

# 2018

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION PROGRAM



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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Introduction</b>                        | <b>4</b>  |
| Advocacy of the County's Interests         | 4         |
| <b>2018 State Legislative Priorities</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>County Legislative Policies</b>         | <b>7</b>  |
| Agriculture/Weights and Measures           | 7         |
| Child Support                              | 8         |
| Elections and Voting                       | 9         |
| Environment                                | 9         |
| Health and Hospitals                       | 10        |
| Housing                                    | 17        |
| Human Services                             | 18        |
| Public Safety and Justice                  | 19        |
| Public Works                               | 20        |
| State Budget                               | 21        |
| Tax and Finance                            | 22        |
| Transportation                             | 22        |
| <b>2018 Federal Legislative Priorities</b> | <b>23</b> |





## INTRODUCTION

The mission of the County of San Mateo is to protect and enhance the health, safety, welfare and natural resources of the community; and to provide quality services that benefit and enrich the lives of the residents of the County.

To be effective in this mission, San Mateo County reviews and establishes priorities and policy statements at the beginning of each legislative year to help guide its advocacy activities at the state and federal levels. The 2018 Legislative Session Program outlines the County's priorities in the coming year and details the County's legislative policies—providing general direction for advocacy. The 2018 Legislative Session Program reflects the County's commitment to our Shared Vision 2025 of a healthy, livable, environmentally conscious and collaborative community.

### Advocacy of the County's Interests

While this document attempts to cover the sum of all legislative issues that may have an impact on San Mateo County, it is not comprehensive, complete or final. Throughout the state and federal legislative sessions, the County will review and take positions on various policy and State Budget items. In consultation with its departments and County Counsel, the County Manager's Office (CMO) will provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on legislative and policy issues affecting County operations and programs. When a recommended position is consistent with existing County policy—as adopted in the County's Legislative Program—the CMO will prepare a County position letter for signature by the Board President.

If existing policy is not applicable to a particular legislative or State Budget item, the CMO will prepare an analysis, including fiscal, programmatic, and service impact to County operations and services, of the proposal for Board action. Items and positions approved by the Board will be added to the County's Legislative Program.

Before pursuing legislation or taking positions on bills, including those sponsored or supported by professional associations, County departments must first seek and secure approval from the CMO. The County Manager's Office will review the legislation and determine whether the position sought is consistent with existing Board-approved policy.

All legislation on which the County takes a position will be closely tracked by the CMO and reported to the Board of Supervisors and departments.

State and federal advocacy teams represent the County's interests based upon the policies contained in the Board-approved Legislative Session Program. In addition to County position letters, Board members and County staff may be asked to testify or meet with relevant legislators or members of the Executive branch to advocate on issues requiring heightened advocacy. If this is the case, County staff must first notify and/or confirm approval of the County Manager's Office to ensure that positions taken are consistent with the County's Board approved Legislative Session Program.



## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

These are the top legislative priorities for San Mateo County in the second year of the 2017-18 state legislative session.

### Transportation Funding

The County will support the preservation of transportation funding as recently enacted by the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB 1), which was signed into law by the Governor in April 2017, and which is dedicated to maintenance and repair of local transportation systems statewide. The County also supports the accompanying constitutional protection measure (ACA 5) to ensure the thirty-percent of revenues generated by SB 1 that are not already constitutionally protected are dedicated to transportation. ACA 5 will appear on the June 2018 ballot.

The County will support passage of Regional Measure 3, authorized by the passage of Senate Bill 595 (Chapter 650, Statutes of 2017), that will appear on the June 2018 ballot. The measure would fund major roadway and public transit improvements via an increase in tolls on the Bay Area's seven state-owned toll bridges, including upgrades to the Highway 101/State Route 92 Interchange and congestion relief in the Dumbarton Bridge Corridor in the County.

### Affordable Housing/Homelessness

The County will support passage of the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018 (SB 3, Beall, Chapter 365, Statutes of 2017) which places a \$4 billion general obligation bond to fund housing on the November 2018 ballot to fund affordable housing programs and the veterans homeownership program

The County will support proposals that provide needed clean-up to the 2017 housing measures that would make implementation reasonable and workable for the County, including clean-up legislation for implementation of AB 1598 (Mullin, Chapter 764, Statutes of 2017) which allows a city or county to create an affordable housing authority to fund housing and affordable workforce housing, similar to a Community Revitalization and Investment Authority.

The County will work on the implementation of the No Place Like Home program to ensure that it receives its fair share of funding and that the guidelines work for this county. In addition, the County will advocate for proposals that fund initiatives that reduce and prevent homelessness; expand the availability of permanent supportive housing; and provide urban counties with the ability to maximize and leverage available federal, state and local funds to provide services for at-risk and homeless families and single persons.

### Preservation of the Affordable Care Act

The County will monitor and engage on any proposals to repeal or alter the Affordable Care Act (ACA). California will receive approximately \$16 billion in federal funds for expansion of Medi-Cal in 2017-18, therefore any change or reduction in funding could be extremely harmful to our most vulnerable Californians. The County will oppose modifications or repeal of the ACA that harm county safety net providers or counties. It will also advocate for the retention of the ACA and to protect our policy and fiscal interests should the ACA and federal funding be repealed, and supports preserving current levels of Medicaid funding. The County also supports the following ACA-related proposals: Maintaining Cost Sharing Reduction payments (CSRs), public health funding, Disproportionate Share Hospital Funding which were set to decrease in 2018, and supports the continued funding of the Children's Health

Insurance Program (CHIP), which together with the Healthy Kids program, insures almost 20,000 San Mateo County children.

## Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) and the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Maintenance of Effort (MOE)

Despite the increased costs of the IHSS program at the state level due to increased hours, wages and benefits, growth in beneficiaries, and compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act for overtime, locally the program has demonstrated financial and client benefits, including reduced long term care costs. Therefore, the County will continue to work with the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) to continue the pilot even though the state has ended funding for the CCI, or Cal MediConnect. The County will work closely with the Health Plan of San Mateo, its associations and stakeholders to continue to align incentives to both the health plan and County for keeping disabled and older adults out of hospitals and institutions and at home.

Finally, the County strongly supports the current IHSS MOE reopener clause for counties reflected in budget trailer bill SB 90 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2017) which requires the state to consult with counties during the development of the 2019-20 state budget to reexamine the overall funding structure of the program, specifically the use of 1991 Realignment to offset IHSS program costs. Furthermore, the County supports the protection of 1991 Realignment revenues for the provision of mental health, social services, and health programs as established in 1991 and will continue to support efforts that ensure the new IHSS MOE financially benefits San Mateo County.

## Cannabis Regulations

The County will continue to work with our county partners and state associations on clean-up legislation and upcoming regulations related to Medical and Recreational cannabis due to passage of the three-bill package in 2015 and the passage of Proposition 64 in 2016. This includes addressing mobile deliveries, ensuring local control of licensing, and maintaining the ability to ban. The County will work to ensure that the emergency regulations address the local verification of state licenses and work on legislation to ensure that cities and counties can contract for services associated with cannabis consumption.

