

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
Poll Workers Needed for June 2
Gubernatorial Primary
Election

COUNTY
CERT Makes Emergency
Preparedness Fun

COUNTY
County and San Diego
Foundation Partner to Help
Fund Safety Net Services

COUNTY
Crow in North Park Area Tests
Positive for West Nile Virus

COUNTY
Mexican Fruit Fly Quarantine
in Portion of San Diego County

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight – Episcopal
Community Services

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight – Elegant
Lightings

CALIFORNIA
FBI Subpoenas Maricopa
County Election Records in
Expanded Voting Probe

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

COUNTY

Poll Workers Needed for June 2 Gubernatorial Primary Election



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

The Registrar of Voters is now hiring poll workers for the June 2 Gubernatorial Primary Election . Poll workers play an essential role in elections and can receive a daily stipend while serving their community.

There is a specific need for bilingual poll workers who can help support voters in 15 languages required by federal, state and county law.

Federal law requires the Registrar’s office to provide bilingual speakers and voting materials for voters who speak:

State and county rules also require bilingual speakers at select vote centers in:

San Diego County elections operate under the Voter’s Choice Act, a state law that replaces traditional polling places with vote centers that are open for an extended period leading up to Election Day.

Instead of serving just on Election Day, poll workers are now needed to staff vote centers for four or 11 days during the two weeks before Election Day.

A stipend of \$145 per day from May 23 to June 1.

\$240 on Election Day, June 2, due to expanded hours.

Bilingual poll workers can receive an extra \$5 per day and \$10 extra on election day.

Be a U.S. citizen and registered to vote in California or lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

Have reliable transportation to and from your assigned vote center

each day.

Complete two days of in-person training (paid a \$95 daily stipend).

Available to work four or 11 days, including extended hours on Election Day.

Assisting voters and providing excellent customer service.

The Registrar is looking for team players with strong leadership and customer service skills, as well as flexibility, patience, and integrity. Poll workers must represent the Registrar of Voters in a professional and nonpartisan manner.

Applications are available at sdvote.com . For more information, call 858-565-5800 or email pollworker@sdcounty.ca.gov .

County of San Diego news release · Mar 9, 2026

COUNTY

CERT Makes Emergency Preparedness Fun

Preparing for emergencies is serious, but it doesn’t have to be dull.

San Diego County Fire’s Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is a volunteer group trained to help their neighbors during a disaster. Members also attend community events to share information about disaster preparedness.

On March 7, CERT hosted a Listos California Block Party in South County. About 100 people attended, most of them seniors or older adults, along with several families. Everyone learned simple steps they can take to be better prepared for an emergency.

“The Listos CA Block Party and Interactive Safety Fair was a success,” said Teresa Greenhalgh, San Diego County Fire’s CERT coordinator. “We partnered with AARP San Diego and have held a series of trainings and fairs

for older adults, who have been identified as underserved in emergency and disaster preparedness.”

The March 7 event at the Bonita-Sunnyside Library included giveaways funded by a California CERT support grant. Participants won prizes by showing what they knew about preparedness through familiar games with a disaster-readiness twist. Activities included The Price of Preparedness, which highlights how affordable it can be to build a go-kit; Two Truths and a Lie on disaster readiness; an evacuation go-bag memory challenge; and a team scavenger hunt focused on finding safety items. Some games were offered in both English and Spanish.

Residents can learn more about disaster readiness at the County’s [AlertSanDiego](https://AlertSanDiego.org) website. The site outlines four basic steps:

Register your cell phones for emergency alerts

Make an evacuation go-kit and a shelter-in-place kit .

Review the types of disasters most likely to occur in San Diego County.

The event also featured informational booths from County Aging & Independence Services, the Sheriff’s Office, the Office of Emergency Services and the Bonita-Sunnyside Library. Community partners shared preparedness tips, safety resources and services. Those partners included AARP San Diego, 2-1-1 San Diego, the American Red Cross, the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County, the Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District, U-Pac San Diego and SDG&E Damage Prevention and Outreach.

