

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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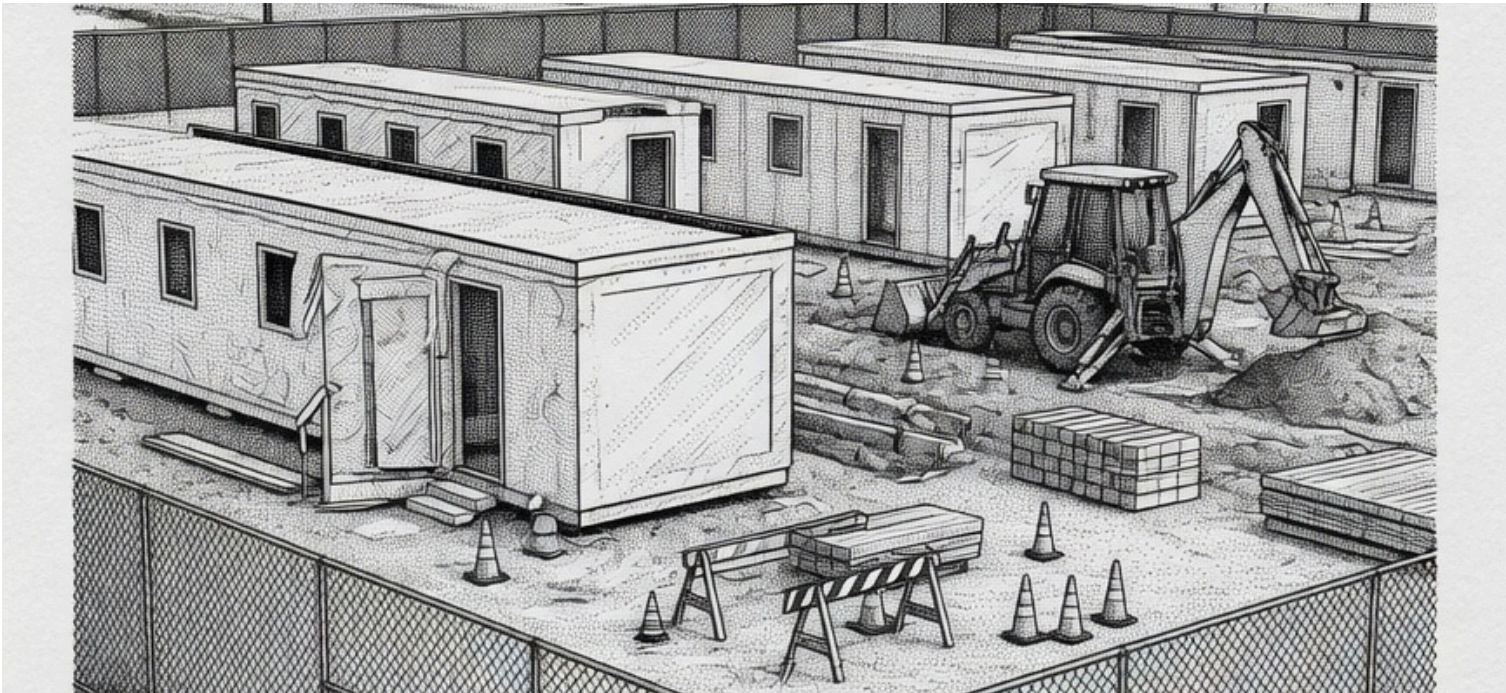
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COUNTY

County Starts Construction on Troy Street Sleeping Cabins



Illustration

The County has begun construction on the Troy Street Sleeping Cabins project in Lemon Grove. The site will provide temporary shelter and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness.

The project is being delivered by the County, with construction performed by a contractor through the Department of General Services.

Over the last two years, County leaders held community sessions and conducted extensive outreach to gather feedback about the programming and design of the Troy Street sleeping cabins. In mid-April, County representatives met with more than 100 nearby businesses and residents to share updates and receive input.

An online site-design meeting in November 2024

A presentation to Lemon Grove City Council in March 2025

Each event was designed to get input from area residents on site layout and operations.

Information about these community meetings is available to the public on the County's Troy Street Sleeping Cabins engagement page .

