

# **Attachment B**

**Financial Highlights for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025**

**Please see the attached printed publication.**

# Financial Highlights

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025  
Santa Barbara County, CA



*one*  
**COUNTY**

*one*  
**FUTURE**



**Betsy M. Schaffer, CPA, CPFO, CFE**  
**Auditor-Controller**

**C. Edwin Price, Jr., CPA, CPFO**  
**Assistant Auditor-Controller**



This Financial Highlights publication is intended to provide the general public with an easy-to-read overview of Santa Barbara County’s (County) financial condition. The information contained in this report is derived from the County’s Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) which is more detailed in nature and in conformance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in the United States of America. This report provides highlights of the significant financial and economic activity of the County for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025. Copies of the ACFR can be obtained by contacting the Auditor-Controller’s office, or can be found on the Auditor-Controller’s website at [www.countyofsb.org/375/Publications](http://www.countyofsb.org/375/Publications).

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While the financial statements’ data presented within the County’s Financial Highlights conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), some statistics are taken from various sources and are not GAAP-based data.



## TO THE CITIZENS OF SANTA BARBARA COUNTY:

Tri-tip. Los Padres National Forest. Solvang. Vandenberg Space Force Base. Chumash Casino. Cachuma Lake. Fiesta. And, the Strawberry, Lemon, Avocado, and Elks Festivals. We are Santa Barbara County. As unique as any place on this earth. And, it's not just one thing that stands out that makes us identify as Santa Barbara County. It is our cumulative attributes and qualities. Like DNA strands, no other place is like us.

Why is this understanding of identity and uniqueness important in a financial document? Because our unique identity is reflected in our accounting and financial issues. The county's annual budget is a little more than \$1.59 billion across all funds. If we were to present this as a pie chart, it would show:

- monies from other governments (AKA grants) at 46% or ~\$600 million
- taxes at 31% or ~\$400 million
- fees and other service charges at 23% or ~\$300 million

The grant monies, very generally speaking, are provided from other governments to support those who are not able to support themselves across many areas. Fees and other service charges come in from activities that can support their own costs given the services that are provided such as for landfills, parks, and planning. Taxes are really the only revenue source that is discretionary, meaning that these monies can be spent without too many restrictive strings being attached. The county is fortunate currently that we are provided a steady base for property tax revenue, which is special to the county.

Equally unique for the county is where money is allocated, or the expenditure side of the fiscal pie chart. Our allocations of available revenue to community service programs is iterative and interactive. It is also complicated and compelling. It should be no secret that

the largest county expenditure is salaries and benefits. There is a direct correlation to the cost of public services, with the cost for salaries and benefits to those employees who provide the services. The nuance or the unique thumbprint comes in on which public service and/or how many services can be funded and at what level.

As for fiscal year 2024-25, the County continues to have predictable and stable revenues. Property tax revenues are up from prior year by \$20.6 million (5.3%). Countywide expenditures increased by \$67.6 million (4.6%).

When the unknown presents itself, we have to remember who we are. We are Santa Barbara County. We are unique. We have existed for 175 years. We are one county. We are all the things that have come before us. We are one county with one future.

With Much Gratitude,



Betsy M. Schaffer, CPA, CPFO, CFE  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER



The County’s policymaking and legislative authority is vested in the County Board of Supervisors (Board), which consists of an elected supervisor from each of the five districts. The Board sets policy for County departments, oversees a budget of over \$1.59 billion, adopts ordinances on local matters, and sets land use policies that affect unincorporated areas (areas outside of cities).



**County of Santa Barbara**  
**2025 Board of Supervisors**



**Joan Hartmann**  
Third District

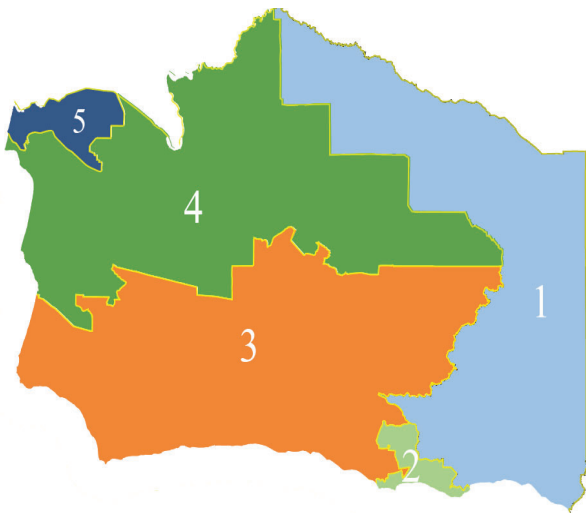
**Roy Lee**  
First District

**Laura Capps**  
Second District  
*Chair*


**Bob Nelson**  
Fourth District  
*Vice-Chair*

**Steve Lavagnino**  
Fifth District

COUNTY DISTRICTS




COUNTY FUNCTIONAL GROUPS



**HEALTH & PUBLIC ASSISTANCE**  
\*FTE: 1,805 **↑93** from FY 2023-24  
Exp: \$531.0M **↑\$37.1M** FY 2023-24

This group works to improve the community’s health by offering preventive care. They also support children and families by enforcing child support orders and provide services for alcohol, drug, and mental health issues.




**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
\*FTE: 1,620 **↑37** from FY 2023-24  
Exp: \$440.1M **↑\$23.1M** FY 2023-24

Public Safety works to protect the community, including people and their property, through law enforcement, fire protection, managing adult and juvenile criminals in custody, and monitoring offenders on probation. It also safeguards citizens’ rights and safety by handling criminal and civil cases and defending those accused.




**COMMUNITY RESOURCES & PUBLIC FACILITIES**  
\*FTE: 450 **↑12** from FY 2023-24  
Exp: \$146.1M **↓\$48.2M** FY 2023-24

The departments in this group work to improve life in the County. They focus on protecting natural resources, planning safe land use, creating affordable housing, encouraging park use, supporting agriculture, and maintaining public facilities to keep daily life safe and convenient.




**GENERAL GOVERNMENT & SUPPORT SERVICES**  
\*FTE: 378 **↑15** from FY 2023-24  
Exp: \$67.9M **↑\$5.2M** FY 2023-24

This group provides important services to the community, like running elections, managing property taxes, and handling treasury operations. It also supports County operations with services like information technology, payroll, and capital projects. These departments ensure the County’s finances are managed properly and take care of its assets.



**POLICY & EXECUTIVE**  
\*FTE: 103 **↑1** from FY 2023-24  
Exp: \$25.8M **↑\$0.6M** FY 2023-24

The Policy and Executive group includes the County Board of Supervisors. This group is responsible for setting policies, managing risk programs, handling emergencies, overseeing the budget, and providing legal services.



**GENERAL COUNTY PROGRAMS**  
\*FTE: 0 no change from FY 2023-24  
Exp: \$68.7M **↑\$0.4M** FY 2023-24

This group handles tasks that aren’t tied to a specific department, like organizational development. It also manages transfers to other government entities, such as the Human Services Commission and the Local Agency Formation Commission.

\*FTE: Full-time equivalent





The County departments have dual roles in providing services to their residents. Firstly, basic local government services are provided to residents in the unincorporated areas of the County. These services include fire protection and maintenance of County roads, as well as services in some cities by contract, such as Sheriff patrol. Secondly, countywide services are provided as a regional government, such as District Attorney prosecution and Sheriff jail operations, or as agents for the State through public assistance programs and property tax administration. Details about such County

services may be found in the County's Recommended Budget publication available online at [www.countyofsb.org/4584/2025-2026](http://www.countyofsb.org/4584/2025-2026).

\*The County has five elected department directors responsible for the offices of the Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder-Assessor, District Attorney, Sheriff-Coroner, and Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator. The above organization chart reflects the various functional groups reported in the ACFR, along with the names of the principal officials.



