

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's \$9.16B Budget Heads to the Board for Final Review Thursday, June 25



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The San Diego County Board of Supervisors will deliberate and may adopt the County's \$9.16 billion revised recommended budget when they meet at 9 a.m., Thursday, June 25.

The public can take part in person at the County Administration Center or watch online on the County News Center or on television on their providers local government channels. Adoption may continue to Friday, June 26, if additional time is needed to identify funding sources or otherwise balance the budget.

A Stable Budget Focused on Core Services and Community Needs

The revised recommended fiscal year 2026-27 budget is \$522 million, or 6.1% larger than the County's current budget. If adopted, it will take effect July 1.

County officials say the proposed budget maintains stability, protects core services and responds to growing community needs. The values-centered proposed budget was shaped through close collaboration among community members, the Board of Supervisors and its ad hoc subcommittees. It strengthens core services, including:

Public safety to meet Proposition 36 responsibilities

Health and safety-net programs affected by federal policy changes under H.R. 1.

Maintains investments in homelessness response, public health,

infrastructure, libraries and parks

Dedicates resources to address the pollution crisis in the Tijuana River Valley.

Careful Choices in Challenging Environment

Balancing the FY 2026-27 budget required strategic adjustments, as state and federal revenues— nearly half of all the County's funding—remain uncertain. Revenue streams have not kept pace with the overall growth in the cost of doing business, prompting the County to leverage recalibration strategies.

To recalibrate and prepare for the challenges ahead, the proposed budget incorporates new efficiencies, reduces costs, shrinks the County's facilities footprint, and shifts staff to address evolving responsibilities — all while avoiding layoffs.

The County released a \$9.15 billion recommended budget May 18 after extensive community collaboration. A revised version, adding \$3.85 million in adjustments, was released June 12 following an 11-day public comment period and recommendations from the County Chief Administrative Officer.

Community input came through open houses, on-line comments and in-person feedback sessions.

The County serves 3.3 million residents across unincorporated areas, 18 incorporated cities and 18 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 oversees emergency preparedness, criminal prosecution and detention, food and financial assistance, behavioral health services, public health programs, restaurant inspections, elections and beach water monitoring.

The Board of Supervisors meeting will be held in room 310 at the County Administration Center located at 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA. 92101.

Speak during the meeting by signing up to give a comment in person or remotely

Meeting agendas are posted at least 72 hours in advance, with instructions on how to join, speak, send comments or request request interpretation or accessibility assistance .

County of San Diego news release · Jun 22, 2026

DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY



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COUNTY

Summer Safety Tips for San Diego County Families

Families across San Diego County are enjoying more time outdoors, traveling or trying to beat the heat. While the season offers plenty of chances for fun, the warmer months pose a higher risk of preventable injuries.

“There are many great ways for families to enjoy summer together, but this time of year also brings safety risks,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalilopavan, County Public Health Officer.” Following important safety tips can help prevent injuries and hospital visits, making summer more enjoyable.”

To help keep families safe, the County is sharing essential summer safety tips focuses on water safety, heat safety, window safety, travel vaccines, bike and e-bike safety and pet care.

With more time spent at pools, beaches and bays, water safety is critical. Drownings can happen quickly and often without warning.

County data from 2016 – 2024 shows 346 drowning deaths and more than 1,500 near drownings. In 2024 alone, 35 people died from drowning, and nearly all of near drownings involved children ages 0 to 9 years.

Always designate a responsible adult supervising children at all times around water.

Empty kiddie pools and buckets after use.

Find more resources at sdswwimsafer.org .

High temperatures can be dangerous and lead to heat-related illness, stroke or even death. Signs of overheating include exhaustion, dizziness, nausea, confusion and headache. Children and older adults are especially at risk.

Stay safe by:

Staying in air-conditioned spaces during peak heat.

Drinking plenty of water and avoiding alcohol and sugary drinks.

Never leaving children, older adults or pets in a vehicle.

Visit County Cool Zones to find for free air-conditioned relief at libraries, community centers and other locations.

The summer heat often means more open windows, which can be dangerous for young children. Prevent window-related injuries by:

Keeping windows closed and locked when young kids are present.

Supervising children near windows, balconies and patios.

