

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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COUNTY

County Camp for Teens Shaping Tomorrow's Public Health Leaders



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High school students from around San Diego County are spending this week in a classroom with some of the County's dedicated public health professionals.

Nearly 70 soon-to-be 11th and 12th grade students are taking part in the Public Health Advocates Camp, now in its third year.

County Public Health Services teamed up with the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) to host the camp. It began Monday with a welcome from the County's new Public Health Officer, Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan.

"We're so excited to convene the biggest Public Health Advocates camp so far," said Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, County public health officer. "This week, we're not only teaching students about future careers in public health, we're empowering the next generation to understand the important role they can play in creating healthier communities."

Taking place between June 23 to 27 at the SDCOE Linda Vista Innovation Center, the week-long camp is designed to educate teens about health topics relevant to their age group.

Campers are learning from County public health professionals and asking questions to better understand more about critical health issues. They are also getting a hands-on opportunity to create their own public health campaigns.

The Camp will also host a Public

Health Fair on Thursday.

County and community partners – including, Drug Enforcement Administration, San Diego Fire Rescue, SAY San Diego, and Sharp ThinkFirst – will provide interactive activities and resources to students.

The week will culminate with student presentations featuring their public health campaigns before a panel of County staff and community members.

To participate, students go through a now-closed application process. The camp is no-cost to students and their families program and is made possible through the Public Health Infrastructure Grant and the SDCOE.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 24, 2025

COUNTY

Board Approves \$8.63 Billion County Budget

County Supervisors unanimously adopted a new \$8.63 billion, balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 during a board meeting Tuesday. The budget will take effect July 1.

The Adopted budget shows an increase of \$104.1 million or 1.2% from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget . The new budget also decreases staffing by 191 staff years in the coming year, bringing the total number of County employees to 20,280.25 staff years.

The County reduced staffing through attrition, eliminating some vacant positions and streamlining some operations.

The Adopted Budget continues to invest in County priorities such as housing and homelessness, behavioral health, public safety, infrastructure, support for vulnerable populations and

environmental sustainability.

Recognizing that changes in federal and State policies and funding could significantly impact County operations, the County will continue to monitor how shifts may affect funding streams and program mandates and consider budget adjustments as needed.

The County released a balanced, \$8.62 billion R ecommended Budget on May 1 that prioritized vital services and the region's needs. That budget showed an increase of \$85.8 million or 1% over the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget and reduced staffing by 190 positions.

The Recommended Budget limited spending compared to recent years and prioritized mandated programs as well as responsibilities in the unincorporated area where the County delivers services similar to a city.

The County released a Revised Budget, or change letter , on June 12 that incorporated feedback from the community and the Board of Supervisors. That Revised Budget added an increase of \$18.3 million or 0.2% to the May 1 R ecommended budget plan for a total of \$8.63 billion.

The Revised Recommended Budget also decreased staffing by one additional staff year, an overall decrease of 191 staff years in the coming year, bringing the total of County employees to 20,280.25 staff years.

\$0.8 million for LGBTQ+ for the Innovative Housing and Supports contract

\$0.6 million increase for the Domestic Violence Shelter Based Program

\$0.5 million to extend the ¡Mas Fresco! Plus program

\$0.3 million increase for Tenant Legal Services to help tenants facing eviction

\$4.1 million increase for: Road improvements

Continued on page 2

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Board Approves \$8.63 Billion County Budget

Flood control stormwater maintenance zones

Upgrading the Keys Creek Channel in Fallbrook

Continued efforts in the Sheriff’s Office to support the Opioid Enforcement Program and an increase of \$13.2 million in grant funding to: Support behavioral health and pre-release services for justice involved adults

Canine purchase and training of canine officers

Maintain contracted services, software licenses and equipment for State and federal security

Decrease in contracted law enforcement services

The following activities in County Fire: Planning for the Descanso Fire Station upgrades and repairs

Partnering with Cal-FIRE to explore using livestock to mitigate fire risk

Staffing for two water tenders in the San Diego County Fire Protection District

Continuation of drowning prevention and swim lessons programs within Parks and Recreation

The Adopted Budget incorporates the revised budget items and those in the recommended budget below:

\$132.1 million to help house vulnerable populations, develop affordable and supportive housing and achieve self-sufficiency for families.