The Listos California Grants Program provided the block party kit and funding for prizes. Attendees also had the chance to learn about joining CERT and how volunteers can support their communities in emergencies. San Diego County Fire’s CERT program offers

Continued on page 2

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

Courts · Transit · Public safety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CERT Makes
Emergency
Preparedness Fun

preparedness events, activities and training for all residents.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 10, 2026

COUNTY

County and San Diego
Foundation Partner to
Help Fund Safety Net
Services

The County and San Diego Foundation on Monday formally kicked off a new public philanthropic partnership intended to protect local safety net services from funding cuts.

The ceremonial signing at the County Administration Building marked the implementation of a Memorandum of Agreement establishing the Partnership to Protect San Diego, an initiative first approved by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in November 2025.

The program was created in response to federal budget reductions and new eligibility restrictions that will affect food assistance, housing programs and healthcare access for some county residents.

Under the agreement, the initiative includes two major components. The first is a Matching Stabilization Fund administered by the San Diego Foundation and will preserve up to \$16 million in Countycontracted nonprofit services this fiscal year and up to \$20 million next fiscal year if extended. The fund provides a dollar-to-dollar match of County dollars, up to \$8 million this year and \$10 million next year, to maintain services for vulnerable people.

This fiscal year, through June 30, 67 existing County contracts are eligible for support. These programs support behavioral health care, food assistance, domestic violence

shelters, homelessness, substance use recovery, senior, youth services and more.

The County will continue administering all contracts and determining eligible invoices. The Foundation will issue payments directly to providers following County approval.

The County estimates that more than \$3 million in local savings will result from the arrangement after administrative fees and related contributions are accounted for, allowing the County to redirect freed up funds to other core services.

The second component is a County investment of up to \$4 million in the San Diego Unity Fund, established by the San Diego Foundation in 2025 in direct response to federal budget cuts.

With matching contributions from the Foundation, the fund is expected to distribute up to \$8 million to support food security, housing stability and healthcare access. The Foundation will make grant decisions and grantee performance metrics will be shared with the County quarterly.

To date, the Unity Fund has raised more than \$32 million and has granted or committed more than \$29 million to more than 100 local nonprofits.

The County and the San Diego Foundation will continue collaborating on potential program design for the next fiscal year. The agreement is in effect through June 30, 2026, with an option to extend through June 2027.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 9, 2026

COUNTY

Crow in North Park
Area Tests Positive for
West Nile Virus

A dead American crow recently found in the North Park area has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV), prompting County

environmental health officials to remind people to protect themselves from mosquitoes that can spread the disease to people.

West Nile virus is primarily a bird disease, but it can be transmitted to humans when certain types of mosquitoes feed on an infected bird and then bite people.

The crow is the first detection of West Nile virus in San Diego County this year. No human West Nile virus cases have been reported this year.

However, West Nile virus remains a potentially deadly threat. In 2015, 44 San Diego County residents tested positive for West Nile virus and six county residents died.

Warmer temperatures combined with winter rain can bring an earlier start to mosquito season in San Diego County.

The County has already detected early mosquito activity. In response, County Vector Control is increasing surveillance and treating mosquito breeding sources.

The County’s Integrated Vector Management Strategy includes monitoring roughly 1,600 potential mosquito breeding sites and applying larvicide by air, boat, truck and hand crews.

County Vector Control staff also respond to community complaints about increases in mosquito numbers and give presentations to neighborhood groups about mosquito prevention.

County officials are reminding residents to follow the “Prevent, Protect, Report” guidelines.

Dumpstanding water from plant saucers, buckets, rain barrels, garbage cans, toys, old tires, wheelbarrows and other containers. Have you mosquito-proofed your backyard by dumping out standing water? You should.

Residents can request free mosquito-eating fish for backyard ponds, fountains,

unused swimming pools and horse troughs by calling (858) 694-2888 or emailing vector@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Wear long sleeves and pants or use insect repellent when outdoors.

Use EPA-recommended repellentscontaining DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, paramenthanediol, 2undecanone, or IR3535.

Ensure window and door screens are in good condition and properly secured.

Report possible mosquito activity and dead birds

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

For more information, including other services available through the Vector Control Program, visit the County’s “Fight the Bite” website.

