

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

Adopt a New Best Friend on June 6



Illustration

County Animal Services is waving adoption fees this Saturday, June 6, as part of California's Adopt-a-Pet Day —giving people across the region a chance to welcome a new cat, dog or other new best friend into their home.

The County is joining CalAnimals, the San Francisco SPCA and the ASPCA in a statewide effort to find loving homes for 5,000 pets. Last year, the campaign came close, with 4,979 adoptions.

Browse adoptable pets online and visit the County's shelters in Bonita and Carlsbad from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Bonita Shelter: 5821 Sweetwater Road, Bonita, CA 91902

Carlsbad Shelter: 2481 Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad, CA 92011

County Animal Services partners with more than 300 rescue groups and community members to help every healthy, adoptable animal find a foster or forever home. Staff work closely with adopters to support a good match and a long-lasting bond.

The County also offers year-round services for pet owners including low-cost microchip, rabies vaccination clinics with no appointment needed, and resources on training, safety and

preparedness. All animals adopted from County shelters are

spayed or neutered to reduce pet overpopulation.

If you've been thinking about adding a furry, feathered or oinking friend to the family, June 6 is the ideal day to visit. Your new best buddy may be waiting for you.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 3, 2026



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

COUNTY

Gubernatorial Primary Election Results – When to Expect Them

On election night, campaigns, candidates and voters are eager for timely election results. However, counting ballots takes time to ensure every ballot is valid and properly counted. Several factors contribute to the duration of the ballot counting process:

More than 2 million ballots were mailed to active San Diego County registered voters and many choose to return them to vote centers or official ballot drop boxes on Election Day.

Ballots returned by mail can be counted if they are postmarked by Election Day, June 2, and received within seven days.

Residents who are eligible but missed the registration deadline may conditionally register and vote with a provisional ballot through 8 p.m. on Election Day.

To follow the latest election night results, visit sdvote.com or follow the Registrar of Voters on X (formerly Twitter).

The first set of unofficial election night results will be posted shortly after 8 p.m. This report will include mail ballots received before Election Day, as well as vote center ballots cast during early voting from May 23 through June 1.

Following the initial set of unofficial results, the remaining election night

reports will only include ballots cast at vote centers on Election Day. No additional mail ballots will be included on election night.

After the vote centers close at 8 p.m., there will be a brief period before the next set of results are posted as poll workers secure and transport ballots to the Registrar's office from over 200 vote centers across the county.

Once received, the vote center ballots will be scanned, and added to the results with periodic updates until all vote center ballots have been counted. The final unofficial election night results may take until midnight or later and will only include the addition of Election Day vote center ballots that are eligible for immediate counting.

Ballot counting continues after election night. Outstanding categories include:

Ballots dropped off at vote centers, official ballot drop boxes, or picked up from the U.S. Postal Service on Election Day.

Mail ballots postmarked by Election Day, June 2, and received up to seven days after.

All mail ballots go through the signature verification process of comparing the signature on the envelope to the signature on file before it can be counted.

Residents who were eligible but missed the registration deadline conditionally registered and voted a provisional ballot.

The voter's eligibility of each provisional ballot must be confirmed prior to being counted.

The Registrar's office cannot predict how many eligible unregistered residents will choose this option.

After election night, additional unofficial election results will be posted on the following schedule:

Additional updates are at the Registrar's discretion.

The Registrar's office will be closed on June 19 in observance of Juneteenth.

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Gubernatorial Primary Election Results – When to Expect Them

By law, election results must be certified by July 2. All results remain unofficial until certification is complete. The Registrar of Voters expects to utilize the full certification period to ensure every legally cast ballot is counted efficiently and accurately.

Updates will be posted on sdvote.com and the final certified results will be available by July 2.

Learn more at sdvote.com, or call (858) 565-5800 or toll free at (800) 696-0136.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 2, 2026

COUNTY

Tuesday is the Last Day to Vote in June Gubernatorial Primary

Tuesday is the final day to cast your ballot in the June Gubernatorial Primary Election. Voters can still vote early today at one of over 200 vote centers across San Diego County or drop off their mail ballot at an official ballot drop box.

All vote centers and drop boxes will be open on Election Day, Tuesday, June 2, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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

Voters who are not yet registered but want to participate may visit any vote center

to conditionally register and cast a provisional ballot.

Once the Registrar processes the registration and confirms the voter did not vote elsewhere in the state, the registration becomes active and the ballot will be counted.