\$29.4 million for 40,000 building inspections, plan reviews, mobile home safety and streamlining the development process to advance new housing.

\$15 million for the Regional Homeless Assistance Program.

Over \$6 million in grant funds remain available to help those experiencing homelessness in the San Diego Riverbed and Plaza Bonita areas.

\$3.6 million to help youth who are homeless or at risk of homelessness get into permanent housing.

\$2.6 million for homeless encampment cleanup and assistance in the unincorporated area and on County property.

\$1.6 million to operate Bancroft and Magnolia Safe Parking Programs for people sleeping in their cars. A third safe parking site is planned to open temporarily in Grantville in summer 2025.

Starting construction on 60 Troy Street Sleeping Cabins to provide emergency shelter and services to an estimated

140 people each year in the unincorporated communities.

16 affordable housing developments partially funded by the County are under construction regionwide. Another 18 developments are in the works.

\$500-a-month rental subsidy for nearly 400 low-income, rent-burdened older adults.

\$13.1 million increase to provide housing, including short-term rental assistance, for people with serious behavioral health conditions.

\$26.2 million increase for substance use outpatient services.

\$24 million increase for mental health case management, residential services, subacute care services, and new partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient hospitalization services for children and adults.

\$22.9 million increase for capital improvements to improve, expand and preserve licensed board and care facilities for adults and seniors.

\$17.2 million increase for substance use and mental health treatment programs.

\$15 million to expand the behavioral health workforce and develop a new training and tuition program.

\$14.6 million increase for two new Crisis Stabilization Units in El Cajon and Chula Vista.

\$6.9 million for a major renovation at the Polinsky Children’s Center for a new 16-bed children’s mental health crisis residential facility that will provide short-term, individualized stabilization services.

\$3.5 million to enhance fire and emergency medical services in Dulzura, Pauma Valley and East Otay Mesa areas.

\$3 million for a biometric health monitoring system to detect medical distress in youth in custody.

\$3 million to improve a temporary space during the construction of a new Sheriff’s substation in Ramona.

\$840,000 and five employees to the Office of Emergency Services to further support disaster recovery efforts and community engagement.

\$2.2 million invested in Probation’s Less Restrictive Placement program, a community-based program to support justice-involved youth in a less restrictive environment, helping them safely and successfully

reintegrate into society.

\$14.3 million toward the purchase of a helicopter for expanded firefighting and search and rescue missions.

\$1.2 million to buy two ambulances for the unincorporated area.

\$1.9 million for the Medical Examiner’s decedent transportation services and toxicology equipment.

\$5.7 million to support the Sheriff’s medical and mental health services contracts.

\$9 million for services to Probation clients, primarily to support contract cost increases related to youth health care services.

Six Probation employees including an additional canine officer to support Probation youth.

A new Resource and Reentry Hub is planned to help formerly incarcerated people get the resources and support they need to successfully reenter the community.

\$48.3 million for road safety including traffic signals, curb ramps, pedestrian crossings, guardrails and new sidewalks and bike lanes.

\$47.8 million to operate 33 branch libraries, four electric vehicle outreach vans, five automated book kiosks and the e-Library.

\$35.9 million to operate 158 park facilities, 58,459 acres of parkland and 389 miles of trails.

\$29 million to improve Sheriff’s jails, including upgrades to fire alarm systems, security equipment and additional technology to support safety, security and code compliance.

\$9 million to update the East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility.

\$5.7 million increase for a total of \$71.3 million to maintain 2,000 miles of County roads.

An increase of \$145,000 for a total of \$4.8 million to clean culverts, channels and storm drains to help prevent storm flooding.

\$1.5 million to build a fire training tower.

