

San Diego Newsline

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

WHAT'S NEWS

COUNTY
County Opens New Safe Parking Program in Grantville

COUNTY
Join Super Saturday: Free Backpacks and Resources

DOWNTOWN
Shop at the Gaslamp Artisan Market!

COUNTY
VIDEO: A Lifetime of Love: Fostering Kittens for More Than 40 Years

COUNTY
Spring Valley Woman Faces Animal Cruelty Charges

COUNTY
County Departments Serve Local Heroes at Veterans Village Stand Down 2025

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight: Powersmith Solar

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

COUNTY

County Opens New Safe Parking Program in Grantville

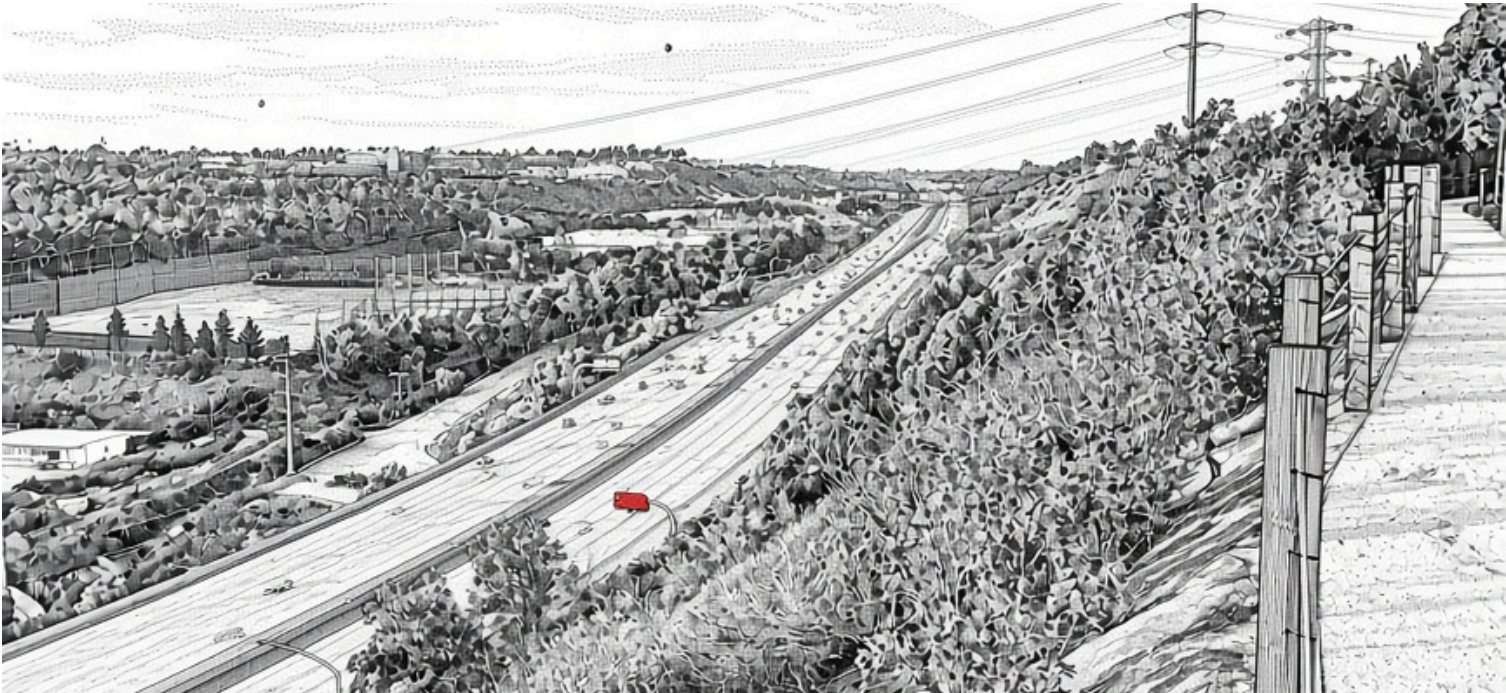


Illustration from a photo by Z3lvs · Wikimedia Commons, CC0

A new safe parking program, where people can sleep in their vehicles, get meals and access to resources is now available for people and families experiencing homelessness in the City of San Diego’s Grantville area.

