effort to gather community input is commendable and appreciated. Similarly, I value the opportunity provided through the Tele Town Halls to hear directly from residents about their budget priorities. The themes that emerged—Housing, Infrastructure, Youth Services, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services, Elder Services, Education, Economic Development, and Medical Services—are reflective of the pressing needs and values of Riverside County residents.

With this in mind, I propose that the County pilot an approach that allocates the discretionary budget entirely toward these community-identified priorities. This would be a powerful and direct investment in the services our residents have repeatedly emphasized as essential to their well-being.

6355 Riverside Ave, Suite 100

Riverside, CA 92506

(951) 898-0862

office@startingoverinc.org

www.startingoverinc.org

Given the significant influx of federal dollars expected for local law enforcement nationwide, this is an opportune moment to explore an alternative budget strategy. The Biden Administration's FY 2025 federal budget includes \$3.7 billion in discretionary grants and over \$30 billion in mandatory public safety funding, including resources from the U.S. Department of Justice for state, local, and tribal law enforcement. Many local law enforcement agencies, including those in Riverside County, already rely heavily on these funds—federal grants often account for as much as 40% of a department's operating budget. Programs like the Byrne Justice Assistance Grants and the COPS Hiring Program provide substantial support for personnel, equipment, training, and community policing initiatives. This federal funding can help offset any reductions in local discretionary spending on public safety.

By temporarily redirecting discretionary funds—ideally for one to two years—we could critically assess the impacts and benefits of investing directly in community-identified needs. Currently, nearly 70% of the County's discretionary budget goes toward Public Safety, in addition to allocations already made through the general fund. A pilot shift away from this historic allocation pattern would send a powerful message: that Riverside County is listening to its residents and willing to lead with innovation, equity, and care.

Thank you for your ongoing service and for considering this proposal. I urge you to take this opportunity to lead with vision and accountability—your constituents are watching, and they are hopeful.

Sincerely,

Vonya Quarles

Starting Over, Inc. Director
District 5 Resident

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



PUBLIC COMMENT:

2.8

During the oral communication section of the agenda for Monday, June 9, 2025, Errol Koschewitz spoke regarding concerns of taxpayer funds within the County of Riverside.

**ATTACHMENTS FILED WITH
CLERK OF THE BOARD**

**AGENDA NO.
2.8**



Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Request to Speak

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium), Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject to Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form. The Board may limit the public input on any item, based on the number of people requesting to speak and the business of the Board.

SPEAKER'S NAME: Evelyn Koschewitz

Address: _____
(Only if follow-up mail response requested)

City: Riverside Zip: _____

Phone #: Public Comment.

Date: _____ Agenda # _____

PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:

Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:

_____ Support _____ Oppose _____ Neutral

Note: If you are here for an agenda item that is filed for "Appeal", please state separately your position on the appeal below:

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I give my 3 minutes to: _____

Parking validations available for speakers only – see Clerk of the Board.

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Flores, Kate

From: Acquia Mail
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 9:57 AM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comments Web Submission



The Clerk of the Board has received your public comments and will forward them to the Board of Supervisors. If you wish to call in and speak at the Board of Supervisors meeting, please select <https://rivcocob.org/request-to-speak> and fill out the request to speak form.

**Thank you,
Riverside County Clerk of the Board**

Submitted on June 9, 2025

Submitted values are:

First Name

Taylor

Last Name

Libolt Varner

Phone

9093368790

Email

tlvarner@nationalcore.org

Agenda Date

06/09/2025

Agenda Item # or Public Comment

Public Comment – County Budget Hearings

State your position below

Support

Comments

Chair Perez and Honorable Members of the Board,

On behalf of National Community Renaissance (National CORE), thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to improving the lives of Riverside County residents. As a longtime partner in the development of high-quality, service-enriched attainable housing, we've seen firsthand the County's unique ability to bring together funding, vision, and collaboration to create real, lasting impact for your constituents.

As you consider the FY 2025–2026 budget, we respectfully encourage the Board to prioritize and expand general fund investment in programs that support the production, preservation, and long-term success of high-quality housing that Riverside residents can afford. Your leadership in leveraging federal, state, and local resources has made Riverside County a model for what's possible when partnerships are aligned with purpose.