Rebuilding of the Mira Mesa Epicentre into a County-operated community center scheduled to open in fall 2026.

New Casa de Oro Library to open in spring 2026.

A new mobile veterinary surgical unit to begin delivering spay/neuter and basic pet wellness services to unincorporated areas with the highest need.

\$843.5 million to help more than a million people with no other means of support get

access to CalFresh food assistance, Medi-Cal health coverage, CalWORKs and other public assistance.

\$489.1 million to strengthen and keep at-risk families and children together.

\$154.9 million to help families who support foster and adopted children.

\$11.5 million increase for a total of \$223.5 million for In-Home Supportive Services for vulnerable adults and persons living with disabilities.

The South County Family Justice Center opens in 2025 and will offer comprehensive trauma recovery services to those who need it. The one-stop shop will be like the North County Family Justice Center in San Marcos.

Continued funding to provide 1.5 million meals to older adults at community spaces and for pickup or home delivery.

Two community gardens are being developed for Spring Valley and Ramona to increase food security for low-income communities.

\$23.6 million to protect the region’s watershed and for new green infrastructure projects.

\$4.1 million to install new electric vehicle charging stations for the public and for fast electric vehicle chargers for County vehicles in rural areas.

\$1.6 million increase for a total of \$4.1 million to implement the Climate Action Plan.

\$1.7 million to monitor and report beach and bay water quality.

\$1.6 million to reduce greenhouse gases.

\$1.3 million to improve the Tijuana River Valley through dredging and habitat restoration.

\$1 million to plant 2,000 trees on County property to lower greenhouse gases.

\$267.3 million to prevent epidemics and the spread of disease and ensure access for all through public health centers, home visiting programs and pharmaceutical services.

Funding to operate a new \$93 million state-of-the-art public health lab that will protect the public by testing for infectious diseases.

\$1 million to operate Safe Destination Nights, an after-school program serving 8,000 youths.

\$15.6 million to help protect public health by monitoring and treating 1,600 known mosquito breeding sites.

For more information about the County budget and

the budget process, go to the San Diego County Open Budget website.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 24, 2025

COUNTY County Budget Deliberations, Adoption Scheduled Tuesday

Editor’s Note: This story has been updated to reflect that the budget deliberations will now begin at 1 p.m.

The County Board of Supervisors will begin deliberations on the revised recommended budget on Tuesday, June 24. The deliberations will start at 1 p.m. at the County Administration Center.

County Supervisors are scheduled to adopt a budget for Fiscal Year 2025-26 by the end of the session. The new budget will take effect on July 1.

The recommended budget was released on May 1, and community members had the opportunity to learn more and provide input at several informational meetings and open houses.

Staff prepared the proposed plan after careful consideration of resources, community feedback throughout the year, past direction from the Board of Supervisors and data.

Uncertainties about slowing tax revenues, rising costs, the economy, and state and federal funding also played a key role.

Changes in federal and state policies and funding could significantly impact County operations. The County continues to carefully monitor how shifts may affect funding streams and program mandates and will consider budget adjustments as needed.

The recommended budget prioritizes vital services, the region’s needs and issues important to the region’s residents.

The plan invests in housing; homeless solutions and behavioral health; safety net programs; public health; public safety; environmental sustainability and infrastructure. The recommended budget protects current hours and locations at parks and libraries.

A budget hearing was held on June 3, and residents had the opportunity to make comments at the events and submit comments online until the budget hearings formally closed at 5 p.m. on June 12.

The revised recommended budget that includes the Chief

Continued on page 3

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

County Budget Deliberations, Adoption Scheduled Tuesday

Administrative Office change letter, reflecting feedback from the public and the Board of Supervisors, was released June 12. It includes additions to public safety and emergency response, housing services and infrastructure projects, reflecting revenues that have become available since the release of the recommended budget. The revised recommended plan shows an increase of \$18.3 million or 0.2% to the May 1

plan for a total of \$8.63 billion. That is an increase of \$104.1 million or 1.2% from last year.

