

San Diego Newsline

Downtown San Diego news — the budget, public safety, business, and the civic life of America's Finest City

WHAT'S NEWS

COUNTY

Registrar Reminds Voters to Vote Early for November Presidential General Election

COUNTY

Register to Vote by Oct. 21 for November Presidential General Election

COUNTY

A Second Federal Tijuana River Valley Health Survey Starts Today

COUNTY

CDC and County Launch Health Survey in Tijuana River Valley

COUNTY

Tijuana River Valley Health Assessment in Partnership with CDC Begins

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Thousand Branches Wellness

BUSINESS

From the Desk of Veronica Perondi – October 2024

INSIDE

Downtown, City & County — 2
Business — 3
Cartoon — 3
Commentary — 4

COUNTY

Registrar Reminds Voters to Vote Early for November Presidential General Election



Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

If you're a registered voter and haven't cast your ballot yet, you'll soon get a reminder from the Registrar's office that you have less than two weeks to cast your ballot for the November Presidential General Election .

The Registrar sent over 1.7 million reminder postcards to registered voters in San Diego County who had not voted as of Oct. 17.

With a significant number of contests on the ballot, the voting process may take longer than usual. The Registrar's office recommends using early voting options to avoid long lines. You can cast your ballot by mail, drop it off at an official ballot drop box or at any vote center around the county.

Don't delay! If you have been holding onto your ballot, act now and vote from the comfort of your home. Sign and date your return envelope, seal your completed ballot inside and return it by mail promptly to make sure it arrives at the Registrar's office before Nov. 5.

You also have the option to use one of the Registrar's 150 official ballot drop boxes. Many are available 24 hours a day, while others are dependent on the location's hours of operation. The secure stand-alone boxes feature the Registrar's logo along with the County seal and are labeled "Official Ballot Drop Box." Find one close to you through the Registrar's online locator map or inside your voter information pamphlet .

Check each location's hours of operation before heading out at sdvote.com. All will close at 8 p.m. Nov. 5.

The sooner the Registrar's office receives your ballot, the sooner it is processed for the first release of election night results.

If you prefer to vote in person and avoid long lines, 39 vote centers will open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting Saturday, Oct. 26.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, over 200 locations will be available. The vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Nov. 4. On the final day of voting, Nov. 5, all vote centers will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Early voting is already underway at the Registrar's office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

You can find an official ballot drop box or vote center near you inside your voter information pamphlet , or you can look it up online at sdvote.com.

Learn more about voting in the November Presidential General Election at sdvote.com , or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 23, 2024

COUNTY

Register to Vote by Oct. 21 for November Presidential General Election

If you want to vote in the November Presidential General Election , you must register by Monday, Oct. 21 to receive a ballot in the mail. Otherwise,

you will need to make a trip in person to the Registrar's office in Kearny Mesa or visit a vote center starting Saturday, Oct. 26 to conditionally register and vote provisionally through Nov. 5.

Registering to vote is quick and easy and can be done online at sdvote.com. You will need to register to vote if you:

If your signature is confirmed through records at the California Department of Motor Vehicles, your registration will automatically be sent to the Registrar's office. If your signature is not confirmed, you can print the form, sign it and return it to the Registrar's office by 5 p.m. on Oct. 21.

Registration forms must be postmarked or delivered to the Registrar's office by Oct. 21. Voters may also register online until midnight.

If you don't have access to a computer, you may request a registration form by calling (800) 696-0136 or emailing rovmail@sdcounty.ca.gov .

Not sure if you're registered to vote? Check your registration status online at sdvote.com.

For voters who need language assistance, election materials are also available in Spanish, Filipino, Vietnamese and Chinese.

