

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 Employees Make Point-in-Time Count Annual Tradition



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

Hundreds of San Diego County Employees woke up extra early this morning to participate in the annual Point-in-Time Count.

During the one-day outreach event, volunteers walk and drive through local communities to engage with and collect data from people experiencing homelessness. Individuals who participate in a survey receive a gift card for a local convenience store. The information gathered is used to better understand homelessness in our region and to secure federal funding to help address the crisis.

The Point-in-Time Count is coordinated by San Diego's Regional Task Force on Homelessness and requires the help of about 1,700 people. For over a decade, County employees have routinely stepped-up and volunteered their time, serving each year as the largest group of participants from a single organization.

This year, 380 County employees set an early alarm and joined the effort.

County of San Diego news release · Jan 29, 2026

COUNTY

County Equity Impact Grant Program Strengthens Nonprofits, Earns Statewide Award

The County Equity Impact Grant Program helped small, minority-led nonprofits expand services, secure major funding, and build long-term capacity, earning statewide recognition for innovation.

The program, co-created with grassroots organizations, the County's Office of Equity & Racial Justice, and The

Nonprofit Institute at the University of San Diego, provided \$100,000 general operating grants, nonprofit coaching, and a peer learning group model designed to break down barriers to government and philanthropic funding.

The initiative's impact includes significant growth for participating organizations, including:

Paddle for Peace secured a \$1 million Alliance Healthcare Foundation i2 Innovation Challenge Grant and expanded coastal access programs for BIPOC youth.

First Gen Scholars earned a \$1 million Alliance Healthcare Foundation i2 Innovation Challenge Grant to launch a data-driven platform supporting first-generation students.

DREAMS + DUCATS secured funding to open the County's first fully dedicated dual learning and cultural lab in Sherman Heights with support from The Conrad Prebys Arts Ecosystem: Venues & Spaces grant.

Greater Than Tech expanded STEM and entrepreneurship pathways into emerging fields, including aerospace, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence now reaching more than 1,500 underserved youth.

Across two grant cycles, the program strengthened organizational capacity, expanded partnerships, and supported community-driven solutions in education, health, restorative justice, youth empowerment, economic mobility, environmental justice, and arts and culture. Leaders from participating organizations continue to collaborate through regional capacity-building spaces, including Live Well San Diego Leadership Team meetings .

In recognition of its design and impact, the program received a 2024 California State Association of Counties Challenge Award, one of the state's highest honors for public sector innovation.

While the pilot phase has concluded,

the relationships and infrastructure built through the Equity Impact Grant Program will continue to support grassroots organizations countywide. The County remains committed to advancing equity through ongoing engagement, interdepartmental collaboration and initiatives that strengthen community partnerships.

County of San Diego news release · Jan 30, 2026

COUNTY

County Helps Businesses Prepare for Federal Enforcement Actions

Businesses and employees concerned about federal immigration enforcement actions can learn about their rights through a new video training series.

The three County videos on what to do before , during and after visits from federal authorities are designed to help keep workplaces safe and compliant.

More in-depth virtual or in-person trainings are available on request and recordings of the extended sessions are available online in multiple languages.

Following a Board of Supervisors directive , the County's Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement (OLSE) created the overall Know Your Rights training series to guide businesses and employees through workplace issues related to federal enforcement actions.

Since the first webinar in November, OLSE has conducted 12 in-person and virtual training sessions, reaching more than 1,100 business owners, operators, workers and community members.

The newly added short video series provides a glimpse into what people can do before , during and after visits from federal authorities and previews the kind of information shared in these training sessions.

Thousands have visited OLSE's dedicated Know Your Rights website since its launch in September 2025 to access

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

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County Helps Businesses Prepare for Federal Enforcement Actions

information and resources on rights and responsibilities during federal immigration enforcement actions.

In addition to this video series, OLSE offers a range of resources, including in-person training, webinars, workshops and video tools covering topics like minimum wage, paid sick leave and fair-chance hiring to support both employers and workers in understanding their rights and responsibilities.