Local leaders gathered today on the county-owned property that will be the site of a future affordable housing anticipated to break ground in late 2026. Until then, the parking lot will provide 20 overnight parking spaces.

The new Grantville Safe Parking program is part of the County’s broader efforts to expand emergency housing options for people experiencing homelessness.

“Everyone’s journey into homelessness looks different and so will their journey out of homelessness,” said Dijana Beck, director of County Office of Homeless Solutions. “Based on that understanding, as well as input from the community and people with lived experience, the County has established a variety of emergency housing options, including safe parking, so that we can meet the diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness.”

Operated by Dreams for Change, the program will serve the participants referred by the County’s outreach team with case management and housing navigation to more stable housing options. Participants will be connected to employment, health, social services and resources as

well as flexible funding to help remove any barriers to stable housing.

This is the County’s third safe parking program, all operated by Dreams for Change. The Bancroft Safe Parking has 27 spaces and opened in August 2024 in Spring Valley. The Magnolia location, which has 17 spaces is being renovated to improve the site for staff and residents with updates to bathrooms and the addition of a shower facility, new picnic and meeting areas and a dog run. Work should wrap up later this month.

Learn more about programs and resources on the County’s Office of Homeless Solutions website.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 7, 2025



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

COUNTY

Join Super Saturday: Free Backpacks and Resources

Back to school season should feel exciting—not stressful. But for many families, the rising cost of school supplies can make this time of year challenging. That’s why the County Child Support Services is stepping up once again to support local families during Child Support Awareness Month.

This year, Child Support Services will give away more than 1,000 backpacks

filled with school supplies, while supplies last, at our annual Super Saturday event.

Parents accompanied by their children are invited to join this special community celebration.

Date: Saturday, August 9 Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location: Child Support Services Central Office, 3666 Kearny Villa Road, San Diego

Families can connect with County departments and community organizations offering helpful services and resources:

Employment services and job support from County Human Resources

Education and training from San Diego Community College District and 529 ScholarShare

Child support legal assistance from Family Law Facilitator

Free pet adoption from County Animal Services

Document assistance from the Consulate General of Mexico

Childcare, housing and other basic needs from County Self-Sufficiency Services and other community-based organizations

Emergency preparedness resources and information from County Emergency Services

Earning your high school diploma from the County Library

Saving for college from Child Support Services

Young adult resources from Child Support Services

Full list of departments and organizations participating

DCSS, local businesses and the Kearny Mesa Moose’s Lodge made this giveaway possible through generous donations.

If you cannot make it to Super Saturday, you can still connect with Child Support Services. Contact San

Continued on page 2

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Join Super Saturday: Free Backpacks and Resources

Diego Child Support Services

County of San Diego news release · Aug 7, 2025

DOWNTOWN

Shop at the Gaslamp Artisan Market!

Gaslamp Artisan Market – Downtown San Diego’s Weekend Shopping Destination

Shop at the Gaslamp Artisan Market every Saturday and Sunday on Fifth Avenue in the heart of Downtown San Diego’s historic Gaslamp Quarter . More than 70 local artisans showcase carefully curated, handmade, and one-of-a-kind products each weekend.

The Gaslamp Artisan Market runs Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.–4 p.m. along Fifth Avenue between Market Street and J Street , surrounded by some of San Diego’s best restaurants, cafes, and shops.

When: Every Saturday & Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Where: Fifth Avenue between Market Street & J Street, Gaslamp Quarter, Downtown San Diego

The Gaslamp Artisan Market is the perfect weekend shopping destination for locals and visitors looking for creativity, style, and quality. Explore vendor booths featuring:

Home décor and gifts produced by San Diego’s talented makers

Whether you’re searching for a gift, refreshing your wardrobe, or adding the perfect touch to your home, the Gaslamp Artisan Market is a must-visit weekend market in San Diego .