HEADLINES

JULY  
2024

Santa Barbara County Supervisors Approve  
Staff Labor Contracts  
– Noozhawk - Jul. 30, 2024

AUGUST

Refugio Canyon Vegetation Fire on Gaviota  
Coast Halted at 86 Acres  
– Noozhawk - Aug. 23, 2024

SEPTEMBER

Santa Barbara County Breaks Ground on New  
Probation Building Downtown  
– Noozhawk - Sept. 10, 2024

OCTOBER

County Salutes Heroism of Officers After Santa  
Maria Court Bombing  
– Noozhawk - Oct. 8, 2024

NOVEMBER

Santa Barbara Voters Support Sales Tax Increase  
to 9.25%  
– Noozhawk - Nov. 5, 2024

DECEMBER

Board of Supervisors Approve Agricultural  
Enterprise Ordinance  
– Noozhawk - Dec. 15, 2024

JANUARY  
2025

County votes for new cannabis odor ordinance  
in Carpenteria  
– KSBY - Jan. 27, 2025  
The Downtown Trend in Cannabis Tax Revenues  
– The Santa Barbara Independent - Jan. 27, 2025

FEBRUARY

County Celebrates 175th Anniversary  
– Santa Barbara Independent - Feb. 29, 2025

MARCH

Santa Barbara County Cracking Down on Street  
Food Vendors  
– The Santa Barbara Independent - Mar. 4, 2025

APRIL

County supervisors vote to spend \$200M in  
renovations at county jail  
– KSBY - Apr. 1, 2025

MAY

County board of supervisors unanimously approve  
I.V. Rental Housing Inspection Pilot Program  
– The Daily Nexus - May. 14, 2025

JUNE

Santa Barbara County Supervisors Finalize, Adopt  
\$1.69 Billion Budget  
– Noozhawk - Jun. 17, 2025

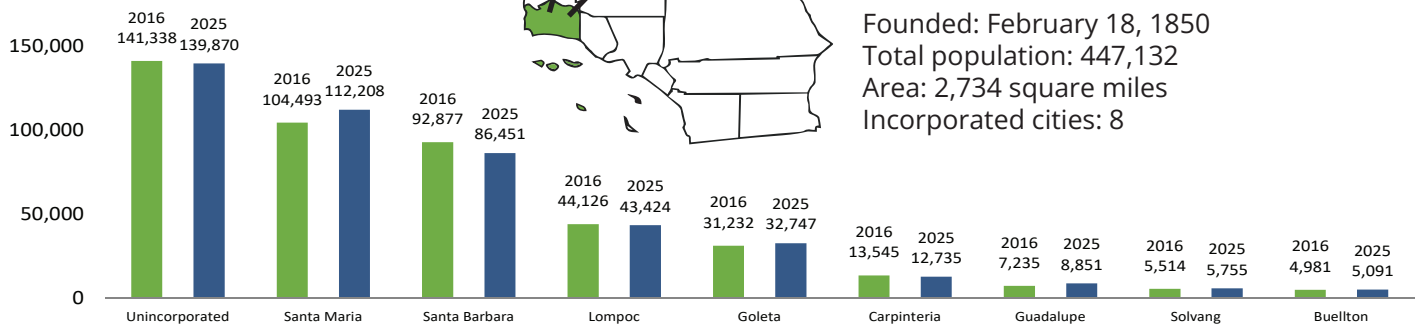


## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

Santa Barbara County offers idyllic settings for residents and visitors. Located approximately 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles and bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west and south, it is known for its mild climate, picturesque coastline, vineyards, abundant agriculture, scenic mountains, and numerous parks and beaches – including the richly biodiverse marine habitat of the Channel Islands.

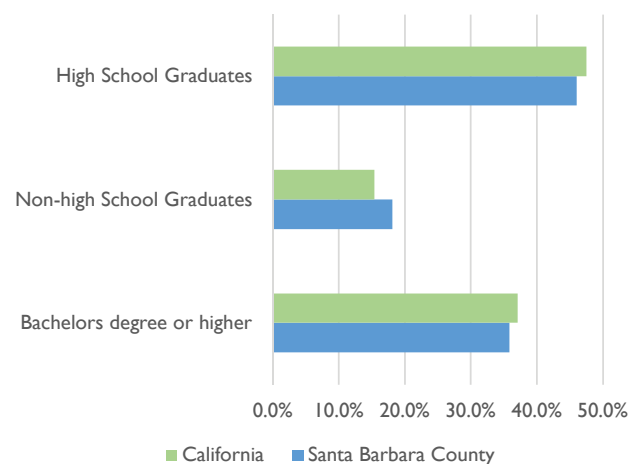
## POPULATION CHANGES\*

(2016 VS 2025)

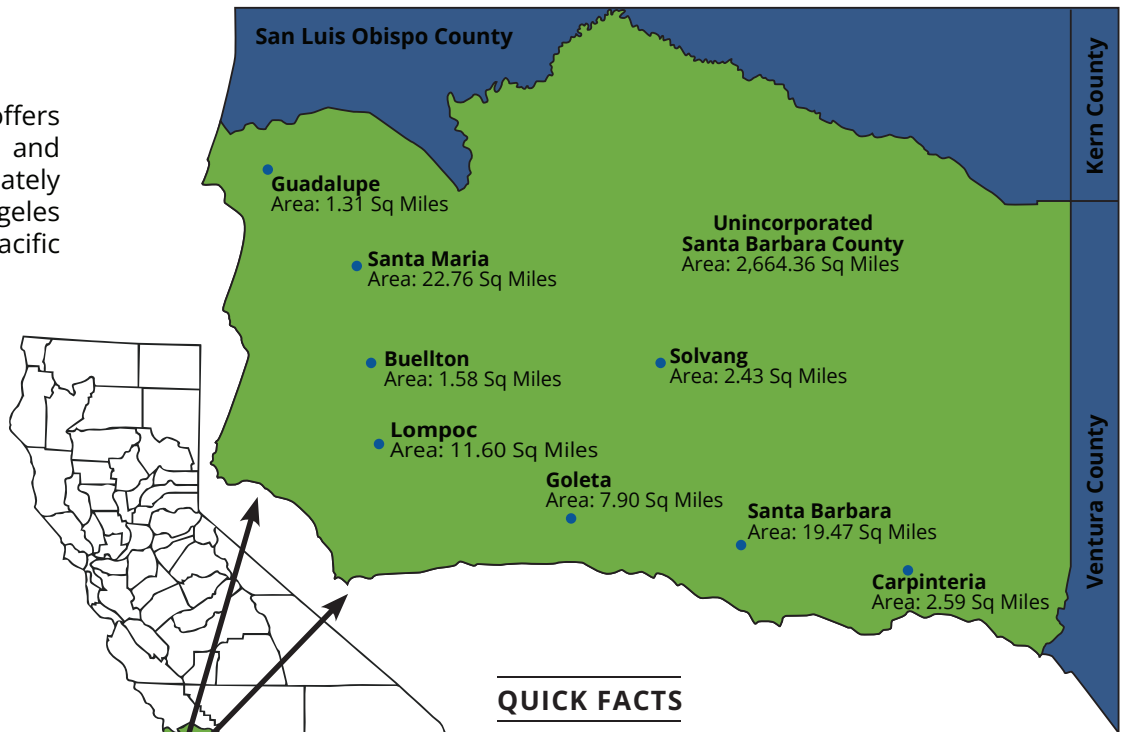


\*Provided by The State of California Department of Finance

## AVERAGE EDUCATION LEVELS FOR ADULTS 25+ YRS (2020-2024)



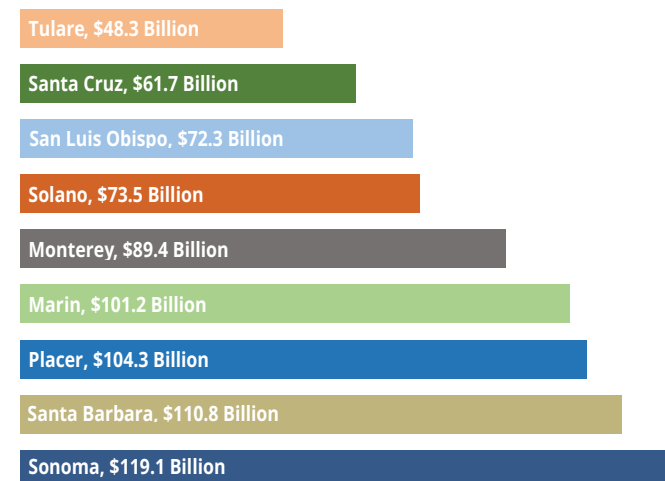
\* The 2024 data is estimated and may differ from the actual figures



