

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

Special General Election Results – When to Expect Them



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

Counting ballots takes time, even for a special election like the First Supervisorial District, Special General Election . So, what can you expect on election night?

The first set of unofficial election night results will come in shortly after 8 p.m. This update will include mail ballots received before Election Day and vote center ballots from early voting between June 21 – June 30.

To follow the latest results update on election night, you can visit sdvote.com or follow the Registrar's office on X (formerly Twitter).

After the first unofficial report, election night updates will only include vote center ballots cast on Election Day.

The Election Day ballots come in after the vote centers close at 8 p.m. There will be a gap in time for the next set of results due to poll workers packing up supplies and driving in from the vote centers.

After arriving at the Registrar's office, the vote center ballots will be scanned and results will be periodically updated until all the vote center ballots have been counted.

The final unofficial election night results may not come in until 10 p.m. or later and will only cover the ballots that could be counted immediately.

The counting of ballots does not end on election night.

These are the ballots dropped off at vote centers, official ballot drop boxes or picked up from the U.S.

Postal Service on Election Day.

Ballots mailed right before or on July 1 have seven days to arrive if postmarked on or before Election Day.

People who missed the June 16 registration deadline may conditionally register and vote provisionally up to and on Election Day.

Once their voter registration is processed, the voter registration becomes active and the provisional ballot is counted.

The Registrar's office cannot predict how many residents who are not registered, but otherwise eligible, will take advantage of this.

After election night, the next release of unofficial results is scheduled to be posted by 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. Additional updates are at the discretion of the Registrar of Voters.

Election results must be certified by July 31. For this special election, the Registrar expects certification to occur on an earlier date, while making sure every legally cast vote is added to the count in the most expeditious, yet careful manner available, ensuring accurate results. All updates will be posted on sdvote.com with the final certified results posted by July 31.

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 · Jul 1, 2025

COUNTY

Tuesday is Last Day to Vote in District One Special General Election

Tuesday, July 1, is the final day to cast your ballot in the special general election for the County of San Diego's First Supervisorial District.

Monday, June 30 will be the last chance to vote early. Eligible voters can cast their ballots from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at any one of seven vote centers or 29 official ballot drop boxes around the district.

On the final day of voting, July 1, the Registrar's office and an additional six vote centers will be open for a total of 13 vote centers in the district. All will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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.

Any voter who is in line at a vote center or an official ballot drop box at 8 p.m. will be allowed to vote. However, no one can join the line after the 8 p.m. deadline.

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 .

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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Tuesday is Last Day to Vote in District One Special General Election

If you live in District 1, and you’re not currently registered to vote, you may visit any vote center or the Registrar’s office to conditionally register and vote provisionally through July 1.

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.

If you already returned your mail ballot, you can confirm when it was received by the Registrar’s office at sdvote.com .

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 30, 2025

COUNTY

Filing Period for Property Tax Assessment Appeals Opens July 2

San Diego County property owners and businesses who disagree with their property

tax assessments for the 2025-2026 fiscal year may file an application to appeal their property’s value between July 2 and Dec. 1.

The Clerk of the County Assessment Appeals Board, Andrew Potter, announced the filing period Thursday, June 26.

Applications and information booklets are available on the County Clerk’s Property Tax Assessment Appeals website. Residents may also pick them up and speak with Clerk of the Board staff at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, San Diego, CA 92101-2471.

To file an application, taxpayers must know their parcel or tax bill number, property address and state their opinion of the property’s market value on the application. The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors’ Office must receive applications no later than 5 p.m. on Dec. 2, or by mail postmarked no later than midnight of Dec. 1.

Mail applications and forms to: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, Assessment Appeals, 1600 Pacific

Highway, Room 402, San Diego, CA 92101-2471.

For more information and helpful tips, watch this video about the assessment appeals process.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 26, 2025

COUNTY

Fireworks Are Illegal and Can Be Dangerous

This Fourth of July, CAL FIRE/San Diego County Fire encourages safe celebrations and reminds the public that all fireworks – even those labeled ‘safe and sane’ -are illegal.

The State fire marshall inspects and labels certain fireworks that do not explode or fly into the air, like sparklers for instance, as safe and sane because they have less risks than others. In some counties they are can be legally sold in a specific time period and can be used in some cities or counties, but not in San Diego County.

CAL FIRE San Diego enforcement will be patrolling the unincorporated area, in addition to Sheriff deputies, to find people who are violating the law and creating

unsafe conditions. If you are caught, it can result in misdemeanor or felony violations depending on the circumstances, said Capt. Robert Johnson.