“Our goal is to make compliance easier and ensure workers and business owners understand protections under state and local law,” OLSE

Director Branden Butler said. Over nearly the last half decade, the County has expanded efforts to educate employers and workers about labor rights and responsibilities, aiming to build awareness and the ability to comply with labor laws as a wage theft prevention strategy.

“We are focused on taking a collaborative approach, working with community organizations and business groups to provide practical tools and clear guidance,” Butler said.

The County is committed to promoting workplace fairness and compliance through education, outreach and support. The Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement works with employers, employees and community

partners to provide resources that help ensure adherence to labor laws and protect workers’ rights. To learn more or schedule a Know Your Rights or other training, visit the County’s Labor Standards and Enforcement website .

County of San Diego news release · Feb 3, 2026

COUNTY
Ramona Community Resource Center Marks First Year in New Location

The new Ramona Community Resource Center celebrated its first year in its new location, serving as a one-stop place for County services like mental health, nutrition, and healthcare.

In the first year, more than

5,600 people visited the center for services. The facility also provides a space for the community gatherings and events, like school meetings. The conference room is available for reservation upon request.

“It makes me proud to see a beautiful new community center serving neighbors and showcasing the rich culture that truly reflects Ramona,” said Alberto Banuelos, PhD, director of County Self Sufficiency Services.

The building was designed with community input and hosts several pieces from local artists.

It was developed to be efficient for customers, employees and the environment. Solar panels on the roof generate more energy than the

building consumes each year, making it zero net energy.

The state-of-the-art building also brought in new services to better support older adults and veterans. Nearly 9,000 people in the community are receiving County services, including CalFresh and medical assistance.

The Ramona Community Resource Center is part of the County’s efforts to expand accessibility, equitably across the region. Local business, small businesses, and disadvantaged businesses participated in its construction, including in the excavation and earthwork, fire protection, framing and door hardware, material supplies, and artwork.

County of San Diego news release · Feb 4, 2026

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight – David Allen Capital Inc.

For those who don’t already know me, I am pleased to be celebrating over two decades of involvement with the chamber in many different roles from Chamber member and ambassador to Chamber employee and even vendor. What an awesome experience it has been to participate in and serve the local business community through such a fine organization!

Rolling into 2026 it is my pleasure to feature a key

solution sought by members for years; ready access to working capital. “Ready access” means no collateral is needed and funds are disbursed within days—not weeks—of submitting a short application. No tax returns are needed, there are no fees to apply. We ask for only a few recent bank statements. Applying is so easy because we think business owners are ROCK STARS and have better things to do!

With today’s cutting edge technology, a request for a loan or credit line can be shopped through multiple funding institutions almost instantly. Approvals are quick, and there is no obligation to accept the resulting offers. What a relief to the local business looking to expand their footprint, get through

an inevitable small business “pinch” or check for available credit limits.

With loan amounts from \$20k up to \$2 million, the team at David Allen Capital, Inc. specialize in funding small/medium businesses when the big banks can’t. We even partner with select banks and credit unions on a referral basis, as they can’t always grant credit that we love to fund , and we don’t offer checking accounts, a win-win-win for all!

I could not be happier to present this valuable service to the San Diego business community.

Please reach out via my established cell and email addresses, if only to catch up. I remain at your service!

Keith Woolgar David Allen

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San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jan 29, 2026

BUSINESS
New State Senate Committee Assignments

A new year brings new committee assignments in the California State Legislature, and Senate President pro Tempore Monique Limón (D-Santa Barbara) has announced her leadership team and committee chairs for the year ahead. Committee chairs play a critical role in the legislative process, serving as key gatekeepers with the authority to advance or halt legislation.

Several influential committees will see new leadership this year. Senator Sabrina Cervantes (D-Riverside) will chair the Senate Appropriations Committee, while Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) will serve as Chair of the Budget Committee. San Diego legislators will also hold several prominent committee leadership roles. Senator Catherine Blakespear (D-Encinitas) will continue as Chair of the Environmental Quality Committee, Senator Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) will lead the Health Committee, and Senator Steve Padilla (D-San Diego) will serve as Chair of the Insurance Committee.