Residents can use the Registrar’s online map to find nearby vote centers and check estimated wait times.

Check in, sign the electronic roster and vote in person using a ballot marking device or the ballot mailed to them.

Receive accessibility support and voting materials in multiple languages.

Register to vote or update their voter registration and vote on the same day.

Voters using the ballot marking device will print their official ballot, review it, place it in a secrecy sleeve and give it to a poll worker, who will deposit it in the ballot box for counting at the Registrar’s office.

The ballot marking device does not store, tabulate or count votes.

To save time, voters are encouraged to review their voter information pamphlet and mark their sample ballot ahead of their visit.

As the last day of voting approaches, the Registrar encourages voters to return their ballot at a vote center or an official ballot drop box.

Registrar staff collect ballots from drop boxes daily to ensure quick and secure

delivery.

To return a ballot at an official drop box, voters should:

Seal the ballot in the postage-paid return envelope.

Date and sign the envelope—your signature is required for the ballot to count.

Drop the envelope at any official San Diego County ballot drop box.

Voters returning a ballot by mail must ensure it is postmarked on or before June 2 and received within seven days.

Ballots delivered to vote centers or official drop boxes must be returned by 8 p.m. on Election Day. Voters using the U.S. Postal Service can sign up for ballot tracking to follow their ballot through the process.

Campaigning or electioneering within 100 feet of a vote center or official ballot drop box is prohibited. This includes displaying or sharing information that advocates for or against any contests on the ballot and circulating petitions, including those for initiatives, referenda, recall or candidate nominations.

For more information on your voting options, visit sdvote.com or call 858-565-5800 or 800-696-0136 .

County of San Diego news release · Jun 1, 2026

COUNTY

Residents Gathered for County Budget Open House

County residents gathered to learn more about the

County’s \$9.15 billion recommended budget at an Open House at the County Operations Center Thursday night.

County officials invited the public to come to the event to give them more information, and to let them pose questions and voice their opinions about the recommended budget that was released May 18.

The County also held a virtual Zoom meeting with the same information on Wednesday night, May 27, for people who could not attend Thursday’s open house.

Thursday evening’s open house was held inside and outside the Chambers at the County Operations Center with information for adults and even fun things to see for children.

The open house featured informational posters, tables manned by staff from County departments, a San Diego County Fire truck and ambulance, the County Department of Public Works first Electric Vehicle street sweeper, a County Library outreach van, and even a County Parks and Recreation “discovery table” where children could see and touch animal furs and learn about our local environment.

People learned more about what services the County provides, how the budget was created, where funding comes from, and were shown proposed numbers for budget priorities.

Those priorities included behavioral health, public

Courts · Transit · Public safety

safety, housing and homelessness, infrastructure, support for vulnerable populations and environmental sustainability.

Participate in a Public Hearing on the Recommended Budget

The County Board of Supervisors is set to officially open the public hearing on the Recommended Budget at 5 p.m. Monday, June 1, and to deliberate and adopt a new budget June 25. To learn how to participate in Board meeting, whether by attending in person or watching online, go to the Clerk of the Board’s website .

The County delivers programs and services that reach nearly all of the county’s 3.3 million residents across the unincorporated areas, the 18 incorporated cities and 18 federally recognized tribes.

In the unincorporated area, County government provides day-to-day services that a city government typically provides, including law enforcement, roads, building permits, animal services, parks and libraries. Some cities also contract with the County for these services.

Regionwide, the County also oversees emergency preparedness, criminal prosecution and detention, food and financial assistance programs, behavioral health services, public health programs, restaurant inspections, elections and beach water monitoring.

County of San Diego news release · May 29, 2026

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: Episcopal Community Services

Inside Linda’s Mental Health Recovery at Uptown Safe Haven

Before Uptown Safe Haven, Linda lost everything. Her car was destroyed in a flood, forcing her to drop out of school. Then, she experienced a period of psychosis, which led to a traumatizing pattern of crisis houses and hospitals. As a result, she lost her source of income and was even asked to leave her beloved choir. Linda was homeless, with nowhere to turn.

That’s when she found ECS Uptown Safe Haven (UTSH).

UTSH welcomed Linda into

a safe and supportive environment. She had stayed in independent living facilities before, but they were plagued with fights and drug activity. “I was doubtful,” she said. “I was expecting it to be the same thing...but I was wrong.”

This time, she was comfortable, safe, and above all, given the tools to flourish. Living at Uptown Safe Haven allowed Linda to regain control of her life.