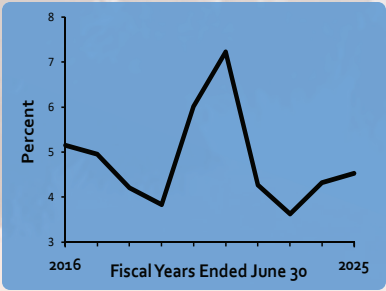
## QUICK FACTS

Founded: February 18, 1850  
Total population: 447,132  
Area: 2,734 square miles  
Incorporated cities: 8

## FY 2023-24 PROPERTY TAX ROLL VALUES OF COMPARABLE COUNTIES



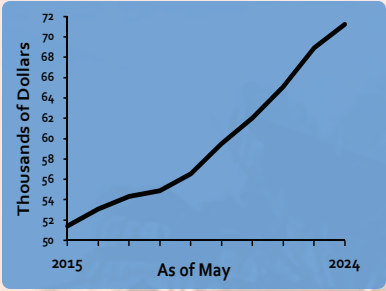




**AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 4.5%**

+0.2% from FY 2023-24

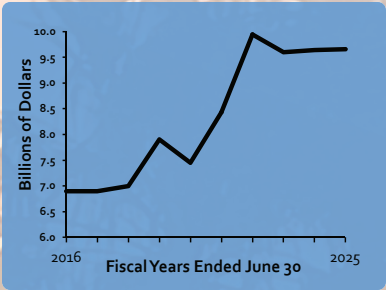
The County's Leisure and Hospitality employment decreased by 0.3% compared to last year.



**AVERAGE SALARY: \$71.3K**

+\$2.4 K from FY 2023-24

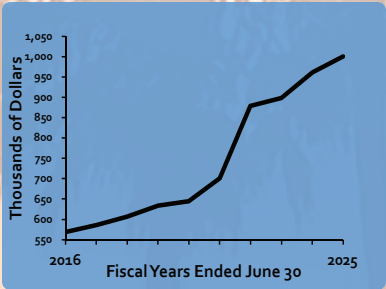
The County's average annual wages continued to increase in calendar year 2024.



**RETAIL SALES: \$9.66B**

+\$0.02 B from FY 2023-24

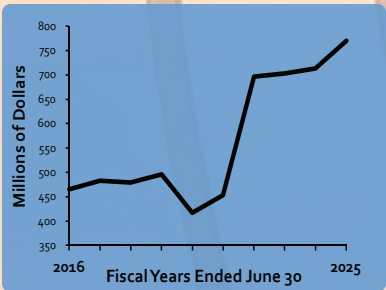
The County estimated retail sales increased by 0.2%.



**MEDIAN HOME PRICE: \$1,001K**

+\$40 K from FY 2023-24

The County's median home price growth slowed down compared to recent years.



**HOTEL/MOTEL ROOM SALES: \$770M**

+\$57 M from FY 2023-24

The County's room sales increased as available hotel rooms and occupancy rates increased.

**TOP 10 INDUSTRY**

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYEES
1. Government	37,500
2. Farm	37,500
3. Private Education and Health Services	33,300
4. Leisure and Hospitality	28,400
5. Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,800
6. Professional and Business Services	23,700
7. Manufacturing	11,800
8. Mining, Logging and Construction	10,500
9. Financial Activities	6,400
10. Information	3,700

### TOP 10 PROPERTY TAXPAYERS (IN THOUSANDS)

TAXPAYER	SECURED TAX LEVY (FY 2024-25)	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL
1. Southern California Edison Utility	\$559,791	0.48%
2. Ruby SB Hotel, LLC (Bacara) Hotel	\$521,254	0.45%
3. Southern California Gas Company Utility	\$435,355	0.37%
4. Miramar Acquisition Company, LLC Hotel	\$316,062	0.27%
5. Pacific Gas & Electric Co Utility	\$281,532	0.24%
6. 1260 BB Property, LLC Hotel	\$248,013	0.21%
7. Windset Farms California Inc Agriculture	\$237,772	0.20%
8. Islay Investments Real Estate Holdings	\$213,310	0.18%
9. Celite Corporation Mining	\$186,043	0.16%
10. Regency Tropicana, LLC Real Estate Holdings	\$183,647	0.16%

#### TOTAL REVENUES: \$1,430.7M

+\$98.5 M from FY 2023-24

The County continues to see an overall increase in revenues due to the positive effect on property taxes as the result of increases to home values.

#### TAXES: \$463.3M

+\$25.1 M FROM FY 2023-24

The County's main source of discretionary revenue is local property tax which is experiencing stable growth.

#### PROP 172: \$48.1M

+\$0.5 M from FY 2023-24

Proposition 172 is a portion of sales tax that is collected for local public safety. Prop 172 has increased along with retail sales as post-pandemic recovery continues.

#### STATE & FEDERAL: \$592.3M

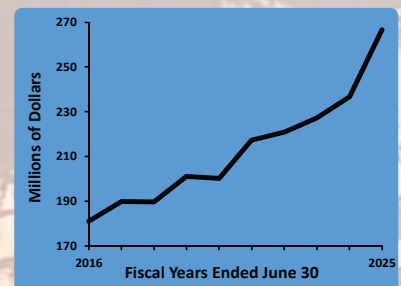
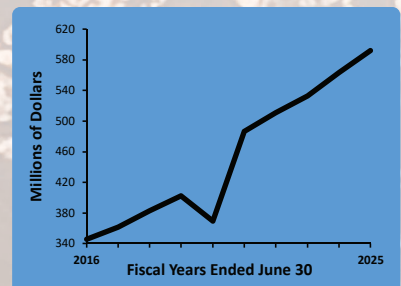
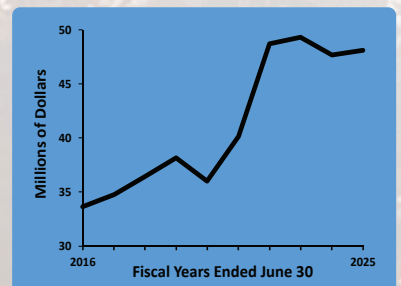
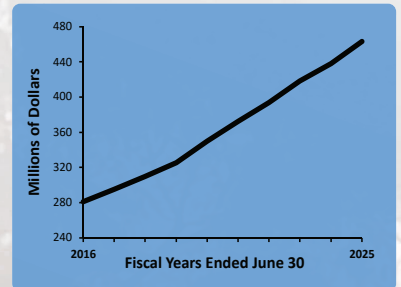
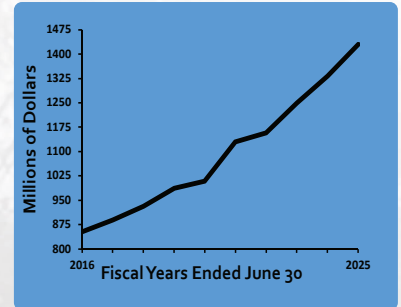
+\$19.0 M from FY 2023-24

The County continued to receive a significant amount in State and Federal programmatic revenues in the FY 2024-25 to help address the economic impacts of COVID-19.

#### CHARGES FOR SERVICES: \$266.6M

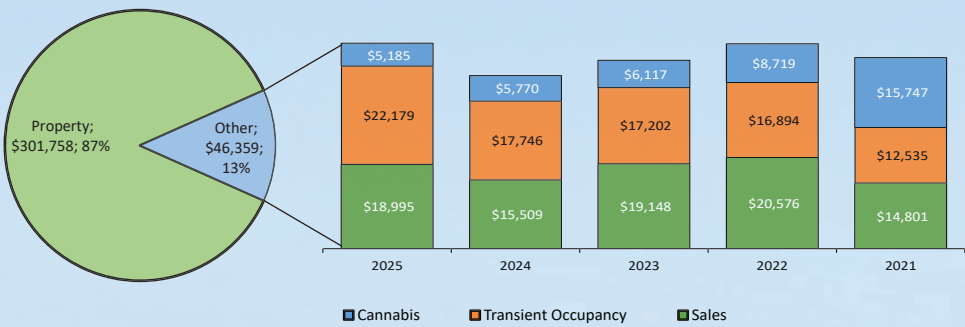
+\$30.0 M from FY 2023-24

Charges for services primarily represent user fees charged for feebased government services (permits, trash, parks, etc.). There is a continuing countywide effort to align fees with costs, resulting in an increase to charges for services.