County of San Diego news release · Mar 11, 2026

COUNTY

Mexican Fruit Fly
Quarantine in Portion
of San Diego County

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has declared a new quarantine area affecting Spring Valley, Bonita and five cities in San Diego County after Mexican fruit flies were found during a routine inspection in La Mesa.

The quarantine zone covers approximately 77 square miles. It is bordered by:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner, and the CDFA are working collaboratively to contain the infestation and provide guidance to fruit growers, wholesalers, retailers and home

gardeners.

Sterile male Mexican fruit fly releases will be conducted in the area.

Treatment of properties within 200 meters of detections will use an organic formulation of Spinosad, derived from naturally occurring bacteria.

Fruit removal within 100 meters will occur at sites where larvae or flies are found.

This is CDFA’s standard, science-based approach and is considered the safest and most effective method to reduce population density.

The quarantine applies to growers, wholesalers, retailers, and nurseries handling any host fruits or plants. Home gardeners are urged to consume homegrown produce onsite and avoid moving it off their property to help prevent the spread of the pest.

Residents who suspect their fruits or vegetables may be infested should call the state’s toll-free Pest Hotline: 1-800-491-1899.

The Mexican fruit fly can infest more than 50 types of fruits and vegetables, posing a significant threat to California’s agricultural exports, local food supply, and backyard gardens. More information is available at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/go/MexFly

While invasive fruit flies sometimes appear in agricultural regions, most detections occur in suburban and urban communities. These pests often enter the state by hitchhiking in fruits or vegetables brought back illegally by travelers from infested areas.

To help protect California’s agriculture and natural resources, CDFA urges travelers to follow the Don’t Pack a Pest guidelines (www.dontpackapest.com).

County of San Diego news release · Mar 10, 2026

STARTING A BUSINESS IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY?

Publish your DBA the easy way.

California requires every new Fictitious Business Name statement to run in an adjudicated newspaper for four weeks. We publish it, file the Proof of Publication with the county for you, and email your proof the day you order.

newfbn.com · (951) 262-7611

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration from a photo by Dietmar Rabich · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight – Episcopal Community Services

Evening on the Bay: An ECS Fundraising Reception

Episcopal Community Services invites you to Evening on the Bay, a purpose-driven fundraising reception designed for meaningful connection and real community impact. With a breathtaking setting at San

Diego's stunning new waterfront venue and a streamlined program, the focus stays where it belongs, on people and purpose. Your participation directly supports ECS programs in early childhood education, behavioral health, homelessness services, and substance use disorder treatment across San Diego.

The event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres, hosted bar, and local impact.

Evening on the Bay will take place on Wednesday, May 13 at 5:30 pm at Eve, located at 975 Waterfront Place San Diego, CA 92101.

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS TODAY and transform communities with ECS.

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

BUSINESS
Member Spotlight – Elegant Lightings
Illuminate Your World with

Elegant Lightings! ☀

At Elegant Lightings , we specialize in crafting high-quality LED screens for both indoor and outdoor use. Based in sunny San Diego, we are a proud family-owned business dedicated to enhancing the visual experiences of our community.

LED Screens for Every Need: Whether you're a restaurant looking to create an inviting ambiance or a retail store aiming to attract customers, we provide LED screens in all sizes and shapes tailored to your needs.

Rentals for Events: Planning an expo, concert, or special event? We offer rental options for our state-of-the-art LED screens, Desks, sphere, cylinder, posters transparent and more ensuring your event is unforgettable.

Affordable Solutions: Our pricing is competitive,

making it easy for businesses of all sizes to access cutting-edge technology.

Our products are not just about stunning visuals; they represent the future of sustainability! By choosing our LED screens, you can:

Save Electricity: Our energy-efficient technology reduces power consumption, helping you lower your utility bills.

Replace Plastic and Paper: Move toward a greener future by minimizing reliance on traditional signage, promoting a more sustainable environment.

At Elegant Lightings, we believe in giving back. We actively participate in local events and support community initiatives, helping to bring people together through the power of light and technology.