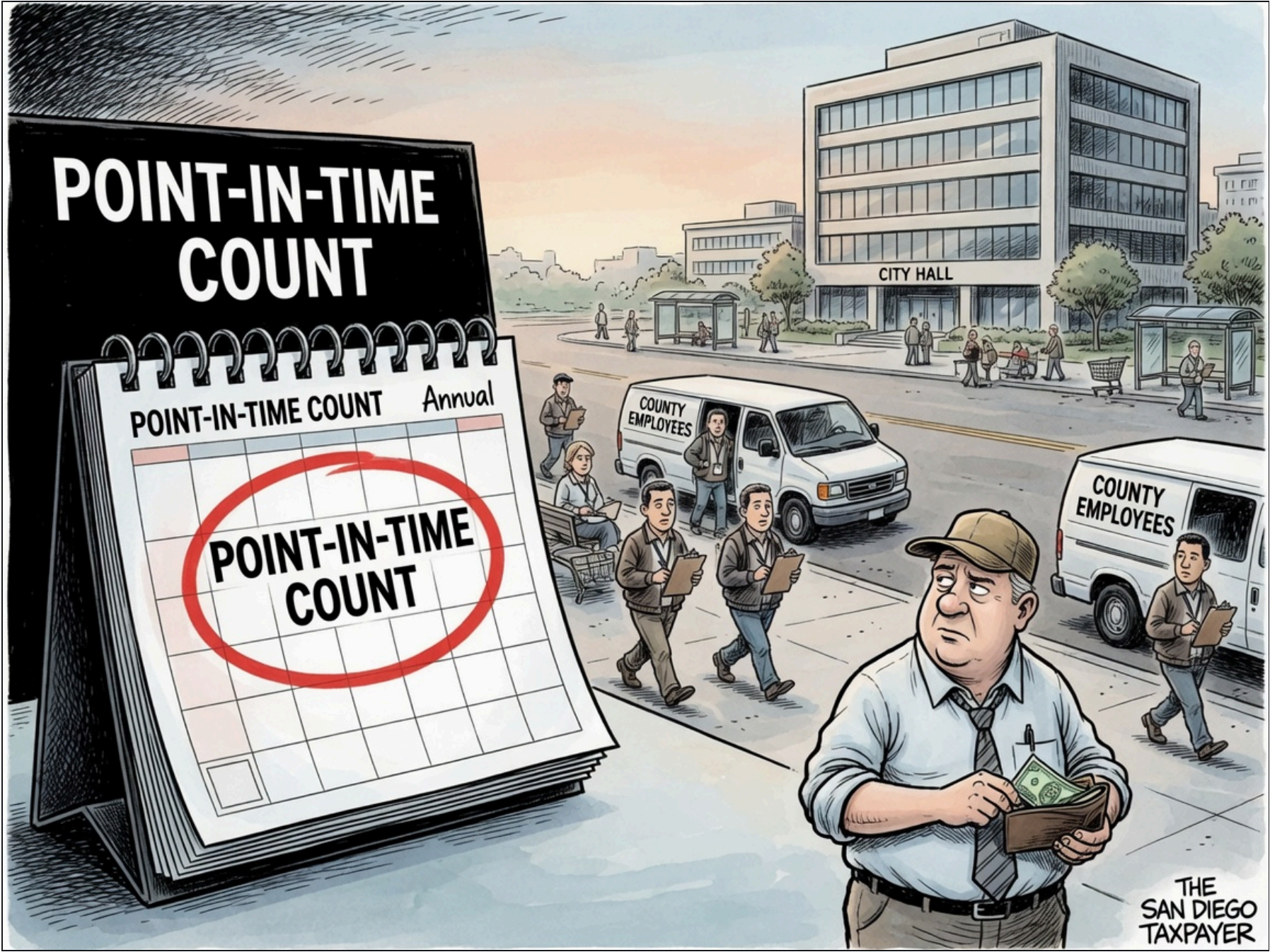
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jan 26, 2026

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Annual tradition
THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

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.
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SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

The news, every day.

Downtown, City Hall, the County, the courts and the regional economy — updated daily, with every past print edition in our archive.

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