

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 Mourns Passing of Retired County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister



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San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Larry Cohen released the following statement regarding the passing of former Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister.

Retired longtime San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister passed away earlier this morning. Mr. McAllister served as San Diego County's Treasurer-Tax Collector for twenty-three years before retiring in August 2025.

"This is a sad day at the Treasurer-Tax Collector's office, and for San Diego," said San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector Larry Cohen. "Dan represented the best of public service. He was passionate and tireless about his work and kept the taxpayer at the forefront of everything he did.

"It was under Dan's leadership that the Treasurer-Tax Collector's office has gotten triple-a ratings and collected an impressive 99% of taxes for consecutive years. These are tax dollars that help our county run and be safe," continued Cohen.

"But more importantly, we are thinking of Dan's family, friends, and former colleagues today," Cohen continued. "He spoke lovingly of his son and daughter. He was quick to praise his team at the County and the friends and community members who motivated his work. We want to send our sincerest condolences to Dan's family, and to everyone who knew and loved him. He did a lot for San Diego County, and his good work

here continues."

Dan McAllister served San Diego County residents as the County's Treasurer-Tax Collector from 2002 to 2025. In this role, Dan oversaw the collection of billions in property taxes each year, the management of over \$18 billion in the County's Investment Pool, and the administration of the County's over \$1.5 billion deferred compensation program.

While in office, he worked to improve customer service, enhance communications and outreach initiatives, and ensure the fiscal stability of the treasury. Under his direction, his office consistently reached a 99% collection rate, was recognized with triple-a ratings, and launched an initiative to collect payments online.

Dan contributed considerable time and resources to civic engagement and community service. He served as a member of the San Diego County Employees Retirement Association (SDCERA), the board of CalTRUST, was president of the State Association of County Retirement Systems (SACRS) and served on board of directors of the Peace Corp and Habitat for Humanity. Dan was a board of directors' chair of the internationally recognized San Diego Convention Center Corporation.

Additionally, Mr. McAllister served as Chair of the San Diego Unified School District's Special Audit and Finance Committee and was a participating member of the

Boards of Directors of the Jackie Robinson YMCA; the New Americans Museum, San Diego; and the Kim Center for Social Balance. Dan's strong commitment and involvement in the community date back to his service as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in the Western Pacific country of Micronesia.

Prior to serving as the San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector, Dan was a financial consultant and investment broker.

"Dan will be remembered for his leadership, mentorship, and warm wit. He will be dearly missed," concluded Cohen.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 17, 2025

COUNTY

Office of Traffic Safety Awards \$250,000 Grant to the County of San Diego for Child Safety Seat Education Program

The County of San Diego announced today that it has received a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to support its efforts in educating parents and caregivers about the importance of child safety seats and making sure every child travels safely. The grant program runs through September 2026.

"We are thrilled to receive this grant to support our child safety seat education program," The County of San Diego Health and Human Services – Department of Strategy and Community Engagement Director, Carey Riccitelli said. "Proper use of child car seats can dramatically reduce the risk of injury or death in a crash. With this funding, we can provide

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DOWNTOWN, CITY & COUNTY

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Office of Traffic Safety Awards \$250,000 Grant to the County of San Diego for Child Safety Seat Education Program

hands-on training, resources, and support so that every family has the knowledge and tools to keep their children safe.”

Grant funds will be used for a variety of community outreach events, education classes, distribution of child safety seats, and training on the installation and use of child safety seats. The car seat safety program includes:

Child safety seat inspection events and education classes.

Child safety seats at no-cost for families in need.

Partnering with local organizations on car seat safety community outreach efforts in underserved communities.

“Through child passenger safety programs and strong partnerships, we are working toward a future where every child is protected on California’s roads,” OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty said. “By supporting projects that help families learn the importance of properly using car seats and boosters, we are building a culture where child safety is always the priority.”

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Office of Traffic Safety also awarded additional grants to County programs including in areas like an intensive Probation supervision program for impaired drivers and bicycle safety.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 12, 2025

COUNTY

Office of Traffic Safety Awards \$125,000 Grant to the County for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program

The County of San Diego announced today that it has received a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to support its Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Program. The program will promote safe practices for pedestrians and bicyclists and emphasize drivers’ responsibility to look out for other people using roads and paths. The grant program runs through September 2026.