The revised recommended budget also decreases staffing by one additional staff year and brings the total of County employees to 20,280.25 staff years, a decrease of 191 staff years or 0.9% from the adopted plan last year.

The County reduced staffing through attrition, eliminating some vacant positions and streamlining some operations.

You can learn more about the revised recommended

budget on our budget page including budget documents, comments and more.

Residents can also watch, listen and participate during the budget deliberations.

The meetings will take place in room 310 at the County Administration Center located at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101.

Spanish language translation services for public speakers are available at Board meetings.

Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Persian (including Farsi, Dari),

Somali, Spanish, Tagalog (including Filipino), and Vietnamese translations of the overall proceedings are also available upon request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Contact the Clerk’s office at (619) 531-5434 or email PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov.

The live stream broadcast online may be delayed by 45 seconds or more depending on the service and your internet connection.

Agenda Web Stream (Available live and archived several hours later)

County YouTube Channel (Closed captions available)

Cox South Channel 24 or Cox North Channel 19

Call in to (619) 531-4716 for a listen-only line to the live Board meeting while it is in session.

To speak during the live meeting by phone, fill out the Board of Supervisors tele-comments form and submit it before the meeting starts. After submitting the form, you will receive instructions on how to call in to the meeting.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 20, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



BUSINESS
SDRCC at State Capitals

The IPA team visited Baja California and California’s capital in the span of two weeks to further advance ongoing collaborations with partners in both capitals. The IPA team first traveled to Mexicali and Calexico late May to further strengthen relationships with Mexicali Mayor Norma Bustamante and key stakeholders to enhance the Chamber’s leadership in economic and business development efforts across the CaliBaja region. The agenda included meetings with the Mexicali EDC and a working lunch with the leadership of ten business and industry associations in Mexicali (CCE), as well as a visit to PIMSA Industrial Park, Honeywell, and CETYS Universidad. Conversations highlighted policy and infrastructure projects that will be a top priority for this year’s binational delegation to Mexico City. On day two, the team met with U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Calexico Port

Director Roque Caza and Imperial County Supervisor Jesus Escobar to discuss border infrastructure projects and efforts to facilitate trade and travel across the border.

The Chamber led and supported regional efforts to secure necessary funds for the expansion of the Calexico West land port of entry, which is now close to finalizing the last stage of its expansion project, with its pedestrian expansion beginning in August of 2025. Next steps include securing funds to boost CBP staff recruiting and retention, also in consideration of the upcoming construction of the Otay Mesa East land port of entry here in San Diego.

The IPA team also traveled to Sacramento in early June to attend CalChamber’s Business Economic Outlook Summit, where they heard from a series of panels on international trade and tourism, zero-emission vehicles, state’s economic outlook, and Prop 36. The team additionally lobbied in support of SDRCC/CalChamber’s top priority bills – SB 310(Weiner) and AB1331(Elhawary) – and closed the day with a dinner panel hearing from the six governmental candidates on key issues that impact the business community.

The following day, the team

lobbied members of the Senate Environmental Quality Committee and the Senate Environmental Quality Committee Consultant on another SDRCC priority bill, AB 652 (Alvarez). The Chamber, and our coalition partners opposing the bill, are certain that AB 652 takes an inequitable approach to the appointment process for Air Pollution Control District (APCD) Governing Board members. The bill would require a weighted vote process in the case of tie during the appointment process for APCD, which gives disproportionate influence to larger cities like San Diego and Chula Vista despite APCD’s impact on all municipalities within the region. This would allow larger cities to override the voices of smaller municipalities within the same supervisorial district, such as logistics and trucking industry regulations. This approach undermines the principle of equitable representation and risks marginalizing the interests of our region’s smaller communities.

