

LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

2023-2024



*Building Opportunity by Leading California's
Renewable Energy Future while Remaining
True to Our Rich Agricultural Heritage*

IMPERIAL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Jesus Eduardo Escobar
District 1



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District 2



Michael W. Kelley
District 3



Ryan E. Kelley
District 4



John Hawk
District 5

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Miguel Figueroa

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT MAP

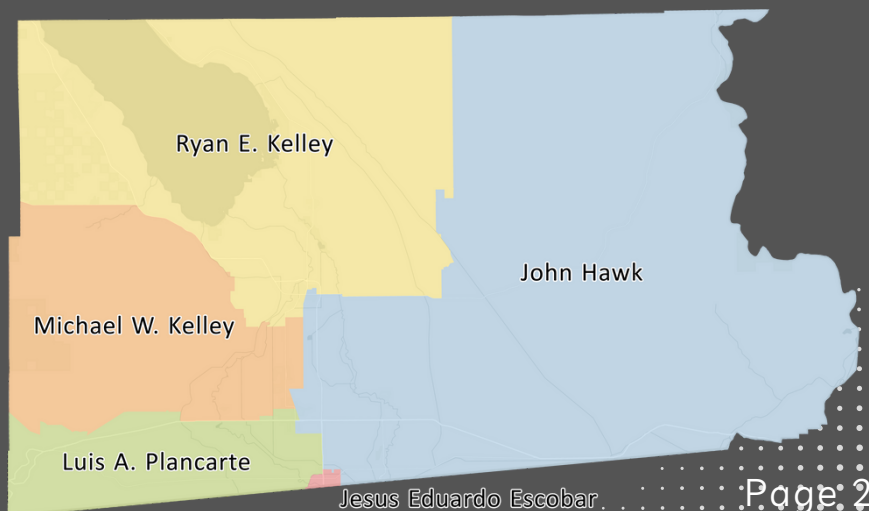


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IMPERIAL COUNTY INTRODUCTION AND PLATFORM PURPOSE

Imperial County is home to approximately 180,000 residents whom live and work within its seven cities (Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial and Westmorland) and eight unincorporated communities (Bombay Beach, Heber, Niland, Ocotillo, Palo Verde, Salton City, Seeley and Winterhaven). The county was the last to be established in California in 1907; however, it is the ninth largest California County encompassing 4,284 square miles.

Imperial County has much to offer. We have a rich agricultural heritage, which includes the production of half of our nation's winter vegetables, an extensive amount of renewable resources, including lithium, geothermal, wind, and solar, a wide-range of cultural and outdoor recreational activities with hundreds of points of interest such as the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area, a magnet for off-road enthusiasts, and the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge, a renowned birding site, and a lively population with frequent family-oriented community events.

This Legislative Platform is a statement of the goals and priorities of the Imperial County Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the State of California and the federal government of the United States. To support the accomplishment of these goals and priorities, the Imperial County Board of Supervisors adopts the following general guidelines to assist County staff and legislative advocates in evaluating legislative efforts and executive and regulatory actions.

REVIEW OF THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AT THE STATE LEVEL:

While the Governor and Legislature were focused on major pieces of legislation prior to the end of the two-year Session, 2022 was also a major legislative year of accomplishment for the County. The Governor announced in his January budget proposal one of his priorities to be the development of Lithium Valley. This opened the way for the state to accomplish a number of critical pieces of the County's lithium agenda, the highlight of which was the passage of a lithium excise tax for the benefit of the County and Salton Sea restoration. Below is a discussion of all of the legislative efforts the County worked on this year:

- **SB 125 (Committee on Budget) Public resources: geothermal resources: lithium.** The biggest win of the year, The County was able to secure a two-thirds-vote trailer bill creating a new lithium extraction tax in California. Further, the revenues from the tax are returned to the county for the benefits of its communities and the restoration of the Salton Sea. Finally, SB 125 appropriated \$5 million from the General Fund for allocation to the County for purposes related to geothermal energy development and lithium extraction.
- **AB 943 (E. Garcia) California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund: competitive grant programs: funding objectives.** Once again, Assembly Member Garcia introduced his proposal to require state agencies administering competitive grant programs that allocate moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to give specified communities preferential points during grant application scoring for programs intended to improve air quality, to provide for a specified application timeline, and to allow applicants from the Counties of Imperial and San Diego to include daytime

population numbers in grant applications. The County once again supported this effort, but the bill was held in Assembly Appropriations Committee on the Suspense File.