“We are excited to receive this grant, which will allow us to significantly expand our bicycle and pedestrian safety

program,” said Carey Riccitelli, Director of the Department of Strategy and Community Engagement, County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency. “By focusing on education, awareness, and promoting safe practices, we aim to reduce crashes and prevent injuries. Ultimately, we’re working toward building more walkable and bike-friendly neighborhoods where everyone can travel safely and confidently.”

Grant funds will support various activities focused on bicycle and pedestrian safety:

Community bicycle and walk “audits” of streets with a high rate of pedestrian and/or bicyclist fatalities and serious injury crashes.

“Open Streets” events that encourage biking and walking.

Bicycle training courses that educate youth on safe riding behaviors.

Community and school education presentations.

Community bike rides that encourage and teach riders safe riding skills.

Walking field trips with older residents and walking safety education for people who are experiencing homelessness.

“Through safety programs and strong partnerships, we are working toward a future where everyone walking and biking in California can travel safely,” OTS Director Stephanie Dougherty said. “By supporting projects that encourage people to prioritize safety in their daily choices, we are creating a strong road safety culture together.”

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Office of Traffic Safety also awarded additional grants to County programs including in areas like an intensive Probation supervision program for impaired drivers and car seat safety.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 11, 2025

COUNTY

County Public Health Officials Recommend Hepatitis B Vaccine for Newborns

The hepatitis B virus (HBV) vaccine, routinely provided to newborns since 1991, remains a safe and effective way of preventing serious illness of the liver. The incidence of pediatric HBV has decreased 99 percent since the introduction of the

vaccine.

In alignment with the California Department of Public Health and the West Coast Health Alliance , County public health officials continue to recommend HBV immunization be given within 24 hours of birth.

Before the HBV vaccination became routine, about 18,000 U.S. children got sick with HBV by the age of 10. It is a highly infectious disease that has no cure. Cases are rising while vaccinations are falling in San Diego County.

The infection can be life-long. Most people with HBV are unaware they have it, which makes it more common to be passed on to babies during birth.

HBV can cause scarring of the liver that can lead to liver failure, cancer and even death.

HBV is spread through contact with bodily fluids or blood, as small as traces on a toothbrush. It can spread even when the person infected does not have any symptoms. The HBV vaccine is the best way to prevent an HBV infection and for newborns, it helps protect the baby in a time when their immune system is not yet fully developed.

“The most effective way that HBV infections have been reduced nationwide is providing the vaccine to all infants shortly after birth,” said Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. “When infected at birth or early childhood, HBV is more likely to become chronic and more severe than in those who get infected as adults. Early prevention is really important and potentially lifesaving.”

While HBV screening is part of expectant mothers’ prenatal care, gaps in screening may expose newborns to HBV at birth.

Following a dose at birth, the next dose of HBV is given when babies are between one and two months and again between six and 18 months.

For more information about HBV and recommended vaccine schedules visit the County’s HBV webpage.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 17, 2025

COUNTY

San Ysidro Welcomes New Affordable Housing to South San Diego

A new affordable housing community celebrated its grand opening in San Ysidro today, adding 100 new

apartment homes to the region for low-income families and individuals.

Called The Iris, it is located at 1663 Dairy Mart Road, across the street from a trolley stop and the newly renovated Howard Lane Park. It features 42 one-bedroom, 32 two-bedroom, 25 three-bedroom apartments along with a manager’s unit.

Residents at The Iris are considered extremely low, to low income making anywhere from 25 to 60 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) .

The new apartment homes include 15 permanent supportive housing units for individuals who have experienced homelessness. Additionally, 50 apartments are designed to support residents with mobility challenges and five homes for people with hearing loss.

“I am proud to support The Iris at San Ysidro because it reflects the kind of thoughtful development our region needs,” said San Diego County Supervisor Paloma Aguirre. “It is housing that is affordable, sustainable and connected to parks, transit and community services.”

Developed by National CORE, The Iris is the result of successful public/private partnerships including a County investment of \$5 million in the IHTF (Innovative Housing Trust Fund) and \$6.5 million in No Place Like Home (NPLH) funds. County Behavioral Health Services will also provide supportive services to residents for the next 20 years.

Onsite amenities include a large community room with office space, a laundry room, and a courtyard play area with outdoor seating.

The Iris is a pedestrian friendly community next to the trolley station and bus lines and within walking distance of a family health clinic, shops, a park and elementary school.

Learn more about availability at the National CORE website .

Since 2017, the County has invested more than \$334 million into affordable housing, using excess land, its Innovative Housing Trust Fund alongside other state, federal, and local funding sources administered by the County. Those funds have helped open doors to over 3,300 homes with 2,700 more on the way .