“We do see an increase in illegal fireworks around the holiday,” said Johnson. “Your personal safety and the safety of the community is our top priority. Illegal fireworks put lives and property at risk, but the danger is 100% preventable.”

A lot of people get injured from the use or misuse of illegal fireworks every year. Even fireworks deemed ‘safe’ possess safety concerns if there is a malfunction or you get too close. People can suffer eye injuries, burn injuries, or more traumatic injuries.

Fines start at \$50 to \$100 but it can go up depending on if it’s a case of possession, sales, transporting across state lines, or arson.

“If someone were to start a fire utilizing a firework, because they are illegal in San Diego County, they could be arrested for arson,” Johnson said.

County of San Diego news release · Jul 2, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Royal Knights Limousine

Member Spotlight – Royal Knights Limousine

Estefanía Kramber, Chief Operating Officer

We’re not here just to sound professional or to fit the typical mold of a limousine company.

We are people with a dream – a dream that started when we stumbled into the transportation world and stayed, not because it was planned, but because we saw an opportunity to build something different.

From the beginning, our vision was bigger than just cars and rides. We wanted to create a company where executives, employees, and clients are part of the same

foundation — where people are not just accounts or numbers, but real connections we value.

At Royal Knights Limousine, we aim to build meaningful relationships with the customers who trust us with their lives and their time. We believe in being reachable, listening to real needs and concerns, and working together to create a way of doing business that feels almost forgotten in today’s fast-paced world.

We are a private transportation company based on strong values and integrity. Our goal is to deliver professional service without ever losing the human touch.

We are open to collaborating with anyone — individuals, families, corporations, high-profile executives — and we are committed to working hand-in-hand to find the best way to meet each client’s unique needs.

Whether it’s a CEO heading to an important meeting or a

family celebrating a special day, we are here, ready to deliver a service that feels personal, trustworthy, and exceptional.

As a thank you for your time and support, we are offering 15% off your first reservation when you mention the Chamber.

We look forward to making that connection.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 26, 2025

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Anila Care at Home

Spotlight: Anila Care at Home — Compassionate, Personalized In-Home Care for San Diego’s Aging Community

Founded by Missa, a dedicated healthcare professional with deep roots in caregiving, Anila Care at Home is a trusted provider of non-medical, around-the-clock care across San Diego County. With experience spanning cardiac units, trauma centers, memory care, hospice, and one-on-one

in-home support, Missa brings unmatched compassion and clinical knowledge to the community she serves.

Anila, which stands for Accountability, Noble-heartedness, Integrity, Life enhancement, and Acts of kindness, was created to meet a growing need for personalized home care that goes beyond basic assistance. Missa built this company with one mission in mind: to deliver care that feels like family.

Anila Care at Home offers a wide range of services including:

Nutrition, hydration, and medication reminders

Meal prep, companionship, and social activities

Support for post-rehab recovery and aging-in-place

Education and guidance for families transitioning from hospital to home care

With flexible pricing, consistent caregivers, and multilingual support (English, Spanish, Arabic,

Amharic), Anila ensures every client is matched with a caregiver who meets their physical, emotional, and cultural needs.

Anila’s care plans are custom-built in collaboration with clients, families, and professionals to support quality of life, independence, and comfort—wherever home may be. Whether you live in a private residence, with loved ones, or in a retirement community, Anila Care at Home is there to support you.

Missa personally trains and mentors every caregiver on her team, ensuring Anila’s heart-centered values are present in every visit. For her, care is more than a service, it’s calling. And through Anila Care at Home, she’s making a lasting impact on San Diego’s elderly population, one family at a time.