Early voting is already underway at the Registrar's office from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If you prefer to vote in person and avoid long lines, 39 vote centers will open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. starting Saturday, Oct. 26.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, over 200 locations will be available. The vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Nov. 4. On the final day of voting, Nov. 5, all vote centers and official ballot drop boxes will be

Continued on page 2

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Register to Vote by Oct. 21 for November Presidential General Election

open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

You can find an official ballot drop box or vote center near you inside your voter information pamphlet , or you can look it up online on the election information page at sdvote.com .

Learn more about voting in the November Presidential General Election at sdvote.com , or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 18, 2024

COUNTY

A Second Federal Tijuana River Valley Health Survey Starts Today

People working and living near the polluted Tijuana River Valley and area beaches have an opportunity to share their experiences with a federal agency that monitors community health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are conducting an Assessment of Chemical Exposures (ACE) survey. This new survey follows the CDC’s Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response or CASPER household assessment that wrapped up Saturday.

The ACE survey begins today and goes through November 22. Survey administrators will collect demographic and health information from people who live in, work at, or frequent the south region and its beaches, from Imperial Beach to Coronado. The survey is similar to the CASPER survey in format but there are some notable differences.

The ACE will focus on individuals who work or live near the water. While the CASPER focused on households and families, both are key to identifying community needs and

prioritizing solutions related to sewage pollution exposure in the area.

“This community deserves better,” said Dr. Ankita Kadakia, County interim public health officer. “By bringing in this federal agency to help us conduct an ACE survey, individuals who live or work near the water have a chance to voice their concerns, their experiences, and the impacts to their physical and mental health.”

The County and ACE teams will walk the community and beach areas with information and QR codes linked to the survey. The teams will look for anyone who lived, worked or spent time in the areas around the Tijuana River Valley, or along the beaches, in the past 30 days for activities like surfing, shopping, walking, and fishing. People can take the ACE survey on a computer or a mobile device.

The survey is confidential. Questions will cover the time and location of exposure, physical and mental health impacts, health services used, and medical history. Pet health is also included in the survey.

Results of the survey will be used to better understand the health impacts on the community, and determine the measures needed to ensure the health of all residents.

ATSDR is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Its mission includes protecting communities from harmful health effects related to exposure to natural and man-made hazardous substances. ATSDR responds to environmental health emergencies, investigates emerging environmental health threats, conducts research on the health impacts of hazardous waste sites, and provides actionable guidance to state and local health partners.

Past ATSDR responses include the 2023 East Palestine Train Derailment in Ohio and the water concerns in Flint Michigan in 2015.

More information about the ACE including a link to take the survey , visit the County’s South Region Health Concerns website.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 21, 2024

COUNTY

CDC and County Launch Health Survey in Tijuana River Valley

Months of planning and coordination came together Thursday morning as teams of volunteers began interviewing residents living near the Tijuana River Valley about sewage pollution and its effect on their health and well-being.

More than 80 people from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), County of San Diego and local universities fanned out throughout the south region where, through Saturday, they will be interviewing selected households about living near the polluted river valley. The assessment is part of a CDC-developed survey called a CASPER, or Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response .

Interview teams are working in 30 single-block areas, chosen in part by the number of odor complaints received from residents. They will visit 210 randomly chosen households to document residents’ health information.

When all surveys are complete, responses will be analyzed by the CDC in the coming days, weeks and months. The resulting information will used by the County and other agencies to make decisions about additional actions and resources that can help the community.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 18, 2024

COUNTY

Tijuana River Valley Health Assessment in Partnership with CDC Begins

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is in San Diego working with County public health staff

and volunteers to interview people who live near the Tijuana River Valley about their experiences with sewage pollution in the area.

The County and CDC are partnering to complete a survey called a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response or CASPER.

Today through Saturday, staff and volunteers will interview people who live in 210 randomly selected households chosen from a bigger 30-block sample of homes. Interviewers will pick seven households from each block to be surveyed.

County health officials encourage community members to share their experiences if their household is randomly selected to do the survey.