The Board of Supervisors first supported the Troy Street project in July 2024. In October 2025, the Board approved negotiations to purchase state highway property for the Troy Street site. The project is estimated to cost \$13 million and expected to be completed in the summer of 2027.

The Troy Street project aligns with the County's 2022

Compassionate Emergency Solutions and Pathways to Housing plan , which expands non-congregate shelters like sleeping cabins and safe parking throughout the region.

Sleeping cabins offer privacy, stability and wraparound services, that help residents move toward permanent housing.

To highlight the County's recent work to increase affordable housing options, the County has launched the Housing for All Hub , a central resource for housing services, data and programs. The Hub also features an Affordable Housing Map that shows eligibility guidelines and property information.

Since 2017, the County of San Diego has invested more than \$334 million in affordable housing through strategies such as leveraging 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 2,600 in development.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 28, 2026

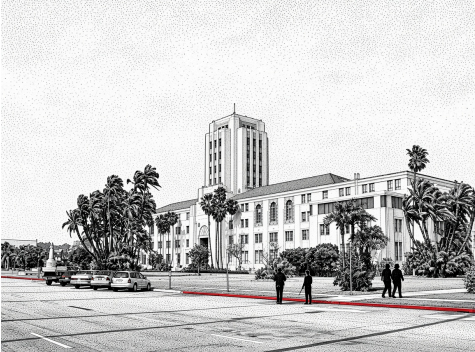


Illustration from a photo by Edward O'Connor (hober) · Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0

COUNTY Poll Workers Needed for June 2 Gubernatorial Primary Election

Residents who want to support their community still have time to sign up as poll workers for the June 2 Gubernatorial Primary Election . Anyone interested should apply by May 15.

Poll workers assist voters and keep vote centers running smoothly. They earn a daily stipend starting at \$145 for their service.

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

Federal law requires the Registrar's office to provide bilingual speakers and voting materials at vote centers 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 of voting.

A stipend of \$145 per day from May

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Poll Workers Needed for June 2 Gubernatorial Primary Election

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 the 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 people with strong leadership and customer service skills, flexibility, patience and integrity. Poll workers must serve voters professionally and without partisanship.

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 · Apr 23, 2026

Voter Information Pamphlets Going Out to Registered Voters for June Gubernatorial Primary Election

Voter information pamphlets are on their way to the County’s more than 2 million registered voters for the June 2 Gubernatorial Primary Election .

Each pamphlet includes voting options, key election deadlines and a sample ballot showing what the official ballot will look like.

Voters will also find a list of official ballot drop boxes and vote centers, or they can view the locations online at sdvote.com.

Residents who signed up to receive the pamphlets electronically should have already received an email with a direct link to their pamphlet. Those who choose this option will no longer receive a paper copy by mail and will instead get an email when the pamphlet is posted online.

Voters who want to receive their pamphlet as soon as it becomes available each election can sign up for electronic delivery. Those who choose this option will no longer receive a paper copy by mail and will instead get

an email when the pamphlet is posted online.

Every active registered voter will receive a ballot by mail and can return it in one of three ways:

At an official Registrar’s ballot drop box, available May 5 through the final day of voting, June 2

Ballots will begin arriving the week of May 4, giving voters nearly a month to mark and return them by the final day of voting on June 2.

In person voting starts Monday, May 4, at the Registrar of Voters office in Kearny Mesa (5600 Overland Ave., San Diego). Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Voters who prefer to cast their ballot in person can visit a vote center beginning May 23 through June 2. Take advantage of early voting to avoid long lines.

May 23 : Select vote centers open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

May 30 : All vote centers open daily, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

June 2 , the final day of voting: All vote centers, official ballot drop boxes and the Registrar’s office are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 24, 2026

COUNTY

County to Pay Community Organizations for Work Not Paid by Contractor in Wake of Fraud Investigation

The County will issue payment to several local organizations who were subcontractors for the Harm Reduction Coalition of San Diego (HRCSD), a former County contractor whose prior Chief Operating Officer is accused of embezzlement.