## Public Safety

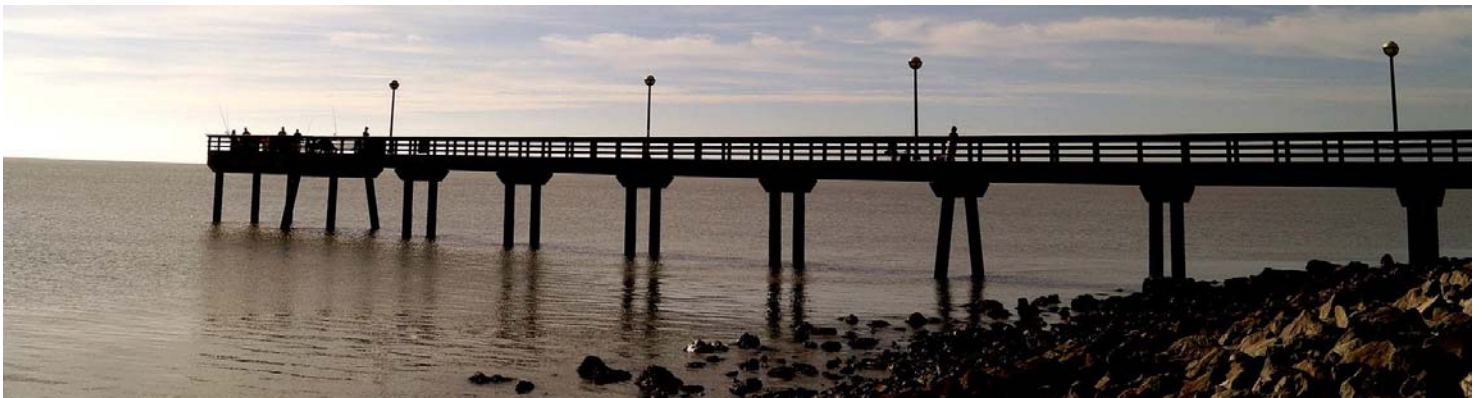
The County supports efforts that allow for county flexibility, encourage local innovation, and strengthen services that improve public safety and reduce recidivism. Bail reform legislation introduced in 2017 would have made major reforms to the bail system including requiring any county to establish a Pre-Trial Services Agency. The County supports bail reform and the use of risk-based release decisions, but opposes any effort to impose significant new pre-trial or other service responsibilities on counties without funding.

## Tunitas Creek

The County will seek \$5 million in state funding to plan, design, permit and implement emergency access improvements at Tunitas Creek Beach. The requested funding will be used to address existing hazards, develop plans for protected species habitat and create safe and sustainable public coastal access at Tunitas Creek Beach. This funding represents part of the estimated \$10 million in funding needed by the County to develop and open the 58 acres of coastal bluff and 1 mile of sandy beach as a new San Mateo County park.

## Parks and Water Bonds

The County will support passage of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate Coastal Protection and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018. This measure, authorized through passage of SB 5 (Chapter 852, Statutes of 2017) will place a \$4 billion bond on the June 2018 ballot. If approved by the voters, the measure will provide significant funding for parks, water and wildlife conservation efforts. The County will also support passage of the \$8.87 billion State Water Bond "Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018" currently circulating petitions and expected to qualify for the November 6, 2018 ballot.





## COUNTY LEGISLATIVE POLICIES

These are the top County legislative policies for San Mateo County in the second year of the 2017-18 state legislative session.

### Agriculture/Weights and Measures

The County Supports:

- 1 State Budget proposals that provide funding for long-term protection of agricultural lands and restoration of Williamson Act funding.
- 2 State budget proposals that provide funding to growers to develop innovative solutions to new industry challenges, including identification and testing of economically viable alternative crops. The County also supports legislation that encourages new farmers to enter the industry.  
  
Local access to fresh and healthy foods for the County's residents, specifically legislation and budget proposals that promote and or support local agriculture, community and school gardens and farmer's markets.
- 3 The continued use of additional agricultural off-highway use motor vehicle fuel funds at the local level for Agricultural Commissioners in carrying out agriculture code programs under the direction of the Secretary of Food and Agriculture.
- 4 Funding of Invasive Species exclusion and management programs at the state level. Specific programs include, Pest Exclusion, Pest Detection Trapping and Survey Activities, Rapid Response, Pest Management and Eradication, and public education outreach. Protect existing revenue sources and enhance state and federal funding of Pest Prevention Program activities. Provide full cost recovery for new programs and maintain or enhance funding for current programs. Support all reasonable efforts by the California Department of Food and Agriculture, County Agricultural Commissioners, and the agriculture industry to acquire funding and to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pest management and eradication activities. Provide flexibility to enhance the abilities of Agricultural Commissioners to respond to pest emergencies and high priority local pest exclusion pathways. Support budgetary efforts to restore and maintain funding for agricultural border stations. Support research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.
- 5 The provision and protection of local authority for weights and measures device registration fees, and legislation that maintains, extends or eliminates the repeal date in Business and Professions Code Section 12246 pertaining to Weights and Measures Device Registration Fees.
- 6 Legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state (DMS) and local (Sealer) level for consumer protection. Encouraging the use of state general funds for the Division of Measurement Standards. Legislation which assures clear labeling and accuracy of the net quantity of packaged products to promote value comparison and to ensure the consumer receives the correct product and the quantity of product for which they pay. Oppose legislation that would allow for industry self-certification of commercial weighing and measuring devices. Oppose legislation that would diminish or remove protections now afforded to consumers for transactions measured by weighing or measuring devices or computed by Point of Sale systems. Support legislation that establishes funding for quantity control and package inspection.

- 7 Proposals that provide long-term stable funding for county pesticide regulatory activities, such as that established in Senate Bill 1049 (Chapter 741, Statutes of 2003) for county agricultural commissioners but never funded by the state. Support legislative or budgetary proposals that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment and provides funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides. Support the preemptive status of state pesticide laws and authority provided to the Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and California Agricultural Commissioners.
- 8 State legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Area groups or programs for the control of harmful nonnative, invasive weed pests.
- 9 Opposes legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not clearly define and authorize roles for Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers and that do not provide full funding and resources for activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners and/or Sealers.
- 10 Opposes legislation that creates local mandates or programs that do not fully fund additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers, impair local land use authority, fail to provide adequate security for commissioners/sealer staff, create interference between cannabis regulation and existing authorities granted to Commissioners/Sealers. Supports full funding and resources for additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners/Sealers.
- 11 Legislation and proposals that enhance funding and resources to support an effective regulatory program for direct marketing. Certified Farmers Markets, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's), community and school gardens at both state and local levels.
- 12 Opposes legislation that would end the State Organic Program (SOP) registration requirements and fee based activities performed by the CDFA SOP and Agricultural Commissioners. The County opposes legislation that would eliminate the California Organic Products Advisory Committee (COPAC). The County opposes legislation that would end statewide enforcement of the SOP by CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioners and supports organic program funding allowing agricultural commissioners the authority to verify that agricultural products represented as "organic" are indeed so.
- 13 Increased environmental review of new school site proposals so they are similar to other developments. The County supports the legislation that supports the incorporation of buffers, setbacks and pick-up drop off locations into new school footprints and designs to minimize interference with agricultural operations when schools must be sited in agricultural areas.

## Child Support

The County Supports:

- 1 Preservation of funding to Local Child Support Agencies.

Adjustments to local child support agencies and funding allocations that account for cost differences among California counties providing services as funding from the state remains flat despite program cost increases.





- 2 Changing the rate of interest charged on unpaid child support. Currently, California charges 10 percent per year on a simple basis on any unpaid child support, which is high in today's loan market.
- 3 Increased flexibilities for the administration of Child Support. Flexibility in the Child Support program should include employment support for unemployed and/or underemployed parents.
- 4 Legislative reforms that increase access to child support services, despite the decrease in caseloads statewide, and that allow for automatic referrals for single family households recipients of social and economic service supports.

