



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



County Board of Supervisors December 16, 2025

Brittany Odermann, Deputy CEO

2025 Federal Highlights

Don Gilchrest

Thomas Walters & Associates

2025 Federal Overview

- **Trump Administration Executive Orders:** Funding pauses, DOGE RIFs and policy changes.
- **Budget Reconciliation:** Deep Medi-Cal and SNAP cuts; positive outcomes on housing, TANF, and social services.
- **Appropriations:** Turned back President's proposed cuts; but funding delays and government closure; Next deadline is January 30.
- **Bipartisan progress for some County of Santa Barbara priorities,** though the legislative process continues to be very difficult.

Federal funding allocations to the County

- \$2,426,961 from the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program.
- \$3,759,419 from Homeless Assistance grants for continuum of care efforts in Santa Barbara County.
- \$1,177,513 through the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- \$1,073,695 through the HOME Investment Partnership Act.
- \$11,554,262 in disaster reimbursements obtained by the County's Office of Emergency Management and Office of Public Works, which were expedited with Representative Carbajal's assistance.

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- Nutrition: Full funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).
- \$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program enacted to mitigate some of the impacts of the Medicaid cuts in rural areas.
- Discretionary and mandatory funding for the Federally Qualified Health Centers program.
- H.R. 2483, the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025, to address the opioid crisis.
- Expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit through H.R. 1.
- Legislation to continue FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund.
- Extensions enacted for 2018 Farm Bill, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program, and National Flood Insurance Program.
- S. 2651, the Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream (ROAD) to Housing Act (Passed by the Senate).
- \$850,000 Community Project Funding for the Lompoc Animal Shelter (Pending in H.R. 4552, the House FY 2026 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act).

2025 State Highlights

Jean Hurst, Elizabeth Espinosa, and Josh Gauger
Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC

- **2025-26 State Budget:**

- \$11.8 billion shortfall closed for 2025-26 (on top of prior estimates/solutions) utilizing a combination of spending reductions (\$2.8 billion), revenue and internal borrowing (\$7.8 billion), and fund shifts (\$1.2 billion).
 - Maintains \$15.7 billion in reserves
- Final agreement scaled back Governor's proposed Medi-Cal reductions, included considerable CEQA exceptions, and includes \$500 million for the HHAP program in 2026-27 but not funding for the program in 2025-26.

- **Major legislative advocacy:**

- Engaged on the County's behalf on consequential bills ranging from those that address battery energy storage, housing development, cannabis, solid waste, oil and gas operations, product stewardship programs, sidewalk vending, public safety, and CEQA streamlining.

Looking to 2026 – State

Jean Hurst, Elizabeth Espinosa, and Josh Gauger
Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC

- **2026-27 State Budget**

- Likely ongoing deficits for the near future
 - LAO estimates \$18 billion shortfall for 2026-27 and calls for ongoing budget reductions
 - HR-1 will worsen this state budget picture
- Revenues have exceeded projections since closing budget negotiations
- Governor Newsom's last proposed budget released by January 10; summary forthcoming

- **New Legislature**

- 70% of elected Senators and Assembly Members have fewer than three years' experience
- Transition to new Senate President pro Tempore (Senator Monique Limón)

- **And much more**

- All eyes on the state's response to HR-1 in the context of a budget deficit
- Shifting focus to the gubernatorial election
- State ballot measures



Legislative Program Committee

- Advisory body established in 1991 and made a standing sub-committee of the Board of Supervisors in 2019
- Membership includes two supervisors
- Meets monthly and open to the public
- Committee briefed on pending legislation of interest to Santa Barbara and provided continuous status and updates on advocacy and efforts to advance County principles
- Committee reviews and recommends Draft Legislative Platform to Board of Supervisors

Legislative Principles

Job Growth and
Economic Vitality

Local Control

Efficient Service
Delivery and
Operations

Health and
Human Services
Stability

Fiscal Stability

Climate
Sustainability,
Resilience and
Adaptation

Interagency
Collaboration

Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion

2026 Legislative Platform Development Process



**September-October
2025**

Departments review and update legislative principles and issues for consideration



**October 6, 2025
Legislative Program
Committee**

Review and provide feedback on first **draft** 2026 Legislative Platform; solicit public input



**December 8, 2025
Legislative Program
Committee**

Review **final draft** 2026 Legislative Platform and recommend approval to the full Board of Supervisors



**December 16, 2025
Board of Supervisors**

Presentation and request for adoption of the 2026 Legislative Platform

2026 Legislative Platform

Highlights and Updates

Highlights

- Platform redesigned and reorganized to create a more streamlined document
- Minor changes made by departments to Legislative Principles
- Further refinement of *Issues* to be more succinct
- Recommendations from LPC
 - Add language regarding offshore extractive activities
- Public feedback period
 - Draft 2026 Legislative Platform sent out via press release, posted to website and social media
 - One addition from Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) under Regional Highway Improvements

New Issues

- Food Vending, Indigent Defense Services, Biodiversity, and Water Quality
- Health and Human Services was renamed Health and Human Services Stability

Recommended Actions

- Receive an update and annual report from State and Federal Legislative advocates;
- Adopt the County's 2026 Legislative Platform with or without changes as proposed;
- Find that the proposed actions do not constitute a “project” within the meaning of CEQA.