

San Diego Newsline

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

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DOWNTOWN

Summer Movies in the Park Season Kicks Off Saturday at Waterfront Park



Illustration from a photo by Angelnecoechea · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY 4.0

The County’s annual “Summer Movies in the Park” season kicks off this Saturday, May 24, at the Waterfront Park with a sunset showing of Disney’s “Moana 2,” and fun activities starting at 6 p.m.

The movie will begin about 15 minutes after the sun sets, which is expected to be about 7:45 p.m. Families and folk are encouraged to wear warm clothes and bring blankets as the weather can turn chilly when the sun goes down.

To help celebrate the opening event, a variety of fun events are scheduled to start at 6 p.m. There will be lawn games, an inflatable slide, music, and even opportunities for kids to get their pictures taken with Maui and Moana—characters from the movie “Moana 2.”

There will also be a food truck, a dessert truck, and the Waterfront Park’s snack bar to buy refreshments.

This year marks the eighteenth year for the Summer Movies in the Park Program. The schedule includes 128 movie events to be held between May and early November at dozens of parks across the county—neighborhoods stretching “from the beach to the desert.”

The events give people a great way to enjoy County and city parks at night, under the stars when they are normally closed—and a chance to see a great movie outdoors as well.

This year’s list of movies includes something for everyone—animated and live-action films ranging from comedies to

musicals, action-adventure, superhero, science fiction, and romance.

There are old-time classics including “The Wizard of Oz,” “The Sound of Music,” “Hocus Pocus,” “City Slickers” and “Goonies.” And there are dozens of recent releases, from “The Wild Robot,” to “Mufasa: The Lion King,” “Inside Out 2,” “Despicable Me 4,” “The Incredibles 2” and “Arthur the King.”

The list of movies can be seen on the Summer Movies in the Park website . Movies, dates and locations are subject to change.

The 2025 Summer Movies in the Park series is presented by San Diego Foundation and sponsored by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Live Well San Diego, the Child and Family Well-Being Department, First 5, the San Diego County Parks Society, Bill Howe, Empower Language Academy, the San Diego Mojo Volleyball team, Project Clean Water and Rose Tausaga Realty.

For more information about all County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department, its parks and events, go to sdparks.org .

County of San Diego news release · May 20, 2025



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

COUNTY

County Open House to Include Budget Numbers

Editor’s Note: This story was updated May 22, 2025. The June 9 date for the budget public hearing meeting has been changed to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 3. The earlier budget hearing will take place that same day beginning at 9 a.m.

The first budget open house since the May 1 release of the County’s recommended budget will take place May 22.

The open house will include some proposed numbers for County priorities. They include public safety, housing and homelessness, behavioral health, vulnerable populations and environmental sustainability as well as roads, parks and libraries.

Staff members will be on hand to answer questions about how the budget is built, where funding comes from and how the budget process works. Residents will be able to give their written comments on the budget during the open house.

Parents can bring along their children. Similar to an informational budget open house in April, kids will have a chance to see some adoptable animals, meet a park ranger with a live owl, check out emergency vehicles and enjoy other activities.

The County’s budget affects nearly all residents in some way.

Regionally, County government

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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County Open House to Include Budget Numbers

provides services like:

Criminal prosecution, detention facilities and emergency preparedness

Food and restaurant inspections and beach water monitoring

In the unincorporated area, County government provides things a city government would typically do like:

Some cities also contract with the County to provide some of these services.

The May 22 open house will run from 5 to 7 p.m. at the County Operations Center in Kearny Mesa.

For those who cannot attend the May 22 event, a virtual community budget meeting with the same information is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28. You can learn more, register and request language and accessibility services for one or both events at Engage San Diego .

There’s also a chance to make budget comments now through June 12 at Engage San Diego .

Budget hearings will take place before the Board of Supervisors at 9 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3. * (See Editor’s note above on date change)

The Board is scheduled to hold deliberations and adopt the budget on June 24. The adopted budget takes effect July 1.

County of San Diego news release · May 19, 2025

COUNTY

County Awarded State Grants to Fund New Behavioral Health Facilities

The County’s Behavioral Health Services (BHS) has been awarded \$29.1 million in state funding that will be used to create new mental health and substance use treatment services in the region.

The California Department of Health Care Services announced the local awards last week. The funds come from a bond voters approved in March 2024 to expand behavioral health treatment, residential care settings and housing to support people with mental health conditions and substance use

disorders.