Together, we've made great progress—but growing needs and cuts to critical, funding programs mean we must do more. Continued investment will help ensure that families, seniors, and other vulnerable residents across Riverside County have access to housing - and the stability and opportunity that comes with it. Investment in housing is an investment in the economy, public health, and public safety. When people are stably housed, they use fewer emergency services, perform better in school, are healthier, and contribute more to our local economy.

We look forward to building on this strong foundation with you.

Taylor Libolt Varner, Director of External Affairs

Flores, Kate

From: Ayla Lopez <ayla@ieunited.org>
Sent: Friday, June 6, 2025 7:47 PM
To: Clerk of the Board
Subject: IE Budget Advocacy and Equity Alliance: Budget Letter
Attachments: IE Budget Advocacy& Equity Alliance_ Budget Letter (1) (1).pdf

CAUTION: This email originated externally from the **Riverside County** email system. **DO NOT** click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Chair V. Manuel Perez,
Supervisor Jose Medina,
Supervisor Karen Spiegel,
Supervisor Chuck Washington,
Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez,
Clerk of the Board,
and CEO Jeffrey Van Wagenen,

I hope this message finds you well.

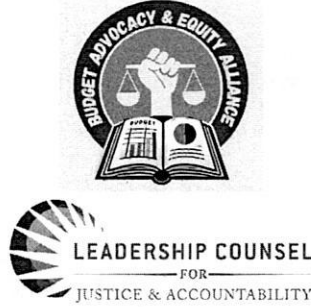
On behalf of the Inland Empire Budget Advocacy & Equity Alliance, I am sharing the attached budget advocacy letter regarding Riverside County's FY 2025–2026 budget process. As a coalition of community-based organizations and advocates across the region, we are urging the Board to adopt a budget that invests in equity, community health, and restorative priorities for our most impacted residents. The attached letter outlines our key recommendations. We welcome the opportunity to engage further.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

--

Ayla Lopez
They/Them
Organizing Manager, IE United
C: 909-834-7860



INLAND EMPIRE
PRISM COLLECTIVE



I.E.
UNITED

June 6, 2025

Sent via email

Chair, Fourth District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
district4@rivco.org

First District Supervisor Jose Medina
district1@rivco.org

Second District Supervisor Karen Spiegel
district2@rivco.org

Third District Supervisor Chuck Washington
district3@rivco.org

Fifth District Supervisor Yxstian Gutierrez
district5@rivco.org

Riverside County Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Center
4080 Lemon Street - 5th Floor
Riverside, California 92501
COB@rivco.org

CC: Jeffrey Van Wagenen, Chief Executive Officer, JVanWagenen@rivco.org

Re: County of Riverside Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026

Dear Chair Perez and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We, the undersigned organizations, are Riverside County residents and advocates committed to ensuring the County budget reflects community priorities.

As the Board considers the Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025–2026, we write to urge targeted investment in five areas that are critical to the health, safety, and stability of our most vulnerable communities: medical care, housing, immigrant rights, public safety, and increasing discretionary funding for disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Riverside County must leverage its discretionary funds to proactively address the essential daily needs of ALL its residents. It is crucial to shift our focus from merely managing crises to preventing them altogether.

Public Engagement in the 2025-2026 Budget Process

We appreciate the County's efforts during this year's budget process to enhance information sharing and provide more accessible opportunities for public engagement via the Community Budget Priorities Survey,¹ as well as the corresponding workshop. The "County of Riverside Budget 101: The County Budget Explained"² pamphlet was a helpful resource that provided a clear overview of the budget and its process. This resource provided necessary background and context, enabling residents to be better informed, prepared, and engaged in the process.

Likewise, we appreciate the collaboration with the University of California, Riverside's Public Policy department to analyze the survey results, as well as the hosting of the budget workshops by each district. We encourage the continued use of these tools and spaces for years to come.