The County will pay nearly \$150,000 to six subcontractors that did not receive payments for services delivered on behalf of the Harm Reduction Coalition. In these instances, HRCSD never invoiced the County or received payment by the County, and the subcontractors did not receive reimbursement for work performed. While the County’s contract states HRCSD is solely responsible for paying their employees and subcontractors, the County determined some compensation will be issued for work and materials within the scope of the HRCSD contract given the unique circumstances.

All HRCSD subcontractors may also seek victim restitution for additional money they may be owed through the San Diego County District Attorney’s criminal case.

Courts · Transit · Public safety

The Harm Reduction Coalition was responsible for distributing naloxone, an anti-overdose medication, along with drug testing materials. The County ended all contracts with the organization in June 2025.

The County is committed to accountability and is working with an independent auditor to review its overall contracting processes. The auditor is expected to deliver a report with findings and recommendations by the end of May.

Once the independent audit is complete, the County will evaluate the findings and determine additional steps needed to strengthen contracting practices and protect public resources.

The County encourages employees, contractors and the public to report concerns about waste, fraud or abuse. Reports can be made 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the County’s Ethics Hotline at 866-549-0004 as well as online , and to the District Attorney’s Office Public Integrity Unit .

Despite the termination of HRCSD contracts in 2025, the County’s naloxone distribution efforts have continued without interruption to ensure people have access to life-saving resources.

County of San Diego news release · Apr 27, 2026

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



BUSINESS

Member Spotlight – BASK Digital Media

BASK Digital Media is a full-service digital strategy and marketing agency specializing in public affairs efforts, legislative advocacy, ballot measures, and crisis management across the United States. With nearly two decades of experience at every level, from national issues to local initiatives, our team of 30 delivers unmatched speed, precision, and strategic clarity.

Campaign veterans lead every project and combine bold creative, innovative media strategy, and real-time data analytics to persuade audiences and drive impact. Powered by in-house design, development, and media placement teams, BASK offers turnkey solutions including digital advertising, ad production, social media management, grassroots advocacy, email and text marketing, website development,

and comprehensive data integration.

BASK has had the honor of supporting over 450 high-stakes initiatives and campaigns including some of California’s most consequential ballot measures and legislative efforts. We offer our clients turn-key services, meaning they can rely on us to deliver an end-to-end marketing program in a quick turn, fast-paced environment.

BASK doesn’t just execute campaigns, we also build the tools that power them. Our suite of proprietary solutions is designed to enhance performance and deepen engagement. This includes InfluenceEdge™, our proprietary tool to reach key decision makers and policy insiders, as well as AdvoSTORY™, our “share your story” platform that enables advocacy efforts to seamlessly capture grassroots supporter video testimonials.

Streamlined Process. Fast Turnarounds. Comprehensive Strategy. BASK turns complex challenges into real strategies that win.

Website URL: BASKDigital.com Contact Information: hello@baskdigital.com

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

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight – Rivair Apartment Homes

Located in West Mission Valley, Rivair is a brand-new apartment community, consisting of 316 homes, offering studio, 1 and 2 bedroom floor plans in a community designed with high-end finishes, functional spaces, and offering an incredible lifestyle.

Inspired by the natural elements, Rivair was intentionally designed to reflect the balance of water, grounding earth, shimmering lights and open air. From material selections to shared spaces, the community draws influence from its surrounding environment, creating a seamless connection between modern living and the natural landscape that defines Mission Valley. Located across from Fashion Valley Mall, each residence features polished quartz countertops, USB outlets, stainless steel

appliances, and wood-style plank flooring, creating a clean, modern look that doesn’t compromise function. That same thoughtful approach to urban living extends beyond individual homes—where integrated storage and in home washers and dryers support daily routines—to shared spaces designed to encourage interaction and community engagement.

Apartment interiors are further elevated through Rivair’s thoughtfully curated SALT and SAND interior design packages. These two distinctive palettes draw inspiration from coastal textures and natural tones. SALT offering a lighter, airy aesthetic, and SAND embracing warmer, grounded hues. Each package allows residents to choose an interior style that aligns with their personal sense of comfort while maintaining Rivair’s cohesive, design-forward vision.

On-site amenities such as the WATER YARD, which includes a saltwater pool and spa, SUMMIT, a rooftop terrace, and FLUX, a fully equipped fitness center are designed to complement the surrounding neighborhood

rather than compete with it, while its proximity to Fashion Valley Mall and Fashion Valley Transit Center puts the city’s best dining, shopping, and nightlife within easy reach. Rivair also incorporates energy-efficient systems across the community for responsible resource management, demonstrated by its LEED Gold certification.