Before submitting two funding applications last year, County BHS gathered community input to identify critical needs, looked at local data and conducted stakeholder outreach. The Board of Supervisors approved the request to submit two funding applications in July 2024. Both applications have been approved for funding.

The larger award, \$21.1 million, will be used to create the new Substance Use Residential & Treatment Services (SURTS) facility. It will include up to 73 new substance use residential treatment beds and 16 recuperative care beds for people who are eligible for Medi-Cal.

The facility is located on County-owned property in National City and renovations are expected to be completed by late 2026.

The second award, which totals \$7.9 million, will help fund a new Children’s Crisis Residential Care facility within the County’s Polinsky Children’s Center in Kearny Mesa. The project will create 16 new children’s crisis residential beds, which will be the first of their kind locally.

Crisis residential care can be an alternative to hospitalization for children and youth with serious emotional health needs.

Construction is anticipated to be completed in 2027.

“This major investment will fill critical care gaps in our system and support the recovery and wellbeing of some of our most vulnerable clients,” said Nadia Privara, Acting Behavioral Health Services Director. “The Substance Use and Residential Treatment Services facility provides new options for adult clients needing residential treatment and the Children’s Crisis Residential facility will create a much-needed resource for youth in our behavioral health system. I want to acknowledge the County’s Department of General Services and Child and Family Well-Being for their partnership in making these projects a reality.”

Five other behavioral health providers within San Diego County were also awarded Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) grant funds, which will be bring more

needed services to the area.

Palomar Health Foundation, \$49.9 million for an acute psychiatric hospital in Escondido.

InnerTribal Treatment, \$19.9 million for an adult residential SUD treatment facility in Pauma Valley.

McAlister Institute for Treatment & Education, \$34.5 million for an adult residential SUD treatment facility in San Diego.

Casa de Amparo, \$19.9 million for a psychiatric residential treatment facility in San Marcos.

Epidaurus (Amity Vista Ranch), \$31.5 million, for an adult residential SUD treatment facility in Vista.

Thanks to the BHCIP funding, these seven grants are anticipated to add approximately 375 treatment beds and 1,538 treatment slots in the region.

If you or a loved one is in need of mental or behavioral health support, learn how you can get help. Call 9-8-8 or 1-888-724-7240 to speak to a trained specialist.

County of San Diego news release · May 21, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration from a photo by Adbar · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

BUSINESS

2025 Small Business Awards – Nominations OPEN NOW

THIS APPLICATION DEADLINE HAS PASSED, BUT BE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR’S APPLICATION WINDOW – STARTING IN APRIL, 2026.

Ready to shine a spotlight on your exceptional business? Whether you’re renowned for prioritizing customers above all else, making impactful contributions to our community, or simply dominating the business scene, we want to hear from you!

Apply or nominate a small business for the Chamber’s 2025 Small Business Awards , where we celebrate and honor our region’s top small businesses driving the San Diego economy forward.

Winning an award not only brings bragging rights, it helps strengthen your brand, boosts visibility, uplifts team morale, and distinguishes you from competitors. As a finalist or award recipient,

you’ll be recognized in front of 150+ business and community leaders at the 2025 Small Business Awards & Summer Celebration on July 10 at UC San Diego.

Applications are quick, easy, and free for members. Don’t miss this opportunity to shine – submit your application or nominate a deserving business by June 6, 2025 .

Sponsorships for these awards are available!

Customer service is what sets this organization apart from the competition.

Outstanding Diversity-Owned Business (Veteran, Minority, Woman, LGBTQIA+ or DBE)

This award celebrates the success of a small diversity-owned business that is contributing to the growth and diversity of the San Diego economy.

This award recognizes a nonprofit organization contributing to meaningful change in the lives of those it serves and helping to make our region the best place to live and work.

This award celebrates a small business that epitomizes community spirit – fostering connections, helping others, or leading an initiative/program focused on making a positive impact within its community.

All applicants must be a

current member in good standing with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. Eligible applicants must have 50 or fewer employees in total. Small businesses (including nonprofits) must be independently owned and operated, and home-based, street front or office-based organizations. Organizations may apply to multiple categories. Award winners from the last 2 years will not be eligible to win again in the same category.