If traveling, especially internationally, confirm children are up to date on the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. Contact your healthcare provider or visit a County public health center if you need assistance.

Wearing properly fitted helmets when riding a bike, scooter or skateboard, including the right type of helmet for the device.

Checking e-bikes for compliance with local regulations.

Ensuring riders understand how to operate their device.

Pets are part of the family too. Keep them safe by:

Walking dogs early and staying in grassy or shaded areas.

Keeping pets indoors during the hottest hours of the day.

Providing shade, fresh water and cooling tools like kiddie pools or misters.

With millions of residents and visitors enjoying San Diego County’s outdoor spaces, simple safety steps can prevent injuries and keep families healthy all season long.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 22, 2026

COUNTY

County Seeks Public Input on Future of San Pasqual Academy

The County of San Diego is asking the public to shape the future of San Pasqual Academy, the 238-acre foster youth residential campus now undergoing a major reimagining.

Community members can visit the County’s San Pasqual Academy Engage page and take part in four community engagement sessions in July—two in-person meetings and two virtual—to ask questions, share ideas and learn more.

San Pasqual Academy opened in 2001 as the first residential education and support campus for youth ages 12 to 17, with placement options through age 19.

As state and federal child welfare policies have shift toward prevention and family reunification, the County is exploring how the campus can evolve to better support local youth and families today.

Community conversations launched in November 2025 and included current and former foster youth, youth advocates and community members.

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to receive an update in August summarizing community input and potential paths forward including the potential for closure, with a full plan presented within 18 months.

Early ideas already emerging from the community include expanding youth programs, adding wellness and recreation spaces, enhancing workforce development and creating new housing options for foster youth.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 24, 2026

COUNTY

Mexican Fruit Fly Quarantine Expanded in San Diego County

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has expanded a Mexican fruit fly quarantine in San Diego County after the pest was detected during routine inspections in El Cajon and Spring

Valley. The quarantine now covers approximately 111 square miles and overlaps with the existing La Mesa quarantine area.

The boundaries are: • CA-67 to the north • Proctor Valley Rd to the south • CA-125 to the west • Riggs Rd to the east

A quarantine map is available at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/mexfly/regulation.html .

Cities Affected • El Cajon • La Mesa • Lemon Grove • San Diego • Santee

State and federal agencies, including CDFA, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner are working together to contain the infestation and support growers, wholesalers, retailers, and home gardeners.

• Releases of sterile male Mexican fruit flies may occur in the quarantine area • Properties within 200 meters of detections will be treated with an organic formulation of Spinosad, a naturally derived treatment used to manage harmful pests • Fruit removal will take place within 100 meters of locations where larvae or adult flies are found

CDFA says this science-based approach is the safest and most effective method to reduce invasive fruit fly populations.

The quarantine restricts movement of host fruits and plants for growers, wholesalers, retailers, and nurseries. Home gardeners are urged to consume home-grown produce onsite and avoid transporting fruit off their property to prevent spreading the pest.

Residents who believe their fruits or vegetables may be infested should call the state’s tollfree Pest Hotline at 18004911899 .

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

Although invasive fruit flies occasionally appear in

Courts · Transit · Public safety

agricultural areas, most detections occur in suburban and urban communities. These pests often enter the state by hitchhiking on fruits or vegetables brought back illegally by travelers.

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

County of San Diego news release · Jun 23, 2026

COUNTY

County Animal Services Rescues Animals From Rancho Santa Fe Property

County Animal Services removed dozens of animals from a Rancho Santa Fe property on Wednesday after getting a report of possible neglect involving horses.

Animal control officers visited the property on the 15000 block of El Camino Real to follow up on the concern and determined a warrant was needed to safely assist the animals. After the warrant was approved, officers remained on site late into the night to collect and transport the animals to safety.

Several animals showed signs of medical issues, including being underweight and having skin and dental conditions. One dog was also found dead inside the home. All rescued animals are now receiving veterinary care at the County’s shelters in Carlsbad and Bonita.

The investigation into the case is ongoing, and no additional details are available at this time.

The larger animals are receiving care at the Bonita shelter, which is also caring for horses rescued from a Julian property with help from the Spirit Medical Fund .