“ Public markets bring people together to share in the creative bounty of our city and region, ” says Michael Trimble, Executive Director of the Gaslamp Quarter Association. “ The Gaslamp Artisan Market celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit of the Gaslamp Quarter, inviting visitors and residents to discover artisanal crafts from up-and-coming local businesses. ”

Experience San Diego’s Gaslamp Quarter Atmosphere The Gaslamp Artisan Market is free to attend and offers shaded seating so you can relax between browsing sessions. Enjoy live music performances from local musicians, adding to the market’s lively and welcoming vibe. Spend your Saturday or Sunday soaking up the San Diego sunshine while exploring this vibrant

open-air event.

Gaslamp Quarter Association news release · Aug 11, 2025

COUNTY

VIDEO: A Lifetime of Love: Fostering Kittens for More Than 40 Years

For more than four decades, Monica Frid has opened her heart — and her home — to animals in need.

Today, she fosters kittens with County Animal Services, caring for them until they’re ready for adoption. Her garage has been transformed into a kitten playhouse, filled with toys, climbing posts and cozy beds.

“This is my life, and I love doing it,” Frid said. “The only hard part about fostering is having to let go.”

Foster parents typically care for anywhere from two kittens to a full litter for about four to six weeks. Animal Services provides everything needed to get started — food, litter, toys, a carrier and medical care.

Fostering gives animals a better chance at finding a forever home by keeping them out of the shelter, helping them adjust to living in a household and giving them the socialization they need.

Every year, Animal Services cares for more than 7,000 animals at its two facilities in Bonita and Carlsbad. With more animals staying longer in shelters, community foster volunteers are more important than ever. Even a short break from the shelter environment can make a big difference in an animal’s well-being.

If you’ve ever considered fostering, now is the perfect time to get involved. Animal Services provides training, supplies and ongoing support. All you need is a little space, some time and a lot of love.

To learn more and apply to become a foster parent here, visit the County Animal Services website.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 11, 2025

COUNTY

Spring Valley Woman Faces Animal Cruelty Charges

County Animal Services has taken custody of a small Chihuahua and is pursuing animal cruelty charges against a Spring Valley woman after a disturbing video surfaced which appeared to show a dog being struck with a wooden plank, then covered with a container and kicked.

On July 21, a concerned citizen recorded a video of the incident in an apartment

complex parking lot in Spring Valley. The woman, who was reportedly living out of her vehicle at the time, was seen apparently striking the dog. Since that time Animal Services Officer from both County Animal Services and San Diego Humane Society officers have attempted to locate the woman.

On Aug 10, County Animal Services law enforcement officers located the suspect and the Chihuahua in Spring Valley. The suspect was read her Miranda rights and agreed to speak with officers.

The Chihuahua, described as very petite, was forcibly impounded and is currently receiving a cruelty exam from Animal Services veterinary staff. While the dog appears frightened, medical personnel report that it is doing well and is recovering.

“This is a clear example of why community vigilance matters,” said Vaughn Maurice, director of the San Diego County Animal Services. “We are grateful to the citizen who recorded and reported this incident, allowing us to take swift action to protect this animal.”

Evidence, including the citizen-recorded video, will be submitted to the District Attorney’s Office for review with County Animal Services recommending animal cruelty charges against the suspect.

The County Animal Services encourages anyone who witnesses suspected animal abuse or neglect to report it immediately by calling 619-234-2341.

County Animal Services protects the health, safety and welfare of people and animals in its service area of unincorporated San Diego County. The department operates two shelters, caring for thousands of animals each year and matching them with forever families.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 10, 2025

COUNTY

County Departments Serve Local Heroes at Veterans Village Stand Down 2025

The 37th annual Veterans Village Stand Down Resource Event wrapped up a successful first day today, Aug. 8, in Liberty Station’s Central Promenade. This two-day event is a one-stop opportunity for veterans to connect with critical services, resources and support in a welcoming and safe environment.

Stand Down is for all veterans, including unhoused and at-risk veterans, their families, and for the first

time, active-duty service members. It is meant to empower them, strengthen their futures and honor their journey. It is also an opportunity for veterans to connect with other veterans.