We are excited to continue our collaboration with the County to enhance constituent and community participation. This includes initiatives such as establishing a community budget advisory council and enhancing community engagement during budget hearings. The more opportunities the public has to engage meaningfully in the budget process, the more the final budget will reflect the will of everyone in our community.

I. Medical Services and Public Health Access

Riverside County, as the provider of last resort,³ has a responsibility to serve residents who fall through the cracks of Medi-Cal and private insurance systems. Yet last year, no discretionary funding was allocated to medical care. This gap is especially detrimental for residents in rural communities, where systemic barriers to care are deeply entrenched.

Rural communities face unique and complex public health challenges due to limited access to healthcare facilities and providers, environmental hazards such as increased air pollution and extreme heat, and inadequate infrastructure that restricts access to clean water and transportation.

Through community meetings and informal conversations, residents, particularly those in rural communities, consistently express frustration with long delays and significant barriers to accessing care. Many report waiting two to three months for basic medical appointments, if they can access care at all.

We urge the Board to allocate discretionary funds for:

1. Expanded mobile clinics, including street medicine for unhoused community members
2. Increased staffing of culturally competent and multilingual care providers
3. Investments in County hospitals and clinics, especially in underserved areas
4. Community-based public health infrastructure and targeted outreach

¹ [Community Budget Priorities Survey](#)

² [Riverside County Budget 101](#)

³ Welfare and Institutions Code § 17000 states that "[e]very county and every city and county shall relieve and support all incompetent, poor, indigent persons, and those incapacitated by age, disease, or accident, lawfully resident therein, when such persons are not supported and relieved by their relatives or friends, by their own means, or by state hospitals or other state or private institutions."

This investment is essential to safeguard the health of residents, protect public systems, and reduce long-term costs associated with preventable emergencies.

II. Housing Stability, Affordability, and Preservation

Housing stability and habitable living conditions are foundational to public health, family stability, and long-term safety. Our County and state face a housing crisis fueled by a lack of affordable housing, coupled with stagnating wages. With too many individuals and families in the County of Riverside facing housing insecurity, now is the time for bold investment—not delay.

As you know, there are an alarming number of children and adults forced to live on the street in the County of Riverside. While it is hopeful news that the 2025 Point-in-Time Count (PITC) for Riverside County showed a 19% decrease in unsheltered persons, the County's work cannot stop here.⁴ The PITC identified 3,990 people who were sleeping in a shelter or on the streets.⁵ The County's recommended budget for the upcoming fiscal year must do more to meet the critical needs of community members who are unhoused or facing housing insecurity. Accordingly, we respectfully urge the Board to significantly increase discretionary funding to housing initiatives to help ensure access to permanent, dignified housing for everyone in our community.

A. Eastern Coachella Valley

The Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) faces unique housing challenges, as a predominantly agricultural region with many farm-working residents.⁶ Some community members live in mobile home parks that provide lower costs yet often lack critical infrastructure. Poor housing conditions in this area are exacerbated by a lack of alternative affordable housing options.

Residents in the ECV identified affordable housing as the most urgent need for the upcoming budget. The housing crisis continues to worsen in the ECV, while families face growing risks of displacement, unsafe living conditions, and a severe lack of affordable options. Yet, housing remains vastly underfunded.

In FY 2024–2025, only 0.2% of discretionary funding, just \$2.5 million, was allocated to the Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS), making up a mere 3.6% of the total County budget. Riverside County has continued to rely heavily on state and federal housing dollars while contributing almost nothing from its own general fund. We support the department's recommendation to allocate \$5 million of its general fund to the Housing and Workforce Solutions.

We urge the County to invest in building, preserving, and rehabilitating affordable housing units. To address this, we ask Riverside County to allocate funding to housing programs identified by ECV residents as urgent priorities:

⁴ Riverside County, CA, *Riverside County Sees 19% Decrease in Unsheltered Homeless Population* (May 15, 2025). <https://rivco.org/news/riverside-county-sees-19-decrease-unsheltered-homeless-population>

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Mendez, Christian, *Eastern Coachella Valley Housing: An Ethnographic Study of Experience*, UCLA Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies (June 2019).