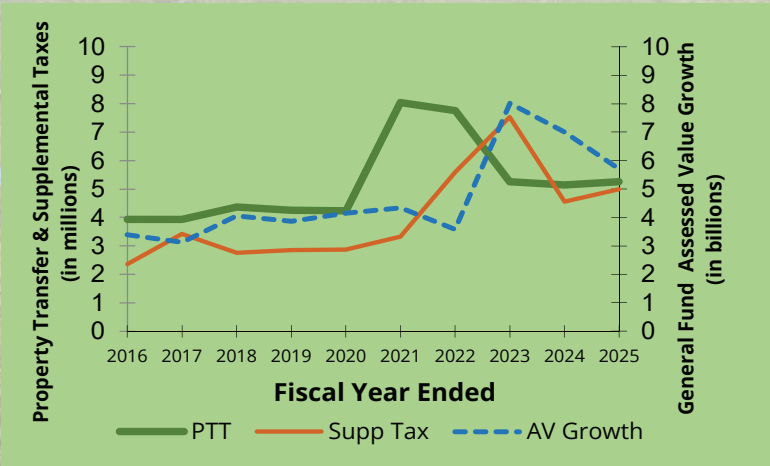


FY 2024-25 GENERAL TAX REVENUE AND TRENDS (IN THOUSANDS)



Sales and Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) have increased after a sharp drop during the COVID-19 pandemic. As tourism has recovered in recent years, TOT taxes have grown along with it. Moreover, cannabis tax revenue has decreased from 2024. The recovery of tourism has been a key factor in boosting the County's tax revenue.

COUNTY GENERAL FUND ASSESSED VALUE (AV)  
GROWTH VS. PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX (PTT)  
& SUPPLEMENTAL TAXES (SUPP TAX)



After a big spike in property transfers during the pandemic, assessed value and property tax revenues increased significantly. However, the number of property sales has now returned to pre-pandemic levels. This has caused property transfer tax revenues to level off. Supplemental taxes have also stabilized as property sales slowed down. The recent decline in sales activity marks a return to more typical patterns for the County.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL TAX REVENUE (IN MILLIONS)

Fiscal Year	2023-24	2024-25	Change	PCT % Change
Revenue				
State	\$ 380.4	\$ 396.3	\$ 15.85	4.2%
Federal	164.9	187.6	22.7	13.7%
Other	17.9	(1.5)	(19.5)	(108.6%)
Total Revenue	\$ 563.2	\$ 582.3	\$ 19.04	

Intergovernmental revenues make up a large part of the County's budget. These funds come from State and Federal programs. The amount of money the County receives depends on how these agencies decide to allocate their resources. It also depends on how much funding is available overall. This makes intergovernmental revenues an important but unpredictable part of the budget.

**OPERATING INDICATORS BY FUNCTION/PROGRAM**

Function/Program	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	Change	FY 2024-25
<b><u>Public Safety</u></b>							
<b>Other:</b>							
Filed felonies-District Attorney	2,582	2,181	2,407	2,463	2,671	-124	2,547
Filed misdemeanors-District Attorney	8,935	6,534	6,886	5,678	7,074	-378	6,696
Public Defender's total new caseload	12,247	7,872	16,167	12,439	13,531	-4,683	8,848
Fire emergency responses	14,723	14,618	16,239	17,330	17,231	0	17,231
<b>Sheriff:</b>							
Total miles patrolled	1,406,295	1,362,890	1,276,095	1,241,442	1,241,630	49,041	1,290,671
Processed and booked adult offenders	11,108	8,326	10,001	10,317	11,268	635	11,903
<b>Probation:</b>							
Juvenile referrals processed	1,987	722	985	980	1,151	-151	1,000
Adult and Juvenile cases supervised	7,318	4,801	4,247	3,943	4,791	-409	4,382
Institutional care for minors	16,344	6,920	7,397	8,669	8,222	1,031	9,253
Submit written reports to courts on Adults	3,911	2,538	6,234	8,932	9,128	-75	9,053
<b><u>Health &amp; Human Services</u></b>							
Behavioral Wellness clients served	14,052	10,652	11,774	11,804	11,209	416	11,625
Established orders for child support	10,964	10,458	10,159	9,852	8,970	-231	8,739
Assistance claims paid to eligible recipients	85,710	79,809	80,211	86,181	80,491	2,716	83,207
Patient encounters at Public Health clinics	113,500	121,000	112,500	101,459	103,086	2,979	106,065
<b><u>Community Resources &amp; Public Facilities</u></b>							
Building inspections	24,952	24,943	24,877	23,649	23,631	-113	23,518
Enhanced or maintained road lanes (miles)	64	46	53	56	59	-8	51
<b><u>General Government &amp; Support Services</u></b>							
<b>Clerk-Recorder-Assessor:</b>							
Recorded documents & vital copies issued	104,052	140,571	120,479	78,426	74,142	6,606	80,748
<b><u>Resource Recovery</u></b>							
Waste recycled (tons per month)	7,882	8,253	7,598	6,117	11,774	-2,120	9,654
Landfill waste disposal (tons per month)	17,744	16,245	15,946	16,024	14,442	2,122	16,564



# STATEMENT OF **NET POSITION**

(IN MILLIONS)

## STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The **Statement of Net Position** presents the County's financial position from a long-term perspective. It reports all of the County's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position. Over time, increases or decreases in net position may serve as a useful indicator of how the County's financial position is trending. The largest component of the County's net position is net investment in capital assets which cannot be used to liquidate the County's debt. The second largest component is restricted net position. These resources are subject to external restrictions on how they may be used, for example, restrictions imposed by grantors, contributors, laws or regulations of other governments, or restrictions imposed by law through constitutional provision or legislation, including those passed by the County itself. The final component of net position is unrestricted net position, a resource that can be used to meet ongoing obligations to citizens and creditors.

### Net Investment in Capital Assets

In 2025, the County's Net Investment in Capital Assets increased as the debt incurred to fund major projects, such as infrastructure improvements and technology upgrades, exceeded the value of the new assets added.

### Restricted Net Position

Restricted net position increased, driven by funding for capital improvements, community resource programs, and health and housing initiatives.

### Unrestricted Net Position

Unrestricted net position showed improvement due to funding from the Public Safety Realignment Act of 2011 and unrealized investment gains. Despite this progress, it remains negative, largely due to substantial unfunded pension and retiree benefit liabilities.

Fiscal Year	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities			Total		
	2022-23 as restated	2023-24 as restated	2024-25	2022-23	2023-24 as restated	2024-25	2022-23 as restated	2023-24 as restated	2024-25
<b>Assets</b>									
Current and other assets	\$ 1,007.1	\$ 1,132.6	\$ 1,159.1	\$ 128.9	\$ 126.8	\$ 127.2	\$ 1,136.0	\$ 1,259.5	\$ 1,286.2
Capital assets, net of depreciation	960.8	1,033.7	1,123.4	291.8	305.2	317.1	1,252.6	1,338.9	1,440.5
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>1,967.9</u>	<u>2,166.3</u>	<u>2,282.5</u>	<u>420.7</u>	<u>432.1</u>	<u>444.2</u>	<u>2,388.6</u>	<u>2,598.4</u>	<u>2,726.7</u>
<b>Deferred outflows of resources</b>	<u>210.4</u>	<u>256.4</u>	<u>256.1</u>	<u>3.9</u>	<u>4.4</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>214.3</u>	<u>260.8</u>	<u>260.6</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>									
Current and other liabilities	254.2	234.9	213.0	6.5	7.9	10.1	260.7	242.8	223.1
Long-term liabilities	878.2	1,026.9	934.7	235.2	221.8	209.5	1,113.4	1,248.7	1,144.2
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<u>1,132.4</u>	<u>1,261.8</u>	<u>1,147.7</u>	<u>241.7</u>	<u>229.8</u>	<u>219.6</u>	<u>1,374.1</u>	<u>1,491.5</u>	<u>1,367.2</u>
<b>Deferred inflows of resources</b>	<u>47.2</u>	<u>46.7</u>	<u>77.0</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>47.6</u>	<u>46.9</u>	<u>78.0</u>
<b>Net position</b>									
Net investment in capital assets	877.3	829.0	919.0	125.4	145.4	163.3	1,002.7	974.4	1,082.3
Restricted	445.1	550.4	556.8	--	--	--	445.1	550.4	556.8
Unrestricted	(323.7)	(265.1)	(161.9)	57.1	61.0	64.8	(266.6)	(204.0)	(97.0)
<b>Total net position, as restated</b>	<u>\$ 998.7</u>	<u>\$ 1,114.3</u>	<u>\$ 1,313.9</u>	<u>\$ 182.5</u>	<u>\$ 206.5</u>	<u>\$ 228.1</u>	<u>\$ 1,181.2</u>	<u>\$ 1,320.8</u>	<u>\$ 1,542.0</u>

\*Amounts may differ from the ACFR due to rounding.