Linda with UTSH Program Manager Raul, whose advocacy played a role in her mental health recovery. May 2026.

She achieved goals that once seemed impossible. Now, after nearly two years with no transportation, Linda has a car. She has an income source. She even has a dog—Bam Bam— who ensures she will never be alone again. And with the support and advocacy from Raul, UTSH’s Program Manager, Linda has also been welcomed back to

the choir where she now sings and writes poetry with an incredible community of fellow artists.

Reflecting on her experience at UTSH thus far, she explained, “Having a place that’s peaceful and stable and supportive makes it possible for you to actually move forward.” This is the combined impact of accessible resources, a safe environment, and dedicated staff committed to walking with clients on their journey of healing.

Episcopal Community Services’ Uptown Safe Haven provides Linda with a safe space to heal her trauma while building a stable foundation for a future where she can thrive.

UTSH helped Linda find peace, comfort, and space to work toward stability. October 2026.

To learn more about the transitional housing program, visit Uptown Safe Haven — Episcopal Community Services .

Questions? Contact VP of Strategic Engagement, Adrienne Wilkerson, at awilkerson@ecscalifornia.org .

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · May 28, 2026

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight: American Heart Association San Diego Heart Walk

In a heartbeat, you could be the difference.

The American Heart Association’s San Diego Heart Walk brings communities together to create health and hope for every heartbeat. Every walker who joins, every dollar donated, means more people trained in CPR, more research and more lifesaving moments for everyone.

The readiness of our community to perform CPR could mean the difference between life and death for someone you know or even love. In San

Diego and across the country, cardiac arrest remains a leading cause of death, with 9 out of 10 people who experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital not surviving. Often, this is because bystander CPR was not performed.

By joining the San Diego Heart Walk, you can help change these outcomes. Hands-Only CPR is a simple skill that can make an extraordinary difference. CPR, especially when administered immediately, can double or even triple a person’s chance of survival. And because nearly 70% of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home, the person needing help is most likely a family member or close friend.

The San Diego Heart Walk is more than a community event. It supports education, promotes healthier lifestyles, helping to prevent heart disease and stroke and funds lifesaving research.

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Member Spotlight:
American Heart
Association San Diego
Heart Walk

Extraordinary things hap-
pen when people take action.
A small step. A simple skill. A
lifesaving moment.

Extraordinary things hap-
pen when people take action.
Join the movement on
Saturday, September 19 th at
Balboa Park. Sign up at

SDHeartWalk.org or contact
Jessica Flora at
Jessica.Flora@heart.org for
more information.

San Diego Regional Chamber of
Commerce news release · May 27,
2026

AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide newsy

CALIFORNIA

Lawsuit Targets
873,000 Inactive Voter
Records in California
Ahead of Primary

Judicial Watch accuses the
Secretary of State of failing to
maintain accurate rolls as
required by federal law, citing
minimal removals in many
counties despite heavy out-
migration.

On the eve of California’s June
2 primary election, a conser-
vative watchdog group filed a
federal lawsuit claiming the
state has left hundreds of
thousands of outdated regis-
trations on its voter lists.

The action names Secretary
of State Shirley N. Weber as
defendant and was brought
on behalf of Orange County
Supervisor Don Wagner and
the American Independent
Party of California.

State records show more
than 23 million people are
currently registered to vote.

According to the

complaint, 873,092 registra-
tions have been marked inac-
tive yet remain on the rolls
after multiple federal election
cycles.

The filing states that
326,608 of those have sat inac-
tive for at least three consecu-
tive federal elections, roughly
six years, while 151,202 have
lingered for four cycles and
33,922 for five or more.

Some of the registrations
date back before the 2016
presidential contest.

Judicial Watch President
Tom Fitton warned of a “dirty
voting rolls crisis” with
“thousands of old names on
the rolls going back at least 10
years.”

Fitton added, “Dirty voting
rolls can mean dirty
elections.”

He called on California and
its counties to take immedi-
ate steps to remove the more
than 870,000 inactive names
from the voter lists.

The suit relies on data from

the U.S. Election Assistance
Commission and earlier court
records.

Between November 2022
and November 2024, twenty
California counties each re-
moved 50 or fewer inactive
voters under key provisions
of the National Voter
Registration Act.

Ten of those counties, in-
cluding Alpine, Imperial,
Inyo, Kings, Mariposa,
Mendocino, Plumas, San
Bernardino, Tehama and
Trinity, removed none at all.