The IPA team also met with the California Business Properties Association, who the Chamber often works with on commercial and land use related bills brought forward in the state legislature. The team discussed a continued

partnership with the organization, including expanding collaborative efforts throughout this legislative cycle and in future years. Next steps include further conversations with state committees on a list of Chamber priority bills.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 23, 2025

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight: Von Consulting

VON Consulting: HR Expertise, Now Supporting Businesses in San Diego

Founded in 2003, VON Consulting is a trusted provider of human resources and technology services, supporting companies across Europe and now expanding into the San Diego business community. With over two decades of experience in IT recruitment, HR consulting, and workforce solutions, VON Consulting delivers tailored services that help organizations grow efficiently and compliantly.

IT recruitment and outsourcing – sourcing top-tier tech talent for development, infrastructure, and support roles

HR administration and payroll – full-service solutions for personnel records, compliance, and salary processing

HR consultancy – expert guidance on labor law,

internal procedures, salary benchmarks, and HR strategy

Interested to expand your team or expand operations in East Europe? Let us know.

As part of our mission to support small and midsize businesses, we’ve launched vonStaff.com, an easy-to-use employee management platform designed specifically for companies with 5 to 200 employees. vonStaff simplifies how businesses manage their internal teams—without the overhead of traditional enterprise HR systems.

Policy distribution and document management

Shift planning, time tracking, and leave management

End-of-month reporting for payroll accuracy

vonStaff.com is free for teams of up to 5 employees, with a simple pricing model of \$2 per employee/month beyond that. It’s a scalable, cost-effective way to stay organized, compliant, and focused on business growth.

VON Consulting is proud to bring its proven experience and innovative tools to San Diego. We welcome chamber members to explore how our services—and vonStaff—can help streamline operations and empower local businesses to thrive.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 9, 2025

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Shaping tomorrow's leaders?

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY

California Must Confront Limits on Public Resources, Argues Policy Analyst

Marc Joffe, president of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association and visiting fellow at the California Policy Center, says the state’s leaders operate under an illusion of endless wealth, leading to projects like high-speed rail that he calls fiscally reckless and expansive health coverage for undocumented residents.

California’s political leaders appear far less worried about government waste than their counterparts elsewhere in the country, according to Marc Joffe, president of the Contra Costa Taxpayers Association and a visiting fellow at the California Policy Center.

While he acknowledges some reasons for this attitude, Joffe writes that state and local governments must face the reality that resources are limited and adjust their policies accordingly.

One clear factor, he says, is the supermajority control held by the political party that places less emphasis on fiscal discipline. But there is also a subtler explanation

rooted in the state’s economy.

Certain sectors have created such enormous wealth that many Californians have come to believe in a condition of “superabundance,” Joffe argues. With vast amounts of property value and income available for taxation, it can seem as though there are enough funds to pursue every priority without regard for efficiency or cost-effectiveness.

Historically, industries such as aerospace, semiconductors and entertainment generated huge riches. Today, internet technologies and artificial intelligence lead the way. The analyst notes that Silicon Valley is now home to five companies each valued at more than \$1 trillion.

These highly profitable firms, along with their well-paid employees, produce substantial corporate tax revenue, capital gains taxes and personal income taxes. The resulting demand for housing has also pushed property values well above national averages, generating large increases in property tax collections for local governments.

This perception of

unlimited fiscal capacity was further encouraged by ultra-low interest rates after 2008 and a surge in federal grants during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those supports have since faded, and the state’s entertainment sector is now in recession, Joffe observes.

Yet the public policy conversation in California has been slow to adopt the language of resource scarcity, he contends.

The ongoing debate over high-speed rail offers a prime example. Proponents concede that the project has progressed too slowly and that costs are too high, but they continue to push ahead for reasons “divorced from economics,” according to Joffe.

Among the justifications he has encountered are the desire to match high-speed rail systems in China, Japan and Europe; the need for an alternative to flying or driving within the state; and the goal of combating climate change.

Joffe writes that he does not dismiss these as unreasonable concerns. “If we could get a high-speed rail connection between Los Angeles and San Francisco

for \$5 billion or \$10 billion, I would not oppose it,” he states. The difficulty, he explains, is that the actual cost would be far higher—likely well above the \$128 billion upper-bound estimate currently offered by the High-Speed Rail Authority.