1. Eviction Prevention & Rent Stabilization

The County must prioritize and fully fund Program H-33 of the Housing Element, which includes developing and implementing an emergency rental assistance and eviction prevention program. This program was due for completion in March 2025, and is past due, jeopardizing the County's compliance with Housing Element law. There are several factors that impact working families in the ECV, particularly their ability to pay rent, as well as the impacts of climate change. The ECV is one of the hottest regions in California and particularly vulnerable to extreme heat during the summer. As such, low-income families are often faced with the difficult decision of whether to turn on their AC, or pay rent, or purchase food. Their energy bills can exceed well over \$500 a month, making it difficult for families to keep up financially.

In some cases, residents are often subjected to unjust and unfair evictions and lack access to adequate resources or legal support. Families in the ECV are often left without legal support or protections when facing eviction. The County must learn from past programs like UnitedLift⁷ and allocate adequate funding to fully launch and sustain a strong eviction prevention program.

We also urge full implementation and funding of Program H-37, which supports enforcement of Ordinance 760, a rent stabilization policy that protects low-income and senior residents living in mobile home parks. These residents are especially vulnerable to sudden rent hikes and retaliation. This program helps ensure fair negotiations between tenants and park operators and must be prioritized to preserve housing stability in the ECV.

2. Polanco Park Programs

The primary source of affordable housing in the ECV are manufactured homes and Polanco parks. These homes are often in severely dilapidated conditions, unsafe, and in many cases, unpermitted. We request that the County allocate funds to the following programs to better support, address, and improve conditions in these parks. The County should develop a Polanco Park comprehensive education and outreach program to ensure that future Polanco and mobile home park owners and residents have adequate resources and information they need.

Given that some Polanco parks in the ECV are unpermitted, the County should also allocate funds to the Polanco Park Management Program to train property owners on best practices for maintaining mobile home and Polanco parks. This includes training on how to properly maintain septic tanks, especially considering that some Polanco parks and mobile homes are dealing with contaminated arsenic water.

⁷ At the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, Lift to Rise, in partnership with Riverside County and Inland SoCal United Way, formed United Lift, Riverside County's emergency COVID-19 rental assistance program. United Lift distributed more than \$300 million countywide to over 35,000 households, representing 120,000 local residents, in an effort to reduce evictions and keep renters housed during the pandemic.

As mentioned, Polanco parks are a key source of affordable housing in the region. We urge the Board to develop and fund the Polanco Park Housing Directory & Virtual Map, which was supposed to be completed by December 2025. This tool will allow ECV residents to easily track affordable housing availability, including rent, space availability, and owner/management information. It also supports the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing by simplifying the permitting process.

3. Manufactured Home Revitalization

We want to continue highlighting that manufactured homes in the ECV are often in severely dilapidated conditions and pose unsafe living conditions. ECV residents continue to prioritize programs and resources that support revitalization and infrastructure improvements.

We request that the County allocate funds and leverage grants, as well as fully implement Program H-17. This should have been implemented in December 2024, which would again jeopardize the county's compliance with the Housing Element law and potential State funding. This program would advance several mobile home programs to support and preserve manufactured housing communities. It would also develop a Mobile Home Plan to identify rehabilitation needs and encourage place-based revitalization based on actual housing conditions.

Additionally, we urge the County to leverage grants and invest more funding into the Manufactured Housing Rehabilitation Program to help rehabilitate homes and eliminate code violations, substandard conditions, and health and safety issues. In some instances, the program should also continue to cover the replacement costs of a manufactured or mobile home. This program should also be made more accessible to the ECV community, including undocumented and mixed-status families.

The County should also reinstate the Mobile Home Tenant Assistance Loan (MHTL) Program and allocate funding to support loan assistance for mobile home tenants. The goal of this program has been to provide financing for the replacement of existing mobile homes that serve very low-income farmworkers and ECV residents. Without this support, many ECV households living in aging or uninhabitable mobile homes face displacement and an increased risk of homelessness.