Those ten counties together
maintain more than 3.4 mil-
lion registrations but
recorded just 218 cancella-
tions during the two-year
span.

By comparison, San Diego
County removed more than
300,000 inactive registrations
in the same period.

Census figures cited in the
complaint show heavy popu-
lation loss, with 660,000 resi-
dents departing in 2024,

690,000 in 2023 and 818,000 in
2022.

Judicial Watch argues that
such low removal totals,
along with 18 counties report-
ing more registered voters
than voting-age residents ac-
cording to Census estimates,
violate the federal law’s re-
quirement for reasonable ef-
forts to strike ineligible
names caused by death or
relocation.

The group has secured
voter-roll cleanups in multi-
ple states, resulting in more
than six million ineligible
names being removed
nationwide.

Previous Judicial Watch liti-
gation produced a 2019 settle-
ment with California and Los
Angeles County that led to
the deletion of more than 1.2
million registrations.

The current lawsuit does
not claim specific instances
of fraud.

Instead, it contends that
the structural problems

practically invite misuse, par-
ticularly because every regis-
tered voter receives a ballot
by mail.

Wagner, a Republican can-
didate challenging Weber for
Secretary of State, has
promised tighter oversight if
elected.

State officials have previ-
ously defended their mainte-
nance procedures.

Yet repeated legal actions,
county-level inaction on re-
movals and other reported in-
cidents have kept concerns
about election accuracy alive
among taxpayers who fund
the system.

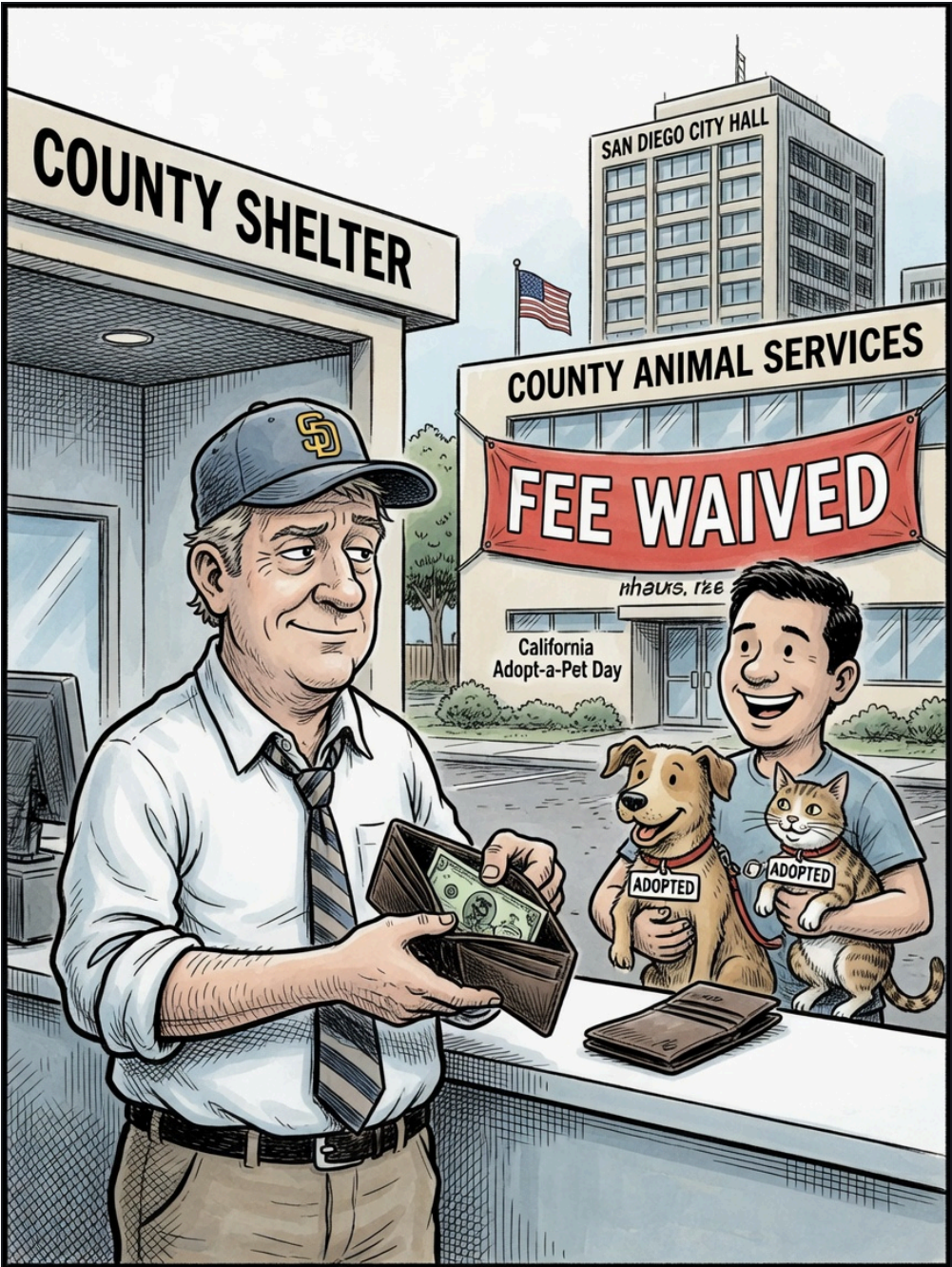
The primary features con-
tests for governor, Los
Angeles mayor and Secretary
of State.