## Elections and Voting

### The County Supports:

- 1 Proposals to provide County reimbursement for the costs incurred in conducting special elections to fill vacancies in state and federal offices.
- 2 All vote-by-mail systems.
- 3 Legislation that increases protections against interfering with the casting of ballots at polling places or by mail, including increasing fines and/or penalties for practices that attempt to impede the voting process.
- 4 Legislation to improve and/or clarify the challenge process for Vote-By-Mail ballots and strengthen voter protections.
- 5 Proposals to allow for secure and effective use of new technologies available in the field of election administration.
- 6 Legislation to authorize the implementation of additional, expanded and alternative voting opportunities.
- 7 Legislation to assist counties in the effective implementation of state mandated changes in the elections process and administration

## Environment

### The County Supports:

- 1 Enhancement and maintenance of its open space and park lands network through increased funding for coordinated improvements for habitat and public access, including strategic use of nature-based techniques to improve parks natural and built infrastructure resources resilience for extreme weather and climate change.
- 2 Efforts to work with regional partners to protect, conserve, restore, and enhance the sustainability of the diverse environmental resources of the County, including its coasts, forests, wetlands, and adjacent waters for habitat and beneficial use by current residents, visitors, and future generations.
- 3 Changes in policies and practices that result in a net reduction of non-renewable energy use and global greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, conservation, and fuel switching from natural gas to electricity; efforts that help to reduce the per capita and overall energy use of the state; increase production and use of renewable energies to grow the "market share" of the state's energy consumption profile; and when necessary, nonrenewable energy development that meets environmental reviews, that maintains or exceeds current environmental and/or emission controls, and that best protects our natural environments and offshore areas.



- 4 Implementation of Assembly Bill 32 (Chapter 488, Statutes of 2006), the Global Warming Solutions Act Executive Order B-30-15 and Senate Bill 32 (Chapter 249, Statutes of 2016), which requires the state to slash greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
- 5 Changes in policies and practices that result in easier access by local government to resource use data, including: energy, water, fuels, vehicles miles traveled by vehicle type and location, and disposed and diverted waste, to enhance the effectiveness of local resource conservation and GHG reduction programs.
- 6 Exploration of new funding sources to implement local or state government programs that benefit the environment such as: watershed protection; groundwater recharge and sustainability; water conservation; GHGs reduction, energy efficiency; National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) compliance; Areas of Special Biological Significance compliance; Commute Alternatives programs; and development of alternative energy sources. In addition, new funding sources for compliance with Municipal Regional Permit 2.0 Mercury and PCBs to implement sufficient controls to meet permit load reductions.
- 7 State funding and policy proposals that support the development of an effective and comprehensive countywide and especially regional and statewide measure to adapt to sea level rise, community resilience, extreme weather (e.g., atmospheric rivers, flooding, excessive heat. and other effects of climate change. State funding to study the impacts of climate change on the natural environment, species adaptation and human health impacts, and migration.
- 8 Policies and funding targeted at supporting disadvantaged communities to plan for climate change, reducing impacts to disadvantaged communities from climate impacts, ensuring efforts are culturally appropriate, including community involvement, and reduce any unintended consequences and/or increased energy costs for these populations.
- 9 Implementation of Assembly Bill 184 (Chapter 338, Statutes of 2017), the Planning for Sea Level Rise Database and guidance or information related to implementation of Senate Bill 379 (Chapter 608, Statutes of 2015) related to the inclusion of climate adaptation and resiliency strategies in the safety elements of count/city general plans.
- 10 Implementation of Proposition 39, the Income Tax Increase for Multistate Businesses. The County also supports prioritizing local governments and additional rounds of funding for local government of school district projects to receive funds for installation of green energy projects. Time extension as needed to support implementation of the current round of Proposition 39, the Income Tax Increase for Multistate Businesses. The County also supports prioritizing additional rounds of funding for school districts and local government support for projects for energy conservation, renewable energy, and microgrid-type projects, to improve disaster resiliency of school buildings.
- 11 Policies that enhance funding to local governments from CPUC-administered Public Goods Funds and reduce local government program evaluation based on Total Resource Cost (TRC) model, and recognize the vital role the state places on local governments to coordinate long-range GHG reduction programs.
- 12 Diversion of waste from landfills and mandatory recycling through implementation of Assembly Bill 939 (Chapter 809, Statutes of 1989), and Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011), and Assembly Bill 1826 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014).



- 13 Exploring and support of additional funding sources, or the broadening use of existing funding, for continued implementation of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan. The current funding (Assembly Bill 939, Chapter 1095 and Statutes of 1989) is from fees imposed per ton of solid waste disposed in the County. As disposal of solid waste decreases and materials recycled or composted increases, assessment of fees on recycled or composted materials should be considered. Development of additional funding mechanisms for local governments for the continued implementation of integrated waste management plans beyond fees assessed on disposal of solid waste. As disposal of solid waste decreases and materials recycled or composted increases, assessment of fees on recycled or composted materials should be considered.
- 14 Funding for local jurisdictions to comply with the Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling (MORe) program created by Assembly Bill 1826 (Chapter 727, Statutes of 2014), and Assembly Bill 341 (Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011) and the Mandatory Commercial Recycling (MCR) program created by Assembly Bill 341(Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011).
- 15 Efforts to improve the CEQA and regional permitting processes while maintaining authority at the local level, as well as seeking opportunities to coordinate restoration project permitting.
- 16 Continued funding for the California Green Business Program, including flexible funding sources, such as Cap and Trade that will support similar programs that holistically address energy, water, solid waste, storm water, pollution prevention and transportation alternatives.
- 17 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that provide a uniform approach to the phase out of polystyrene, plastics and packaging of consumer products.
- 18 New and/or expanded funding for:
  - Improvements to streets and roads that encourage active transportation, such as walking and bicycling, transit, and other carbon-reducing road improvements.
  - Capital investments that expand reuse and recycling market management infrastructure with a priority in disadvantaged communities.
  - Investment in new or expanded clean composting, anaerobic digestion, fiber, plastic, and glass facilities necessary to divert more materials from landfills as these programs reduce GHG emissions and support the state's 75 percent solid waste recycling goal.
  - Wetland restoration projects that provide carbon sequestration benefits, including habitat restoration projects within the California EcoRestore program to support the long-term wealth of the Delta's native fish and wildlife species.
  - Wetland projects along in the San Francisco Bay and along the San Mateo County coast.
  - Incentives to agricultural operations to invest in energy efficient irrigation technologies that reduce GHG emissions and water use.