County Animal Services protects the health, safety and welfare of people and animals in San Diego County by responding to injured animals, investigating abuse reports and helping keep the public safe from aggressive pets.

County of San Diego news release · Jun 18, 2026

BUSINESS



Illustration

BUSINESS

Chamber Opposes National City Gross Receipts Tax

The National City Council is

considering a proposal to place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to expand and increase the city’s Gross Receipts Tax. The proposal would increase overall Gross Receipts Tax revenue from approximately \$700,000 to over \$7 million. The City has stated the measure is needed to increase revenue and offset projected

future budget deficits beginning in 2028. However, this change would shift the cost of annual operating licenses to a tiered structure at the expense of businesses, in addition to taxing the gross receipts of property owners who are currently renting their homes.

The Chamber team has been working with members,

business coalition partners, and the National City Chamber of Commerce to advocate against this proposal and meet with elected leaders to express our business community’s concerns. President & CEO Chris Cate shared details on these concerns at an interview with ABC10 earlier this month.

The proposal was initially

scheduled to be heard at the June 16th City Council meeting, but the item was pulled from the agenda the night before the hearing date. The item is now scheduled to be heard at the June 30 th meeting; the Chamber will be present, making public comment opposing this proposed ballot initiative.

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BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

San Diego commerce & the regional economy

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Chamber Opposes National City Gross Receipts Tax

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 23, 2026

BUSINESS
Immigrant Small Business Week 2026

by Mark Philip Valerio Santos, third-generation owner & operator

“I am the owner and operator of Valerio’s Bakeshop in National City , a family-owned Filipino bakery founded by my immigrant grandparents, Victor and Milagros Valerio. Through hard work, perseverance, and a passion for sharing Filipino culture, they built a business that has served generations of families and become the foundation of our family’s entrepreneurial journey.

As the next generation, I grew up surrounded by the bakery and witnessed firsthand the sacrifices required to build and sustain a small business. After my grandparents, my mother took on the responsibility of leading the bakery and continued growing the business while preserving the traditions and values that made it special. Inspired by my family’s entrepreneurial spirit, I started my own e-commerce

business, which gave me valuable experience in business operations, marketing, and growth.

Eventually, I returned to the family business and stepped into a leadership role, combining the lessons I learned as an entrepreneur with the foundation my family had built over decades. Today, I have the privilege of leading Valerio’s Bakeshop into its next chapter—expanding our reach, introducing new ideas, and finding new ways to connect with our community while remaining rooted in the traditions that have defined us for generations.

My journey reflects the opportunities created through immigrant entrepreneurship. What began with my grandparents’ dream has been carried forward by each generation, and I am proud to continue that legacy while helping create opportunities for others and sharing a piece of Filipino culture with the communities we serve.”

Mark Philip Valerio Santos, third-generation owner & operator

Casita Colibrí is a home-based gluten-free Mexican bakery founded in Chula Vista, California, specializing in traditional pan dulce made in a dedicated gluten-free

environment. The bakery was born from my personal experience living with celiac disease and the realization that many of the foods that carried memories, comfort, family traditions and most importantly cultural connection were suddenly no longer available to me. After my diagnosis in 2018, I began navigating a world where gluten-free options existed, yet very few reflected my heritage or the foods I had grown up eating.

As a Latina and the daughter of immigrants, food has always been an important part of family everyday life. Pan dulce, bolillos, conchas, and other staples found in Mexican panaderías represent far more than baked goods. They carry generations of stories, traditions, nostalgia and a sense of belonging. As I searched for culturally representative gluten-free alternatives, I discovered a significant gap in the marketplace. The question continued to surface: Why can’t I find the foods that have been part of my life for generations? The answer became the foundation of Casita Colibrí.

Although I did not come from an entrepreneurship background, creating Casita Colibrí felt like a natural

response to a need that existed within my own life and within the broader community.

Through this journey, I learned that many Latinos and individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds are living with celiac disease, autoimmune conditions, food allergies and other dietary restrictions. Many have spent years without access to culturally familiar foods that are safe for them to eat. Casita Colibrí exists to answer that need. The bakery is dedicated to bringing gluten-free, celiac-safe Mexican baked goods back into the hearts and homes of people who have gone without them. Every concha, bolillo, empanada and pan dulce created through my bakery represents an opportunity for someone to reconnect with a cherished memory or family tradition.