New Product Launch: We're excited to introduce our latest

line of ultra-slim LED screens, designed for maximum impact with minimal space! Perfect for any business looking to make a statement.

February Promotion: Join our Generous Referral Fees Program this month! Refer a business to us, and you'll receive a rewarding fee for every successful rental or sale.

We invite businesses and event organizers to reach out and discover how Elegant Lightings can enhance your space or event. Together, let's illuminate our community and build a greener future!

Contact Us: Bernard Sfeir ☎ Phone:619 729 0898 ✉ Email: info@elegantlightings.com 🌐 Website: elegantlightings.com

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Feb 25, 2026

AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide news

CALIFORNIA

FBI Subpoenas Maricopa County Election Records in Expanded Voting Probe

The agency obtained terabytes of data from Arizona's largest county as part of a criminal inquiry into ballot handling procedures.

Federal investigators have widened a criminal probe into election practices by obtaining a grand jury subpoena for extensive records from Maricopa County, the most populous jurisdiction in the battleground state of Arizona.

The action, which follows a similar federal raid in Fulton County, Georgia, targets materials from both the 2020 and 2024 elections, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Authorities obtained terabytes of electronic data covering those two cycles roughly one month after the Georgia warehouse operation, sources told Just the News on condition of anonymity because of grand jury secrecy rules.

The inquiry centers on possible violations of federal statutes that require states to follow their own ballot custody and storage protocols, the same sources indicated.

Concerns include reports of blank ballots stored together with voted absentee ballots inside a secure facility run by Runbeck Election Services in Maricopa County.

Those observations appeared in a 2024 congressional report prepared by

bipartisan election monitors. The document, which contains photographs of ballots from several states, has not been released publicly.

House Administration Committee Chairman Bryan Steil referenced the findings in a recent interview and said his panel is working with federal partners to guarantee compliance with election laws.

Congressman Abe Hamadeh, a Republican who represents Arizona's 8th District, drew fresh notice to the allegations in a post on X.

Hamadeh recalled that in June 2025 he contacted Attorney General Pam Bondi about "disturbing allegations of blank ballots commingled with voted mail ballots in Runbeck's Maricopa County warehouse."

He called the situation "part of the ongoing pattern of disastrous elections in State 48."

The issues trace back more than ten years and have been aggravated by Arizona's extensive use of mail ballots. A 2020 state Senate audit estimated that more than 200,000 ballots featuring signature mismatches may have been accepted without adequate scrutiny. County officials at the time acknowledged only about 25,000 such mismatches.

Arizona State Senate President Warren Petersen confirmed on X that his office received and complied with the federal subpoena. Petersen said the FBI now holds records from the Senate's 2020 audit of Maricopa County.

Maricopa County Recorder Justin Heap, a Republican who has pushed for tighter election controls, has clashed repeatedly with the county Board of Supervisors over authority for early voting. Heap filed a lawsuit seeking to regain legal control under state statute.

A recent shared services deal gave Heap responsibility for voting sites while the board kept funding duties.

Former Republican gubernatorial nominee Kari Lake, who has questioned the validity of the 2020 and 2022 Arizona contests, also responded on X.

Lake wrote: "A federal grand jury is now active and has subpoenaed Maricopa County's election records, including from the 2024 cycle, to probe longstanding issues in State 48. So many of us have raised the alarm for years. The news of this subpoena gives me great hope that something will finally be done."

Arizona Republicans and elected officials have voiced strong support for the investigation, viewing it as a critical step toward restoring trust in the electoral process.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Mar 9, 2026

CALIFORNIA

Parole Board Frees San Francisco Home Invasion Rapist After 11 Years Despite Victim Objections

The California Board of Parole Hearings approved Roberto Detrinidad's release from San Quentin by May 2026, prompting opposition from prosecutors, victims' rights advocates and law enforcement.

The California Board of Parole Hearings granted parole to Roberto Detrinidad, who will leave San Quentin State Prison by May 5, 2026, unless Gov. Gavin Newsom reverses the decision.

Detrinidad, who is HIV-positive, broke into a San Francisco woman's apartment in 2013 and assaulted her while she slept. He targeted the victim, a bartender new to the city, after seeing her through a window on Sacramento Street.