- **AB 2248 (E. Garcia) Water quality: California-Mexico cross-border rivers.** The County supported this measure which dedicated \$100 million available from the General Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the State Water Resources Control Board for grants and direct expenditures to address water quality problems arising in the California-Mexico cross-border rivers. AB 2248 made it all the way through the legislative process but was ultimately vetoed by governor.
- **SB 443 (Hertzberg) Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS.** The County opposed this measure which would have allowed cities and fire districts to maintain autonomy over the administration of prehospital emergency medical services (EMS), even with the existence of an agreement to delegate a portion of those services to a county-affiliated local EMS agencies (LEMSA). Fortunately this bill was held in Assembly Health Committee.

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL:

On the heels of the 2021 enactment of the landmark *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA; P.L. 117-58), Democratic congressional leaders devoted significant attention during the 2022 legislative session to pursuing the second half of President Joe Biden’s job creation and economic recovery agenda. After months of intraparty negotiations, lawmakers approved and the president signed into law legislation that provides the single largest federal investment in climate change and clean energy programs in U.S. history. Known as the *Inflation Reduction Act* (IRA; P.L. 117-69), the measure includes a number of provisions that are of direct interest to Imperial County, including various funding opportunities that are intended to boost the deployment of clean energy at the local level.

Congress capped off the year with approval of a long-awaited \$1.7 trillion fiscal year 2023 *Consolidated Appropriations Act* (P.L. 117-328). The final omnibus budget provides resources for every federal department and agency and includes emergency funding for recent natural disasters. All told, the Act provides nearly \$773 billion in domestic discretionary funding for the current fiscal year, or a 5.5 percent increase over fiscal year 2022 levels. With regard to defense programs, the omnibus includes a total of \$858 billion in budgetary resources, which is consistent with the amount of funding authorized by the recently enacted *National Defense Authorization Act*.

As expected, the final budget delivers funding increases for a number of programmatic areas that are of importance to Imperial County, including transportation, border security and humanitarian support, housing and homelessness programs, health and human services, climate and resiliency initiatives, local law enforcement, and energy and water programs.

Throughout 2022, Imperial County waged an effective lobbying campaign in the nation’s capital with strong teamwork and guidance from Paragon Government Relations. Key developments on a number of the County’s legislative priorities are discussed below.

Salton Sea

The final FY 2023 budget includes the text of the *Salton Sea Projects Improvement Act*, a bill that was championed by Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and Representative Raul Ruiz (D-CA). Specifically, the new law expands the authority of the Bureau of Reclamation to partner with state, local, tribal governments and other entities – including the Salton Sea Authority – to contribute to large-scale public health protection and environmental restoration projects at the Sea. The Act explicitly authorizes Reclamation to be the federal partner on projects to mitigate

impacts from dust from dry and drying lakebeds and to improve fish and wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and water quality.

On a related matter, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced in late November 2022 that it will invest \$250 million in IRA drought resiliency funding in California's Salton Sea Management Program (SSMP). Specifically, the Bureau of Reclamation will provide \$22 million in new funding in the current fiscal year to implement projects at the Sea, support staffing at the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribe, and conduct scientific research and management that contributes to project implementation. Reclamation also will provide an additional \$228 million over four years to expedite existing projects and bolster staffing capacity at water agencies to help deliver new projects. The \$250 million in IRA funding complements the \$583 million in state funding that has been committed to the Salton Sea, to date.

In other developments, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in late December 2022 that it will begin reviewing short-term and long-term options for aiding in Salton Sea restoration. According to the Corps, the agency will complete by March 1, 2023 streamlined federal environmental reviews of projects that are part of the SSMP's 10-year plan. This includes nearly 29,000 acres of interconnected pond and wetlands habitat projects, dust suppression and native vegetation projects, and refilling former boat canals in Desert Shores. Separately, the Corps officially entered into a cost-sharing agreement with state and regional officials for a three-year, \$3 million feasibility study to determine which of more than a dozen potential large-scale restoration projects are feasible. Once completed, any Corps-selected construction projects would be eligible to be funded at a 65 federal/35 state match.