4. Housing Working Groups

Housing Working Groups are a significant priority for the ECV community. Some key programs, such as these, in the Housing Element should have already been implemented, and we urge the County to allocate funding to these critical programs. Housing Working Groups are designed to ensure that ECV community members participate, provide feedback, and are meaningfully included in housing decision-making processes. This program should have been established in 2024.

B. Western Riverside County

Housing insecurity, displacement, and aging infrastructure are impacting residents throughout the County. Most cities in Western Riverside County failed to adopt compliant Housing Elements on time, delaying affordable housing development and worsening conditions for renters and low-income families.

We urge the County to allocate \$30 million to support housing rehabilitation, tenant protections, and locally aligned affordable housing development in Western Riverside communities.

III. Immigration Legal Services

Across the nation, immigrant communities are facing a significant amount of stress and anxiety over the federal administration's attack on immigrants. Deportation can result in physical exile from home, separation from family, loss of employment, and even violence or death in their country of origin. With over 22% of our residents⁸ being foreign-born, immigrants are a critical aspect of our county, ensuring our local economy remains healthy and vibrant.

Yet immigrants facing deportation do not have a right to a public defender if they cannot afford a lawyer, even though the government trying to deport them, always has a lawyer. Access to due process should be available to everyone - it is a constitutional right that all residents of this country have.

Therefore, we request that Riverside County initiate the process of allocating funds from its discretionary budget to establish a legal justice fund that can provide Riverside County residents with the necessary legal representation for their immigration proceedings.

When representation helps people return to their families, it also helps stabilize households, which yields long-term benefits for their community and our county's economy. As a whole, this country spends an average of \$164.65⁹ per person to hold immigrants in inhumane conditions. It is our responsibility to use our tax dollars to protect the fundamental rights of all, not just some.

We commend the county for adopting its welcoming resolution earlier this year but urge the Board to invest \$5 million in discretionary dollars to begin the process of creating a legal defense program for the Riverside County immigrant population. Additionally, we respectfully ask the board to do the following:

1. Convene a working group, including county staff, community-based organizations, legal experts, and local city representatives to assess needs, cost, and implementation models.
2. Identify potential funding sources, including city partners, state and federal grants, and philanthropic contributions.

⁸ United States Census Bureau QuickFacts. (n.d.). *U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Riverside County, California*. Census Bureau QuickFacts. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/riversidecountycalifornia/PST045224>

⁹Featured Issue: *Immigration Detention and Alternatives to Detention*. (2024). Aila.org. <https://www.aila.org/library/featured-issue-immigration-detention-and-alternatives-to-detention>

3. Report back to the Board within 90–120 days with recommendations for launching a pilot program or full initiative.

IV. Community-Based Reentry Support

Public safety must include prevention, accountability, and reentry (not just incarceration). Yet, in FY 2024–25, zero discretionary dollars were allocated for community-based reentry support, despite a large county jail population and people returning home from state prison back to Riverside County.

We urge the Board to allocate:

- \$4 million for Riverside University Health System (RUHS) to provide wrap-around services for individuals being released from our county jails. This includes medication management, transportation services, and warm hand-offs to re-entry providers.
- \$4 million for reentry housing, job training, and case management, enough to serve nearly 1,200 individuals for the cost of just 30 jail beds. Effective reentry programs reduce recidivism by 75%, preventing 882 returns to jail and saving the County \$110 million.
- And to reclassify reentry services from Public Protection to Housing and Workforce Solutions, to ensure that community-based care is treated as an investment (not a carceral cost).

These investments will reduce recidivism, lower long-term costs, and ensure that public safety includes a path forward, not just punishment.

V. Increase Discretionary Funding for Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

The County's proposed \$12.5 million for the Unincorporated Communities Initiative (UCI) in FY 2025-2026, a marginal increase from last year's \$10 million, remains far from sufficient to meet the needs of unincorporated communities. UCI is designed to deliver targeted, sustained investments to historically underserved and disadvantaged areas. Yet, this year's allocation accounts for less than 1% of the County's \$1.3 billion in discretionary funding. We urge the Board to increase the UCI allocation to \$25 million in FY 2025–2026 to more equitably support these communities and begin to close the gap in essential services and infrastructure.