Recognition during the Small Business Awards program

Tabletop exhibit at a future Chamber mixer

Recognition at the Small Business Awards Mixer and in the event program

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · May 21, 2025

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Kevin L. Cadora – Leading Family Law Advocate in San Diego

Kevin L. Cadora is the CEO and founding partner of Fair Cadora , APC , a San Diego-based family law firm. As a California Board-Certified Family Law Specialist and a certified mediator and divorce coach, Kevin brings over 22 years of experience in family law to every case. He has dedicated more than two

decades of his career to helping families navigate divorce, custody disputes, and other complex family legal matters with skill and compassion. Kevin’s reputation as a seasoned litigator with a wealth of legal knowledge is matched by his friendly, down-to-earth approach that puts clients at ease.

Expertise and Compassion in Family Law

Kevin’s extensive credentials mean clients receive top-tier expertise. He is recognized by the State Bar of California as a Family Law Specialist, a mark of excellence and dedication to the field. In addition, Kevin serves as a mediator , helping couples find amicable solutions outside of court when possible. As a certified divorce coach , Kevin understands the emotional toll of family transitions and offers guidance beyond legal strategy. Kevin helps clients make clear, confident decisions for their futures. This combination of legal acumen and personal support ensures that clients have a strong advocate in the courtroom and a compassionate counselor through what can be an overwhelming process.

Commitment to Client Advocacy and Professionalism

At Fair Cadora , Kevin has fostered a culture of client

advocacy, professionalism, and unwavering support. He and his team understand the complexities and sensitivities involved in family law cases and are committed to helping clients achieve their goals during difficult emotional times. While Kevin is prepared to fight vigorously for his clients’ rights in court, he always strives first for peaceful resolutions, treating all parties with civility and respect. Clients of Fair Cadora are treated with the utmost care, receiving honest and straightforward legal advice to navigate the legal process confidently. Whether it’s a contentious divorce, a complicated property division, or a sensitive child custody matter, Kevin and his firm tirelessly protect their clients’ interests and well-being.

Your Trusted Family Law Resource – Contact Fair Cadora

This spotlight is a reminder to the San Diego community that Kevin Cadora and the Fair Cadora team are here to help when you need experienced, compassionate legal counsel. If you or someone you know is facing a divorce, custody dispute, mediation, or any family law challenge, consider contacting Kevin and his firm for guidance. Fair Cadora has a proven track record of professional excellence and

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

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Member Spotlight:
Kevin L. Cadora –
Leading Family Law
Advocate in San Diego

personalized support – exactly what you need during life’s most challenging moments.

For more information or to

schedule a strategy session:

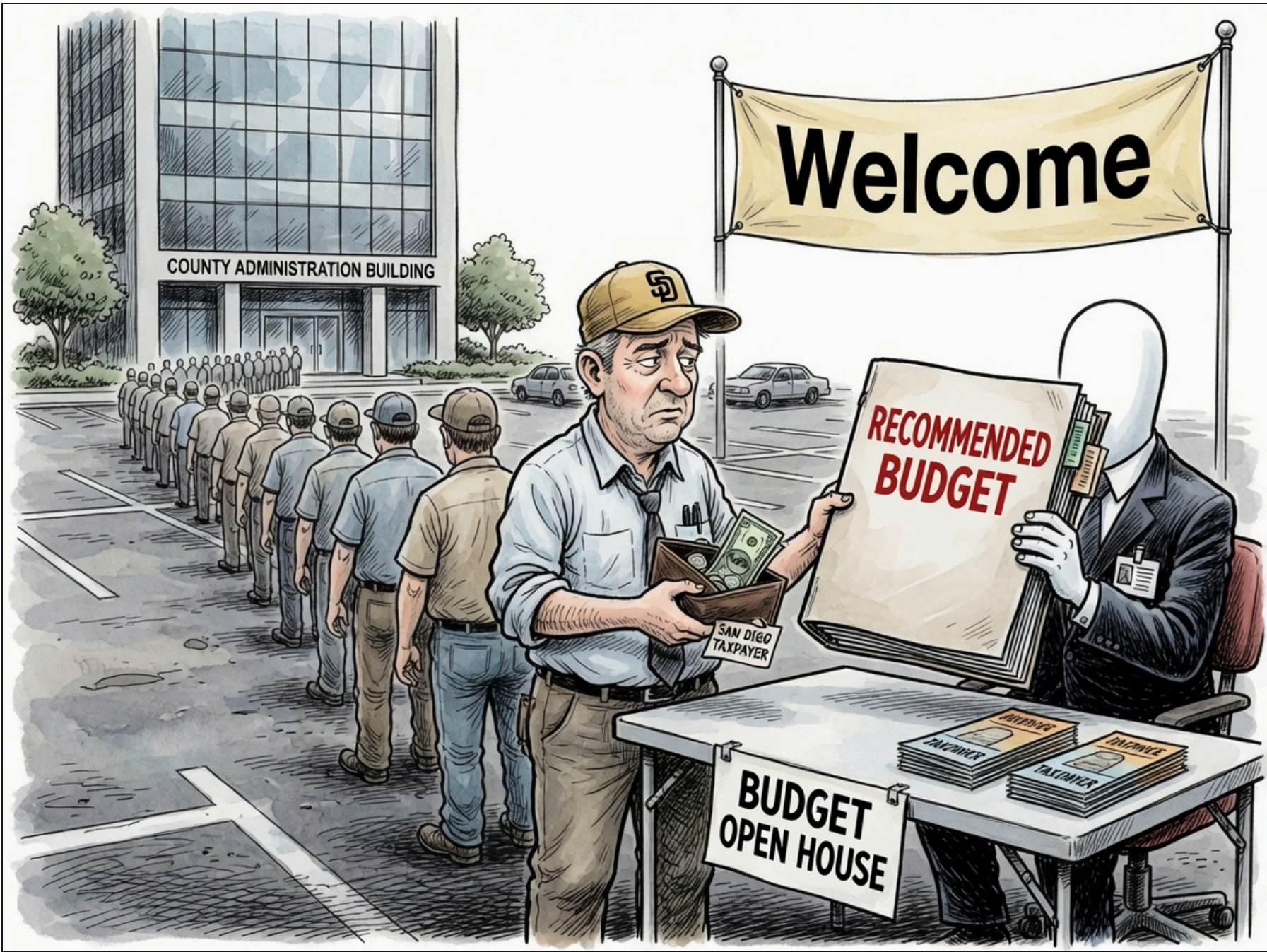
Visit: www.faircadora.com
Phone: 619-255-8500 Email: kevin@faircadora.com Office: 9635 Granite Ridge Drive,

Suite 150, San Diego, CA 92123

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · May 13, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Finally, the numbers.

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY

California Policy Center Questions Newsom’s Budget Revision Claims

The California Policy Center argues that Gov. Gavin Newsom’s latest spending plan reflects years of fiscal mismanagement rather than external pressures or genuine reforms.

After years of persistent budget deficits, increasing homelessness and an outflow of residents and businesses, Gov. Gavin Newsom recently presented a \$321.9 billion proposal for California’s 2025-26 budget that he admitted is upside down by roughly \$12 billion.

The California Policy Center notes that if lawmakers approve something close to this version, it would mark more than \$100 billion in added spending since Newsom first took office, when the budget stood at just

under \$215 billion for 2019-20.

According to the Center, Newsom used his recent news conference to fault President Donald Trump for creating financial instability while pivoting toward the center on key issues as he appears to prepare for a possible presidential bid.

The California Policy Center highlights two notable shifts in the governor’s approach: recognizing the heavy burden placed on Medi-Cal by extended coverage for illegal immigrants and suggesting limited changes to the California Environmental Quality Act to ease soaring housing prices.

In the Center’s view, these moves appear designed to portray Newsom as a moderate leader addressing problems, even as he avoids accountability for policies that contributed to the current difficulties.

The organization offers a point-by-point review of the governor’s statements. Newsom described California as an economic leader, citing its top national rankings in manufacturing, agriculture, innovation, Fortune 500 headquarters and business formation, along with 18 percent of global research and development and \$4.1 trillion in annual economic activity.

The California Policy Center agrees that the state possesses formidable economic assets but attributes much of that strength to long-standing firms, major technology players that predated Newsom’s tenure, favorable geography and climate.

Under his watch, the Center argues, elevated operating expenses, extensive rules and the effects of stringent pandemic restrictions have prompted many businesses and founders to depart.

Newsom linked the state’s

latest \$12 billion shortfall and projected \$16 billion revenue drop over two years to uncertainty from Trump’s tariff approach. The Center counters that such growth in the budget since 2019-20 stems instead from unchecked expenditures, lost income due to departing companies, unrealistic promises to public-sector unions and inadequate planning for economic slowdowns.