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The **Statement of Activities** reports the County's revenues and expenses during the fiscal year, as well as any transactions that increase or decrease its net position. Revenues are classified by source and expenses are classified by function. Transfers are an allocation of monies from one area of the government to another.

**Program Revenues** increased due to higher charges for services, such as fire incident services and litigation settlements, as well as increased funding from state programs, and increase in capital grants and contributions. General Revenues increased mainly because of higher property tax collections and transient occupancy tax, although cannabis tax revenue decreased due to reduced operations.

**Expenses** increased due to higher pension costs, salaries, road services, and retirement contributions. The County's largest expense is salaries and benefits, which make up over half of total costs, and the average number of full-time employees also increased.

Fiscal Year	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities			Total		
	2022-23 as restated	2023-24 as restated	2024-25	2022-23	2023-24 as restated	2024-25	2022-23 as restated	2023-24 as restated	2024-25
<b>Revenues</b>									
Program Revenues	\$ 806.7	\$ 855.6	\$ 928.8	\$ 67.8	\$ 67.7	\$ 72.1	\$ 874.5	\$ 923.3	\$ 1,000.9
General Revenues	429.3	460.9	487.4	1.2	4.8	5.9	430.5	465.7	493.3
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>1,236.0</u>	<u>1,316.5</u>	<u>1,416.2</u>	<u>69.0</u>	<u>72.5</u>	<u>78.0</u>	<u>1,305.0</u>	<u>1,389.0</u>	<u>1,494.2</u>
<b>Expenses</b>									
Policy & Executive	17.9	16.1	10.5	--	--	--	17.9	16.1	10.5
Public Safety	341.0	417.0	423.7	--	--	--	341.0	417.0	423.7
Health & Human Services	428.4	477.1	511.0	--	--	--	428.4	477.1	511.0
Community Resources & Public Facilities	153.2	179.0	149.8	--	--	--	153.2	179.0	149.8
General Government & Support Services	39.9	48.2	46.0	--	--	--	39.9	48.2	46.0
General County Programs	65.7	60.2	68.5	--	--	--	65.7	60.2	68.5
Interest on long-term debt	2.5	3.2	7.0	--	--	--	2.5	3.2	7.0
Resource Recovery	--	--	--	49.5	39.2	46.7	49.5	39.2	46.7
Laguna Sanitation	--	--	--	9.4	9.2	9.8	9.4	9.2	9.8
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>1,048.6</u>	<u>1,200.8</u>	<u>1,216.5</u>	<u>58.9</u>	<u>48.4</u>	<u>56.5</u>	<u>1,107.5</u>	<u>1,249.2</u>	<u>1,273.0</u>
Transfers In -Out	--	(0.1)	(0.1)	--	0.1	0.1	--	--	-0.0
<b>Change in net position</b>	<u>187.4</u>	<u>115.6</u>	<u>199.6</u>	<u>10.1</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>21.6</u>	<u>197.5</u>	<u>139.8</u>	<u>221.2</u>
<b>Net position - beginning, as previously reported</b>	<u>811.2</u>	<u>998.3</u>	<u>1,143.0</u>	<u>172.4</u>	<u>182.5</u>	<u>206.7</u>	<u>983.6</u>	<u>1,180.8</u>	<u>1,349.7</u>
<b>Error correction adjustment</b>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.8</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>0.4</u>	<u>0.8</u>
<b>accounting principle</b>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>-29.5</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>-0.7</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>-30.2</u>
<b>Net position - beginning, as restated</b>	<u>811.3</u>	<u>998.7</u>	<u>1,114.3</u>	<u>172.4</u>	<u>182.5</u>	<u>206.0</u>	<u>983.7</u>	<u>1,181.2</u>	<u>1,320.3</u>
<b>Net position - ending</b>	<u>\$ 998.7</u>	<u>\$ 1,114.3</u>	<u>\$ 1,313.9</u>	<u>\$ 182.5</u>	<u>\$ 206.7</u>	<u>\$ 227.6</u>	<u>\$ 1,181.2</u>	<u>\$ 1,321.0</u>	<u>\$ 1,541.5</u>

\*Amounts may differ from the ACFR due to rounding.