Lithium Valley

As part of Imperial County's effort to identify infrastructure gaps that are within the proposed Salton Sea/Lithium Valley development areas, the County in early 2022 identified several priority bridge projects that are in need of federal funding, including the Brandt Road Bridge at the Alamo River. In a major victory for Imperial County, the final FY 2023 budget Act provides \$4 million for the Public Works Department to replace the old Brandt Road timber bridge with a new, single span structure that will meet current standards and improve operational safety of the roadway. The County is continuing efforts to identify federal funding sources to help advance other key Lithium Valley infrastructure projects.

In other developments, the aforementioned climate law (IRA) makes a number of significant changes with respect to critical minerals and clean vehicle production requirements. For example, the IRA requires that lithium and other critical minerals used in Electric Vehicle (EV) batteries will have to be sourced from North America or U.S. trading partners under a phased-in structure. Specifically, beginning in 2024, 40 percent of critical minerals found in EV batteries must be extracted or processed domestically or from countries that have free trade agreements with the U.S.; or, be recycled in North America. The percentage rises to 80 by the end of 2026. The new requirements will put intense pressure on the need for domestically-sourced critical minerals, including lithium.

With regard to the Department of Energy's 2023 budget, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act* includes \$2 million for the Department to fund lithium-ion battery rejuvenation, recycling, and reuse programs that will focus on research, education, and workforce development. The Act also provides up to \$10 million for solid state lithium metal battery storage demonstration projects that are U.S.-controlled, U.S.-made, and North American sourced and supplied.

New River

In 2022, Imperial County continued to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to identify a path forward for allocating \$500,000 in federal funding for a Preliminary Engineering report which, once completed, will serve as the basis for identifying a recommended course of action to

address systemic pollution at the New River. For its part, the Board of Supervisors sent to Corps leadership a letter of intent to execute a Project Cooperation Agreement with the Agency. It should be noted that the \$500,000 in federal funding was secured by Imperial County as part of the fiscal year 2022 appropriations process.

On the legislative front, key members of Congress continued to look for opportunities to advance the *Border Water Quality Restoration and Protection Act* (S. 572/H.R. 1663). Among other things, the legislation would designate the EPA as the lead agency to coordinate all federal, state, and local agencies in restoring the New River. Under the bill, EPA would be required to identify a list of priority projects aimed at stopping cross-border pollution and would be authorized to accept and distribute funds to build, operate, and maintain those projects. For its part, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) would be directed to construct, operate and maintain projects on the list.

Members are expected to renew their efforts to advance the aforementioned objectives in the new 118th Congress.

Public Lands

The FY 2023 omnibus budget fully funds the Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) program. In FY 2022, the Interior Department distributed more than \$549 million in PILT funding to over 1,900 local governments. Imperial County's allocation was \$3.34 million, which is slightly more than the \$3.26 million the County received in FY 2021.

In addition to PILT, the County received over \$4.6 million in funding from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund (LATCF). The County is due an additional \$4.6 million early in 2023. The LATCF, which was created under the *American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA; P.L. 117-2), provides two years of general fiscal aid to eligible "revenue-sharing counties" – or those counties with large amounts of federally-owned public lands – and Tribal governments. Of the \$2 billion available under the program, \$1.5 billion was reserved for counties and the remaining \$500 million was earmarked for eligible tribes.

It should be noted that the formula that the administration ultimately used to allocate LATCF funding focused predominantly on federal acreage within each unit of local government rather than a formula that would have allocated funding to every jurisdiction in the country – a prospect that would have significantly diluted the pot for public lands counties. In addition to the focus on federal lands, it should be noted that the law also required the Treasury Department to take into consideration population data and various economic indicators, including poverty levels, household income, land values, unemployment rate, etc.