- To complete and maintain regional trails along the bay, coast and linking bay to the sea for the County area of the Santa Cruz Mountains.
  - The restoration and improvement of the County's historic buildings and trails such as the Sanchez Adobe and the Ohlone-Portolá Heritage Trail.
  - Playgrounds and pocket parks that enhance the quality of life for the community.
  - Local agencies that manage State Parks lands, such as San Bruno Mountain.
- 19 Use of Cap and Trade and/or other climate related funding for forest management, stewardship and fuel reduction.
  - 20 Reduction of fire hazards on County lands to reduce fire hazards, particularly at the urban interface.
  - 21 Cattle grazing for natural resources objectives (i.e., butterfly habitat on San Bruno Mountain).
  - 22 Obtaining state funding to develop a comprehensive Restoration Plan for Pescadero Marsh, building off of the effective partnerships State Parks and the San Mateo Resource Conservation District have fostered to implement the Butano Channel Resilience fish passage and coastal flooding project in Butano Creek at Pescadero Creek Road.
  - 23 Procurement of state funding to plan and implement watershed level restoration and improvement of sediment management for salmonid habitat, water quality, and reduction in coastal flooding impacts to the community of Pescadero.
  - 24 Sustainable forest management in previously clear-cut or timber harvested uplands to restore forest habitat to late seral stage forest conditions, address sources of sediment associated with old logging roads and legal creek crossings, and restore floodplain connectivity to trap sediment upstream for a more naturally functioning ecological system in the Pescadero and Butano watersheds.

## Health and Hospitals

The County Supports:

- 1 Implementation of climate changes laws, policies and programs at the federal, state and regional levels that incentivize or require physical changes that promote active transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transit, over more sedentary and less environmentally-friendly forms of transportation. This includes aggressive greenhouse gas emissions targets, performance-based policy standards in funding allocation, as well as regional approaches to implementation, and adaptation to all effects of climate change, including but not limited to sea level rise planning. Special attention will be paid to the challenges of the most vulnerable low income communities of color and the strategies needed in those communities to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- 2 Implementation of economic development strategies and funding to provide affordable housing with special focus on people with low and very low income.



- 3 Efforts to strengthen the Smoke Free Workplace Act by closing specific loopholes in order to protect more employees.
  - 3.1 Efforts to maintain the strongest possible protection against tobacco use by minors, such as changes to taxes, the eligibility age for purchasing cigarettes, application of smoke-free ordinances and classification of e-cigarettes as products subject to anti-smoking regulations.
  - 3.2 Efforts to promote the strongest possible protection against the sale of powdered alcohol to residents of California, which could increase the risk of alcohol use by minors.
- 4 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that would allow local jurisdictions to establish healthy food zones, allowing in only businesses that offer for sale whole or lightly processed foods with no tobacco or alcohol sales.
  - 4.1 Efforts to promote breastfeeding accommodation and availability of space in all types of settings—employment, public accommodations, educational institutions—to facilitate maximum breastfeeding by nursing mothers.
  - 4.2 Efforts to reduce consumption of sugar sweetened beverages.
- 5 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that improve the quality and scope of environmental health programs through the state and promote uniformity in implementing such programs.
- 6 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support the principles of Product Stewardship (also known as Extended Producer Responsibility) that directs all participants involved in the life cycle of a product to take shared responsibility for the environmental and human health impacts that result from the production, use and end of life handling of a product.
- 7 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote food safety and food worker rights to health care, paid sick leave and insurance.
- 8 Implementation of laws and standards that promote a living wage.
- 9 Implementation of laws and standards that provide paid leave for new biologic or adoptive parents (female and male).
- 10 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote the safe use and sale of produce from small community and school gardens in retail food facilities, farmer’s markets and schools.
- 11 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote a philosophy of a Green Chemistry initiative to develop a consistent means for evaluating risk, reducing exposure, encouraging less toxic industrial processes, and identifying safer, non-chemical alternatives. A Green Chemistry initiative should ensure a comprehensive and collaborative approach to increase accountability and effectiveness of environmental programs across state and local government.
- 12 Implementation of laws and regulations which require health as an equally shared consideration in all General Plan development.
- 13 Funding high-quality medical, dental and mental health supports to families, particularly families with small children. Supports should include health promotion and disease self-management programs in order to keep families healthy in the community.



- 14 Providing stable funding for home visiting and other case management services for families at risk for poor health and social outcomes and reauthorizing and increasing funding for the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program.
- 15 Reducing costs, increasing revenue and providing flexibility in the use of state and federal funds for the Health System.
- 16 Improving care for elderly and disabled residents by:
  - Continuing the Coordinated Care Initiative activities with the Health Plan of San Mateo, which gives San Mateo County the flexibility to spend money on long-term services and support services in ways that most benefit the client.
  - Continuing the Nursing Home Diversion Program. This grant program has helped older Americans and veterans remain independent and to support people with Alzheimer's disease to remain in their homes and communities.
  - Implement Home Safe, a homelessness prevention program for highly vulnerable seniors and persons with disabilities (SPDs) that is built on evidence-based rapid rehousing principles that are coupled with short-term intensive case management services that keep SPDs housed in a setting of their choosing and connected to a medical home.
- 17 Establishing inflation and caseload adjustments for the federal Older Americans Act so this funding stream can keep pace with increases in cost and demand.
- 18 Modifying laws and regulations so that people with sex offender labels who are no longer a threat to the community can be placed in appropriate care facilities.
- 19 Improving care for children with special health care needs by unifying California Children's Services (CCS) Administration program with the Health Plan of San Mateo using a CCS waiver for pilot programs—and continued improvements to enable more effective and efficient administration of the program.
- 20 Modifying eligibility requirements so that those formerly incarcerated on drug charges are eligible for Medi-Cal, food stamps and other public benefits.
- 21 Providing financial relief for correctional health responsibilities, such as Medi-Cal-related cost containment/revenue generation methods.
- 22 Promoting funding for technology and local capacity for outreach and enrollment and retention of health care coverage programs, including funding to support successful enrollments in Medi-Cal.
- 23 Promoting appropriate information sharing between state and local government entities to streamline administration of public health coverage programs, such as facilitating information sharing among Covered California, the Department of Health Care Services and Counties that offer locally supported health coverage programs for those in-eligible for Federal/State programs.
- 24 Promoting appropriate information sharing between the state and local home visiting programs serving pregnant women enrolled in FFS Medi-Cal to streamline outreach and enrollment of these women into available programs.

- 25 Promoting the collection of demographic data that includes voluntary self-identification of information on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity, as well as the appropriate information sharing among county departments and between state and local government entities to address the significant disparities in health and welfare faced by youth, seniors, undocumented persons, communities of color, persons with disabilities and LGBTQ communities.
- 26 Implementation of laws or regulations that promote streamlined and “no wrong door” processes for consumers to be screened and enrolled in public benefits programs such as Medi-Cal and subsidized health coverage through Covered California to maximize coverage and reduce reliance on scarce safety net healthcare resources.
- 27 Modifications in statute that would allow paramedics to be used and reimbursed for their services in alternative health care settings and would allow them to be involved not only in evaluating and transporting patients to emergency departments, but in the provision of care or transportation to the most appropriate destination, including alternate destinations when medically appropriate.
- 28 Legislation and regulatory measures that maintain or strengthen the authority and governing role of Counties and their Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies, or LEMSA’s, to plan, implement and evaluate aspects and components of the EMS system.
- 29 Providing stable funding and increased access for mental health and drug and alcohol services through full implementation of state and federal mental health and drug and alcohol parity laws.
- 30 Providing stable funding for children enrolled in special education programs that require mental health services as well as for alcohol and other drug services.
- 31 Providing stable funding for locked long-term care and ancillary services for people with behavioral health problems, including Mental Health Rehabilitation Centers under 16 beds.
- 32 Promoting integration of mental health and alcohol/drug services with primary care services through opportunities presented by the state’s Medicaid waivers and efforts to reform laws that prevent sharing of clinical information among providers and health plans serving the same person.
- 33 Providing stable funding for the local healthcare services and programs that will continue to be needed.
- 34 Laws that require Health Care Districts (HCDs) to fund health care to the remaining uninsured.
- 35 Providing support to local healthcare services and programs that serve clients in the criminal justice system.
- 36 Providing stable funding for alcohol and other drug services through California alcohol and other drug services through a California alcohol tax.
- 37 Providing stable funding for healthcare, tobacco use prevention, research, and law enforcement initiatives through an increased statewide cigarette tax.
- 38 Providing regulatory protection for the confidentiality of After Action Reports developed in response to an emergency incident to ensure reports are honest and comprehensive without fear of public retaliation or law suits.