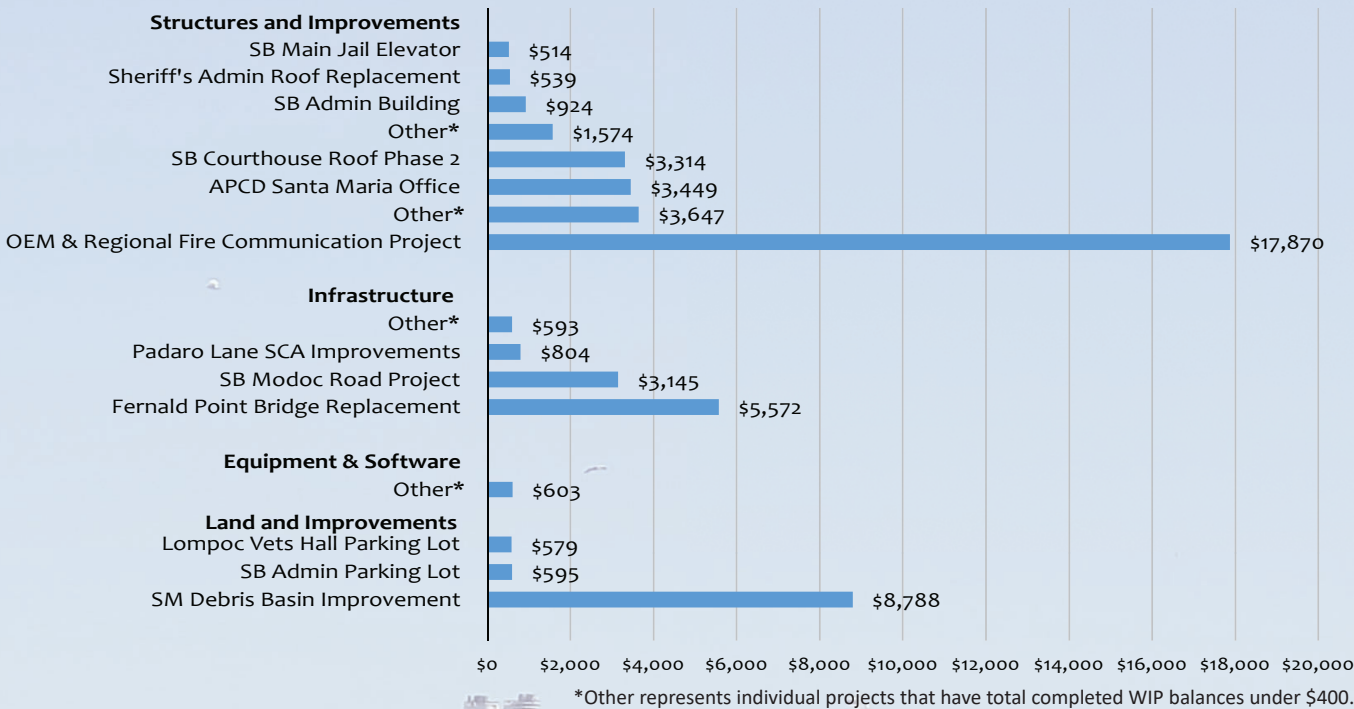


CAPITAL ASSETS

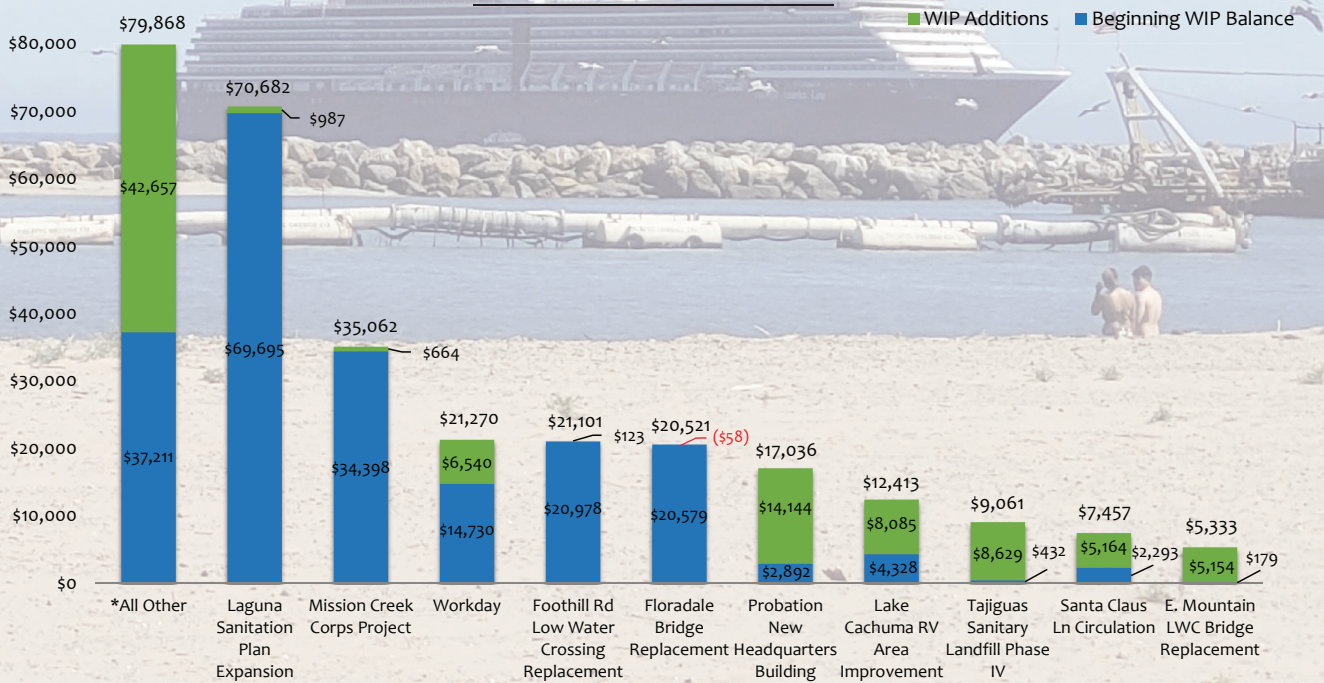
(IN THOUSANDS)

A significant portion of the County's assets are capital assets which include land, land improvements, structures and improvements (e.g., office buildings and building improvements), equipment (e.g., vehicles, machinery and computers), infrastructure (e.g., roads, bridges, sidewalks, and similar items), and intangible assets (e.g., land easements and computer software). Capital assets under construction at the end of the fiscal year are reported as work in progress (WIP). Total WIP additions of \$105,998 were offset by project completions of \$55,291.

SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM WORK IN PROGRESS



WORK IN PROGRESS ADDITIONS



(IN MILLIONS)

The County's debt represents monies borrowed to facilitate the acquisition, installation, and construction of capital projects.

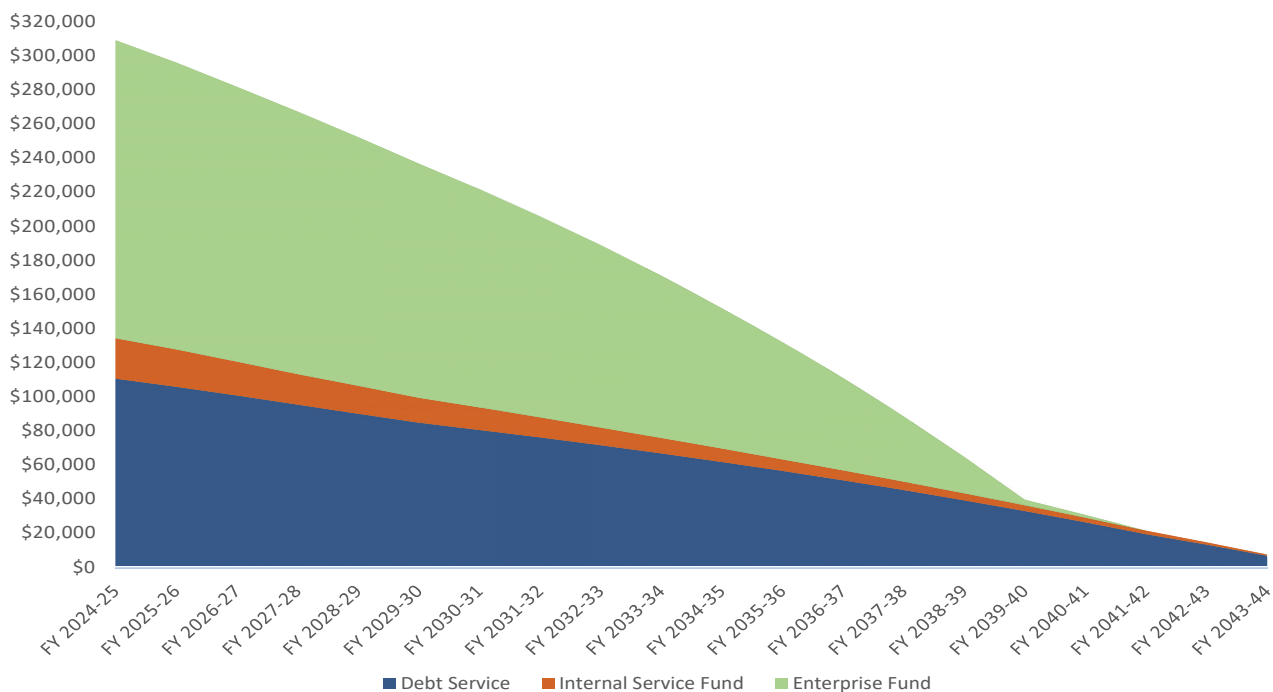
Fiscal Year	Governmental Activities			Business-Type Activities			Total		
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Bonds and notes payable	\$ 3.6	\$ 5.8	\$ 4.7	\$ 0.9	\$ 0.7	\$ 0.3	\$ 4.6	\$ 6.5	\$ 5.0
Certificates of participation	20.5	128.6	123.1	180.5	174.2	168.0	200.8	302.8	291.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 24.1</b>	<b>\$ 134.4</b>	<b>\$ 127.8</b>	<b>\$ 181.4</b>	<b>\$ 174.9</b>	<b>\$ 168.3</b>	<b>\$ 205.4</b>	<b>\$ 309.3</b>	<b>\$ 296.1</b>

\*Amounts may differ from the ACFR due to rounding.

The County's total balance of bonds, notes, and Certificates of Participation (COP) increased significantly during the fiscal year, primarily due to the issuance of the 2024 COP. This increase accounted for most of the overall change in the County's debt balance.

On April 12, 2024, S&P Global Ratings (S&P), assigned its 'AAA' issuer credit rating to the County. Additionally, S&P assigned its 'AA+' issue rating to the County's 2024A-1 (tax-exempt) and 2024A-2 (taxable) COP while affirming its 'AA+' rating on the County's outstanding COPs. The S&P scale ranges from AAA, the highest, to D, the lowest.