On health care, the governor proposed a \$5 billion pause in Medi-Cal growth, especially for illegal immigrants, noting that 1.6 million are now covered — “significantly larger [number] than we anticipated,” in his words. The California Policy Center calls this acknowledgment a major surprise and reversal for a program once central to the state’s progressive identity, though it warns the adjustment may not protect against possible reductions in federal support.

Newsom positioned himself as a backer of small businesses and startups while criticizing the Trump administration. The Center responds that he omitted his role in approving AB 5, which put tens of thousands of independent contractors out of work, and the \$20 fast-food minimum wage that is forcing layoffs at franchises often run by immigrant entrepreneurs.

In a notable change, Newsom endorsed limited updates to the California Environmental Quality Act, admitting that housing costs have climbed sharply because demand outpaces supply. He referenced 42 recently passed bills intended to simplify the law and remarked, “We’re as dumb as we want to be when it comes to the issue of housing.”

The California Policy Center writes that the act has long served environmental

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COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

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California Policy Center Questions Newsom’s Budget Revision Claims

groups in blocking projects, worsening the affordability crisis. It describes the governor’s pivot as more tactical than heartfelt, since powerful interests — including environmental advocates, unions and NIMBY activists — routinely resist even small modifications, as CPC Vice President Lance Christensen noted: “Even minor attempts to simplify CEQA are treated as mortal affronts to environmental integrity.”

Newsom also unveiled plans for “\$60 billion in... rebates that will go back to taxpayers related to utility use.” The Center, citing Senate Republicans, labels this a superficial credit drawn from the California Climate Credit that fails to tackle the underlying high electricity prices produced by 20 years of unrestrained climate legislation, mandates against natural gas and related policies.

On homelessness, the governor claimed progress in clearing more than 16,000 encampments and faulted some local officials for obstructing state efforts. He pointed to initiatives such as conservatorship programs, CARE Court, Homekey, Roomkey, expanded behavioral health services and 214 new facilities, plus last year’s \$6.38 billion voter-approved bond for behavioral health.

The California Policy Center observes that the state still reports the nation’s largest homeless population, roughly 187,000 in 2024, a record figure. It urges the governor to focus on results from the substantial sums

spent rather than assigning blame elsewhere.

Newsom spotlighted education funding rising to \$25,176 per pupil from about \$24,300 the prior year, national test scores reaching “about average” and the addition of 2,484 community schools at a \$4.6 billion cost. The Center points out that enrollment has fallen sharply since the pandemic, so higher totals support fewer students, yet proficiency remains low — less than half meeting reading standards and only 35.5 percent in math, figures that have worsened since 2019.

The organization contends that community schools, favored by teachers unions, broaden government and union roles in students’ lives while providing more money despite poor academic results.

Overall, the California Policy Center portrays the May Revision as a polished effort to recast past shortcomings as advancement and to assign fault to others. It concludes that Californians are being asked to rely on the very officials who produced the problems to resolve them.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · May 19, 2025

COMMENTARY
Newsom’s Medi-Cal Rollbacks May Be Too Little, Too Late, Visiting Fellow Says

California Policy Center visiting fellow Marc Joffe says the state’s recent expansions of Medi-Cal have led to a fiscal crisis, and Gov. Gavin Newsom’s proposed rollbacks may not be enough to protect the program from pending federal cuts.

California’s decision in recent

years to broaden eligibility for Medi-Cal has pushed the program into a fiscal crisis, according to Marc Joffe.

The state’s governor, Gavin Newsom, now suggests scaling back some of those expansions, but Joffe says the moves may be too little too late, especially with Congress preparing to slash federal healthcare spending.

Medi-Cal now serves more than one-third of all Californians. Its total costs are expected to climb from \$179 billion in FY 2024-2025 to \$194.5 billion in FY 2025-2026, Joffe reports.

Most of that funding comes from Washington. Congressional Republicans, as part of a ten-year budget reconciliation plan, are looking for hundreds of billions of dollars in healthcare savings, placing those federal dollars at risk.

During times of strong state revenues in the early 2020s, Newsom and lawmakers extended full Medi-Cal coverage to all adult illegal immigrants across California. The number of “individuals with certain statuses,” as the governor refers to them in his May budget revise, exceeded projections.

That surge created a shortfall that forced the state to borrow from its general fund to keep the expansion running through June 30, Joffe explains.

