

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

2025 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



County Board of Supervisors January 7, 2025

Brittany Odermann, Deputy CEO

2024 Federal Highlights

Don Gilcrest

Thomas Walters & Associates

FY 2024 Appropriations Bills Enacted March 2024

- House Cuts Defeated
- \$1 million for Sanctuary Centers Hollister II Project (Carbajal)

Direct Funding to the County

- \$5.15 million for homelessness/affordable housing
- \$2.35 million through Payments in Lieu of Taxes
- \$2 million from local law enforcement grants

FY25 funding bills extended through March 2025

- \$100 billion enacted for disaster relief funding.
- \$1 million pending the Oasis Senior Center in the Senate FY25 Transportation, HUD Appropriations Bill (Padilla).
- \$850,000 pending for the Lompoc Animal Shelter in the House FY25 Transportation, HUD Appropriations Bill (Carbajal).
- Difficult Negotiations to Complete This Process

2024 Federal Highlights

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- S. 4367, the *Water Resources Development Act of 2024*, including \$4 million for water/wastewater improvements in Los Olivos and provision to protect the Lower Mission Creek Flood Control Project
- Farm Bill extension that forestalls cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Protections enacted for victims of SNAP Electronic Benefit Card theft; more action needed
- H.R. 1105, the *Debbie Smith Act of 2024*, to reauthorize the federal DNA Backlog Grant Program
- S. 870 to reauthorize the Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program, and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program
- Representative Carbajal's H.R. 6179, the *Home for the Brave Act*, to expand access to Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing
- H.R. 4601, the *Commitment to Veteran Support and Outreach Act*, to fund County Veteran Service Officer programs
- H.R. 7906, the *Strengthening State and Tribal Child Support Enforcement Act*, which ensures that public agencies can continue to use contractors to assist child support enforcement
- H.R. 9076, the *Protecting America's Children by Strengthening Families Act*, to reauthorize child welfare programs
- Approval of California's Section 1115 Behavioral Health waiver/demonstration request (BH-CONNECT)
- Legislative extensions for Federally Qualified Health Centers and the National Flood Insurance Program

Looking to 2025 – Federal

Don Gilchrest

Thomas Walters & Associates

Trump Executive Orders

- Energy, Permitting Changes, Immigration, Deregulation, DEI, Pardons

Budget Reconciliation

- Tax Cuts and Repeals
- Other Policy Priorities?

Debt Limit Increase

FY25 and FY26 Appropriations

- Proposed Domestic Cuts
- Priorities Re-ordered
- Projects?

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

2024 State Highlights

Josh Gauger and Jean Hurst

Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC

- **2024-25 State Budget:**
 - \$47B budget shortfall closed over a three-year period, utilizing a combination of spending reductions, temporary additional revenue and internal borrowing, fund shifts, reserves, and funding delays, pauses, and deferrals
 - Final agreement included avoidance of a number of reductions, including \$40M for the Public Defense pilot program, a proposed \$250M reduction in the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative, partial restoration of the Future of Public Health funding, and rejection of a number of proposed cuts to various health and human services programs
- **Major legislative events:**
 - Advocated on the County's behalf in partnership with large coalitions in opposition to two measures that sought to reduce/recast county authority in context of 2011 Realignment
 - Engaged in statewide coalitions on the County's behalf in support of AB 817 (Pacheco) related to remote meetings and AB 2557 (Ortega) relating to contracting practices

Looking to 2025 – State

Josh Gauger and Jean Hurst

Hurst Brooks Espinosa, LLC

- **2025-26 State Budget**

- Likely ongoing deficits for the near future
- Impact of incoming Federal administration
- Release scheduled for January 10; summary forthcoming

- **New Legislature**

- More than 30 new members, only one with direct county experience
- New bill limit at 35 in the Senate and Assembly

- **First Extraordinary Session**

- Convened for purposes of providing additional resources to the Department of Justice and other state executive branch entities for administrative and judicial challenges to actions of the new federal administration
- Bills introduced to provide \$25M to the Department of Justice; Senate version also includes \$10M in resources for county counsel/city attorneys for similar purposes and an additional \$25M for Legal Aid



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

Fiscal Stability

Climate
Sustainability,
Resilience and
Adaptation

Interagency
Collaboration

Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion

2025 Legislative Platform Development Process



**October – November
2024**

Departments review and update legislative principles and issues for consideration



**November 4, 2024
Legislative Program
Committee**

Review and provide feedback on first **draft** 2025 Legislative Platform



**December 2, 2024
Legislative Program
Committee**

Review **final draft** 2025 Legislative Platform; solicit public input and recommend approval to the full Board of Supervisors



**January 7, 2025
Board of Supervisors**

Presentation and request for adoption of the 2025 Legislative Platform

2025 Legislative Platform

Highlights and Updates

Highlights

- Platform redesigned and reorganized to create a more streamlined document
- Minor changes made by departments to Legislative Principles
- Lengthy planks replaced by *Issues* with requested legislative action
- Recommendations from LPC
 - Approve climate principle shifting focus to sustainability, resilience, and adaptation; add issue focused on EV ownership and battery storage

- Public feedback period
 - Draft 2025 Legislative Platform sent out via press release, posted to website and social media
 - Minor changes proposed to housing issue for Board consideration

New Issues

- Community Disaster Recovery Reform
- Disaster Recovery (Stafford Act revisions)
- Climate Action – Electric Vehicles & Grid Reliability

Recommended Actions

- Receive an update and annual report from State and Federal Legislative advocates;
- Adopt the County's 2025 Legislative Platform with or without changes as proposed;
- Find that the proposed actions do not constitute a “project” within the meaning of CEQA.