Homeland Security

The *Consolidated Appropriations Act* includes enhanced resources for agencies and programs under the purview of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Within the DHS budget, the Act provides \$25.7 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which includes \$130 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter program. Additionally, the omnibus provides \$1.9 billion for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to help manage the high volume of migrants arriving at the southern border, including: \$1.56 million to CBP for processing facilities, migrant medical care, transportation, personnel overtime, and other costs; and, \$339.7 million for ICE for processing capacity, migrant medical care, transportation, and other non-detention costs.

Within CBP's budget, the omnibus provides \$800 million for a new Shelter and Services Program (SSP) to support CBP in effectively managing noncitizen processing and preventing the overcrowding of short-term CBP holding facilities. Of the total amount provided, up to \$50 million is available for the construction or expansion of shelter facilities. It should be noted that

the budget Act transfers the funds to FEMA for administration as grants or cooperative agreements with state and local governments and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Safety Net Programs

The Labor-HHS title of the FY 2023 omnibus budget includes a 13 percent increase in funding for departmental programs compared to previous spending levels. Federal entitlements, such as Medicaid and Title IV-E Foster Care, are *not* subject to the appropriations process and are fully funded to meet the needs of all eligible individuals.

Pursuant to the final budget, significant increases are provided for the Child Care and Development Block Grant and the Substance Use and Treatment Block Grant, which received 30 percent and 26 percent increases, respectively. Mental health programs are funded at \$2.8 billion, or a \$707 million increase.

Additionally, the omnibus allocates \$350 million, an increase of \$150 million, for public health infrastructure and capacity, including investments in local health departments and \$2.9 billion for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (+\$50 million).

With regard to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department is receiving \$58.2 billion in budgetary resources in FY 2023 – an increase of \$4.5 billion. Pursuant to the omnibus, Homeless Assistance Grants are funded at \$3.6 billion, a 13 percent increase. Tenant-based rental assistance is level funded at \$27.6 billion, as is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) at \$3.3 billion.

The omnibus also provides \$85 million for a new competitive grant program that will reward communities that have made progress in improving inclusionary zoning practices, land use policies, and housing infrastructure that will ultimately increase the supply of affordable housing.

Finally, the Act expands housing choice vouchers to nearly 12,000 low-income individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including survivors of domestic violence and veterans. The Homeless Assistance Grant program funding referenced above includes \$75 million for new construction, acquisition or rehabilitation of new permanent supportive housing to expand housing options for people experiencing homelessness.

Outlook

Unlike the previous two years, the onset of the new 118th Congress will bring back divided control of government in 2023. With Republicans controlling the House, albeit with a razor-thin majority, expectations are that there will be little opportunity for bicameral consensus on issues of major consequence. Looking ahead, partisan fiscal showdowns are expected as lawmakers take up votes on the debt limit and the fiscal year 2024 budget. As always, Imperial County and its federal advocates will continue to actively promote program funding and policy initiatives that are of critical importance to the County and its residents.

2023-2024 LEGISLATIVE GOALS AND PRIORITIES

General Guidelines

Fiscal Stability

Support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and/or enhance existing revenue and reimbursement levels.

Support efforts to protect newly established or existing revenues which fund government services, public infrastructure, and other programs and projects which benefit the community at large.

Oppose the loss or redirecting of existing revenues and/or the creation of additional unfunded mandates to the County.

Efficient Service Delivery/Operations

Support efforts to streamline processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to the County's services.

Oppose efforts that create undue fiscal and operational burdens on departments with little or no benefit to the public.

Local Control

Ensure local authority and control over governance issues, land use policies and the delivery of services, including flexibility and customization in designing and implementing policies and services that are responsive to local preferences and needs.

Economic Expansion

Support efforts to facilitate orderly economic expansion and growth, including regional approaches.

Oppose legislative efforts that create undue burdens on businesses and curtail economic growth opportunities.

Collaboration

Partner with neighboring jurisdictions on infrastructure and other large-scale projects, when possible.

Support the advocacy efforts of organizations and associations of which the County is a member.