The no-cost event runs through tomorrow, Aug. 9, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The County of San Diego along with 125 community partners and service providers are onsite to offer any assistance veterans may need to regain their lives outside of the military. County departments include:

Housing and Community Development Services

Some of the other services provided include VA medical services, compensation claims, military records requests, substance abuse treatment, workforce development, haircuts, food and clothing, pet supplies, holistic health care and financial education.

Learn more about Veterans Village Stand Down 2025 .

County of San Diego news release · Aug 8, 2025

COUNTY

Probation’s New Healthcare Unit Will Enhance Medical Services for Youth

County Probation has created a new integrated Healthcare Services unit with the goal of enhancing the care and support given to youth in detention facilities and both youth and adult clients under Probation supervision. To that end, a new medical director and a healthcare operations manager have joined the Probation team.

“The establishment of this unit is important because it will help address disparities in healthcare and improve health outcomes for our clients after their release,” said Tamika Nelson, Chief Probation Officer. “The money saved will be directed toward enhancing other programs and services Probation provides for our clients to help them successfully transition back into the community.”

Probation hired Dr. Lou Gilleran, Probation’s medical director, to oversee all healthcare services including physical and behavioral health in December. He is a retired U.S. Navy Medical Officer with 27 years of military service and has since worked in several key roles in the County including the Medical Director for the Emergency Homeless Shelter at the San Diego Convention Center during COVID, TB Clinic and as Chief Medical Officer for the San Diego Sheriff’s Office.

To help him with this major

and critical task is Michael Kelley, MSN in the new position as Healthcare Operations Manager, who has extensive experience in quality assurance. She handles policies and procedures, talking with community stakeholders, accreditation boards and requests for information regarding medical services.

They are leading the rollout of Justice-Involved CalAIM, a state initiative that will transform Medi-Cal in youth detention centers which is set to begin later this year, Gilleran said. The department is piloting new pre-release services. The way it will work is that Probation will receive reimbursement for youth care for 90 days before they are released. Currently, youth who have medical insurance and are booked into a correctional facility are automatically suspended from any Medi-Cal reimbursement for medical or behavioral care as per federal law. Now, those services will be funded.

Kelley said they have applied for Probation to have a special clinic designation that will allow them to bill the state for medical services, case management, laboratory tests, durable medical equipment, and medications. They also established a contract with a single contract provider in the detention facilities which offers both physical and behavioral health services which will improve communication and services.

This then gives the Integrated Healthcare Services Unit better oversight, enabling seamless services, Gilleran said. When a young person is booked, they will have a whole person assessment which will be included in their re-entry plan, he said.

As part of CalAIM, Probation will acquire a new comprehensive electronic health record, allowing for improved tracking, documentation, data analysis and billing, Gilleran said.

“Another really big benefit is the warm handoff for our youth before release to ensure they receive continued care,” Kelley said.

Gilleran added, “The benefits of CalAim is that now we’ll be bringing in revenue that allows us to put money into other programs that addresses pro-social, pro-health, cognitive, and behavioral issues and can potentially be put into vocational training.”

One of the vocational training programs offered to youth is music production,

Continued on page 3

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY (CONTINUED)

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Probation’s New Healthcare Unit Will Enhance Medical Services for Youth

which requires a studio to learn how to mix and edit sound and music. “One example of putting money into other programs is building a music studio,” Kelley said.

San Diego County Probation is committed to delivering high-quality services that drive improved outcomes for the youth and adults they serve.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 8, 2025

COUNTY

County Helps Map Your Way to Farmers’ Markets

Finding a certified farmers’ market that works best for you is now easier than ever. The County launched a new interactive website Wednesday that allows you pinpoint locations, dates, times and much more.

In what is called a StoryMap, website visitors can also learn who runs each market, how to contact them, their website, social media channels, the number of vendors typically onsite and whether it will accept nutritional benefits like CalFresh or Women, Infant and Children (WIC).

Long-time visitors to farmers’ markets may discover another market that is close by to where they live or work or one with more convenient hours.

Others who are new to farmers’ markets can visit the site to learn more about these markets, what makes them certified, why it’s important, how they help local farmers and you by providing fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables.