Judicial Watch maintains
that enforcing the National
Voter Registration Act is a le-
gal duty, not a partisan issue.

San Diego Newsline · Based on
reporting by California Globe · Jun 1,
2026

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Free adoptions June 6 — a rare break for taxpayers and their new best friends

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

California’s Proposed Wealth Tax Poses a Threat Far Beyond Billionaires, Argues Policy Center

The California Policy Center warns that a new ballot measure could pave the way for broad asset seizures that eventually target middle-class homeowners.

California residents who own any significant property should be concerned about an upcoming ballot initiative, according to the California Policy Center.

The organization contends that the measure, officially titled the “One-Time Wealth Tax for State-Funded Healthcare, Education, and Food Assistance Programs Initiative,” appears more limited than it actually is.

Edward Ring, director of water and energy policy at the California Policy Center, writes that the proposal has already prompted several wealthy individuals to leave the state.

Among those who relocated to Florida in 2025 are Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin as well as PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel, the Center notes.

Billionaire Don Hankey moved to Nevada, former Uber CEO Travis Kalanick went to Texas, and director Steven Spielberg chose New York, according to the Center.

Ring reports that the departure of these six men alone has reduced the potential revenue from the tax by an estimated \$27 billion.

A Hoover Institution study cited by the Center claims another 20 California billionaires plan to exit immediately if voters approve the measure.

The initiative would apply retroactively to anyone residing in California after January 1, 2026, the Center explains, though legal experts believe the retroactivity clause may not withstand court scrutiny.

Other elements of the proposal, however, are likely to survive legal challenges and demonstrate what Ring calls “a stunning level of aggression toward wealth.”

If passed, the measure would impose a 5 percent “one-time” tax on “covered assets” exceeding \$1 billion for California residents.

Those covered assets would include unrealized gains on stock held by employees of private companies, according

to the Center.

Ring argues that private company valuations are “subjective, volatile, and illiquid,” potentially forcing individuals to pay taxes on paper wealth they cannot access and that might later collapse in value.

The commentary warns that the initiative contains language allowing the state legislature to amend its terms with a two-thirds vote.

Such changes could include reducing the \$1 billion threshold, converting the tax from “one-time” to annual, and removing current exemptions for real estate and retirement accounts.

Ring writes that the wording appears deliberately crafted to let lawmakers override property tax safeguards established by Proposition 13 in 1978.

He asserts it is unrealistic to believe the legislature could not secure a two-thirds majority to expand the tax’s reach to “millionaires,” a category that includes many longtime homeowners in California.

The Center points out that Democrats hold 75 percent of seats in both legislative chambers and that public

sector unions dominate campaign contributions.

These unions, according to Ring, operate under the principle that larger government leads to increased membership and higher dues revenue.

To build support for expanded government, the legislature has enacted regulations that have made essential services such as energy, water, transportation, higher education and housing increasingly expensive, the Center maintains.

As a result, millions of households turned to government assistance, with food aid participants rising from 3.7 million to 5.5 million and Medi-Cal enrollment jumping from 7 million to 15 million between 2010 and 2025, even as the state’s population grew by only about 1.5 million.

During the same period the state’s general fund ballooned from \$87 billion to \$228 billion, more than doubling in real terms while population remained nearly flat, the Center reports.