Collaborate with public and private sector entities on mutually beneficial issues.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AND ISSUES BY FUNCTIONAL AREA

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

General Principles

The primary goal of the County's elected representatives and its employees is to serve and support the social, economic, health, safety and well-being of its residents. To this end, in the 2023-2024 legislative session the Imperial County Board of Supervisors supports the following general principles. County staff, the Executive Office and its legislative advocates, will apply these general principles to evaluate legislation and other proposals, make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and take action on behalf of the County.

1. Encourage and seek legislation that facilitates orderly economic expansion and growth, and increases the opportunity for discretionary revenues.
2. Support legislative efforts that ensure Imperial County's authority to govern itself and oppose legislation which will hinder or limit the County's authority.

3. Continue to encourage local agencies and governments to cooperate for the betterment of the community and encourage voluntary regional solutions to regional problems, including funding and support for capital acquisition projects.
4. Seek cooperation with state and federal governments on regulatory and administrative issues affecting the County, including those related to health care, public safety, the environment and transportation to ensure the protection and well-being of its citizens.
5. Encourage and seek legislation that protects the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County.
6. Support legislative efforts that would align responsibility with authority and provide the necessary resources to execute the responsibility.
7. Support legislative efforts that would simplify or eliminate governmental regulation of local government or businesses, or eliminate duplication of federal, state and local requirements.
8. Support legislative efforts that allow local, state or federal governments to streamline operation and business efficiency.
9. Support efforts, including administrative changes, to implement a state/local fiscal reform plan to stabilize revenues for the delivery of local programs and services, and to increase programmatic and financial flexibility for the County.
10. Support the County's authority to assure mutually acceptable tax sharing agreements for annexations, incorporation, and redevelopment that protect or enhance the County's ability to provide essential services to its constituents.
11. Support legislative efforts that provide tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies. Support the change of funding formulas that unfairly disadvantage Imperial County.
12. Support increased state and federal appropriations for County mandated programs and the equitable distribution of local tax revenue among all local government agencies.
13. Support legislative efforts that streamline the state mandate process, making the reimbursement process less lengthy or onerous for local government.
14. Oppose state or federal mandates and the transfer of state or federal programs to the County unless adequate, reliable and on-going revenues are provided.
15. Oppose legislative efforts that would impose federal financial penalties on the County resulting from action or inaction by the state.
16. Maintain close relationships with Imperial County's legislative delegation to foster greater advocacy and understanding of Imperial County's issues.
17. Maintain existing coalitions such as CSAC, RCRC, BECC, NADB, Border Trade Alliance and other associated groups that build onto local efforts and form new coalitions and alliances with other like-minded organizations to strengthen our legislative positions, create economic development and impact the decisions that affect our region.

18. Support legislative efforts to seek a permanent and secure funding source for county law libraries and ultimately transferring all responsibilities, including financial support, for law libraries away from counties to courts or other appropriate state agency, consistent with other court related functions that have been transferred from counties to the state.

General Government

Support comprehensive immigration policy reform. We also support provisions that would bolster security at the Southwest Border, improve border infrastructure at our nation's ports of entry, the deployment and use of additional surveillance technology, and the creation of a functional agricultural worker program.

Support budget proposals, appropriations and grants that will fully reimburse border community's law enforcement agencies for their added costs to provide services to aid the federal government's responsibility to maintain a secure border and efficient ports-of-entry.

Support efforts to allow non-traditional funding for the development of critical infrastructure in areas such as ports-of-entry that are no longer assured of reliable funding from the federal government.

Support plans, programs, projects and funding for purposes related to the restoration of the Salton Sea, economic development in the region, and to mitigate potential air quality issues resulting from changes in elevation of the Sea.

Continue collaborating with other agencies and entities, public and private, to secure a permanent solution for the restoration of the Salton Sea and to mitigate impacts to the Salton Sea which result from lessened inflows to the Sea.

Support assurance of a Salton Sea restoration plan that will provide for long-term habitat protection, recreation, economic stimulus, salinity control, and a constant elevation with a reliable and consistent water source, and support immediate funding of first step "no regrets" projects that will begin the restoration process.

Support efforts to protect the water rights for our region. We support regionally directed local solutions to California's water problems, including storage, ground water development, desalination, reclamation, recycling, storm-water retention and appropriate conjunctive use in urban California.