The County’s Agriculture, Weights and Measures Department certifies more than 40 farmers’ markets throughout the region. Inspectors verify vendors sell only produce they grew on their farms and check other requirements including food

that is labeled organic.

The new site explains how certified farmers’ markets are helping small-scale farmers, the economy and the environment.

“Whether you’re a market visitor, a community partner or simply curious, the StoryMap is a window into the growing network of markets helping to nourish our region,” said Deputy Agricultural Commissioner & Sealer Jordan Key. “This interactive map allows users to explore market locations how they want – proximity, days of operation, or nutrition benefit acceptance in a way that helps them rapidly find what they need.”

Several markets accept CalFresh EBT cards giving

residents increased access to fresh food. In some cases, programs like Market Match can greatly increase the value of EBT cards, allowing visitors to buy more of what they need.

People who receive WIC can use their checks at various farmers’ markets. The site offers links to how to apply for benefits.

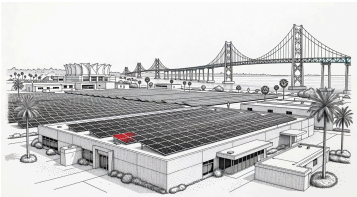
If you’re a local grower, the StoryMap gives instructions on how to get involved and how to get certified.

To find other ways the County is advancing a sustainable and equitable regional food system, visit the Food System Initiative .

County of San Diego news release · Aug 7, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Powersmith Solar

PowerSmith Solar – Building a Brighter, Cleaner Future for California

At PowerSmith Solar , we believe in creating a sustainable future by

empowering homeowners and businesses to harness the clean, renewable power of the sun. Founded with the mission to make solar energy accessible, affordable, and efficient, we are proud to serve communities across California with cutting-edge solar solutions and exceptional customer care.

Our team combines decades of experience in the renewable energy sector with a passion for innovation. We specialize in

custom-designed solar systems, battery storage, and energy efficiency upgrades, ensuring each project is tailored to meet our clients’ needs and maximize long-term savings. We also handle every step of the process — from design and permitting to installation and maintenance — delivering a seamless, hassle-free experience.

Beyond installations, PowerSmith Solar is dedicated to giving back. We

actively participate in community initiatives, promote green education, and work with local organizations to spread awareness about the benefits of renewable energy. Our partnerships with industry leaders ensure that our clients always receive the latest technology and best warranties available.

As California continues to lead the nation in clean energy adoption, we are committed to being a driving