That additional \$100 billion or more, Joffe argues, would have to be taken from other government priorities or covered by higher taxes or future debt service. “It’s fair to say no other state would undertake such a fiscally challenging (or dare I say, reckless) project,” he writes.

He points out that Texas has canceled its own high-speed rail effort and that Florida’s “higher-speed rail” project, Brightline, is privately financed.

Another distinctly Californian policy ambition cited by Joffe is the provision of free health care to undocumented immigrants regardless of age. No other state has expanded its Medicaid program to undocumented residents as broadly as California, he reports.

The state now covers 1.6 million undocumented Medi-Cal beneficiaries—equal to 4 percent of the population—at

an annual cost of around \$9.5 billion. That figure exceeds the entire budgets of roughly ten other states, according to the analyst.

Given the governing party’s views on immigration enforcement and health care as a right, Joffe suggests there appears to be no natural limit to officials’ willingness to expand this entitlement. He describes Governor Newsom’s proposed limits on illegal alien Medi-Cal as merely “a speed bump on the road to fiscal insanity,” driven only by the constitutional mandate to balance the budget.

Those who have studied economics understand that the discipline exists to address the problem of scarcity—the gap between unlimited wants and limited means, Joffe writes. An illusion of limitless revenue combined with an ideology that downplays the need to pay for government programs has placed California at odds with economic reality, he concludes.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jun 24, 2025

COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

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

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

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

Starting Saturday, Seven Vote Centers Open for Special General Election

If you live in the County of San Diego’s First Supervisorial District, you can cast your ballot early at any one of seven vote centers in the district starting Saturday, June 21. Some vote center locations have changed since the primary election in April, so check the list of locations before you head out to cast your ballot.

The vote centers will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Monday, June 30, at the locations below:

South Bay Union School District Education Center – Burress Auditorium

Mountain View Community Center – Back Meeting Room

Spring Valley Community Center – Olsen Room

On the final day of voting, July 1, six more vote centers will open for a total of 13 locations and the hours will change to 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

You can find a vote center or an official ballot drop box near you inside your voter information pamphlet, or look up your pamphlet online with the View Voter Information Pamphlet (Sample Ballot) tool at sdvote.com.

Vote centers have replaced polling places and provide more services . You can:

Vote in person or drop off a mail-in ballot

Vote using an accessible ballot marking device

Receive assistance and voting materials in multiple languages

Register to vote or update your voter registration and vote on the same day

Voters can use a touch screen to make their selection on ballot marking devices . When finished, the voter will print out the official ballot, review it, place it in a secrecy sleeve and hand it to a poll worker to insert it in the ballot box to be counted at the Registrar’s office. The ballot marking device does not store, tabulate or count any votes.

Remember that campaigning or electioneering within 100 feet of a vote center or official ballot drop box is not

allowed. This includes the visible display or audible dissemination of information that advocates for or against any candidate on the ballot. Additionally, an individual may not circulate any petitions, including those for initiatives, referenda, recall or candidate nominations.

The person elected will fill the district’s vacant seat for the remainder of the current term that ends in January 2029. Only those who live in the district can vote in the election.

District 1 runs from the Pacific Ocean to the Otay and San Miguel mountains in the east, and from Barrio Logan in the north to the U.S./Mexico international border on the south. The district includes the cities of Chula Vista, Imperial Beach, National City, and some communities within the City of San Diego, including Barrio Logan, East Village, Golden Hill and more. It also includes the unincorporated areas of Bonita, East Otay Mesa, Lincoln Acres, Sunnyside, La Presa and parts of Spring Valley.

If you’re not sure if you live in District 1, you can look it up at sdvote.com .

Don’t delay! If you have been holding onto your ballot, act now. You can vote from home and return your ballot through the mail – no postage needed – or to any of the Registrar’s 29 official ballot drop boxes around the district. Remember to sign and date your return ballot envelope. You must sign your return envelope for your vote to be counted.