The County’s Housing Hub has more information about its efforts to meet the needs of the community.

Courts · Transit · Public safety

County of San Diego news release · Dec 16, 2025

COUNTY

Probation’s Ride & Reflect Program Builds Focus

Teens at the Youth Transition Campus are taking part in Ride & Reflect program by cycling on stationary bikes and reflecting on the experience for better physical and mental health.

San Diego County Probation and the San Diego County Office of Education created a six-week program that combines Peloton cycling and reflective journaling to tap into their inner wisdom. The idea is to build discipline, resilience, and personal growth for youth.

The first group of young men successfully completed the program this month and a new session is already underway. Officer Frederick Packard leads the cycling program and provided books and journals to the teens to allow them to reflect on the experience.

Participants earned their place in the program through consistent positive behavior, Packard said. Over six weeks, the group completed 23 workouts and cycled more than 100 miles, he said.

After each ride, youth engaged in guided readings followed by group discussions. Youth then completed individual writing assignments and journal entries, reinforcing self-evaluation, communication skills, and goal setting, said Packard.

He started out the group discussing topics like stoicism, a philosophy that emphasizes logical over emotional thinking, with the teens. The group then follows a writing prompt, discussing three things they can control and three they can’t. Youth are prompted to complete a reading assignment that follows the theme of one of the things that they can’t control. They are then asked to write about how they can handle that obstacle better in the future based on what they learned from the book.

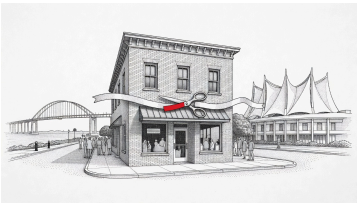
As a result, Probation and school staff have seen increased confidence among the youth and a growing appreciation for both physical wellness and reflective thinking.

Through a balanced approach of guidance and accountability, County probation professionals support people trying to rebuild their lives, their families, and their communities.

County of San Diego news release · Dec 11, 2025

BUSINESS

San Diego commerce & the regional economy



Illustration

BUSINESS

Member Spotlight – Perfect Union

I'm proud to share that Perfect Union San Diego officially opened its doors on

October 22nd at 909 Cardiff Street. Our ribbon-cutting marked the culmination of a long-planned project and the beginning of a new chapter of service to the San Diego community.

Opening day brought neighbors, partners, and local leaders together to celebrate with music, food, and brand activations. We're grateful for the warm welcome and the community's

support. Perfect Union has always been about more than retail. Across California, we've partnered with hundreds of nonprofits supporting veterans, patients, families in need, and underserved communities and we're excited to continue that commitment in San Diego.

Our store features a wide selection of premium flower, edibles, concentrates, vapes, and wellness products from

trusted California brands, along with our own exclusive lines. Most importantly, guests can expect a safe, welcoming environment and a knowledgeable team ready to help.

We invite Chamber members and the community to visit us at 909 Cardiff Street, San Diego, CA 92114. We're thrilled to be here and look forward to serving San Diego for years to come.

— Thomas Sheridan Chief Executive Officer, Perfect Union

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San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce news release · Dec 5, 2025

AROUND CALIFORNIA

Statewide news

CALIFORNIA

California Faces \$18 Billion Budget Shortfall as High-Risk Agencies Are Designated and Residents Leave

State lawmakers must confront a gap that is \$5 billion larger than the administration expected in June, leaving the state less prepared for future economic trouble.

SACRAMENTO — California's budget difficulties have entered a fourth consecutive year, with the shortfall for fiscal 2026-27 now projected at nearly \$18 billion, according to the Legislative Analyst's Office.

That figure is \$5 billion larger than the administration expected in June, even after revenue gains, the non-partisan office reported in November. Constitutional mandates under Proposition 98 and Proposition 2 absorbed almost all of the extra money, leaving the bottom

line essentially unchanged.

The Legislative Analyst's Office warned that structural deficits will expand to roughly \$35 billion a year beginning in 2027-28 because spending continues to rise faster than revenues.

The office advised lawmakers to close the gap with lasting measures such as spending cuts or revenue increases. It cited three urgent reasons: the problem is bigger than forecast, a recession would slash income further, and the state has already exhausted most of its reserve tools.

The report noted that revenue estimates for the current three-year period are \$11 billion higher than previously projected. Yet those gains triggered more than \$10 billion in required increases for schools, community colleges, reserves and debt payments, offsetting nearly the entire improvement.