Using a piece of plastic to open a lock, he entered her unlocked apartment and committed the rape. During his parole hearing on Jan. 6, 2026, Detrinidad described the assault in his own words.

"When I saw her in the window, it was attractive to me. Honestly I looked at the door of the building. I saw that I could get in there easily. I started a plan that if I could get in there, have my way with her and get away, that was my plan," Detrinidad said according to the hearing record.

He added, "This was like my Super Bowl of crime that night. This was gonna be the

thing that made me finally feel like a man."

Arrested in September 2014 and convicted in June 2016, Detrinidad first claimed the encounter was consensual but later admitted he had lied at trial.

Parole commissioners Michael Ruff and Cristina Guerrero reached their decision after 21 minutes of deliberation. They determined that mitigating factors outweighed aggravating ones and that Detrinidad no longer presents an "unreasonable risk" to public safety.

"Our decision in no way excuses his behavior in the life offense where he acknowledges that his actions affected the victim for a significant period of time," Commissioner Ruff stated.

The victim, who spoke at a 2019 hearing, reported lasting harm from the stranger rape. She said she lost her sense of security and doubted whether she would ever regain it.

"I don't know if that's something that I'm ever going to get back... I don't think that he fully understands what his actions have done. I think that he knows what he has to say and what he has to do to get what he wants. But I don't believe that he's remorseful and I don't think he's going to stop," the victim told parole officials.

She moved out of San Francisco in 2016 because she could not stay in the city where the attack took place.

San Francisco prosecutors opposed the release, calling

Continued on page 4

AROUND CALIFORNIA (CONTINUED)

Statewide news

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Parole Board Frees San Francisco Home Invasion Rapist After 11 Years Despite Victim Objections

the assault a "horrific life crime." Deputy District Attorney Andrew Clark noted that Detrinidad had targeted a woman "alone, asleep in her bed" with the intent to rape her.

Former Sacramento District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert criticized the board's action. She pointed out that Detrinidad had not finished meaningful sex-offender programming for years and lacked focused relapse-prevention treatment for sexual violence.

"Why is California releasing violent sex offenders before they've even completed serious treatment for the

crimes that put them in prison?" Schubert questioned in a statement.

The case fits a pattern of early releases advanced during the Newsom administration through expanded good behavior credits, Proposition 57 and pandemic-related policies, which critics say have made thousands of violent offenders, including some murderers, pedophiles and rapists, eligible for

accelerated parole.

Proposition 57 permitted "nonviolent" felons with prior violent convictions to seek early release based only on their most recent charge. Pandemic-era changes made 76,000 inmates eligible for faster parole consideration.

District attorneys across the state have sought explanations for repeated releases of violent criminals over