“It is important to hear directly from people who live near the Tijuana River Valley,” said Dr. Ankita Kadakia, County interim public health officer. “If you get a knock on your door in the next couple of days from a CASPER interview team, please speak with interviewers and provide your honest answers.”

The responses from the assessment on how living in close proximity to pollution in the Tijuana River Valley has affected people’s lives will be analyzed and used by the County to make future decisions. The results can help determine what additional actions to take, find gaps in information, what resources are needed, and understand new or changing needs within the community.

“The CDC has supported our partners in using the CASPER method for decades to quickly gather household-based information about community health concerns,” said Dr. Aaron Bernstein, director of the CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). “These interviews will provide firsthand insights into how the sewage contamination is impacting

the daily lives of residents, helping to inform solutions.”

County public health has spent the last few weeks informing community members about the upcoming health assessment through door-hangers and social media videos including on NextDoor in specific communities.

The work to bring the CDC to San Diego started back in May 2024 when the County contacted the California Department of Public Health requesting support in addressing the Tijuana River Valley pollution situation. Additionally, a formal request to the CDC’s National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) requesting an Epi-Aid investigation into the Tijuana River Valley was submitted on June 25, 2024. The Epi-Aid was verbally approved on July 31, 2024.

This is the first CASPER to take place in the County of San Diego. It has provided valuable insight in other communities where it was conducted.

County public health and CDC teams will conduct household interviews during the following dates and times:

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Interview teams, who will be bilingual in English and Spanish, will be wearing identifying badges and white reflective vests. Interviews will take about 15 minutes to complete and are anonymous. Participating households will not be asked identifying information including about immigration status.

To learn more about health concerns and impacts from sewage and pollution in the Tijuana River Valley and the CASPER survey, visit sandiegocounty.gov/southregionhealth.

County of San Diego news release · Oct 17, 2024

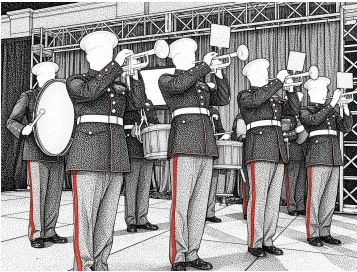
STARTING A BUSINESS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY?

Publish your DBA the easy way.

newfbn.com · (951) 262-7611

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



BUSINESS
**Member Spotlight:
Thousand Branches
Wellness**

Thousand Branches Wellness is proud to be a new member of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and we are thrilled to connect with the local business community. As the first of many standalone outpatient mental health and wellness clinics opening across the country, our brand-new facility is centrally located in beautiful Mission Valley. We provide exceptional, evidenced-based general mental health care to teens (ages 12 and up), adults, active-duty military, veterans, and their families.

Our services include

Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), Individual, Family and Couples Therapy, and Medication Management—both in-person and virtually. We cover a range of mental health needs, from anxiety and depression to trauma, PTSD, and more. We utilize evidence-based practices such as Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT), Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Seeking Safety to ensure the highest standard of care with the hope of long-term healing.

As a member of the Chamber, we look forward to building strong connections within the business community and exploring opportunities to partner together in addressing the mental health needs of San Diego. Our mission is to make mental health care accessible and compassionate. We accept most commercial insurances, including Tricare and VA Community Care

Network.

If you or someone you know needs support, please call our 24/7 assessment line at 619.202.8586 – we’re here to help out whenever you need it.

We invite you to follow us on social media to stay updated on our latest offerings and initiatives.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Oct 7, 2024

BUSINESS
**From the Desk of
Veronica Perondi –
October 2024**

I am still riding the high from the Visionary Awards! I’ve heard such incredible feedback about the venue, the weather and the atmosphere created by all who attended. It was a pleasure to meet so many of you for the first time and share both my story and the vision for LEAD. It was truly an inspirational night, reminding me how grateful I am to be a San Diegan and to work in this community.