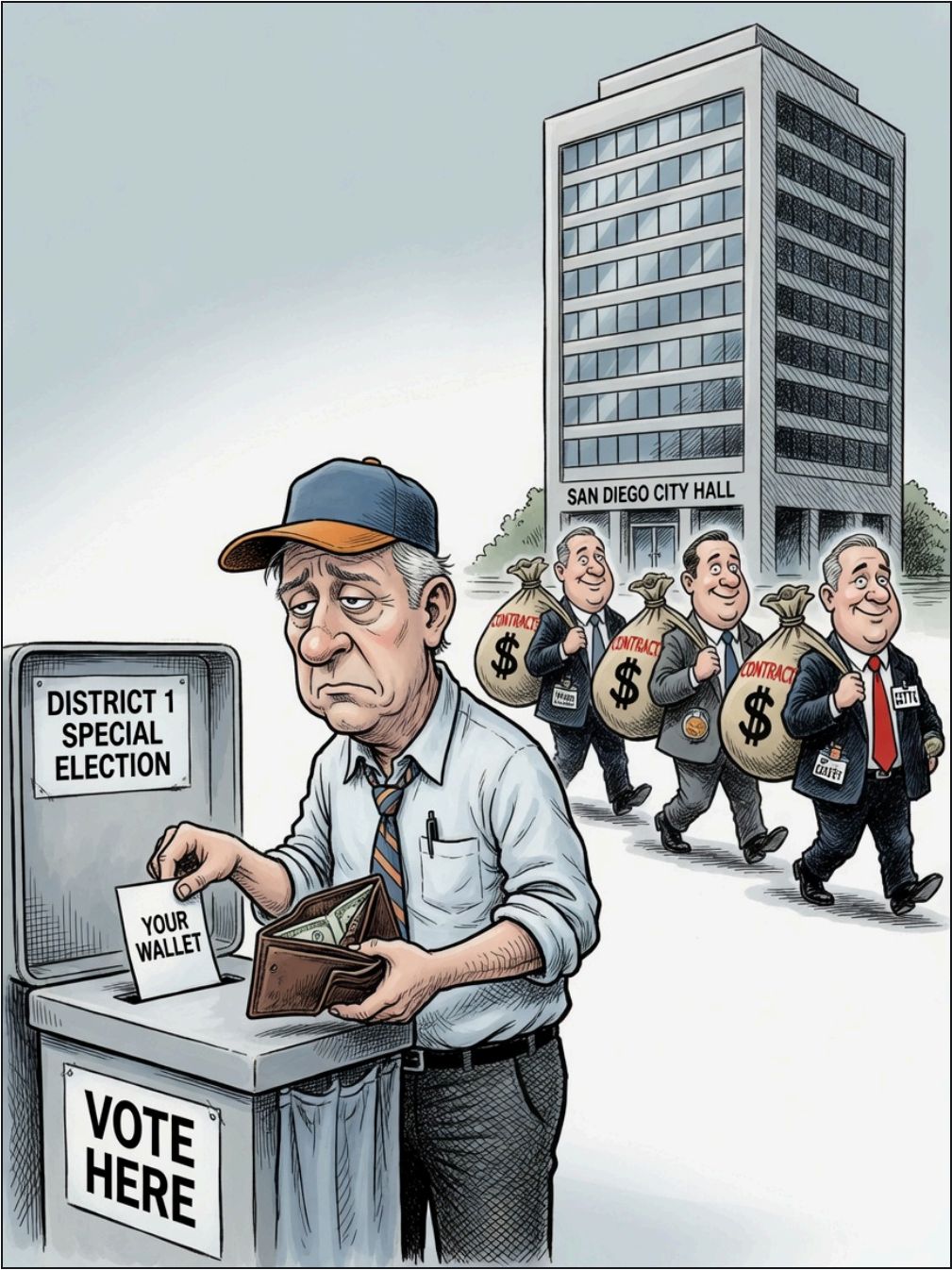
To learn more, visit www.anilahomecare.com or call 858-230-8025.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 26, 2025

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Last day to vote — before they spend the rest

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY
California Policy Center Warns Housing Bills Mask Major Union Power Grab

New legislation signed by Gov. Newsom uses CEQA exemptions as leverage to impose prevailing wages and union-favoring rules on construction projects, according to the California Policy Center.

California Policy Center argues that two housing reform bills signed quietly by Gov. Gavin Newsom represent another significant expansion of union influence over the state’s construction industry, largely overlooked by media coverage.

The Center writes that AB 130 and SB 131 were tied to the state budget, allowing them to bypass normal legislative debate and public review. While outlets celebrated the measures for streamlining permits and offering CEQA exemptions, the organization contends the real story lies in new labor mandates buried in the text.

According to the Center, Section 25 of AB 130 grants environmental review exemptions for infill housing that meets local zoning but

simultaneously imposes minimum wage and prevailing wage requirements on many small-scale residential projects previously exempt from such rules.

The Center notes that for San Francisco developments exceeding 50 units, the legislation requires labor standards enforced by joint labor-management committees that are dominated by union representatives. It further claims Section 26 adjusts prevailing wage calculations to exclude non-union data, effectively making union-negotiated rates the mandatory standard statewide.

The organization asserts that while SB 131’s CEQA exemptions appear less overt, they still activate prevailing wage laws that steer work toward union-controlled contractors. This setup, the Center argues, amounts to government picking winners and losers rather than delivering genuine housing relief.