While we recognize that unincorporated areas also receive some support through the general discretionary fund, the combined investment still falls significantly short of what is needed to address decades of underinvestment affecting **one in six** Riverside County residents who live in unincorporated communities.

Communities such as Thermal, Oasis, North Shore, and Mecca in the Eastern Coachella Valley continue to lack access to essential infrastructure, including safe roads and reliable water and wastewater systems. These challenges are only deepening as climate impacts intensify, further exposing and endangering already vulnerable communities. Thus, efforts must be made to prioritize community-led projects that support the health and well being of the region.

Several plans have been completed in collaboration with residents in the region, detailing specific priorities identified by the communities themselves. These plans include the Thermal and Oasis

Mobility Plan, Mecca and North Shore Mobility Plan, and the Climate Resilience Action Plan. Unincorporated community priorities must be funded via this initiative and other available funding streams including but not limited to, appropriate grant opportunities.

One such priority project is the North Shore Community Resilience Center, which will serve as both an emergency shelter during extreme climate events and a year-round hub for health and community programming. This project is being developed in partnership with Riverside County Planning, Housing and Workforce Solutions, the Desert Recreation District, and other community-based organizations. Design plans are expected to conclude this year, with a current project cost estimated at \$23 million, according to project officials. UCI funding can play a key role in closing the funding gap and keeping the project on track for timely construction and completion.

Another critical project is the development of a second access road into the community of North Shore to enhance safety during extreme weather events. On November 1, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the allocation of \$250,000 in UCI funds for a feasibility study. The continuation and subsequent construction of this road must be funded.

Equally significant is the need for wastewater infrastructure throughout the community of North Shore. The County's Housing Element states: "The County commits to contribute at least \$75 million of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds towards the expansion of sewer and water infrastructure in unincorporated Riverside County."¹⁰ We ask that the County explore funding opportunities through the UCI, the referenced Housing Element funds, and other sources for this project, in collaboration with the Coachella Valley Water District.

We urge the Board to consider the needs of these vulnerable communities and increase investment in basic services and critical infrastructure.

Additional Community Priorities

While this letter highlights five urgent priorities, we also support a broader set of community-identified investments that reflect unmet needs across Riverside County. We urge the Board to allocate:

- \$80 million for Education, including GED access, trade programs, and reentry education
- \$80 million for Elder Services, such as home care, mobility, and wellness support
- \$77 million for Youth Programs, including afterschool enrichment, mentorship, and job training
- \$100 million for Economic Development, focused on worker co-ops, local hiring, and community-owned businesses
- \$90 million for Infrastructure, prioritizing stormwater systems, broadband access, and rural transit improvements

¹⁰ Riverside County 6th Cycle Housing Element Update, p. H-10.

Conclusion

The community-identified priorities outlined in this letter (medical services, housing, immigrant rights, public safety, disadvantaged unincorporated communities, education, elder services, youth programs, economic development, and infrastructure) are well below the \$792 million in Net County Cost (NCC). These are not abstract ideals; they are grounded, data-driven investments in the people of Riverside County.

This request reflects years of unmet need, which, combined with substantial community input over the last 15 months, presents a strategic opportunity. Rather than reactive spending after crises unfold, these proposals represent a proactive path forward, ensuring families can thrive, infrastructure can support growth, and Riverside County becomes a national model of equity-centered budgeting. We urge the Board of Supervisors to demonstrate leadership by directing discretionary funding toward the complete set of ten priorities identified by community members, with urgent attention to Medical Services, Housing Solutions, Immigrant Protection, Public Safety, and the Unincorporated Communities. These investments will protect lives, prevent displacement, and move Riverside County toward a more equitable future.

We remain committed to working with the County to ensure all Riverside residents have access to the care, stability, and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

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Ipyani Lockert, Faith Organizer, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity

Sky Allen, Executive Director, Inland Empire United

Eddie Torres, Policy Director, Inland Coalition For Immigrant Justice

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Erika Ruiz, Organizing Director, Inland Empire Prism Collective

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