During my speech, I shared

a video highlighting the innovation and collaboration that LEAD fosters. I’ve heard so many impactful stories about relationships, ideas, and programs that have been created from connections through LEAD, and I wanted to share one of them. Lydia Bartell (22), Vice President of Bartell Hotels and Cristina Alfaro, Ph.D. (22), Associate Vice President of International Affairs and Professor of Multilingual and Global Education at San Diego State University, met during their Influence program. Their connection led to the creation of an English as a Second Language Course with an Emphasis on Hospitality. Lydia and Cristina shared their story in this video, and we also get to hear from Ivan Castro, a student of the program.

What inspires me and excites me most about the opportunities with LEAD isn’t just the professional growth that occurs within the programs, it’s the connections formed and the

ideas that spring from them. LEAD is the biggest connecting mechanism in town; it breaks us out of our industry silos and taps into the creativity that happens when two minds collaborate to create lasting impacts in our community.

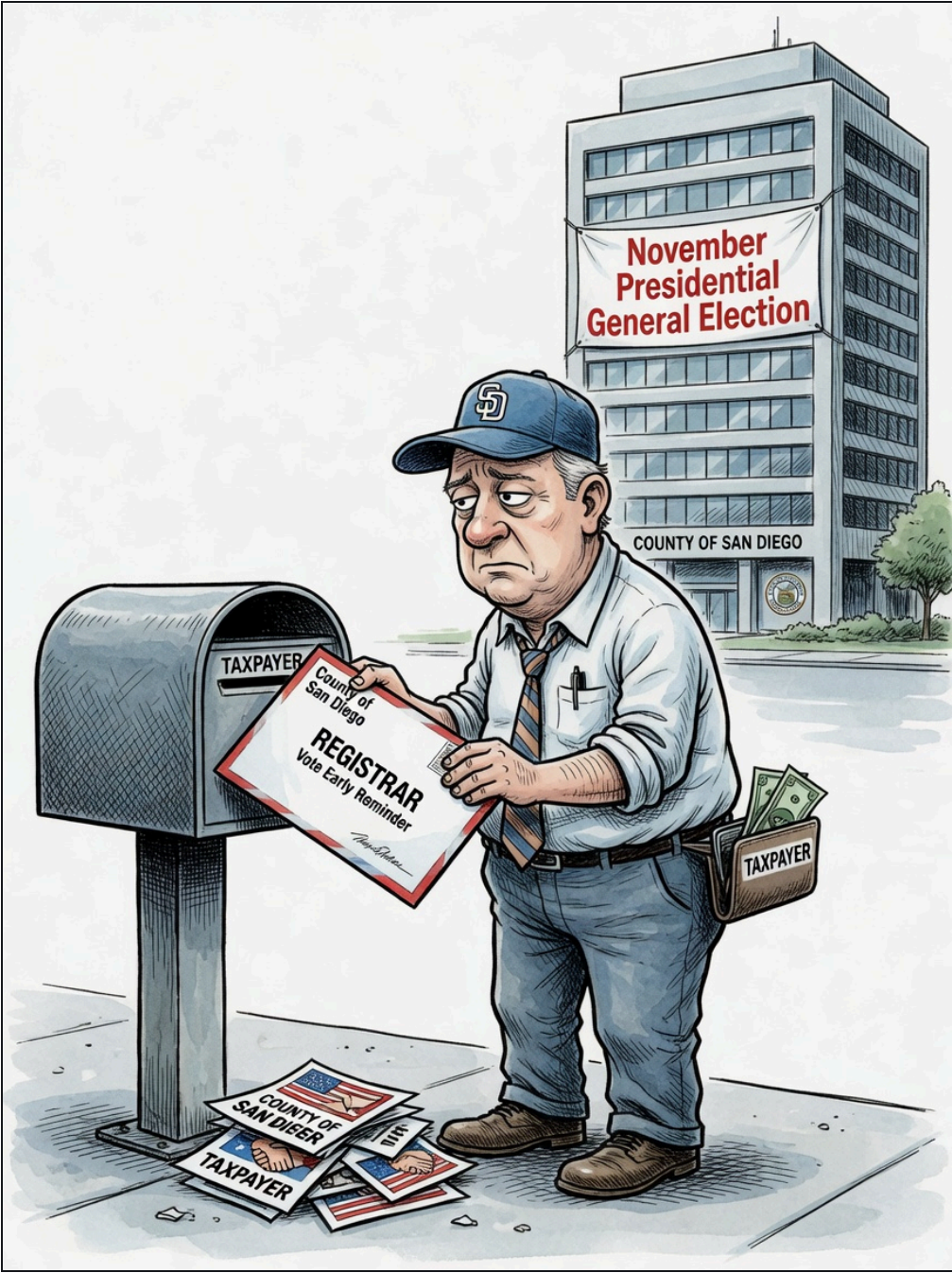
When I talk to people about why LEAD is so important, and what sets it apart from other professional development programs, I emphasize that LEAD is a shared experience for participants, fostering community and civic engagement. As one of our Impact speakers said at the last seminar, “creative collisions and conversations can lead to incredible innovations”.