The Registrar’s official ballot drop boxes are open 24 hours a day up until 8 p.m. on the final day of voting, July 1. Visit sdvote.com to check the location list or the locator map to find a location near you.

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

Learn more about voting in the District 1 special general election at sdvote.com, or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 20, 2025

COUNTY

County Offices Will Close for Independence Day

To celebrate the Fourth of July holiday, San Diego County offices, family resource centers, library branches and animal shelters will be closed Friday, July 4.

All County offices will resume normal business hours Monday, July 7.

Emergency response from law enforcement, animal control requests, and other essential services 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 Friday.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 25, 2025

COUNTY

Fireworks & Furry Friends: Keep Your Pets Safe This Fourth of July

Loud blasts, pops and whistles from Fourth of July fireworks are often terrifying to pets and may cause them to panic and run, putting them at risk of getting lost, injured or worse. County Animal Services is reminding you to keep your pets safe, calm and secure on Independence Day.

Leave pets at home during fireworks displays — unless you’re certain they’re comfortable with loud noises.

Secure pets inside your home, not in the yard. Even a fenced yard isn’t escape-proof; scared pets may dig under, jump over or break through fences.

Create a calm, quiet space. Keep them in a room they feel safe in, with doors and windows closed. White noise machines, soft music or the TV can help mask scary sounds.

Stay with them if possible — or have someone they trust

stay with them for extra reassurance.

Never leave pets alone in a car, even for a short time.

Try a weighted or calming jacket such as a ThunderShirt.

Talk to your veterinarian about whether anxiety-relieving medication is appropriate.

Even with the best precautions, pets can sometimes slip away. Make sure you’re ready:

Microchip your pet and ensure your contact information is up to date. Microchipped pets are reunited faster.

Make sure your pet wears a collar with an ID tag that includes your current phone number.

The County offers low-cost microchip and rabies vaccination clinics at County animal shelters every day — no appointment needed.

Try to secure the animal and check for a tag.

Look for the owner through social media and lost-and-found sites.

If you can’t reach the owner but you can safely transport the pet please bring it to the County’s Carlsbad or Bonita shelter or call County Animal Services’ dispatch at (619) 236-2341 so the animal can be safely cared for at the shelter.

Check with neighbors, local veterinarians and pet hospitals, social media and lost and found websites .

You can also check County Animal Services’ lost and found page online more than once. And if you see your dog or cat is at County Animal Services, the County’s two shelters in Carlsbad and Bonita are open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. over the weekend. The office closes on Mondays but is open all other days.

Officers respond to calls of stray or injured animals in the unincorporated area of San Diego County and promote microchipping to help reunite owners with their pets.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 25, 2025

COUNTY

VIDEO: Seniors Find Safety and Security at Santa Fe Senior Village

A door with a lock, a

bathroom, and a soft, warm bed are three simple luxuries residents here at Santa Fe Senior Village are thankful for every day. Since moving into their new permanent supportive housing in Vista, these low-income older adults have found independence and happiness again.

Many of the residents here were homeless or at risk of being homeless, forced out of their homes by rising costs, health issues or the death of a loved one. Santa Fe Senior Villages has changed all that... and given them their lives back.

The County provided \$9.3 million in funding for Santa Fe Senior Village and 53 Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers for long term housing stability. County Behavioral Health teams provide support services including case management and care coordination.

This advocacy for one of our most vulnerable populations is changing lives.

Visit National Core and Santa Fe Senior Village for wait list information.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 23, 2025

COUNTY

VIDEO: A Day in the Life of an Animal Services Officer

Being an Animal Services Officer is more than just playing with puppies; it’s about keeping animals and the community safe.

Follow along with Lt. Harrington as she shows us what a typical day looks like — from following up with a recovering mom and her pups to rescuing a dog trapped in a dam.

These moments are just a glimpse into the wide range of work Animal Services provides to the community, including helping lost pets find their way home with microchips , offering low-cost vaccinations , and helping shelter animals find loving homes .