#### LONG-TERM DEBT OBLIGATIONS BY FUND TYPE



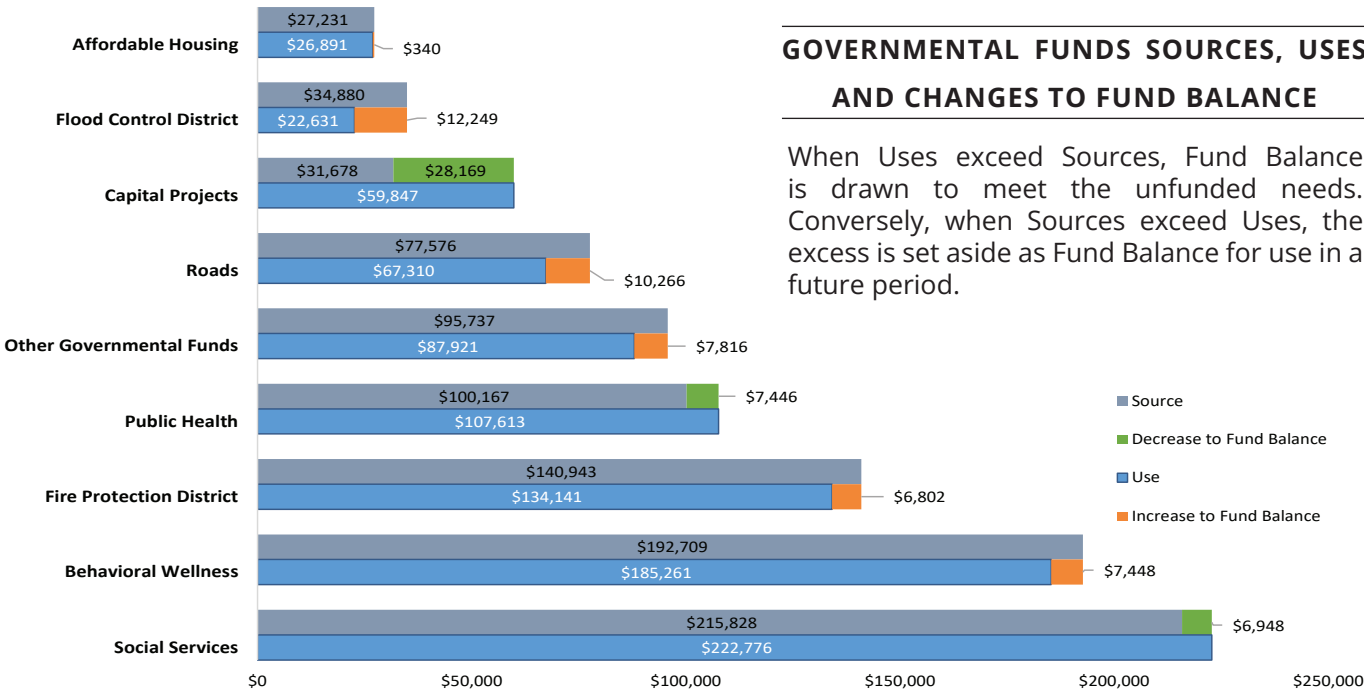
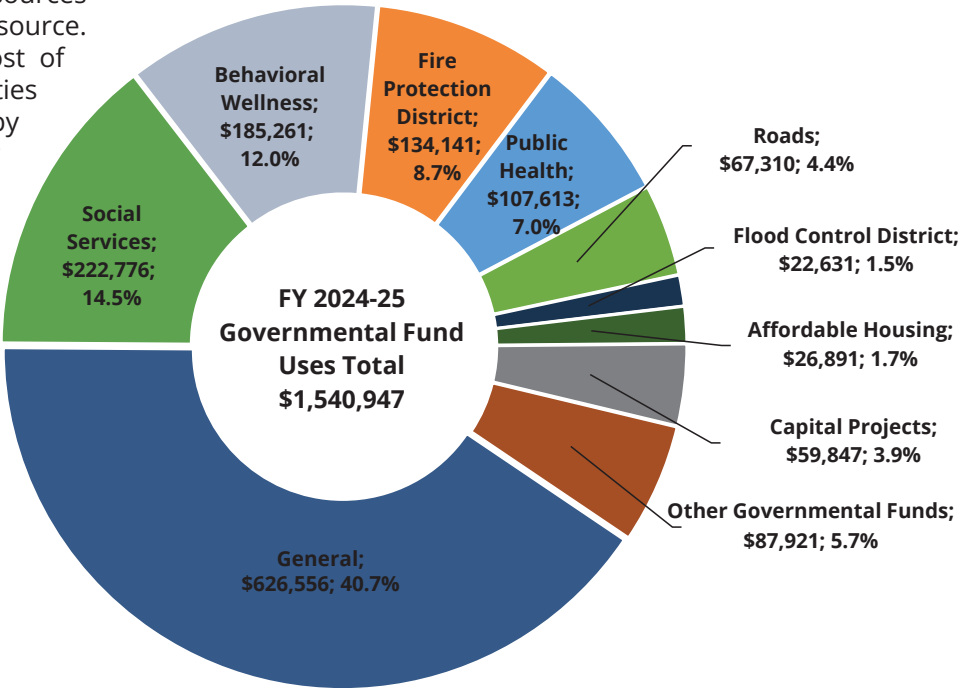


GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

(IN THOUSANDS)

FY 2024-25 GOVERNMENTAL FUND USES

Governmental funds track the inflows and outflows of the County's resources based on their primary funding source. The General Fund represents most of the County's discretionary activities that are funded primarily by local property taxes while the other governmental funds are mostly State funded activities that the County performs under its role as an arm of the State government. The bottom line for each fund is the net change in fund balance – sources minus uses. When this amount is positive, a fund will increase its fund balances for use in a future period.

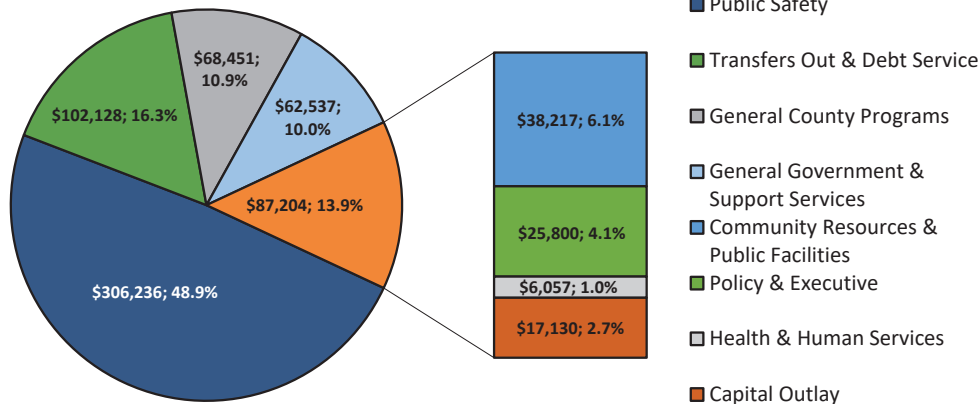
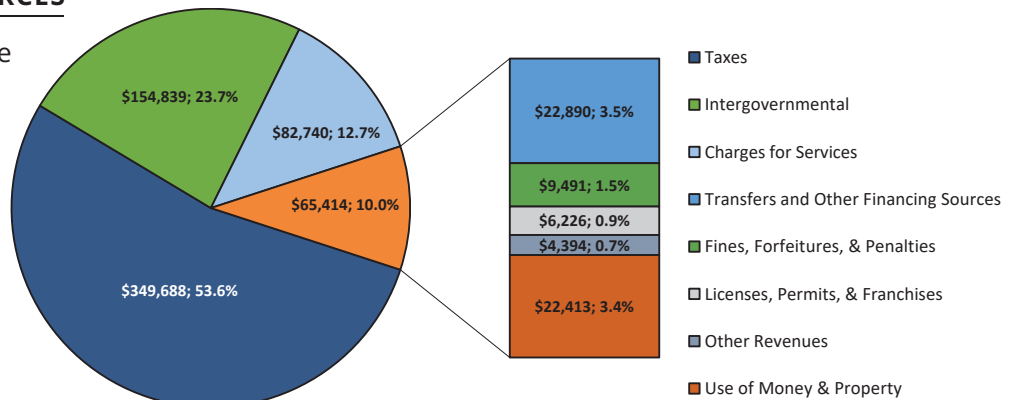


GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS SOURCES, USES, AND CHANGES TO FUND BALANCE

When Uses exceed Sources, Fund Balance is drawn to meet the unfunded needs. Conversely, when Sources exceed Uses, the excess is set aside as Fund Balance for use in a future period.