Jon Fleischman, a longtime political strategist writing for the Center, describes the mandates as a “devastating blow to economic freedom.”

He contends that requiring union labor at union wages strips employers of the ability to hire the most qualified workers at market rates and pressures individual workers to join unions against their will.

The Center warns that these rules will create insurmountable barriers for small and midsize developers unable to absorb union-scale costs, ultimately reducing competition and driving up housing prices for California families. Fleischman points out that the outcome was predictable given Newsom’s progressive agenda and the millions in campaign contributions legislators have received from construction unions.

The Center acknowledges that CEQA reform itself is sound policy long supported by Republicans and business groups to reduce regulatory burdens that hinder growth. Yet it criticizes Democrats for corrupting the reform by making regulatory relief available only to projects that accept the new union labor requirements.

Fleischman argues this transforms a pro-housing measure into a tool of crony capitalism, using

environmental bureaucracy as a stick against competitive developers while dangling relief as a carrot for those who comply with union demands. He questions how some Republicans who voted for the bills could support using government coercion in this manner.

The Center calls on Californians to reject this “corrupt bargain” between politicians and union interests. It demands that CEQA exemptions apply equally to all qualifying projects, not merely those that surrender to union control, and insists workers should retain the right to choose their employment arrangements free of government pressure.

Fleischman concludes that such government intervention often exacerbates problems, but he doubts legislators funded by labor money will engage in the necessary self-reflection.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jul 2, 2025

COMMENTARY
Teachers Unions Drive Radical Ethnic Studies Agenda, Argues California Policy Center Commentary

Nicole Bernstein argues that teachers unions have taken control of K-12 education to advance an ideology rooted in ethnic studies that promotes antisemitism and serves as indoctrination instead of education.

Parents often worry that insufficient funding or stale lesson plans pose the biggest risks to their children’s education. Yet according to a commentary, the true threat lies with politically powerful teachers unions that have embedded themselves in classrooms under the banner of social justice.

The piece, written by Nicole Bernstein, co-founder of PeerK12, asserts that unions have steered schools toward radical ideologies presented as “ethnic studies.” Bernstein emphasizes that the debate is not about teaching an accurate, diverse history of America but about something far more troubling.

Bernstein traces ethnic
Continued on page 4

COMMENTARY (CONTINUED)

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Teachers Unions Drive Radical Ethnic Studies Agenda, Argues California Policy Center Commentary

studies back to the 1968 student strikes at San Francisco State and UC Berkeley, organized by the Third World Liberation Front. She notes that early backers included local chapters of the American Federation of Teachers and the military wing of the Black Panthers Party.

According to Bernstein, the movement was never a grassroots civil rights effort. Instead, it represented a calculated strategy for anti-democratic and anti-capitalist “re-education,” drawing international support from figures like Yasser Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which received Soviet backing.

From this history, Bernstein writes, three enduring ideas emerged: intersectionality, ethnic studies itself, and the notion that “Zionism is racism.” Many original activists later became professors and union leaders, she says, carrying these revolutionary ideas into both academia and labor organizations.

The commentary argues that ethnic studies functions

as a political tool modeled on earlier ideologies like eugenics. It uses neo-Marxist lenses to portray history through race-based power struggles, casting the American Dream as harmful and Western society as inherently oppressive and “irredeemable.”

Bernstein claims this framework encourages hate for the “other” and identifies American democracy and Zionism as primary enemies, themes she links to propaganda used during the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution and throughout the Cold War. Today, she writes, these ideas are repackaged neatly as “ethnic studies.”

Teachers unions, Bernstein contends, serve as the primary vehicles for spreading this ideology. She points to multiple recent examples, including the American Federation of Teachers endorsing more than seven anti-Israel resolutions in July 2024 and the United Teachers Los Angeles facing exposure for anti-Jewish statements at its August 2024 conference.

The commentary highlights Guadalupe (Lupe) Carrasco Cardona, an ethnic studies teacher and co-founder of the Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Consortium, who dismissed concerns about antisemitism in the

curriculum, saying in part, “They try to say antisemitism, which is really ridiculous... Religion has nothing to do with it.” Bernstein notes that the California Teachers Association awarded Cardona its Human Rights Award in 2022 even though she had been fired in 2018 for promoting a “racist, Mexican-supremacist agenda.”