As we look ahead to the coming year and welcoming a new class of graduates, I encourage you to make the most of the connections you’ve established through LEAD.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Oct 4, 2024

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Reminder to vote early

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

The news, every day. sandiegonewsline.com

COMMENTARY

Opinion — the views of the writers named, not news reporting

COMMENTARY

Santa Ana’s Refusal to Run Teacher’s Ad on Low Proficiency Rates Raises Free Speech Concerns

A veteran educator’s attempt to inform the public about low student proficiency rates in the local district has been blocked on grounds that the message is too political.

A longtime Santa Ana teacher discovered troubling performance data from the Santa Ana Unified School District and decided to share it with her community.

According to the California Policy Center, only 30 percent of students in the district demonstrate proficiency in reading while just 20 percent meet standards in math, yet

the graduation rate stands at 91 percent.

Brenda Lebsack sought to place a simple factual advertisement on city bus benches and kiosks that would have read: “70% of Santa Ana Unified School District students are not meeting reading standards and 80% are not math proficient.”

The firm handling the city’s advertising program rejected the request, labeling the subject as “political.”

In response, Julie Hamill, president and attorney with the California Justice Center, sent a letter to city officials warning that blocking the advertisement constitutes viewpoint discrimination by a government body and amounts to an

unconstitutional prior restraint on speech under the First Amendment.

The California Policy Center is supporting Lebsack’s effort to have the city accept her proposed advertisement and update its current rules for public advertising.

The California Policy Center argues that by turning down the ad, the city is preventing residents from learning about serious shortcomings in local public education.

The California Policy Center maintains that government entities cannot selectively censor messages simply because they touch on matters of public concern or might spark debate.

The California Policy

Center argues that Santa Ana Unified’s high graduation rates paired with extremely low academic proficiency suggest the district may be inflating success metrics while students fall behind.

The California Policy Center believes the public deserves transparency about these outcomes and that suppressing factual statements undermines informed civic discussion.

The California Policy Center indicates that legal action or further pressure may be necessary if the city continues to block the advertisement.

The California Policy Center argues that at its core, the dispute highlights how local governments sometimes prioritize image

control over open conversation about failing schools.

The California Policy Center writes that Santa Ana should immediately allow the ad and reform its policies to respect constitutional free speech protections.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Oct 17, 2024

ABOUT THIS PAPER

San Diego Newsline covers downtown San Diego first — City Hall, the Gaslamp Quarter, East Village, Little Italy, Barrio Logan and the waterfront — and the county around it. Every item names its source; read the originals and our standards at sandiegonewsline.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

Name change? Probate? Summons?

We publish court-ordered legal notices in an adjudicated newspaper and send your proof of publication.

newfbn.com · (951) 262-7611