Continue to seek state assurances that the beneficiaries of the water transfer, and not Imperial County interests, will be responsible for fully mitigating environmental consequences of the water transfer.

Support efforts to improve restoration and conservation of the New River.

Seek full funding for law enforcement on the Imperial Sand Dunes and west desert areas, and also seek additional federal funding for BLM so they can maintain their own law enforcement presence and resolve trash disposal problems on federal lands.

Oppose proposals to use OHV funds as a loan to General Fund as this will reduce funds available to provide dunes and desert law enforcement assistance.

Support efforts to increase access to capital for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of public infrastructure or affordable housing projects.

Government Finance

Support full Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding as both are vital to continue providing critical programs and services provided on federal lands in rural communities.

Support county reimbursement for the extraction of geothermal resources on our public lands. Support efforts to ensure that projects built on federal or state lands pay royalties based on their production of electricity and that a portion of those royalties are shared with the counties and not subject to deduction from our existing PILT payments.

Support language to clean-up the existing language in the Resources Code that directs the way funds from OHV registration fees (OHV in-lieu monies) are distributed to counties so that the money is distributed to areas with the greatest use of OHVs rather than by population.

Support legislation that improves access to cap and trade resources, such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, so that the funding can address a number of local government priorities. Support maximum funding for and a long-term authorization of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), Operation Stonegarden, and other programs to reimburse the county for its costs resulting from aiding the federal government in maintaining a secure border.

Support legislation that protects the local share of tax revenues.

Oppose legislation that would restrict a county's authority to contract out.

Assessor

Support legislation that provides funding that will enhance local property assessment efforts.

Support the California Department of Finance in funding the second year of the 30 million dollar (10 million per year) state-wide Assessor Information Technology Project.

Oppose legislation that would reduce the services provided to County Assessors by the California State Board of Equalization.

Library

Support full funding of the statewide Public Library Funds, monies for the California Library Literacy Services and for the collaborative systems.

Support full funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Support funding to add public libraries to the CENIC (Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California).

Support the exemption of public library tax districts from the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund.

Workforce Development

Support legislation that will help vulnerable populations, including out-of-school youth, veterans, unskilled and low-skilled workers, foster youth, long-term unemployed, workers with disabilities, formerly incarcerated individuals, farmworkers, and other economically disadvantaged people, move out of poverty and into meaningful employment opportunities.

Support adequate funding to support the mission of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and to develop a highly competitive and effective delivery system.

Veteran Services Office

Support funding for services mandated and essential to maintain the dignity and health of veterans. This will include the following: Faster access to earned benefits, Education, Improved Mental Health Care to include Military Sexual Trauma, Improved Health Care, Improve Job Opportunities and Employment Rights, Employment Credit, Respect of National Cemeteries, Increase Veteran Outreach and Veteran Services Offices.

Retirement/Pension Reform

Oppose state pension reform initiatives that impose unnecessary restrictions on new costs on the local county Retirement Program.

Oppose initiatives that make the process for '37 Act retirement systems to separate from the county less transparent for taxpayers, system payers, and the employers of both the county and its retirement system.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Sheriff's Department

Support efforts to create a funding mechanism for staffing the facilities built under AB900 or SB1022.

Support changes to the California Rules of Court, Rule 810, to include all court-related costs currently paid by Counties.

Support efforts to increase portions allotted to Law Enforcement for the Off-Highway Vehicle Enforcement Safety Team (OHVEST).

Support increased funding for Disaster Preparedness/Emergency Services and the inclusion of Information Technology and Regional Communications Interoperability as part of the services to be funded or included in the claims process.

Support increase funding for physical improvements and new construction needed at County jails, juvenile facilities, coroner facilities, and justice service administrative and support facilities.

Support efforts to re-establish or improve services of Crime Labs.

Support ongoing SB 1022 funding.

Support efforts that would allow Prisoner Rape Elimination Act (PREA) mandatory inspections to be done by jail professionals from other counties at no cost to either county.

Support increased funding for Second Chance Act programs in the annual federal appropriation process.