A strong focus on community is at the core of Rivair’s approach to San Diego living. Throughout the year, the on-site team hosts events such as social gatherings, cooking classes, and networking mixers to foster connections and help residents feel more at home. These efforts, paired with attentive service and clear communication, help create an environment that feels welcoming, responsive, and well cared for.

Rivair is proud to be part of the Mission Valley community and to play a meaningful role in the continued growth and vitality of San Diego’s central corridor. More information is available at https://www.rivairapartmenthomes.com/.

Find your element at Rivair Apartment Homes.

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Member Spotlight – Rivair Apartment Homes

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

AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide news

CALIFORNIA

Voter ID Measure Qualifies for California Ballot After Collecting Over 1 Million Signatures

State officials certified the initiative, which would require photo identification to vote, verification of citizenship for registered voters, and accurate voter rolls, as backers highlight broad public support.

California election officials have certified that the Voter ID Initiative gathered enough valid signatures to appear on the November 2026 ballot.

The measure would change the state constitution to mandate that voters show identification at the polls, require election officials to verify the citizenship of registered voters, and keep voter lists up to date.

Assemblyman Carl DeMaio, a Republican from San Diego who sponsored the initiative through his group Reform California, called the qualification a significant step.

DeMaio and Assemblyman Bill Essayli, a Republican from Riverside, had previously announced their backing for both qualifying the measure and seeing it approved by voters.

A coalition of elected officials and campaign groups also voiced support, pointing to surveys that indicate strong approval across party lines.

According to the backers, polling reveals a super-majority of Republicans and independents in favor, along with a majority of Democratic voters.

National surveys have

consistently shown similar results, with one Gallup poll from October 2024 finding that 84 percent of Americans support requiring photo identification at polling places.

That same survey showed 83 percent favor demanding proof of citizenship for first-time voter registration.

DeMaio issued a statement after the certification, saying the initiative offers "a common-sense and bipartisan way to restore the trust and confidence all voters should have in our election system."

He added that it "simply holds government officials accountable to maintain accurate voter lists and verify the identity of individuals casting ballots in our elections."

DeMaio noted that other states with voter identification rules have recorded higher election participation, including among minority voters.

He pointed out that "over 70 percent of voters, including a majority of Democrat voters, support the initiative," and that "nearly half of the 1.35 million signatures we collected to put this common-sense reform on the ballot came from Democrats and Independents."

The initiative backers submitted 1.35 million signatures earlier this year to reach the qualification threshold.

Julie Luckey, director of Californians for Voter ID, highlighted that 36 states already have some form of identification requirement for voting.

She said every European country requires photo

identification for in-person voting, and the practice is standard in nations such as Canada, Japan, South Korea, India, Mexico, Brazil and South Africa.

Luckey stated that "support for voter ID laws transcends party lines" and "it's a global norm."

She added that "California needs to modernize its elections to align with the vast majority of the world's democracies."

Proponents argue the changes would improve election integrity without suppressing turnout, citing evidence from states that have adopted similar rules.

Self-described “voter rights” groups have claimed voter ID requirements make it harder for married women to vote because getting new ID after marriage is too difficult, but backers say this has been refuted by most married women.

The qualification sets the stage for a campaign focused on convincing California voters to approve the measure in the November 2026 election.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Apr 24, 2026

CALIFORNIA

Sacramento City Council Reaffirms Limits on Federal Immigration Enforcement at Local Sites

The non-binding measure directs staff to draft policies barring use of city property for immigration arrests, a step critics call redundant in a sanctuary city since 1985.

Sacramento city leaders

voted Tuesday to reinforce longstanding restrictions on federal immigration officers using municipal buildings or land for enforcement actions.

According to city staff, the resolution calls for prohibiting such activities on city facilities and instructs the city manager to create supporting policies across all departments.

The Law and Legislation committee cited recent and anticipated expansions in federal immigration enforcement as the reason for bringing forward the resolution, though the action does not alter state or federal law.