- 39 Increasing options for adult mediation as a strategy for jail diversion including confidentiality protection similar to that provided for juveniles.
- 40 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that promote equal access to health services for LGBTQ people, and training funds for county personnel to address LGBTQ concerns relating to health services.
- 41 Implementation of laws, regulations and programs that support affordable and culturally competent health services.
- 42 Modification in the Brown Act such that people with disabilities who are homebound can participate via technology.
- 43 Elimination of the Institute for Mental Disease Exclusion from Medi-Cal and Medicaid.
- 44 Implementation of laws, regulations and innovative programs that support access to affordable and culturally competent oral health services, including access to dentists, for all ages (pregnant women, children, adults, elderly), and particularly to those with special healthcare needs and/or disabilities.
- 45 Funding mechanisms to permit adequate reimbursement of the Virtual Dental Home model to expand access to oral health services in non-traditional settings.
- 46 Policies that promote and permit the development of multidisciplinary teams in order to facilitate identification, assessment and coordination of services to vulnerable and at-risk populations served by counties to ensure continuity of care.
- 47 Adequate reimbursement for dental services under the Denti-Cal program to increase the number of participating Denti-Cal providers.
- 48 Limit the availability and access of particularly harmful forms of sugary products that are easily absorbed in the body and contribute significantly to a fatty liver, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular risk.
- 49 Increase free/affordable childcare and early childhood development options and reduce barriers to the creation of childcare sites.
- 50 Policies and enforcement to end discrimination based on real or perceived immigration status in workplaces, housing, and other public areas.
- 51 Legislation that protects immigrant and undocumented workers from wage theft, poor working conditions, and immigration-related employer retaliation.
- 52 Positive health conditions and due process rights for immigrants detained in immigration detention centers.
- 53 Resources to provide legal aid to immigrant and refugee communities under threat.
- 54 Efforts to end the use of criminal records to determine eligibility for critical aspects such as housing and employment that support effective reentry into society.
- 55 Efforts to overcome the barriers of money bail, mandatory fines, and court fee surcharges that can exacerbate the financial security of low-income populations.
- 56 Policies and program to develop community economic capacity and jobs.
- 57 Legislation that creates intentional pathways for increasing leadership and workforce positions that represent the population diversity by race, culture, gender identity and sexual orientation.





58 Full human rights for LGBTQ people.

59 Legislation that allows for enhanced confidentiality and suppression of DMV records for adult protective services social workers as a way of providing them with greater protections against threats and physical assaults by those they are investigating.

## Housing

The County Supports:

- 1 Solutions and funding for the region's housing crisis that address the needs of homeless, lower-income residents, emancipated youth, transitional age youth, CalWORKs participants and at-risk populations including the housing needs of farmworkers, people with disabilities, the elderly, former foster youth, homeless youth, including homeless LGBTQ youth, and the formerly incarcerated.
- 2 Efforts to preserve affordable and accessible housing and the development of new affordable and accessible housing, such as tiny homes, through additional funding for local housing trust funds, funding of the state housing trust funds, and efforts to expand the use of Cap and Trade funds for smart housing developments in coastal counties.
- 3 Smart Growth efforts and other land use decisions that facilitate appropriate mixed-use developments along efficient public transportation corridors.
- 4 Examination of current rules and standards that benefit lower density development (over high density development) and vehicular movement at the expense of pedestrian traffic and safety. While the County supports development incentives for Smart Growth related activities, the County opposes efforts to divert or restrict funding usage to specific programs.
- 5 Preserving land use authority of local governments by allowing jurisdictions that have adopted inclusionary zoning ordinances, such as San Mateo County, to take the intended and predictable effect of the ordinance into account when calculating availability of adequate zoned capacity to meet their Regional Housing Needs Allocation.
- 6 Policies that allow for the development of a RHNA sharing credit program where jurisdictions could donate funds to a housing trust fund for affordable housing and housing is developed in another jurisdiction. Donating jurisdictions would then receive partial credit toward their RHNA obligation.
- 7 Expansion of the California Assisted Living Waiver Pilot Project so that senior low-income residents of the County may use Medi-Cal benefits to pay for affordable assisted living services in a residential setting.
- 8 Consideration of an amendment to the definition of "source income" in the state's law forbidding non-discrimination in housing rentals to also include specific federal, state or local housing assistance or subsidies paid either to the tenant or directly to the landlord on behalf of the tenant.
- 9 Legislation to help preserve housing rental units for CalWORKs families.



## Human Services

### The County Supports:

- 1 Preservation and increased funding for human service programs realigned to counties and advocate for an appropriate level of funding during the new Medi-Cal funding methodology negotiations with the state.
- 2 Adjustments to county human service fund allocations that account for the cost differences among California counties in providing services.
- 3 Preservation of children's protective services, participation and funding and maintain the current 50 percent Title IV-E federal reimbursement.
- 4 Increased funding for foster parent recruitment and retention and greater funding flexibility for foster care services, which are critical to adequately protect children in need.
- 5 Implementation of policies, programs and services to assist and improve outcomes for LGBTQ foster youth and transitional age youth.
- 6 Ensure on going funding to support victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and policies that protect foster youth who have suffered from sexual exploitation.
- 7 Implementation of policies that secure housing opportunities for emancipated foster youth and veterans.
- 8 Advocating for access for early intervention and prevention services for foster youth and a reduction in administrative barriers to mental health services.
- 9 Flexibility in the definition for non-related legal guardianships in support of the implementation of CCR reforms to place foster youth in home settings.
- 10 Improving CalFresh benefits access to former foster youth and AB 12 Non-Minor dependents.
- 11 Elimination of reductions to penalties related to the failure to meet the work participation rate in CalWORKs.
- 12 Elimination of reductions to penalties related to the failure to meet the work participation rate in CalWORKs.
- 13 Allowing for county flexibility in the work component and permissible activities that contribute to work participation rates in CalWORKs.
- 14 Policies that embrace a "dual generational" approach to addressing intergenerational poverty, including those that provide tax relief to working families, such as an increased California Earned Income Tax Credit, and the creation and strengthening of childcare and workforce development funding opportunities to support working families and student parents.
- 15 Ensure counties have the financial, personnel and information technology system support that is required to maintain ongoing mandate of the Affordable Care Act.



- 16 Preventing the loss of affordable healthcare and other public assistance for residents who are impacted by increases to local and state minimum wage increases.
- 17 Advocating for greater flexibility with CalWORKs permanent housing assistance to include shared housing as a viable option for CalWORKs recipients.
- 18 Preschool for all funding efforts at the state level that will advance the goals of the “Big Lift,” which aims to transform early learning by combining high-quality and connected learning experiences from preschool to third grade, with a focus on reducing chronic absence and summer learning loss, as well as engaging families and the broader community to support learning in school and at home.
- 19 Programs and services that assist and recognize the role of fathers in the development and well-being of their child(ren).
- 20 Promoting funding for training of county personnel to address LGBTQ concerns relating to human services.