Similar patterns appear elsewhere, Bernstein writes. In February 2025, the Massachusetts Teachers Association faced scrutiny over antisemitic teaching materials. In California, unions mounted a campaign against a proposed bill from the state’s Jewish Caucus that sought greater transparency and standards for ethnic studies courses. The bill ultimately failed.

Bernstein observes that unions have shifted from focusing on wages to engaging in political and global issues unrelated to classroom instruction. She cites the National Education Association’s 2019 decision to reject a resolution prioritizing “student learning” and instead require teaching of Critical Race Theory, which she says is based on ethnic studies.

That move, Bernstein argues, sparked anti-CRT laws in 28 states and backlash that divided communities. In

California, an initial ethnic studies model curriculum was vetoed three times for being biased, antisemitic and bigoted. The experts who drafted it, she writes, hold senior positions in teachers unions, serve as elected officials and advocate for BDS and Marxist causes.

Among those named are Theresa Montano, R. Tolteka Cuauhtin, Jorge Pacheco, Melissa Moreno, Samia Shoman, Christine Hong, Angie Fa and Dawniell Black. Bernstein says this group sits at the intersection of curriculum development, union power and political authority, giving them near-total control over California’s K-12 system.

Parents raising objections encounter bureaucratic hurdles such as the Uniform Complaint Procedure, which Bernstein describes as designed to discourage complaints. Despite dozens of lawsuits filed by Jewish parents, she reports only one successful case confirming antisemitic discrimination in the Campbell Unified High School District.

The commentary notes that more than 40 Jewish families withdrew children from Oakland public schools due to hostile environments created by ethnic studies. It also criticizes Attorney General Rob Bonta for failing to protect Jewish students,

citing his endorsements from major teachers unions.

Bernstein concludes that ethnic studies has failed as education but succeeded in revealing teachers unions as a powerful, corrupt, money-hungry political machine exerting ideological control. She writes that these unions represent the main “systems of power and oppression” in education, responsible for fiscal waste, illiteracy and division for nearly 50 years while escaping accountability.

Unless this system is dismantled, Bernstein warns, the damage to American classrooms and the nation will continue. The recent passage of AB 715 in the California Assembly offers some hope for stronger protections against discriminatory curriculum, but she predicts unions will fiercely oppose it, claiming it censors their free speech.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jun 27, 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 sandiegonewslines.com.

MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

Mosquitoes Test Positive for West Nile Virus

Mosquitoes collected in routine monitoring in Rolando—a neighborhood in the mid-city region of San Diego—have tested positive for West Nile virus.

The find prompted County environmental health officials to remind the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes that can transmit the virus.

The positive tests mark the first time mosquitoes have tested positive in San Diego County since 2023. Four dead birds have also tested positive this year.

There have been no

reported human cases in San Diego County this year. However, West Nile virus remains a potentially deadly threat.

County officials said people should continue to follow the County’s “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines to protect themselves from mosquitoes. Those include finding and dumping out standing water around homes to keep mosquitoes from breeding.

West Nile virus is mainly a bird disease, but it can be transmitted to humans by several types of mosquitoes if they feed on an infected bird and then bite people.

Some people who become infected can suffer symptoms including headache, fever,

nausea, fatigue, skin rash, or swollen glands. But in rare cases, West Nile virus can make people extremely ill and even kill them.

Protecting against mosquitoes is always important in San Diego County.

County officials said people can help protect themselves from mosquito-borne illnesses by following the County’s “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines.

Dump out or remove any item inside or outside of homes that can hold water—whether from rain or landscape irrigation. Those things can include plant saucers, rain barrels, buckets, garbage cans, toys, old tires

and wheelbarrows. Mosquito fish, available for free by contacting the Vector Control Program, may be used to control mosquito breeding in backyard water sources such as stagnant swimming pools, ponds, fountains and horse troughs.

Protect yourself from mosquito-borne illnesses by wearing long sleeves and pants or use insect repellent when outdoors. Use insect repellent that contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, 2-undecanone or IR3535. Make sure screens on windows and doors are in good condition and secured to keep insects out.

Report possible mosquito

activity and dead birds

Report increased mosquito activity, unmaintained green swimming pools, and other mosquito-breeding sources, as well as dead birds—crows, ravens, jays, hawks and owls—to the County Vector Control Program by calling (858) 694-2888 or emailing vector@sdcounty.ca.gov .

Go to San Diego County’s “Fight the Bite ” website to learn how to prevent and protect against West Nile virus and mosquitoes.

For more information about West Nile Virus, go to the County Health and Human Services Agency’s West Nile virus webpage .

County of San Diego news release · Jun 27, 2025

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