The measure reaffirms existing local policy and notes the economic contributions of immigrants in construction and food sectors, according to the resolution text.

The resolution states that immigrants make up a significant share of the city’s population and that Sacramento has long welcomed people of diverse backgrounds and immigration status.

Because the document is a resolution rather than an ordinance, it carries no legal force over federal agents operating under national immigration statutes.

It also restates support for free speech rights of demonstrators opposing federal enforcement and restricts cooperation by local police with immigration officers.

The city first declared itself a sanctuary jurisdiction in 1985 under then-Mayor Anne Rudin, and the City Council unanimously updated related policies in January 2026.

Former Assemblyman and current Mayor Kevin McCarty

attended the meeting but left the chamber before the vote, a move sometimes used to avoid placing a position on one’s record.

Council members Mai Vang, Eric Guerra and Karina Talamantes sponsored the latest resolution, which specifically targets civil immigration enforcement on public property.

The action follows California’s Senate Bill 54, passed in 2017, that bars local law enforcement from aiding federal immigration agents in many circumstances.

The source article questions the value of revisiting a policy already on the books, especially when the resolution changes little on the ground and consumes meeting time.

City officials maintain the step helps immigrant families remain in Sacramento and protects the diverse workforce that supports key local industries.

Critics described the vote as largely symbolic virtue signaling with no practical effect on federal operations.

The council’s focus on this issue comes amid broader debates over public safety, homelessness and infrastructure that directly affect city residents’ daily lives and budgets.

With Sacramento operating under a Democratic supermajority, some voters have urged leaders to prioritize enforcement of laws protecting legal residents over additional declarations on immigration.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Apr 29, 2026

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COMMENTARY

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

COMMENTARY
California Overstated Its Budget Deficit by \$2 Billion, Which Is Positive News

An accounting error actually left the state with more available funds than previously reported.

Last week’s revelation of a roughly \$2 billion miscalculation in Governor Gavin Newsom’s January budget should be viewed as encouraging rather than alarming.

The mistake involved pension contributions to CalPERS and was first identified in February by the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office. While legislative leaders were aware, the public only learned of the issue in April.

The error consisted of a \$1.6 billion double-count of retirement contribution rates along with an additional \$450 million miscalculation on

future payments. This led officials to overstate expenses.

As a result, the projected shortfall for fiscal year 2026–27 is actually smaller than what the governor’s budget indicated. California possesses more resources than the administration initially stated.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office itself noted that the miscalculation “overstated state costs by roughly \$2 billion, making the deficit appear larger than it actually is.”

This development proved awkward for the administration, which had spent months highlighting a \$2.9 billion shortfall and considering difficult reductions despite knowing internally that part of that figure was not real.

Lawmakers who learned of the issue in February should have made it public at that

time. The lack of openness deserves criticism and the Department of Finance’s characterization of the issue as “a revision” rather than an error is questionable.

Later developments made the delay in disclosure even less necessary. State revenues have exceeded the January projections consistently since the budget’s release.

Through March, the State Controller’s figures showed General Fund receipts running \$7.9 billion, or 4.8 percent, above the forecast, with personal income tax collections alone \$4.1 billion higher. The trend has continued into April, the state’s largest revenue period.

When the May budget revision is released, the CalPERS adjustment will form only a minor element of an overall favorable financial picture.

Certain conservative news

outlets have framed the story inaccurately. One prominent article compared the situation to “Omar’s Accountant” and suggested leaders were concealing unfavorable information, but the error made the deficit seem worse, not better.

Several syndicated reports implied that officials were hiding the true size of a shortfall to justify spending cuts, when in reality they withheld data that weakened the argument for those reductions.

Other headlines accused the administration of “cooking the books” or committing “fraud,” descriptions that are inappropriate because the mistake portrayed the state’s finances as weaker than they were.

None of this excuses the delay in informing the public and lawmakers. Officials allowed debate over spending reductions to proceed in

March based on figures they privately understood to be inaccurate.

That lack of prompt correction represents a genuine shortcoming and provides legitimate grounds for criticism on transparency.

The administration should have updated the official record immediately after the Legislative Analyst’s Office raised the issue.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Apr 23, 2026

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.

SAN DIEGO NEWSLINE

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