## Public Safety and Justice

The County Supports:

- 1 Constitutional protections that provide guaranteed and adequate state funding for counties’ new responsibilities related to 2011 Public Safety Realignment, and will oppose any efforts that transfer additional program responsibilities to counties without adequate funding, constitutional protections, and safety needs of the local system
- 2 The development of a permanent and equitable Public Safety Realignment funding formula that rewards strategies to reduce recidivism.
- 3 Preservation of funding for local public safety efforts, including inmate housing, security, programming, health, juvenile probation and prevention programs, mental health and drug and alcohol programs.
- 4 Continue efforts to maximize opportunity for reimbursement for inmate medical care, including option available under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), as well as pursuing funding for increased needs resulting from realignment. Mitigate liabilities in areas such as health, mental health, American with Disabilities (ADA) and other areas of legal concern.
- 5 Preservation of funding and, in the future, seek additional funding for an expanded, more robust and comprehensive drug court.
- 6 Full state funding for court security costs provided by the County.
- 7 Full funding for the cost of booking and processing of persons arrested by public entities in the County as authorized in Government Code 29553(b).
- 8 Increased funding for local law enforcement to enhance community engagement efforts as well as technology that supports further information sharing between law enforcement and the community to prevent and reduce crime.
- 9 Increased funding and regulation for domestic violence and new prohibited person’s compliance firearms programs.
- 10 Ensure continued state funding for adult criminal justice facilities that will meet the needs created by realignment, i.e., programming space, substance abuse and mental health treatment, etc.



- 11 Policies that help it better it implement Proposition 47, as well as mitigate local criminal justice impacts.
- 12 Increased funding for inmate management, programming, supervision, and substance abuse treatment, mental health services, and other inmate services.
- 13 Efforts to ensure that counties that did not provide in-person visitation under the Board of State and Community Corrections rules prior to 2016 will be reimbursed or funded for the mandate to reconfigure existing facilities.
- 14 Legislation that allows for the consolidation and contracting out of police services and opposes efforts to amend PERS regulations to dis-incentivize these practices.
- 15 Continued review of the alignment of Chief Probation Officer selection, appointment and retention authority with funding. The County also supports cautious review of any potential separation of adult and juvenile probation activities.
- 16 Efforts to align law library costs, including facilities maintenance, with trial courts rather than the County.
- 17 Corrections reforms established within the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) that are developed through collaboration of state and local governments and criminal justice agencies that are adequately funded to operate safe and secure jails and build upon successful, existing programs. Full state funding for any new requirements imposed on the Community Corrections Partnership.
- 18 State funding for local jail construction projects, which recognize the importance of inmate programs and services such as educational, vocational and treatment services and provides flexibility that meets the unique characteristics of each county.
- 19 The implementation and increased funding for support services for juvenile probation and prevention programs, such as tattoo removals and job training.
- 20 Alternatives to youth incarceration, such as restorative justice programs.
- 21 Alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness and/or substance use disorders.
- 22 Promoting funding for training of county personnel to address LGBTQ concerns relating to public safety and policies relating to LGBTQ concerns.

## Public Works

The County Supports:

- 1 Statewide policies that ensure construction expansion, rehabilitation, operation and maintenance of local infrastructure as priorities.
- 2 Balanced with the need for environmental protection, the streamlining and coordination of regulatory requirements so that routine projects can be processed without delay, expectation for routine work can be established and the costs of both initial construction and ongoing operations and maintenance of local infrastructure can be effectively reduced.
- 3 Funding for implementing programs and regulations on storm water management required by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board in order to fund activities consistent with municipal storm water permit requirements.
- 4 Coordinating regulatory agency permitting requirements for maintenance and capital improvement projects to avoid conflicting requirements from state agencies and streamlining delivery of projects.



- 5 Funding to support implementation of California Air Resource Board regulatory mandates relating to diesel powered construction equipment.
- 6 Permanent authority to use the Design-Build and Construction Manager (CM) At Risk project delivery methods.
- 7 Flexibility for alternative project delivery methods on infrastructure projects.
- 8 Policies that promote marketplace equity between Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) programs that offer electricity customers cleaner energy, increased choice, and local control, and investor operator owned utilities and other market actors.
- 9 Policies that create a favorable regulatory environment for CCA energy programs and their customers, including appropriate changes to the Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) exit fee calculation.
- 10 Policies that support the successful operation and local control of CCA energy programs.

## State Budget

### The County Supports:

- 1 Timely and full funding for state-mandated and partnership programs, particularly repayment of post-2004 debts and suspended mandates. The County will oppose efforts to eliminate mandate reimbursements from existing law.
- 2 Increased flexibility in program and service implementation and the elimination of programs not properly funded by state and/or federal funds.
- 3 The principle that reliable, predictable and equitable funding should be provided to local governments, including schools, cities, special districts and counties. This support includes the proper allocation of existing tax revenues.
- 4 In concept, the reduction in funding for various programs and activities only when the concomitant requirement to provide such programs and activities is relieved. The Board has not considered what specific programs would be acceptable for reductions in funding and expressly reserves its ability to take a position on this issue should it arise during the current legislative session and any pertinent special sessions.
- 5 Restoration of historic reductions in local government funding and increased flexibility in implementing and administering services.
- 6 The existing 1991 realignment funding allocation formula.
- 7 Improvements to the Senate Bill 90 (Chapter 1406, Statutes of 1972) mandate reimbursement process that simplify the claiming requirements, expedite the process, and provide sufficient reimbursement to counties. The County also opposes the practice of mandate suspension as a state budget solution. Local governments should be provided the opportunity to comment on proposals to suspend mandates and then be provided adequate time to end program services.
- 8 Increases in alcohol taxes as well as changes in state government's business practices that lead to greater economies and improved program outcomes, should timely and full funding for programs not be maintained.
- 9 Performance based budgeting at the state level.



## Tax and Finance

### The County Supports:

- 1 Preservation of existing revenues and revenue authority. The County opposes efforts to expand Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements, as MOEs tend to penalize more progressive counties that implement programs before the statewide program.
- 2 Maintenance of property tax revenues directed to local government. The County opposes efforts to direct property tax revenues away from local government.
- 3 The existing property tax allocation laws, which return surplus Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) dollars to local taxing entities. The County strongly opposes legislative actions, which would utilize ERAF for payment of state program/service obligations.
- 4 A lower voter threshold for special taxes to 55 percent.
- 5 The issuance or sale of revenue bonds by the state for projects that are financed, owned, operated, or managed by the state or any joint agency that exceed \$2 billion dollars without voter approval.
- 6 Efforts to allocate funding through block grants, which allow for maximum flexibility in the use of funding within designated programs.
- 7 Federal funding mechanisms that allow funding to flow directly to local governments rather than through state government.
- 8 Increased ability to utilize state or local matching funds to draw down additional federal funds.
- 9 Economic development efforts that grow the California and local economy in a sustainable (environmental and economic) fashion.
- 10 Increased funding for county infrastructure needs, should such funds be available.