As the first person in my family to launch a business, I view Casita Colibrí as both a bakery and a platform for advocacy. The business raises awareness about celiac disease, food accessibility and dietary inclusion while highlighting the unique challenges faced by individuals who require medically necessary gluten-free diets. Research continues to show

that people who rely on gluten-free foods often pay significantly more for products, encounter fewer options and experience barriers to access within schools, workplaces, food assistance programs and community gatherings. Casita Colibrí contributes to a broader conversation about food equity and representation. The bakery seeks to increase visibility for childhood celiac disease, support families navigating dietary restrictions, encourage greater gluten-free accessibility in public institutions, support those newly diagnosed and celebrate the rich culinary heritage of Mexican and Latino communities. By preserving traditional recipes and reimagining them in a gluten-free format, Casita Colibrí demonstrates that cultural foods can remain accessible, inclusive and alive for future generations.

At its core, Casita Colibrí is culturally forward, built on the belief that no one should have to choose between their health and their heritage while serving a community whose needs have often gone unseen.

Rosalba Bustillos, Casita Colibrí Founder

San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Jun 17, 2026

AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide news

CALIFORNIA
Taxpayer Group Rejects Deal, Keeps Measure to Strengthen Prop 13 on November Ballot

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association refused to withdraw the Local Taxpayer Protection Act despite claims by Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass that an agreement had been reached.

A leading taxpayer advocacy organization said it will not remove its initiative from the November ballot, rejecting a reported political deal aimed at heading off a voter decision on local tax limits.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and the California Taxpayers Association jointly declared Tuesday that the Local Taxpayer Protection Act will remain before voters, according to a statement released after Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass described an agreement in a television interview.

Bass told NBC LA that a

pact had been struck under which the city would seek voter approval to change its "Mansion Tax" and exempt apartment developers in return for pulling the anti-tax measure.

The initiative has already qualified for the ballot after gathering more than 1.3 million voter signatures.

Jon Coupal, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, and Robert Gutierrez, president of the California Taxpayers Association, issued the joint statement emphasizing that a partial legislative approach does not replace stronger constitutional safeguards.

"The Local Taxpayer Protection Act is intended to do just what its name says, including protecting taxpayers from local governments' use of the Upland loophole to pass special taxes without the constitutionally required two-thirds vote of the public," Gutierrez said.

"While AB 736 highlights the problem of excessive

local transfer taxes, it is not a substitute for the broader taxpayer protections that voters deserve."

Coupal added: "The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is leading the fight to reinstate the guardrails against excessive taxation upon which the taxpayers of California have relied for more than 40 years. We will never stop fighting for taxpayers."

The measure seeks to restore key elements of Proposition 13, the landmark 1978 law that limited property tax increases and required two-thirds voter approval for many local special taxes.

It would close a loophole created by a 2017 California Supreme Court ruling in the Upland case that has allowed some local special taxes to pass with only a simple majority when placed on the ballot by citizen initiative.

The initiative would also limit or phase out high real estate transfer taxes imposed

by charter cities that exceed traditional statutory rates and reinstate stricter voter approval rules for local taxes.

In addition, it would nullify certain property-related special taxes and elevated transfer taxes that previously bypassed Proposition 13 protections.

State lawmakers have advanced Assembly Bill 736 as an alternative. The legislation would place a statutory cap of 1.5 percent on most local real estate transfer taxes statewide, with limited exceptions such as for disaster relief.

Supporters of the bill describe it as a step to encourage housing production. However, the taxpayer groups contend the measure is insufficient because it is only a statute, not a constitutional change, and fails to fully close the Upland loophole or deliver permanent voter protections.

Over the years, court decisions and legislative actions have weakened Proposition

13's original limits, resulting in billions of dollars in added taxes on California property owners without the level of direct voter consent once required.

The taxpayer organizations argue the ballot measure offers a direct path to restore those constitutional boundaries.