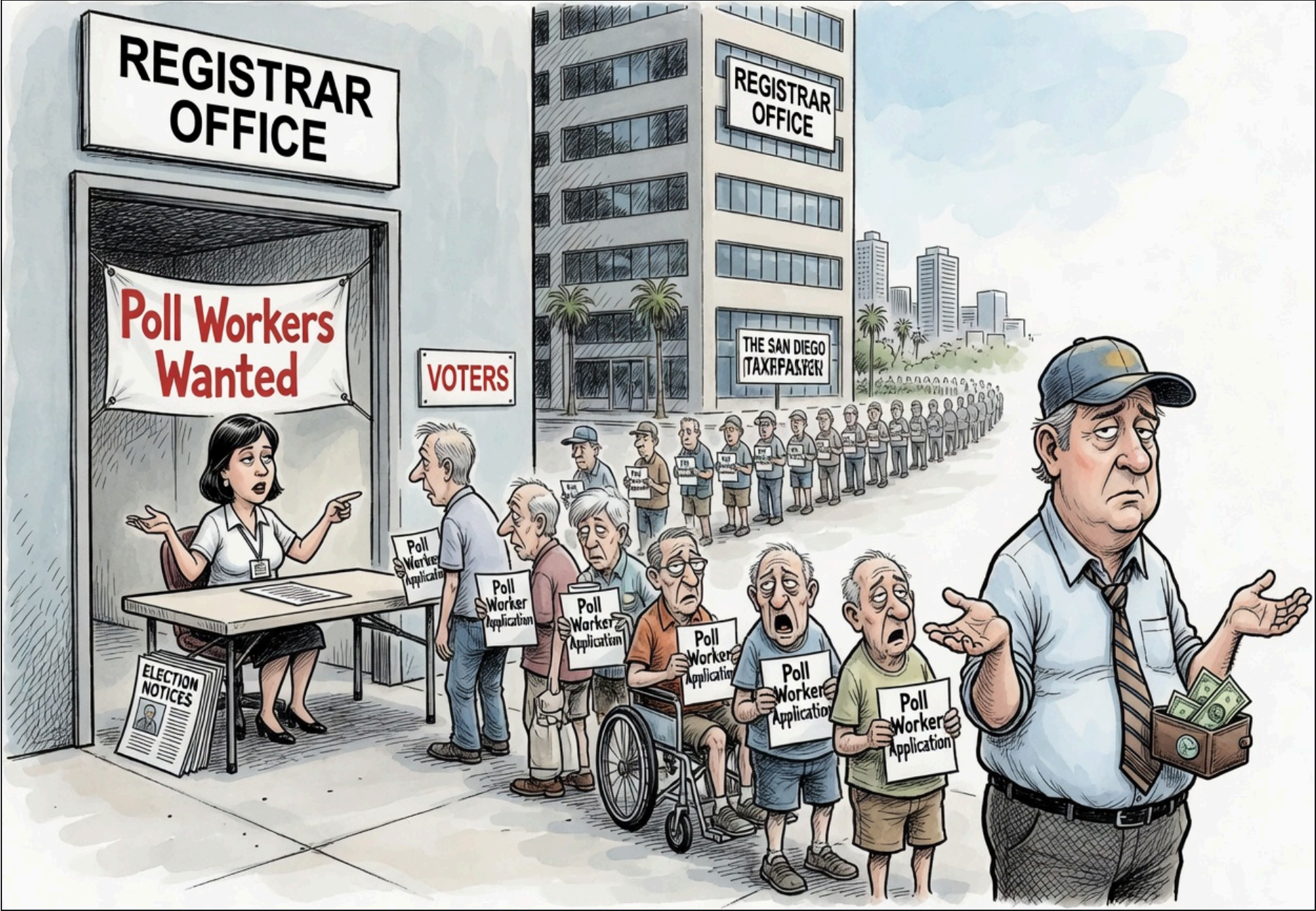
their objections. Courts have occasionally blocked such moves, including decisions involving murderers.

Critics have drawn attention to the balance between prison population reduction and protection of California communities from repeat serious offenders.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Mar 6, 2026

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Help run your election
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.

MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

Rancho Bernardo Welcomes Transit-Friendly Affordable Housing

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and celebration was held Thursday for SkyLINE, a new mixed-use affordable housing development built next to the Rancho Bernardo Transit Center.

The seven story, 100-unit

project sits on a former Metropolitan Transit System parking lot and provides affordable homes for individuals and families earning 30% to 50% of the San Diego area median income . For a family of four, that equals \$41,350 to \$75,790 per year. Units range from one to three bedrooms.

SkyLINE was developed through a public private partnership that includes the

County of San Diego, the City of San Diego, MTS, and Affirmed Housing. The County contributed \$4 million through its Innovative Housing Trust Fund to help finance the project, which will remain affordable long-term.

The development offers residents a range of onsite amenities, including landscaped indoor and outdoor common areas, a children's

play space, community room, learning center with a computer room, barbecue station and two laundry rooms.

More information about SkyLINE is available on the Affirmed website . Join the housing interest list .

Since 2017, the County of San Diego has invested more than \$334 million in affordable housing through excess County land, the Innovative

Housing Trust Fund and other state, federal, and local sources. These investments have created more than 3,445 homes, with another 2,610 currently in development.

More information about the County's housing initiatives is available through the County's Housing Hub .

County of San Diego news release · Mar 6, 2026