## Transportation

### The County Supports:

- 1 Allocation of formulas that ensure the County receives its fair share of infrastructure bond funding by reflecting, in part, the variation in the cost of living and doing business among the state's diverse communities
- 2 The protection from diversion or borrowing of the federal or state gas tax.
- 3 Prohibitions on the delayed pass-through of state transportation funding (HUTA) to counties caused by state budget delays.
- 4 Protection of dedicated statewide ongoing revenue sources, including recently approved RMRA funding sources that support local operations and maintenance of existing and future infrastructure needs.
- 5 Updating, adjusting and/or indexing the current gas tax. Pursuing alternative funding strategies including vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- 6 The Legislative Analyst's Office recommendation to require a statewide transportation needs assessment every five years, if the assessment has no fiscal impact on County funds or revenues.
- 7 The implementation and funding for affordable transportation for low-income youth and families.
- 8 Funding for active transportation infrastructure, education and encouragement programs, as well as bike/pedestrian improvements.
- 9 Improved safety measures for active transportation and improved transit access to reduce congestion and air pollution.
- 10 Funding for adaptation of transportation systems to climate change impacts.



## 2018 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

These are the top federal legislative priorities for San Mateo County in the 115th Congress, Second Session.

### Overview

With majorities in both houses of Congress, results by the end of the first year of the Trump Administration included: passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, several attempts to repeal all or parts of the Affordable Care Act, punitive executive actions targeted at so-called “sanctuary cities/counties,” efforts to repeal environmental protections and efforts to impose harsher and stricter immigration policies targeted at specific immigrant groups. As federal departments continue to work with fiscal funds appropriated at FY 2016 levels, federal grant program opportunities remain a mainstay of securing federal support for the County’s domestic needs to complement ongoing formula funding.

The first session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress concluded without a completed federal budget and approval of a continuing resolution for FY 2018 to provide funding for the federal government through January 2018 at the previous fiscal year’s levels. When the second session got underway, funding for FY 2018 federal programs was continued on a temporary basis through February 9 and included funding to extend the Children’s Health Insurance Program and delay taxes associated with the Affordable Care Act.

The second year of the Trump Administration and Republican majorities in the second session of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress have Washington primed for potential legislative activity focused on immigration reform, infrastructure and welfare reform. By the end of 2018, mid-term elections for Members of Congress will have been held as the impact of partisan campaign politics may likely stoke the dynamics of the unpredictable day-to-day and back and forth on federal legislative activity, policy development and internal federal department. In 2018, San Mateo County will remain focused on federal policy relevant to the health, economic development, education, environment, public safety, and infrastructure needs of its residents.

### The Following is a List of Priority Areas for the County:

**Health Care Reform Implementation.** The County supports the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and full funding for its administration and programs, specifically comprehensive primary care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, among others and opposes the ACA’s repeal. California draws down about \$16 billion in federal funds for Medi-Cal expansion as a result of the ACA—for a total Medi-Cal budget of over \$102 billion.

As of December 2017, the County had 118,736 persons enrolled in the Medi-Cal program—about 15.5 percent of its population. Forty thousand persons have been enrolled in the Medi-Cal program in the County under the federal and state expansion. The Health System’s main concern with policy changes at the federal level are changes that erode the Medi-Cal program. The program’s expansion and related Waivers have allowed the Health System to make major strides in providing high quality and comprehensive healthcare to the most vulnerable residents in our community. Repeal and/or changes that reduce ACA could lead to increases in the County’s uninsured population, thereby, increasing the number of persons on the County’s Access for Everyone (ACE) Program. It is also believed that if people lose coverage, they may only seek care under emergency circumstances, which would erode years of work to encourage access primary preventative care and result in increased emergency room visits.

While the new administration has worked repeatedly with the Republican-led Congress to repeal the ACA and has not yet indicated whether it will attempt to do so again in 2018 or what will replace it, one proposal that has been mentioned is the creation of block grants to the states for Medicaid. The adoption of such a proposal could mean the loss of approximately \$20 million in supplemental funding for the hospital to provide care for Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and \$30 million in funding for care to the uninsured.

The County's response will depend on how President Trump and the new Congress proceed in potentially repealing the ACA in its entirety, or retain parts of it, or develop additional proposals to replace it.

**Medicaid.** As one of the big three federal entitlement programs, the federal Medicaid program provides the critical funding for the health care safety net, which reimburses providers and hospitals for what would otherwise be unreimbursed medical care. Any cuts to Medicaid would reduce patient access to services and decrease funding to San Mateo County health programs. This would be troubling to the County because Medicaid funding reductions would also undercut local efforts to transform outreach and care with the ongoing implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The County will oppose efforts to cut Medicaid, including implementation of a block grant, and institution of a blended FMAP rate, and the provision of per-capita payments based on states' historical Medicaid spending patterns in return for increased administrative flexibility in designing and administering the program. California continues to be one of the lowest Medicaid spending states based on a per-capita basis, potentially locking the state in to a very low federal allotment. Moreover, to the extent that state administrative and benefit costs exceed what is covered by the block grant, counties are at risk of assuming the financial liability for those costs.

**Health Services.** The County will advocate for the advancement of preventative health care demonstrations to support wellness across multiple areas such as nutrition, schools, transportation and other infrastructure, conservation, housing, and the built environment. This includes federal proposals and initiatives to update and advance:

- State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIPP)
- Older Americans Act
- Second Chance Act
- Safe and Complete Streets Act
- Livable Communities Act
- Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act
- Clean Air Act
- Women Infants and Children's Program and other efforts to promote healthy eating by the Department of Agriculture.





**Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).** Current funding for CHIP expired on September 30, 2017 and remained on temporary funds for over fourth months. It was finally reauthorized and funded for six years through 2024 with approval of the third Continuing Resolution for federal programs on January 22, 2018. The County supports full funding of CHIP and continuing the 23 percentage point boost in the federal contribution over the normal 65 percent federal match for CHIP

**Child Welfare Services.** The County supports increased funding for services and income support needed by parents seeking to reunify with children who are in foster care. The County also supports increased financial support for programs that assist foster youth in the transition to self-sufficiency, including post-emancipation assistance such as secondary education, job training, and access to health care.

In addition, the County supports retaining the entitlement nature of the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs and elimination of outdated rules that base the child's eligibility for funds on parental income and circumstances. Finally, the County supports federal funding to address the service needs of youth who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation

**TANF Reauthorization.** The County will continue to promote provisions in the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program to restore state and county flexibility in a way that provides matching up, stabilization activities with families' individual needs, and to advocate for long term reauthorization of the program.

**Snap Funding.** The County will advocate for no further reductions in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or CalFresh, which provides food subsidies to some of the neediest residents in the County. The County will also advocate for program improvements efforts to block the granting of SNAP waivers to the state.

**Housing and Economic Development.** The County supports increased funding levels for affordable housing programs, including the Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Housing Opportunities for People with AIDS (HOPWA), and Sustainable Communities among others. The County is also very supportive of efforts to preserve the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) as it is the largest source of affordable housing construction funding and must be included in any comprehensive tax reform that unfolds under the new Congressional leadership. Finally, the County will continue monitoring and advocating for federal housing programs that offer increased investment for local efforts within the Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as the Department of Commerce and its Economic Development Administration, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Transportation, and the White House.

**State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP).** The County supports protection and enhancement of SCAAP funding, a key source of federal funding. The County will oppose efforts to restrict statutory language that would authorize the U.S. Department of Justice to transfer a significant percentage of SCAAP funding to other justice accounts and supports its long-term reauthorization.

**Victims of Crime Act Funding (VOCA).** The County supports continued and increased funding for VOCA, which is allocated to counties through competitive grants administered by Cal OES. These funds help support domestic violence shelters, services for victims of human trafficking, and other services for victims of violent crimes.



**Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).** The County support continued funding for VAWA grants, which fund direct services to women who are the victims of violent crime. Counties depend on VAWA funds for CBOs that provide services, including housing, treatment, and other direct-victim services.

**Cannabis\_Policy.** With the passage of Proposition 64 in November 2016, California has joined seven other states that have legalized marijuana for recreational purposes. As this change in law is not consistent with federal policy on marijuana, there will be several issues, primarily in the areas of banking, finance and taxation that will need to be addressed. It is also remains unclear how Attorney General Jeff Sessions and the Trump administration will translate opposition to legalization efforts in federal enforcement activities and justice program and regulations, such as the “Cole Memo” that outlines how the federal government prioritizes enforcement of the Controlled Substance Act. The County will work through the state and its associations in seeking guidance on how to address this ongoing issue.

**Property Assessed Clean Energy Program.** The County supports legislative and administrative remedies that would help expand residential PACE programs.

**Energy & Environment.** The County will continue efforts to seek federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Commerce, Energy, Interior, Health and Human Services and Transportation to advance its environmental goals. This will include activities to support implementation of federal clean air and clean water programs, emerging technologies development, entrepreneurship and workforce training, as well as programs to improve and sustain the built environment for business, residential and recreational areas within the County. The County will oppose actions to defund science programs that provide critical information on climate change and will continue its participation within the global effort, despite the dismissal and disengagement of the Trump Administration at the federal level. These include NASA satellite data on sea level changes, carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere, research on climate impacts to our ecosystems, oceans, and communities collected by the National Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey, among others. As San Mateo County continues the work of mapping its sea level rise erosion and shoreline change, as well as plans for continued analysis of the changing bay and coast side, it is critically important that these data sources be sustained.

**Infrastructure.** The Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) ensured solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) through 2020. However, the federal gas tax has lost its purchasing power much like the state gas tax since it was last increased in 1991. Thus, the County supports a dedicated federal funding for the nation’s transportation needs, including local bridges, both on- and off-system, interstates, primary roads and public transportation as well as freight and pipeline safety. In addition, the County supports further streamlining of the regulatory and project delivery processes; promoting programs that increase safety on the existing transportation system; and initiatives that protect previous and future investments via system maintenance and preservation.

The County will continue to monitor the ongoing Trump Administration efforts to develop a \$200 billion infrastructure which focuses around principles that include seeking more private investment to compete for federal funds and insufficient dedicated federal funding. The County will continue to review the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, the largest discretionary program within the Department of Transportation, to identify potential regional collaborations that might be able to compete effectively for funding.

**Pest Prevention Programs.** The County will advocate for increased funding for invasive pest exclusion and pest prevention programs, an issue of interest to the County’s Agriculture, Weights and Measures Commissioner.



**Weed and Invasive Plant Management.** The County will support federal legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Area groups or programs for the control of harmful nonnative, invasive weed pests.

**Parcel Inspection at USPS and Private Parcel Carriers.** The County will support legislation or rulemaking actions that authorize county agricultural inspectors to conduct parcel inspection of “first class,” “priority,” or “Express” mail packages containing plant material profiled by pest detection canines.

**Jet Fuel.** The County will continue to monitor the Federal Aviation Administration “Final Policy Amendment” to its “Policy and Procedures Concerning the Use of Airport Revenue,” first published 15 years ago in the Federal Register at 64 Fed. Reg. 7696, February 16, 1999 (“Revenue Use Policy”). The Amendment formally adopts FAA’s interpretation of the Federal requirements for use of revenue derived from taxes including sales taxes on aviation fuel imposed by both airport sponsors and governmental agencies, local and State, that are non-airport operators. The rule restricts the use of local sales taxes to certain aviation-related purposes only, and its implementation is being negotiated with assistance from the state. The County will support legislation that would reverse the FAA’s jet fuel tax revenue rule and support legislative efforts designed to clarify that local voter approved sales tax revenues derived from the sale of aviation fuel are not subject to provisions of federal law that require the proceeds of certain taxes to be spent on airport capital and operating costs. As reauthorization of the federal aviation programs will be required by the end of March 2018, the County will closely follow its development regarding the jet fuel revenue rule.

**Taxes.** The County will continue to support federal remote sales tax legislation and other proposals that would authorize state and local governments to secure tax collection and remittance from remote sellers as local governments are losing billions of dollars in uncollected sales tax revenues under the current system. The Marketplace Fairness Act remains in limbo in Congress.

**Municipal Bonds.** The County supports preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds that provide critical funding for public facilities, infrastructure and development. Provisions like the tax exemption for municipal bond interest have been part of the federal tax code for over 100 years, helping to efficiently and safely finance trillions of dollars in public works projects, and were continued in the tax reform law passed at the end of 2017.

**Immigration Reform.** The County of San Mateo recognizes, values, and will continue to work to protect the rights of all San Mateo County residents, regardless of their ethnic or national origin, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or immigration status. Further, the County will continue to promote and enhance the health, safety, and welfare of the community and provide and ensure access to quality services that benefit and enrich the lives of all County residents. The County will oppose efforts to require it to use its resources to enforce civil federal immigration law as it believes that enforcement of federal civil immigration law is the responsibility of the federal government. The County urges Congress to continue to work towards a comprehensive immigration reform bill which creates a path to citizenship, and to protect DREAMERS—minors brought into the country by undocumented adults—from deportation.



**Veterans.** The County will advocate for administrative changes to the VA to increase the processing rate of veterans' benefits as disability compensation, pension and survivor benefits. Although nationally, the rate of the backlog has decreased by 84 percent since 2013, there are still too many cases pending. The County will continue to support and seek increases in federal discretionary programs to assist its veterans with social service needs such as housing, workforce training and healthcare for prevention, substance abuse and mental health.

**Education & Workforce Training.** The County will continue its proactive outreach to support federal funding of its early childhood education programs, especially The Big Lift. The County will continue its support of federal efforts that provide ongoing and new opportunities for funding of its current initiatives in early childhood, elementary and secondary education, and will continue advocacy for public education improvements. It will also seek further workforce support for teens, high school drop outs and underemployed young adults.

**Public Wi-Fi.** The County continues all efforts to increase public Wi-Fi, especially for low income and/or rural residents. For this reason, the County continues its efforts with a nationwide initiative coordinated by the National Institute of Standards & Technology and the National Telecommunications & Information Administration, both of which are part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. To advance goals in this arena, the County helps lead the NIST/NTIA Public Wi-Fi Cluster as part of the leadership team, which is comprised of federal, state, private sector and non-profit organizations. As the only County government member of the leadership team, the County will be at the forefront of devising national policy to increase public private partnerships and advance public Wi-Fi access for all residents.

**Net Neutrality.** The County supports efforts opposing the recent FCC decision repealing net neutrality—the principle that all online traffic should be treated equally—and that paves the way for internet service providers to charge website fees for faster internet speeds and to slow down or block other sites. The federal government will also no longer regulate high-speed internet delivery as if it were a utility, like phone service. The action reversed the agency's 2015 decision, during the Obama Administration, to have stronger oversight over broadband providers as Americans have migrated to the internet for most communications. It reflected the view of the Trump Administration and the new FCC Chairman that unregulated business will eventually yield innovation and help the economy. Currently, the attorneys general of more than 20 states filed a lawsuit to stop the FCC's decision to repeal Obama-era net neutrality protections



# 2018

LEGISLATIVE  
SESSION PROGRAM