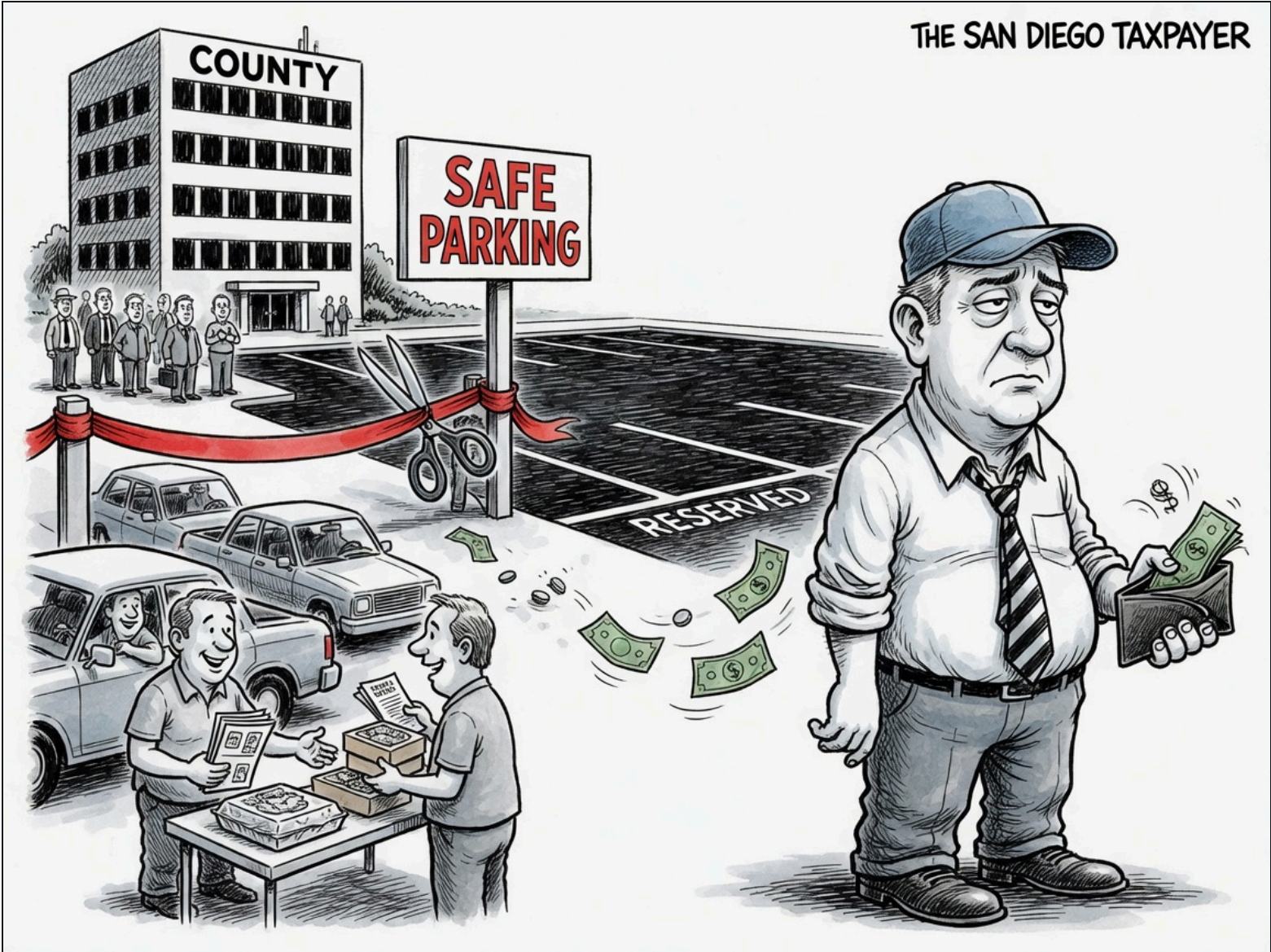
force in this movement. Whether it’s helping a family reduce their energy bills or enabling a business to achieve its sustainability goals, our mission remains the same: to provide energy solutions that make a lasting, positive impact.

To learn more about how PowerSmith Solar can help you power your future, visit <https://powersmithsolar.com> or call +1 (951) 415-7469.

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Aug 12, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Safe parking or just more spending?

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY

Moorlach Warns Against Hiding Tax Hikes on Ballots
The California Policy Center senior fellow argues that a new bill would let politicians obscure the true cost of tax measures, making it too easy for voters to approve them without full awareness.

John Moorlach cautions that California voters risk being misled by ballot measures that use appealing but vague titles instead of plainly stating their tax implications.

According to Moorlach, a senior fellow and director of the Center for Public Accountability at the California Policy Center, most citizens glance at the ballot and see phrases such as "Better Roads and Schools – See Voter Guide for Details." Few take the time to examine the full details in the voter information pamphlet.

Moorlach writes that people would prefer straightforward wording like

"Raises the sales tax" or "Increases your property taxes to fund school bonds." Yet he predicts that many will simply support measures that sound beneficial without realizing the financial consequences.

The California Policy Center fellow contends that Democratic leaders in Sacramento are relying on this lack of scrutiny. He says they anticipate that residents will cast affirmative votes to feel like responsible citizens, only to later object when higher tax bills arrive.

Moorlach points to Assemblymember Catherine Stefani, a Democrat, as the author of Assembly Bill 699. He asserts that the legislation would make it simpler to conceal the details of proposed tax increases placed before the electorate.

In Moorlach's view, the proposal is overly shrewd and undermines openness. Instead of promoting clarity, it facilitates approval of attractive-sounding tax plans

that ultimately burden household budgets.

He explains that because the majority of voters focus only on the short ballot title and rarely conduct additional research, this change would boost the chances of such measures succeeding at the polls.