Nearly 10 million residents left California for other states between 2010 and 2025, leaving a population increasingly divided between high-income

earners who can afford the costs and low-income individuals reliant on aid.

The state’s Gini coefficient of 0.49 places it near the top for income inequality nationwide, a situation Ring attributes not to billionaires but to the very policies promoted by state politicians.

The California Policy Center concludes that California’s approach amounts to overregulating the economy to create dependency on government support, then winning elections by promising more of that support.

This pattern, the Center warns, is unsustainable and risks spreading progressive policies to the rest of the nation if not checked.

San Diego Newsline · Based on commentary published by the California Policy Center · Jun 3, 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.

MORE NEWS

Downtown, City & County

COUNTY

Public Hearing on County’s \$9.15 Billion Budget Set for Monday, June 1

San Diego County residents can share their input on the County’s new \$9.15 billion recommended budget during a public hearing at 5 p.m., Monday, June 1 at the County Administration Center at 1600 Pacific Highway in San Diego.

Supervisors will receive a presentation on the proposed budget and take public comments.

The spending plan has been open for public review and online feedback since May 18. The official comment period runs until 5 p.m. Thursday, June 11, and people can submit comments until then at Engage San Diego County.

Information about how to participate in Monday’s meeting, either in person, by phone or online, is available on the Clerk of the Board’s website .

This week, the public was also invited to two budget meetings, one virtual Zoom meeting on Wednesday May 27 and an open house Thursday evening at the County Operations Center.

County officials say the

recommended budget is 6% larger than the current spending plan and aims to maintain stability while investing in essential services and meeting growing community needs.

Balancing the Fiscal Year 2026-27 budget required strategic choices due to uncertain state and federal revenues — which account for nearly half of all County funding — and because growth in local revenue streams have not kept pace with the overall cost of business.

To recalibrate and prepare for challenges ahead, the recommended budget includes cost-saving measures, a reduced facilities footprint and staff shifts to meet evolving responsibilities. Officials said these adjustments helped avoid layoffs.

Community input has shaped the recommended budget through surveys, focus groups, emails, calls and more. The full document, along summaries is available on the San Diego County Budget page .

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federally recognized tribes.

In the unincorporated area, County government provides day-to-day services a city government typically provides, including law enforcement, roads, building permits, animal services, parks and libraries. Some cities also contract with the County for these services.

Regionwide, the County also oversees emergency preparedness, criminal prosecution and detention, food and financial assistance programs, behavioral health services, public health programs, restaurant inspections, elections and beach water monitoring.

County of San Diego news release · May 28, 2026

COUNTY

New Jacumba Fire Station Breaks Ground, Boosting Rural Emergency Services

The County has broken ground on a new fire station in Jacumba, launching construction on a modern facility that County Fire and CAL FIRE say will significantly improve emergency response for the rural community. The new Fire Station 43 is expected to open in 2027.

The 7,100-square-foot building will support fire and medical crews serving Jacumba, nearby backcountry areas, and travelers along Interstate 8 and Old Highway 80. County leaders say the upgraded facility will help crews respond faster and more effectively across the region.

“This fire station is pivotal to the protection of the backcountry,” said District Two County Supervisor Joel Anderson. “It is essential that we continue to invest in fire stations like this one to protect and support our communities.”

CAL FIRE San Diego Unit Chief Tony Mecham said the station strengthens both fire and medical services in a region where emergency resources are limited.

“We have a simple oath to serve our communities and this fire station will give us the ability to do that for many years to come,” Mecham said. “While people see firefighting as our primary mission, in a rural area like this one, we are also a primary health provider. We deliver pre-hospital and emergency medical care. The new Fire Station 43 will allow our crews to do that more efficiently and effectively.”

County Fire Director Jeff Collins said the project reflects a long-standing commitment to strengthening service to Jacumba and supports the community’s revitalization effort.

“Jacumba is remarkable for its history, small-town character and natural environment,” Collins said. “And the new fire station will meet the community’s expectation while enhancing the safety and resilience of the area.”

The new facility will include two truck bays, a lobby, office, six dorm rooms, restrooms, kitchen, dining room, day room, and gym. Solar panels and battery storage help power the station, supporting the County’s sustainability goals.

Sustainability is a central focus for the project. The station is designed to meet LEED Gold standards and achieve Zero Net Energy performance, producing as much energy as it consumes each year.

The land for Fire Station 43 was donated by SolaREIT in connection with a solar project now under construction nearby.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 3, 2026