**FY 2024-25 GENERAL FUND SOURCES**

The General Fund's primary revenue sources are property taxes, intergovernmental revenues (primarily State grants), and charges for services (primarily the revenues from fee based services).



Expenditures are reported by function with the current operating expenditures presented apart from debt service and capital expenditures. Other financing sources (uses) include the cash received when bonds are issued, as well as transfers between funds. Apart from the fact that these resource flows are not revenues or expenditures, they are shown separately to assist the reader of the statement in assessing the balance between ongoing revenues and expenditures related to the basic operation of the government.

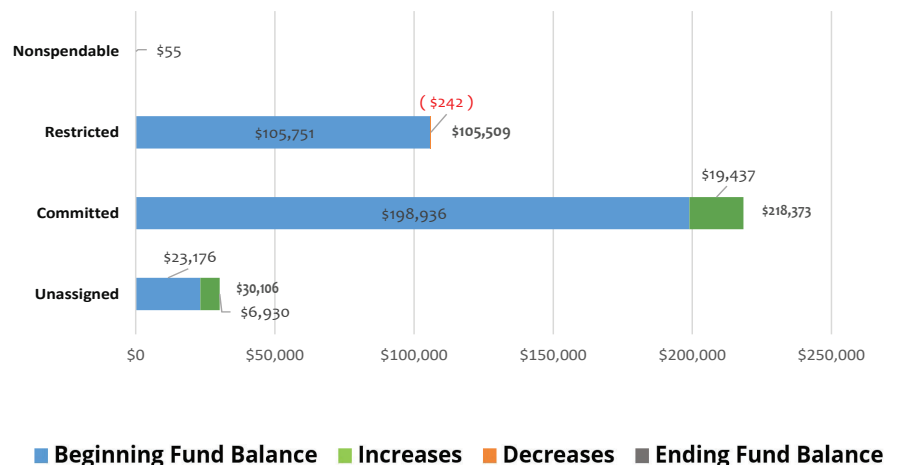
**FUND BALANCE COMPONENTS**

**NONSPENDABLE** - not spendable due to form (inventory) or law (endowment).

**RESTRICTED** - can only be spent for specific purposes required by external parties (State grants) or enabling legislation (California Constitution).

**COMMITTED** - can only be used for the purposes determined by the formal action of the County's Board of Supervisors, increases and decreases to committed fund balances requires varying levels of approval by the County's Board of Supervisors.

**UNASSIGNED** - can be used for any purpose as this amount represents the residual balance of the General Fund and includes all amounts not contained in the other classifications.





## WHAT MAKES SANTA BARBARA COUNTY UNIQUE?

### Landscape Highlights

Santa Barbara County stretches between mountains and sea, a land rich in nature and culture. Its fertile valley, open rangelands, and coastal skies reflect both abundance and balance. From local traditions to wild landscape, this region shows how life and the environment thrive together.

### Tri-tip

Santa Barbara County is the proud birthplace of the famous Tri-tip barbecue. This simple yet flavorful cut of beef, grilled slowly over red oak wood, captures the region's ranching spirit and connection to the fertile land.

### Los Padres National Forest

Covering mountain ridges, river valleys, and chaparral hillsides, Los Padres National Forest offers sanctuary for countless animals and plants. Its broad landscape reminds people of Santa Barbara's living wilderness and the harmony that still exists between people and the land.

### Cachuma Lake

Cachuma Lake, nestled in the foothills of the Santa Ynez Valley, provides vital water resources and recreation for local community while sustaining diverse plant and animal species. The lake and its surroundings illustrate Santa Barbara County's commitment to environmental management and conservation.

### Solvang

Solvang is a Danish-inspired town known for its distinctive architecture, windmills, and local bakeries. Known for its unique architecture and active tourism industry, the town stands amid fertile vineyards and farmland, representing both the culture and economic vitality of Santa Barbara County.

### Vandenberg Space Force Base

Located on the northern coast of Santa Barbara County, Vandenberg Space Force Base is a key launch site for military and commercial satellites. The facility plays a crucial role in U.S. space missions and reflects the county's contribution to scientific advancement.

### Chumash Casino

Located in the Santa Ynez Valley, the Chumash Casino is a major contributor to the regional economy. It attracts visitors from across California and supports employment, hospitality, and cultural awareness within Santa Barbara County.

### Festival Highlights

Santa Barbara County hosts diverse festivals throughout the year, celebrating agricultural harvests, cultural heritage, and environmental awareness. The Lemon, Strawberry, and Avocado Festivals showcase the fertility of our land and, moreover, reflect the County's unique identity. In 2024, we were especially proud to witness the 100th anniversary of the Old Spanish Days Fiesta. Over 100 years, the festival has carried rich meaning, embodying locals' cultural pride and their honor to city's heritage from Spanish founders.

## Whistleblower Hotline

The purpose of the Whistleblower Hotline is to encourage employees and citizens of the County to report any suspected cases of fraud, waste, or abuse of County resources of which they become aware. The Whistleblower Hotline is provided as an alternative reporting mechanism to ensure concerns are properly addressed and as a means for anonymous, confidential reporting.

Issues to be reported include:

- ♦ **Fraud** - A dishonest, unethical, irregular or illegal act or practice. It can be any intentional act or omission designed to deceive others that results in the County suffering a loss of money, property, or other disadvantage to the County's resources or rights and /or the perpetrator achieves a gain of money, property or an advantage to which the person would not normally be entitled.
- ♦ **Waste** - The intentional or unintentional thoughtless, reckless or careless expenditure, consumption, mismanagement, use, or squandering of County resources. Waste also includes incurring unnecessary costs because of inefficient or ineffective practices, systems, or controls.
- ♦ **Abuse** - Intentional destruction, diversion, manipulation, misapplication, maltreatment, or misuse of County resources. Extravagant or excessive use as to abuse one's position or authority. Abuse can occur in a financial or non-financial setting.

There are two ways to access the Whistleblower Hotline:

1. Call toll-free, **(844) 413-4025**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to speak to a third-party representative.
2. Submit an online report at the Whistleblower Web Reporting Portal:

**<https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/56538/index.html>**

Purposeful misrepresentation of reporting allegations may be construed as a malicious act. Allegations made frivolously, in bad faith or without factual basis may constitute defamation and may be legally actionable.

## Glossary

**Assets** - What the County owns.

**Business Type Activities** - Activities financed in whole or in part through fees charged to external parties for goods and services.

**Component Units** - Legally separate organizations for which the County is financially accountable.

**Deferred Inflow of Resources** - An inflow (source) of resources into the government that is applicable to a future reporting period.

**Deferred Outflow of Resources** - An outflow (use) of resources consumed by the government that is applicable to a future reporting period.

**General Revenues** - General Revenues include property and sales taxes. This is the primary form of funding for the General Fund.

**Liabilities** - What the County owes.

**Net Position** - Difference between assets plus deferred outflows of resources and liabilities plus deferred inflows of resources.

**Program Revenues** - Program Revenues represent the County's main source of funding (inflow of assets) and is made up mostly of charges for services (both governmental and business-type activities), but also includes operating and capital grants (State or Federal).

**WIP** - Work-In-Progress capital projects that have accumulated costs but that were not yet usable or placed in service by fiscal year end.



## Award for Outstanding Achievement

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Santa Barbara County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. Santa Barbara County has received a Popular Award for the last 30 consecutive years (fiscal years ended 1995-2024). We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we will be submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another Award.



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for  
Outstanding  
Achievement in  
Popular Annual  
Financial Reporting

Presented to

**County of Santa Barbara  
California**

For its Annual Financial Report  
For the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2024

*Christopher P. Morrell*

Executive Director/CEO

**Betsy M. Schaffer, CPA, CPFO, CFE**  
**Auditor-Controller**  
**105 East Anapamu Street, Room 303**  
**Santa Barbara, CA 93101**

**Office: (805) 568-2100**  
**Email: [auditor@countyofsb.org](mailto:auditor@countyofsb.org)**

**Learn more about the Auditor-Controller's Office and view  
other financial publications at:  
[www.countyofsb.org/auditor](http://www.countyofsb.org/auditor)**