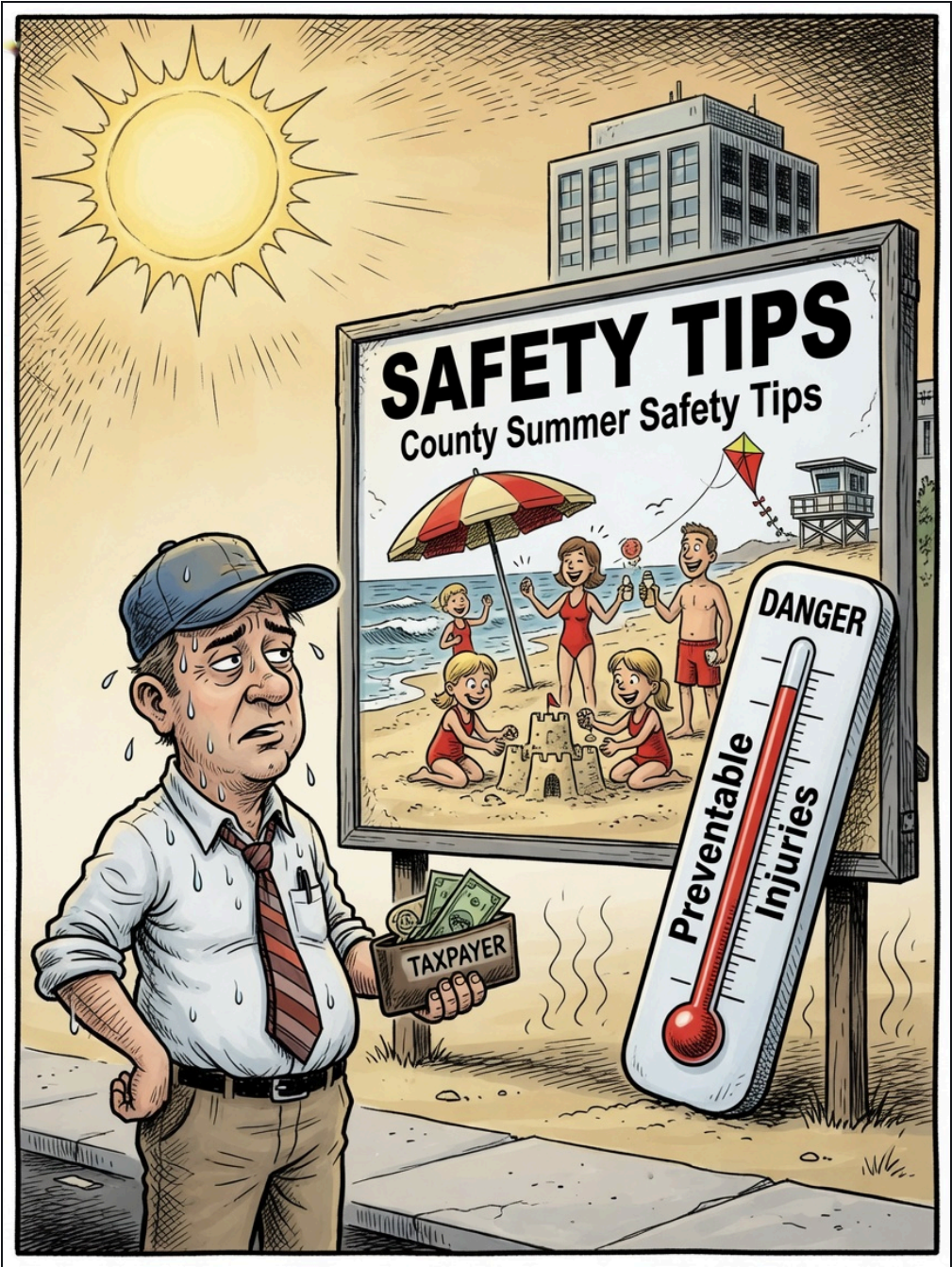
Bass made her comments amid broader discussions about housing affordability, city revenues and tax policy both in Los Angeles and across the state.

Although the mayor presented the matter as settled through talks, the associations' firm stance means California voters will decide in November whether to bolster Proposition 13's safeguards against higher local taxes.

The withdrawal deadline has now passed, leaving the initiative on the ballot.

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

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Beating the heat... and the risks

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 sandiegonewslne.com.	
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