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**Chief  
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**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

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**Chief Executive Officer**

Fesia A. Davenport

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

December 17, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

26 December 17, 2024

EDWARD YEN  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**2025-2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS AFFECTED)  
(3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

This letter includes the County's State Legislative Platform (Platform) for the 2025-2026 State Legislative Session, which was developed in coordination with the Board of Supervisors' (Board) offices and County departments. It also includes the 2025 State legislative outlook, based on available information at this time; and outlines the County's major State legislative priorities that will be pursued based on this outlook. Unless otherwise directed by the Board, the County's advocacy efforts on these priorities and other legislative proposals and budgetary matters affecting the County will be pursued, consistent with Board-adopted legislative policies.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Approve the enclosed policies and priorities for the 2025-2026 State Legislative Platform (Enclosure).
2. Direct the Chief Executive Office's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations (CEO-LAIR) Branch to continue to collaborate with the Board and County departments to engage with the Administration, members of the State Legislature to include the County's Legislative delegation, State agencies, other counties and local governments, and interest groups to advance these policies and priorities.

## **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

### Updating the State Legislative Platform (Platform)

In 2023, the Platform (formerly titled State Legislative Agenda) underwent a strategic restructuring aimed at advancing the Board and the County's legislative and policy priorities in the current dynamic legislative environment. Building off the 2023 restructured Platform, the policy statements listed in the enclosure are designed to maximize State support and revenue for County provided services, increase the County's flexibility to serve and protect its residents, minimize the adverse impact of State policies on the County, and promote the well-being of the State and County.

CEO-LAIR coordinated with Board offices and County departments to develop comprehensive policy statements that will serve as guiding principles and a clear roadmap for effective advocacy-related activities at the State level on key policy, programmatic, and budgetary matters. The Platform will help enable a more targeted and coordinated advocacy program, ultimately leading to more impactful outcomes in the State legislative process. The Platform also allows CEO-LAIR to have greater flexibility to engage on matters with expediency that impact the County's budget and operations. The updated policy statements represent ongoing and emerging priority programs and issues for which CEO-LAIR is seeking the Board's approval to guide advocacy efforts in Sacramento.

### County Legislative Policy Priorities

As described in the enclosure, unless otherwise directed by the Board, Los Angeles County's advocacy efforts in 2025-2026 will primarily concentrate on the following issues: homelessness, housing, protecting the County's digital inclusion and emerging technologies; economic and workforce development; environment and sustainability; equity; general government; health, public health, and behavioral health; human services; justice, public safety, and emergency management; and public infrastructure.

Upon the Board's approval, the CEO will publish the Platform policy statements on our website.

### Legislative Outlook

The California Legislature convened on December 2, 2024, for its organizing session, where newly elected members were sworn in. Upon convening, the Legislature immediately transitioned into the Special Session called for by Governor Gavin Newsom to "Protect California Values" in preparation for the incoming President-Elect Trump Administration.

Following the November 2024 election, the California Legislature is poised to see more first-time legislators than at any time in the past ten years. Due to term limits or other reasons, 36 of the 120 lawmakers in the Senate and Assembly left office in 2024. While significant, these changes will not lead to notable changes in the Capitol's partisan makeup with Democrats retaining super majorities in both houses. The California State Senate will be made up of at least 50 percent women for the first time in California's history.

As it relates to the County's State Legislative Delegation, five of the County's 13 State Senate delegation seats were up for election in 2024. Incumbents retained two of those five seats, while three of those five races have a new legislator, due to term limits or because the incumbent chose not to run for reelection. All 24 of the County's State Legislative Delegation Assembly seats were up for election in 2024. Sixteen of the 24 seats were retained by incumbents while eight of those

24 races have no incumbent, due to term limits or because the incumbent chose not to run for reelection.

In 2024, the State Legislature addressed various matters of interest to the County that included homelessness, affordable housing, substance use disorder, behavioral health, and justice reforms, among others. The State continued to assist local governments in addressing homelessness by providing with an additional \$1 billion in flexible assistance and new resources for encampment resolution efforts. The State Legislature is expected to continue addressing these issues in addition to focusing on “protecting California values,” to include fundamental civil rights, reproductive freedom, climate action, immigrant families, and more.