Learn more about the resources available for pets and their owners at the Animal Services website.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 23, 2025

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COUNTY

From Beaches to BBQs: The County’s Checklist for a Safer Summer

As the June gloom lifts, San Diegans are heading outside—hitting beaches, hiking trails, and backyard barbeques. But along with the sunshine, summer also brings seasonal risks.

The stretch between Memorial Day and Labor Day is known as the “100 deadliest days of summer.” Research by AAA shows that nationwide, more than 30 percent of teen-driving fatalities occur during these months—an average of eight teen-involved crash deaths every summer day.

San Diego’s roads grow busy during the summer with many drivers unfamiliar with local roadways. In 2024, the County welcomed 32.5 million visitors with July historically the peak travel month, according to California Industry Research statistics.

Drowning deaths also rise in warmer months and Pew Research Center analysis showed that local emergency department visits nearly double on July 4-5 as Independence Day celebrations hit full swing.

How can you enjoy the season while staying safe? Read on for simple tips to help you and your loved ones make the most of summer.

Set ground rules for teens. Establish a “no distractions” policy and enable Do Not Disturb mode on their phone. California law forbids holding a phone while driving—even when stopped at a red light.

Choose the right time. Avoid peak travel hours or late-night drives when crash risk is highest.

Plan a sober ride. Decide on a designated driver before drinking, or use rideshare, taxi, or public transit.

Report dangerous drivers. Call 9-1-1 or the Sheriff’s Department at (858) 565-5200 if you suspect an impaired driver—buzzed driving is drunk driving.

Skip consumer fireworks. Sparklers, firecrackers, bottle rockets—even poppers—are illegal in San Diego County. Attend a permitted public show instead, and remind kids never to touch spent fireworks.

Grill smart. Keep grills at least 10 feet from structures, supervise them at all times, and keep a fire extinguisher or bucket of water nearby.

Keep children a safe distance from hot surfaces and flying sparks.

Hydrate. Drink water throughout the day—even before you feel thirsty.

Block the rays. Apply broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher) 15 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours. Wear UV-blocking sunglasses.

Handle food safely. Keep perishables cold and discard any left out for more than two hours (one hour if above 90 °F). Use a food thermometer to ensure meats reach safe grilling temperatures.

Stay cool. Take breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas and never leave children in parked cars.

Find a Cool Zone . More than 30 air-conditioned Cool Zones—libraries, senior and teen centers—are open across the County; use the interactive Cool Zone finder on the County Cool Zones website to locate one near you.

Learn to swim. Formal swim lessons have been shown to reduce the risk of drowning by up to 88%.

Swim with a buddy. Solo swimmers are at greater risk. When you swim with a buddy, if one of you has a

problem, the other may be able to help, including signaling for assistance from others. At least have someone onshore watching you.

Keep constant watch. Drowning is the leading cause of injury related deaths among children under the age of five, according to California Department of Public Health data. Always supervise children around pools and near water, even bathtubs, shallow kiddie pools and when lifeguards are present.

Use proper gear. Have children wear a properly fitting, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket for their size and weight.

Stay informed. Find additional prevention resources at StopDrowningNow.org .

With a bit of planning—on the road, around fireworks, in the heat and near the water—you can make this San Diego summer memorable for all the right reasons.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 24, 2025

COUNTY

Pet Health Express Helped County Families

The County Animal Services

Pet Health Express had tails wagging and saved pet owners money in Valley Center this week.

The Pet Health Express pulled up at a community event Tuesday outside the Valley Center Library and provided free necessary vaccinations and microchips for more than 100 pets, split about evenly between dogs and cats. Animal Services staff served 71 families, said Manuel Balcazar, Animal Medical Operations manager.

The nonprofit Spay Neuter Action Project also attended the community event and provided further surgical assistance to pet owners seeking pet sterilizations.

In addition to special opportunities like free vaccination and microchips mobile service, County Animal Services supports communities by providing services such as low-cost microchip and rabies vaccination clinics at County animal shelters every day with no appointment necessary.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 20, 2025

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