Newsom’s latest plan would stop accepting new undocumented immigrants into the program beginning January 1, 2026. Joffe notes this could spark a final wave of sign-ups during the rest of 2025 unless pressure from the Trump Administration encourages more undocumented adults

to “self-deport.”

Starting in 2027, the governor proposes charging a \$100 monthly premium to undocumented adults aged 19 and older who remain enrolled. Although that fee covers only a small fraction of actual expenses, it is forecast to bring in \$2 billion in its first full year, according to the analyst.

Even with these changes, Joffe says, California would still face a possible \$3.5 billion reduction in federal support under the House budget markup.

Republicans in the House want to lower the federal matching rate for the five million people added through the Obamacare expansion. The share paid by Washington would drop from 90 percent to 80 percent for any state that offers “any form of comprehensive health benefits coverage ... to an alien who is not a qualified alien or otherwise lawfully residing in the United States,” according to the proposal.

To escape that penalty, the state would need to drop all undocumented immigrants from Medi-Cal, Joffe adds.

Joffe also points to another reversal: Newsom wants to restore asset tests for seniors seeking nursing-home coverage under Medi-Cal. A 2021 budget trailer bill had eliminated those tests, leading to what Joffe calls an unsurprising jump in usage.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office estimates the change brought 112,000 additional seniors onto the rolls at an added annual cost of \$1.4 billion. Reinstating the test on January 1, 2026, appears consistent with House Republican plans to require states to use asset tests, Joffe

writes.

A separate federal proposal could restrict Medicaid provider taxes like the one made permanent by last year’s Proposition 35. That voter initiative locked in a special tax on Medi-Cal managed-care organizations that the state uses to draw extra federal matching funds; the House markup would likely kill or force a major restructuring of the tax, resulting in a loss of billions in federal Medi-Cal matching funds, according to Joffe.

Joffe concludes that California’s excessive Medi-Cal spending has made the program a juicy target for House Republicans. Given hardening attitudes on immigration across the country, the state is unlikely to benefit from the public hostility focused on other types of potential Medicaid cuts.

As a result, the adjustments in Newsom’s May budget revision “may be the first in a series of reductions to the Medi-Cal program,” Joffe writes.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · May 15, 2025

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.

MORE NEWS

COUNTY

County Offices to Close for Memorial Day

In observance of Memorial Day, San Diego County offices, family resource centers, library branches and animal shelters will be closed Monday, May 26.

Essential services, including response from law enforcement and emergency animal control requests continue through all holidays.

County parks, campgrounds and neighborhood day-use parks remain open 365 days a year with the following exceptions which will be closed:

4S Ranch Recreation Office only (all parks will be open)

Camping reservations can always be made online at the County’s Online Camping Reservations web page , but the Department of Parks and Recreation’s reservation phone line will not be staffed during the holiday.

All County public health clinics will be closed Monday.

All County offices will resume normal business hours Tuesday, May 27.

County of San Diego news release · May 21, 2025

COUNTY
Annual Count Shows Decline in County’s Unsheltered Population

On Jan. 30 of this year, more

than 300 County employees fanned out across the region with hundreds of other volunteers to take part in the annual We All Count, Point in Time Count of the region’s unsheltered population.

Results released yesterday showed 178 people unsheltered in the County’s unincorporated areas. The number was 11 percent lower than the 201 counted in 2024 and is the lowest in the last 12 years.

The total unincorporated count showed 254 unsheltered (178) and sheltered (76) individuals.

Regionwide, the count showed 5,714 people unsheltered, down 6.5 percent from the previous year, and 4,191

sheltered, a decline of 7 percent from 2024.

Other notable reductions included a 26 percent decline in Veteran homelessness, 20 percent reduction in youth homelessness, 72 percent decrease in unsheltered families and a 5 percent drop in chronic homelessness. The full report can be accessed through the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness.

Additional emergency housing resources for the unincorporated area on the horizon include the reopening of the refurbished Magnolia Safe Parking site in summer and the Troy Street Sleeping cabins next year.

Downtown, City & County

In addition to leading efforts in the unincorporated communities, the County administers programs that serve regionwide and assist people experiencing homelessness across different domains of County’s Framework for Ending Homelessness.

The County’s Office of Homeless Solutions partners with cities regionwide in multi-disciplinary outreach efforts to connect people to County’s resources, including city of San Diego CARE outreach events seven days each month.

County of San Diego news release · May 21, 2025