Facing a \$38 billion deficit for the 2024-25 Fiscal Year (FY), California’s budget process required Governor Newsom and the Legislature to balance immediate fiscal constraints with essential service preservation. The State used a combination of program cuts, deferred spending, and temporary revenue measures to manage the shortfall, including a \$2.9 billion reduction in climate funding and delayed funding for housing initiatives for individuals experiencing homelessness. These changes allowed the State to avoid tapping into its rainy-day fund while maintaining essential services. Early budget action taken in April 2024 provided \$17.3 billion in preliminary savings, including tax expansions, delayed transit funding, and internal borrowing, setting the foundation for further adjustments later in the year.

Looking ahead to FY 2025-26, California’s fiscal outlook remains uncertain. Two of the primary drivers of this uncertainty are questions around whether the incoming Trump Administration will modify federal allocations to California and how the new federal Administration’s policies will impact California’s economy. If these items result in further budget shortfalls, revenue generation strategies, specifics regarding proposed cuts, and fiscal policies may not be clear until midyear budget decisions are made. Ultimately, California’s final budget for FY 2025-26 will depend on ongoing negotiations and prioritization during negotiations between the Governor and Legislature as they aim to balance immediate fiscal needs with long-term sustainability.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions support North Star 3 - Realizing Tomorrow’s Government Today, Focus Area Goal G - Internal Controls and Processes. The policies in the State Legislative Platform will enable the County to proactively advocate on legislation and in support of State resources and revenues for the County.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The proposed policies would allow this Office to provide timely, effective, and appropriate advocacy on State legislative, policy and budgetary proposals that could impact the County’s fiscal health.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

None.

### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

None.

**CONCLUSION**

The recommended policies and priorities are submitted for the Board's consideration as guiding principles in the State Legislative Platform for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session (Calendar Year 2025 and 2026).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fesia A. Davenport', written in a cursive style.

FESIA A. DAVENPORT  
Chief Executive Officer

FAD:JMN:SA  
AM:LAIR:dr

Enclosures

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel



## **STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2025-2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

### **INTRODUCTION**

With over 10 million people residing within its borders, Los Angeles County (County) is the most populous county in the United States. With a workforce of nearly 100,000, the Board of Supervisors (Board), both directly and through the Chief Executive Officer, provide services on a level comparable to or exceeding those of most states in the country. In addition, the County contributes a quarter of California's gross state product and approximately one-quarter of all residents in California live in the County.

Given the priorities and needs of residents, businesses, and visitors, the County's advocacy efforts in 2025-2026 will concentrate on a host of critical issues that, together, define a thoughtful, progressive, and ambitious approach to governance and responsibility.

### **MECHANISMS FOR ADVOCACY**

The Chief Executive Office – Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Branch (CEO-LAIR) will use the State Legislative Platform as the benchmark to take advocacy positions on legislative, policy, and budgetary proposals that directly impact the County, its programs, operations, resources, budget, and most importantly its residents. These policies, as approved by the Board, will be updated each legislative session to address the County's evolving priorities and emerging issues.

As urgent matters arise throughout the legislative session that pose a substantial concern to the County's operations and budget, to include issues that are not addressed by the State Legislative Policies and State Legislative Principles, the Chief Executive Officer will advocate to express the County's concerns.

### **KEY STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

The County will support proposals that:

- Provide full funding for the costs of State-mandated programs;
- Provide additional funding for programs where service needs have outpaced revenues;
- Establish funding formulas that ensure allocations of State funding are commensurate with the County's role and responsibility in implementing State law;
- Provide greater flexibility over the use of State funds; and
- Support other Board-directed priorities or critical, emergent needs as they present themselves.

The County will oppose proposals that:

- Shift State programs to the local level unless control is also shifted, and appropriate State funding is assured;
- Create unfunded mandates for the County or its special districts;
- Infringe upon the Board's decision-making or land-use authority;

- Shift tax revenues and tax increments away from the County to the State or other local entities, or special districts; and
- Pose a potential threat to the County’s fiscal stability or operations.

## **STATE LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

On behalf of the County, CEO-LAIR will pursue legislative and budgetary advocacy to enhance the quality of life for the people who live in, work in, and visit the County. The County will engage in the legislative process according to the following policies:

### **Digital Inclusion and Emerging Technologies**

In the County, areas where more than 20 percent of households lack broadband service are largely the same areas where the average household income is less than \$50,000 annually, and where people of color are more likely to be the majority of residents. The County will continue to support legislation and regulations that provide funding for the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure and reliable, affordable networks to bridge the digital divide by increasing access to high-speed internet for as many households as possible, particularly in underserved communities.