Additional pressure will come from federal changes under H.R. 1, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. The

analyst's office estimates the law will add about \$5 billion in state costs by 2029-30, including \$3 billion more for Medi-Cal and nearly \$2 billion for CalFresh.

The State Auditor separately designated the Department of Social Services as a high-risk agency because California must now cover a share of CalFresh benefits. That expense could reach \$2.5 billion annually by federal fiscal year 2028, tied to the state's error rate in eligibility and benefit decisions.

The Legislative Analyst's Office cautioned that ignoring these risks could create serious challenges later and that upside surprises in revenue are unlikely to balance the budget on their own.

The fiscal strain coincides with large numbers of residents leaving California. Demographer Joel Kotkin reported that the state now ranks toward the bottom in drawing newcomers from elsewhere in the country.

In 2022 alone, California

lost more than 200,000 net migrants age 25 and older, most of them holding four-year or associate degrees. Those same groups grew sharply in Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Florida and the Carolinas.

More than 4 million people have left California for other states since the start of the century, Kotkin found. California's unemployment rate stood at 5.6 percent in September, the highest among the 50 states and up from the prior month. The national rate was 4.4 percent.

Only the District of Columbia posted a worse figure, at 6.2 percent. The state's private-sector job count, excluding government, declined for two consecutive months through September.

Job gains occurred in private education and health services, government, leisure and hospitality, and other services. Losses hit manufacturing, professional and business services, financial activities, construction,

information, and trade, transportation and utilities.

The Globe reported that the State Auditor's recent findings painted a troubling picture of state operations under Governor Gavin Newsom, stating that the audit determined the governor had upended the state's financial structure, compromised public safety, and left infrastructure in far worse condition.

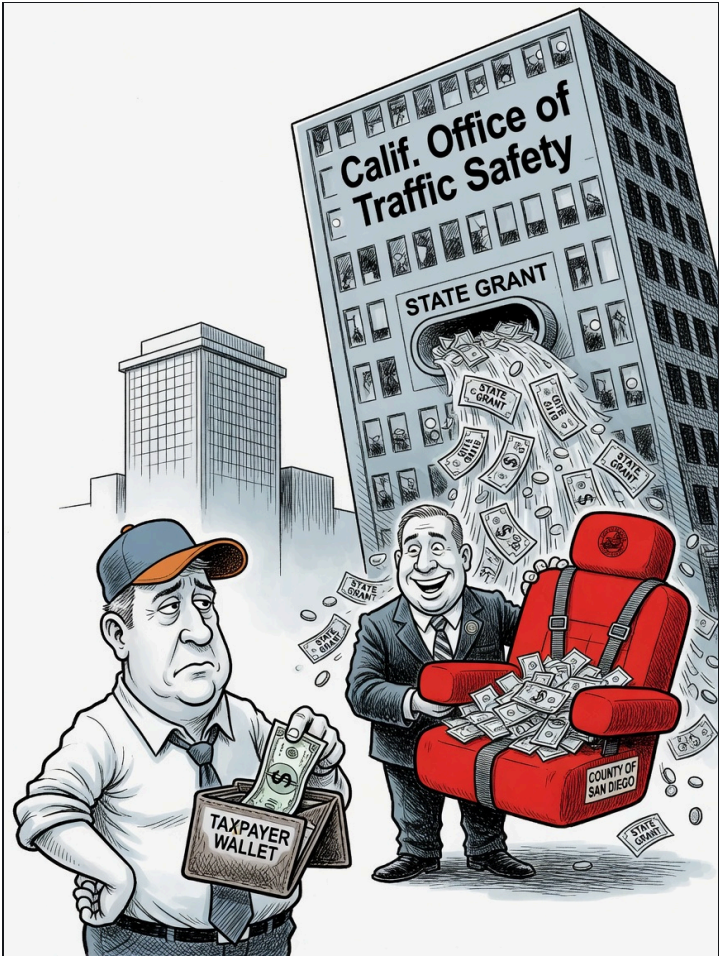
Taken together, the analyst's gloomy forecast and the auditor's assessment signal that high-risk agencies now operate amid an \$18 billion deficit and out-migration. Lawmakers who remain in office after Newsom's term will inherit the task of addressing the budget problems.

The Legislative Analyst's Office stressed that the current path leaves California's budget less prepared for downturns.

San Diego Newsline · Based on reporting by California Globe · Dec 16, 2025

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

Opinion



Taxpayers still foot the bill

THE NEWSLINE CARTOON

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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