Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

MISSION

Serving Los Angeles County by providing essential records management and election services in a fair, accessible and transparent manner.

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- Elections and voter services

- Property and vital records

- Marriage services

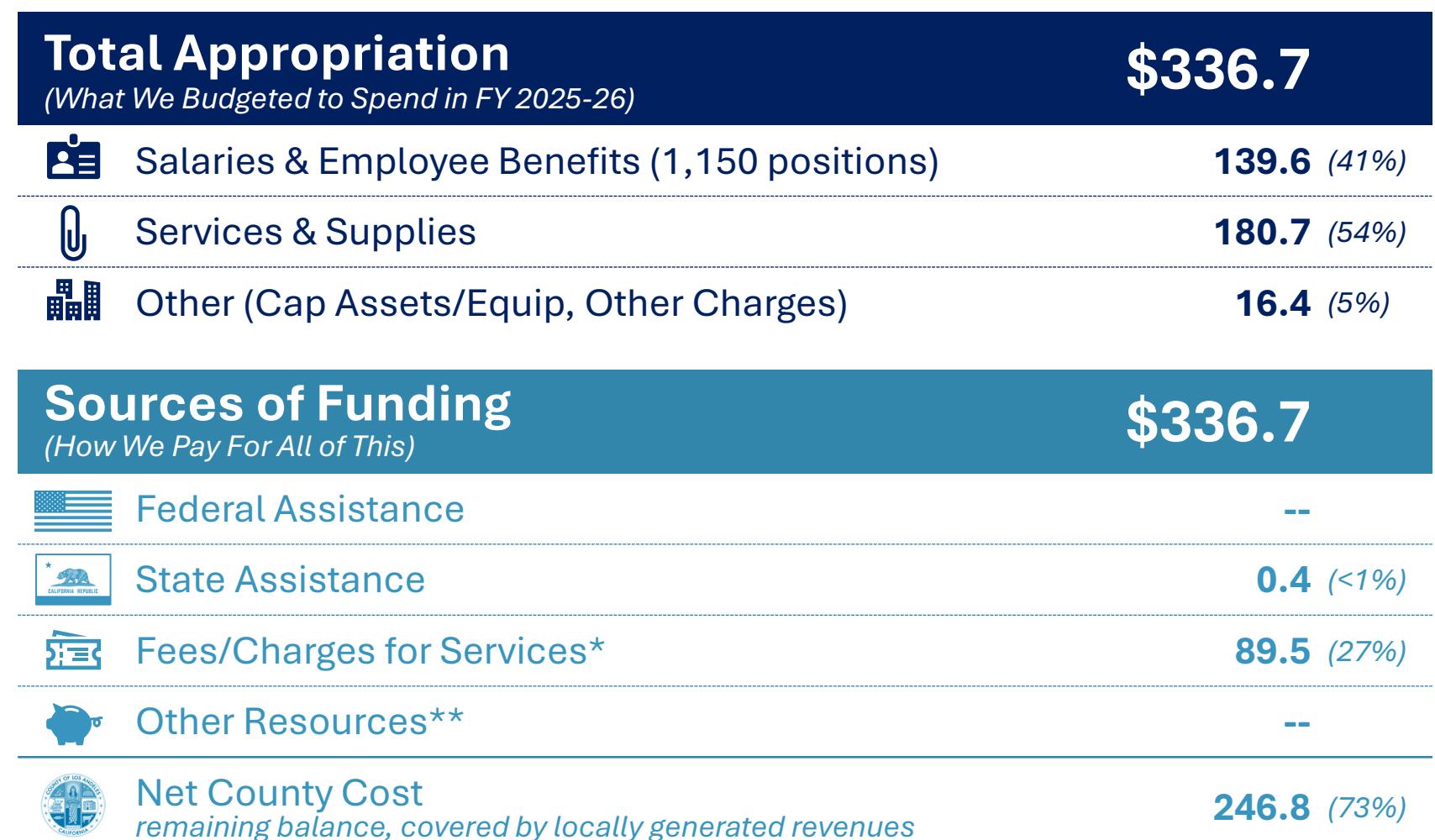- Business filings

- Notary registration

Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
($ Millions)

Total Appropriation (What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)	$336.7	
Salaries & Employee Benefits (1,150 positions)	139.6	(41%)
Services & Supplies	180.7	(54%)
Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)	16.4	(5%)

Sources of Funding (How We Pay For All of This)	$336.7	
Federal Assistance	--	
State Assistance	0.4	(<1%)
Fees/Charges for Services*	89.5	(27%)
Other Resources**	--	
Net County Cost remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues	246.8	(73%)

* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)
** "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

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BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA
What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Elections	57%
Recorder Services	16%
Voter Registration	6%
Information Technology	11%
Administration	10%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County's initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.

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DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

Effective Service Delivery, Business Continuity, & Operational Sustainability

- Election Cycle Adjustments
- New Mandate/Service Demand Compliance
- Recording Fee Stabilization

Innovative Use of Technology & Data/System Stewardship

- Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP)
- Information Technology
- Election Management System (EMS) Replacement

2024 General Election

Streamline Vote by Mail Processing
72% Total Vote By Mail Ballots Cast & Election Night ballot counts increased by 63,645

Streamline Election Results Reporting
3,793,803 ballots were processed during the voting period due to an increase to 22 scanners

Voting Language Access
- 5,833 Total Multi-lingual Election Workers in 2024
- Increase of 1,530 from the 2022 General Election

Election Information Security
- 24/7 Security Operations for 12 Consecutive Days
- 100% Uptime
- 0 Sensor Outages

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BUDGET REQUEST (FY 2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	$96.6M
Additional positions requested	0.0
Additional NCC requested	$110.2M**

Key Budget Requests	Amount ($Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Election Adjustments	$16.1	Both	0.0
VSAP (Ongoing and Mandated Version Updates)	$48.0	Ongoing	0.0
Information Technology	$20.6	Both	0.0

- One-Time/Ongoing
- EMS Contract/Project Management/GIS

*   Priority budget and unmet needs requests
**   Includes $14.8 million revenue backfill and $1.2 million in other revenue adjustments

CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- **Operational Cost Increases and Added Unfunded Mandates**
  - Additional State Language Designations (23 total languages)
  - Proposed additional language on ballot measures — increased ballot length
  - Demand for rapid canvassing, expansive voting options, reduced USPS service

- **Compounding Operational Risks**
  - Executive Orders, Litigation, and Misinformation
  - USPS Policy Change and business stability
  - Cyber and Physical Security

- **Funding and Fee Stabilization**
  - Real estate transaction forecasting
  - Recorder-Clerk operations & cost recovery deficits
  - Increasing election costs = fiscal pressure on local jurisdictions