To gain the public’s trust and leverage Artificial Intelligence/Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) technology, it is imperative to ensure GenAI is developed and used ethically and responsibly. The County has established eight guiding principles for the responsible use of GenAI systems within the County: Human-Centered Design, Security & Safety, Privacy, Transparency, Equity, Accountability, Effectiveness, and Workforce Empowerment.

The County will support proposals that:

- Expand broadband infrastructure in historically underserved and rural communities.
- Use innovative, short-term and long-term strategies to provide free or low-cost high-speed internet and related devices to disadvantaged communities.
- Expand and modernize Wi-Fi at County facilities and other public facilities to help close the digital divide for residents in disadvantaged and broadband deficient communities.
- Increase digital literacy and consumer education for high-speed internet service options.

### **Economic and Workforce Development**

The County is strategically investing in support for small businesses, entrepreneurs, and innovative and equitable economic and workforce development programs in high growth and emerging industry sectors that create a pipeline to well-paying jobs. The County remains committed to building an inclusive and sustainable regional economy, stimulating quality job growth, and helping lift economically disadvantaged residents out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

The County will support proposals that:

- Enhance funding and support workforce development and training programs that prepare workers for jobs in high-growth and emerging industries, and sectors critical to the state and regional economy, including the creative and green economies.
- Reduce barriers to employment, address racial and gender disparities in employment outcomes, encourage diversity and inclusion in the workplace, and increase opportunities for workers and businesses with the highest employment needs.

- Provide economic opportunities, financial assistance, and other supports to small businesses, microbusinesses, entrepreneurs, social enterprises, and nonprofit-organizations.
- Support youth employment, entrepreneurship, and career pathways in high-growth industries.
- Increase economic resiliency through outreach and assistance for workers, independent and small businesses, and industries impacted by natural or man-made disasters, and other economic disruptions.
- Stimulate regional investment and business development, and encourage private sector participation and partnership in advancing equitable, resilient, and sustainable growth.

## **Environment and Sustainability**

Environmental hazards compounded by the impacts of climate change continue to affect vital infrastructure and the daily lives of the residents of the County. The County is focused on advancing policies and investments that improve the energy, water, food, transportation, and waste systems; help overcome past inequities that have resulted in disproportionate pollution burdens and health outcomes for communities of color; help local businesses, organizations, and residents in disadvantaged communities adapt to climate change; and advance racial and gender equity. To address environmental issues and make this a sustainable region, the County will advocate for proposals that promote sustainable infrastructure, advance environmental justice, and invest in climate resiliency.

The County will support proposals that:

- Promote climate resiliency, the Green Transition, and sustainability in programs, projects, energy production, policy implementation methods, technologies, waste producer responsibility, and jobs.
- Improve access to clean water, enhancing water quality, local water supply, sustainable water infrastructure and conservation.
- Remediate, restore, increase, and protect natural resource areas, natural environments, and spaces with cultural or recreational value.
- Fund or promote projects and proposals that mitigate the effects of climate change, reduce environmental pollutants, improve air quality, reduce reliance on source pollutants, strengthen natural spaces within communities, respond to extreme heat-related impacts, and address gateway community needs.
- Incorporate Board-adopted plans (e.g., “OurCounty” Sustainability Plan, Park Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) 30x30 Plan, LA County Water Plan) into programs, legislation, policies, and funding opportunities.

## **Equity**

The County continues to advocate for policies that promote equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and underserved communities, and further the County’s strategies for increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The County will support proposals that:

- Address and combat discrimination based on age, disability, disease status, gender identity, language, immigration status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or other protected characteristics.
- Address, correct and/or remedy past public policy which produced or sustained racial inequities.

- Address the gap between the legal needs of the most vulnerable populations and the resources available to ensure equitable access to justice.
- Affirmatively advance and/or provide resources to prioritize and effectively support the most disadvantaged geographies and populations.

### **General Government**

The County will advocate for policies to ensure the effective, transparent, and equitable delivery of various services that affect the lives of the County's diverse population. General government policies include matters related, but not limited to: the fiscal strength of the County; elections and voting; agriculture, weights, and measures; animal care and control; arts, culture, and education; Auditor-Controller's Office of County Investigations; Brown Act; cannabis and other business permitting and regulation; human resources, labor and compensation including employee/labor relations, benefits, retirement plans, safety, and risk management; immigration; libraries and library services; Political Reform Act; property assessment, taxation, and tax relief; public access; Public Records Act; veterans' issues; worker protections; and workers' compensation.