Moorlach describes the approach as insulting to Californians' intelligence. He argues it sends a troubling signal from the dominant party that they believe the public lacks the smarts or involvement to detect the real effects.

Current state rules, shaped by legislation passed less than 10 years ago, require tax-related ballot items to explicitly list the tax rate, its duration, and the revenue it would produce. Moorlach notes that he supported both measures in the Senate.

One was Assembly Bill 809 from 2015, carried by then-Assemblyman Jay Obernolte. Moorlach recalls joining all 40 senators in backing the

bill, which mandated specific wording on initiatives involving new or higher taxes, including annual revenue estimates, rates, and time frames.

In 2017, Moorlach and 32 other senators voted for Assembly Bill 195 by Obernolte. That law broadened the requirements to local initiatives and referendums while insisting on neutral analysis.

Moorlach questions why Democrats now seek to undo these earlier bipartisan steps aimed at clearer and more truthful ballots. He suggests the current generation of lawmakers prioritizes easing tax hikes over informing the public.

The California Policy Center reports that AB 699 is advancing on strictly partisan lines, with all Republicans opposing it as it moves toward the Senate. Moorlach urges residents to voice opposition so that voters are not deceived by wording designed to mask the facts.

He maintains that the legislative supermajority must not be permitted to trick people into accepting higher payments without their knowledge. Should the measure reach the governor, Moorlach says the executive should uphold transparency as both courteous and morally correct.

Moorlach concludes that Californians merit straightforwardness rather than deception, and elected officials ought to honor those they represent by delivering the unvarnished truth.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Aug 11, 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

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

County Confirms First Measles Case of 2025
County public health officials have confirmed the first case of measles in the region this year in a teenage resident who had recently traveled overseas.

In 2024, four measles cases were confirmed in San Diego County and all were associated with international travel. As of August 4 , 2025, 19 confirmed measles cases have been reported in California . As of August 6, there are 1,359 confirmed cases in the U.S.

The unimmunized teenager may have exposed others at the following times and locations:

Scripps Clinic Torrey Pines Urgent Care located at 10710

North Torrey Pines Rd. in La Jolla, on August 6, from 08:53 p.m. to August 7, at 12:26 a.m.

Rady Children’s Emergency Department located at 3020 Children’s Way, 1st Floor in San Diego, on August 6, from 11:01 p.m. to August 7, at 05:21 a.m.

County epidemiologists are working with Scripps Clinic Torrey Pines Urgent Care and Rady Children’s Hospital to identify potentially exposed patients and staff and do follow up on their vaccination status. They will also evaluate their potential for developing measles.

“Measles is a very contagious disease that can be spread easily by coughing, sneezing or being in the same room with an infected person,” said Ankita Kadakia,

M.D., County deputy public health officer. “Anyone who was at any of the specific locations and at the dates and times listed above should watch for symptoms and call their health care provider if they show any signs of the disease.”

People with symptoms are asked to call their doctor’s office in advance, rather than visit an office directly, so that infection control measures may be taken to prevent exposure to others.

Measles develops seven to 21 days after exposure. Early symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose and red eyes. A distinctive red rash usually appears one to four days after early symptoms start.

A person is considered

contagious four days before and four days after the rash appears. The rash typically begins on the face and head, then proceeds downward and outward to the hands and feet. It fades in the same order it began, from head to feet.

“The best way to prevent measles is by getting the measles vaccine,” said Dr. Kadakia. “With measles outbreaks occurring in several countries, it is very important that all international travelers get vaccinated. Infants between 6 and 12 months of age who travel should get one dose, and travelers over 12 months of age should get two doses at least four weeks apart.”

Complications from measles are more common in

children younger than 5 years old and adults 20 years and older. Complications can include diarrhea, ear infections and pneumonia. Death can occur from severe complications and the risk is higher among younger children and adults. There is no treatment for measles. Bed rest, fluids, and fever control are recommended. People with complications may need treatment for their specific problems.

For more information about measles, other vaccine-preventable diseases and the shots that protect against them, visit HHSA Immunization Branch online or by phone at (866) 358-2966.

County of San Diego news release · Aug 8, 2025

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