The County will support proposals that:

- Protect consumers against fraud, scams, and unfair or deceptive business practices, and increase collaborative consumer protection and the financial well-being and resiliency of residents through education and counseling programs, financial literacy, wealth-building opportunities, and loss mitigation.
- Provide essential assistance to those who have served in the armed forces.
- Promote access to, and retention in, jobs with fair and sustainable wages, predictable hours, paid sick and family leave, health and safety protections, retaliation free workplaces, and career pathways.
- Promote improved State worker protections and increased collaboration with local agencies on awareness and enforcement efforts that combat wage theft, labor trafficking, and other abuses of labor.
- Provide funding and statutory relief from State-mandated requirements related to elections, including but not limited to signature verification and petition efforts, special elections, and redistricting activities.
- Protect local control over collective bargaining while also protecting the right of workers to organize and/or strike without hindering the County's ability to continue providing core and vital services.
- Promote the establishment of an equitable and sustainable cannabis market by enhancing access to banking and financial resources, safer cannabis products, increased resources for local public health, equity and consumer protection programs, and tools to discourage the proliferation of unlicensed cannabis businesses.
- Provide local governments resources to increase access to information, assistance, and services to immigrants and their families who arrive in the County.
- Provide funding to support critical County public services.

### **Health, Public Health, and Behavioral Health**

The health and well-being of the County's diverse communities, particularly among disproportionately burdened communities and communities of color, are critically important for preventing physical and behavioral health conditions, and for reducing health disparities across the region. Increasing access to care, enhancing delivery systems, providing equitable and critical public health services that protect and promote health among individuals and communities, and addressing the growing need for prevention, diagnostic,



and treatment services for individuals with behavioral and other health conditions are all vital elements for achieving improved health outcomes in the County.

The County supports proposals to:

- Enhance Medi-Cal services for the County's most vulnerable residents, especially through California's Medicaid waivers that aim to transform and improve quality, access, and efficiency of healthcare and behavioral health systems and services.
- Provide funding for the education and training of primary care physicians, specialty care physicians, and nursing professionals.
- Address the urgent and long-term needs for the health care safety net and strengthen local public health systems and infrastructure, particularly workforce.
- Effectively plan for and respond to current and future public health emergencies, emerging disease threats, epidemics and other disasters, and gun and domestic violence prevention efforts.
- Prevent or reduce consumers' medical debt and associated negative outcomes.
- Broaden public behavioral health infrastructure, including expanding community-based facilities, supporting increased diversity in the behavioral health workforce by growing the behavioral health workforce pipeline and expanding public-sector workforce incentive programs to recruit qualified workers, building up local crisis response and continuum of care services for individuals with serious mental illness (SMI) and substance use disorders (SUDs).
- Provide individuals with mental illness and SUDs with access to critical services in the most appropriate, least restrictive settings.
- Increase equitable access to SUD services and reduce legislative and regulatory barriers to accessing SUD services.
- Increase and protect flexibilities for public and behavioral health funding to comprehensively address the needs of local communities.
- Provide resources for critical services at all levels of care, including diagnostic, prevention, acute inpatient, outpatient, supportive care, and residential facilities.
- Enhance services and resources to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
- Streamline processes to access veteran suicide data, including statutory authority to review deaths without the need for next of kin consent, to improve support systems and lower veteran suicide rates.

### **Housing and Homelessness**

The County has one of the least affordable housing markets in the nation. The shortage of affordable housing acutely impacts low-income residents, families, and vulnerable populations, and challenges regional efforts to prevent and reduce homelessness. The County places a high priority on increasing access to affordable housing options by reducing barriers to housing production, supporting unit preservation, and protecting against residential displacement. The County also remains focused on transitioning residents who are experiencing homelessness into safe, stable, and permanent housing, and implementing effective strategies to reduce further inflow into homelessness.

The County will support proposals that:

- Increase affordable housing production and preservation, residential landlord and tenant protections, and homeownership opportunities for low-to-moderate income and first-time homebuyers.
- Support local strategies to reduce homelessness and increase and sustain interim and permanent housing for people experiencing homelessness.
- Provide sustainable and flexible funding for housing and supportive services

including, but not limited to, funding for increasing operational costs and deferred maintenance costs for housing units and facilities.

- Support implementation of local land use policies that address the comprehensive housing needs of County residents and facilitate equitable and sustainable development.
- Protect against residential displacement, increase residential tenant protections, and provide financial assistance, legal services and other supports to homeowners, residential tenants and small, independent residential property owners facing financial hardship.

## **Human Services**

The County seeks to preserve and increase funding and resources, administrative and programmatic flexibilities, and accessibility to a wide range of human services programs serving low-income individuals, families, older adults, persons with disabilities, children in foster care and their families, transition-aged youth, pregnant people, childless adults, undocumented immigrants including, unaccompanied children, and victims of crime. The County strives to alleviate financial hardship, address food insecurity, provide affordable health care, promote the safety, well-being and permanency of families and children, prevent child and elderly abuse, exploitation and neglect, provide aging and disability services, connect parents and caregivers to provide child support services, and prevent, mitigate, and disrupt poverty, all while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The County will support proposals that:

- Increase and expand eligibility, including the elimination of immigration status restrictions, and decrease enrollment barriers, simplify eligibility determination and income reporting requirements, and/or increase automation and information sharing with state agencies.
- Provide additional services and resources for customers, vulnerable populations, and asylees/refugees, by increasing access to affordable housing, nutrition assistance, transportation, employment, immigration legal representation, and ancillary services to increase self-sufficiency and ensure the ability of local governments to recover costs.
- Preserve and increase funding and administrative flexibility for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and California Food Assistance Program (CFAP), which provide food assistance to low-income immigrant families.
- Promote child safety, well-being, and permanency by responding to the immediate needs of any child at risk or abuse and neglect, providing the tools and support families need to make their homes a safe place and keep families together, and connecting children with resource families and treatment service providers equipped to meet their individual needs.
- Provide adequate and sufficient funding for local child support agencies to cover increased operational costs and to mitigate the impacts of flat funding to counties and promote flexibility, efficiency, equity, and modernization within the child support program.
- Support proposals that reform mandated reporting by addressing disproportionality and decreasing unnecessary contact and involvement with the child welfare system to improve the quality of reporting decisions by Mandated Reporters and build pathways that will facilitate Mandated Reporters ability to connect families to community-based services while promoting equity and inclusiveness.

- Address the surge in fraudulent skimming and theft of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits on Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards.
- Clarify the principals and roles for implementing the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and enhance relationships with tribes to improve outcomes for ICWA cases.
- Increase access to high-quality early care and education services provided by a qualified and well compensated workforce.

### **Justice, Public Safety, and Emergency Management Systems**

The County will continue to prioritize the Board of Supervisor’s vision of “Care First, Jails Last” across the justice and public safety systems, support law enforcement reforms, and emphasize preemptive measures to protect the well-being of residents during emergencies.

The County will support proposals that:

- Strengthen justice and public safety system transparency, reform policing standards, address police misconduct, or protect detainee rights and due process.
- Remove historic disparities and inequities in the juvenile and adult criminal legal systems, including the redirection of youth and adults from mass incarceration towards rehabilitative, health-focused, and care-first systems.
- Enhance or provide funding for expanded youth development services, and pretrial reforms to reduce detention while maintaining public safety.
- Increase funding for or enhance resources for crime-impacted individuals and communities, and youth and adults involved in the justice system, with an emphasis on care, development, alternatives to incarceration, community-based violence prevention, and community reintegration pathways.
- Ensure accurate and fair distribution of benefits for justice-involved veterans.
- Expand resources and services local emergency/disaster preparation, management, and operations, including disaster and climate hazard preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- Improve wildfire prevention and fire safety services, including, but not limited to, measures to increase financial assistance, training, and other resources for local response.

### **Public Services and Infrastructure**

The County will advocate to advance infrastructure, environmental and public services, and transportation projects that support the region. The County is committed to making its communities more climate resilient, improving constituent experiences, strengthening local resource sustainability, promoting equitable partnerships and contracts with nongovernment organizations and small businesses.

The County will support proposals that:

- Strengthen regional water supply and stormwater infrastructure, water cleanliness, meet water conservation and resiliency goals.
- Prioritize disaster risk mitigation, prevention, and response efforts appropriate for urban and rural communities.
- Secure funding, expand resources for, and assist in the development, deployment, improvement, or maintenance of public services and public infrastructure.
- Streamline and clarify processes that empower local agencies with more flexibility or access to funding to implement services.
- Support alternative funding mechanisms, procedural innovations, or alternative

methods to support County-led projects, services, construction, risk mitigation, and goals.

- Secure funding and resources to accelerate the deployment and maintenance of legacy public infrastructure that supports major international events (e.g., World Cups, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games), including enhancements to transportation systems, street safety, and mobility services, as well as enhance public transit options.
- Expand the capacity and resources of local economic and workforce development agencies to prepare and meet the needs of upcoming global events in the region.