Support funding of the Mentally Ill Treatment Offender and Crime Reduction Grant Program.

Support continued federal and state funding for adult criminal justice facilities that will meet needs created by realignment, i.e., programming space, substance abuse, and mental health treatment, etc.

Support legislation that supports the continued implementation of the Early Access Stabilization Services (EASS) Program.

Support legislation that provides funding for the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) Initiative to support incarcerated persons by providing pre-release Medi-Cal enrollment, pre-release services, and connects them to health and social services upon re-entry into the community.

Support legislation that improves recruiting and retention efforts for the Sheriff's Office through revamped Mentorship, Recruitment, and Social Media teams.

Support efforts to attain alternative funding and offset costs to the County of Imperial for jail facility improvements.

Support legislation and budget actions that improve officer wellness, mental health resources, peer support programs and suicide prevention. This would include the hiring and retention of licensed mental health professionals.

Support legislation and budget actions that increase/improve safety measures at primary and secondary schools, school violence prevention efforts, training for school personnel and students, and the implementation of evidence-based threat assessments.

Oppose legislation that links AB109 funding to recidivism rates.

Oppose legislation that supports decreasing jail standards.

Oppose legislation that would reduce local control by eliminating the authority of a county board of supervisors to consolidate the duties of the sheriff with the duties of the coroner.

Oppose legislation regarding the elimination of solitary confinement or administrative segregation. County jails are very different from state correctional facilities and should not be included in any discussions or decisions regarding the issue of solitary confinement or administrative segregation at state correctional facilities.

Oppose additional FCC regulations regarding county jail inmate phone calls.

County Fire/OES

Support legislation and budget actions that enable the County to adequately plan for, respond to, and receive reimbursement for emergency disasters.

Support legislation and budget actions that will fund regional disaster management systems and resources to respond to emergencies, acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events.

Support legislation and budget actions that will increase minimum funding for required OES planning activities. Support the creation of a move from a formula based distribution to a joint minimum/formula based distribution of funding.

Support an adjustment in the threshold numbers for federal assistance. Currently, each county, no matter their size, per capita income status, or other pertinent criteria, must meet the same thresholds as larger urban counties thus creating inequity for low income, low population areas.

Support legislation that will fund the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) programs at the FY 2023 amount of \$360 million each.

Support legislation that will restore funding for the Urban Search and Rescue program and protect funding for homeland security grant programs, like the Urban Areas Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Probation

Support effective reentry services in order to improve a prisoner's probability to successfully reintegrate into his/her community.

Support legislation that will expand the resources of the County to address the needs of its offender population, including medical care, criminological program needs, and basic subsistence programs such as employment, job training, and housing.

Support early intervention, prevention of crime and offender rehabilitation efforts and programs.

Support state and federal funding for medical services for incarcerated persons.

Support legislation that would expand the availability of mental health care for the offender population while in custody and while on probation.

Oppose legislation that mandates an enrichment of staff ratio for Juvenile Hall and County Jail without supporting funding, e.g. staff ratio for juveniles held in one-on-one supervision.

Support legislation to provide a federal tax intercept for state and local agencies to recover outstanding restitution ordered to the victims of crimes and other delinquent court ordered fines, penalty assessments, and fees associated with criminal or juvenile proceedings.

Support sufficient funding for realigned responsibilities for juvenile and adult populations, to protect funding for the Local Revenue Fund 2011 and the SB 678 funding streams.

Support legislation for federal reimbursement for the capitated rate for undocumented juvenile detainees.

Support efforts that would track the impacts to the families and children of the offender population through AB 109 and seek appropriate remedies.

Support efforts to create better coordination of mental health and Medi-Cal services for offenders prior to their release.

Support legislation to create incentives or programs for the private sector to hire ex-offenders. Successful assimilation into a community is critical to the efforts to reduce recidivism. Finding meaningful and lasting employment is an important component of such efforts.

Support efforts that enhance and augment vital community services that address victims, juvenile and adult offenders' needs and targets criminological dysfunctions or community deficiencies.

Seek to ensure that all programs, services, efforts or actions that affect juvenile or adults on probation are supported by valid data or successful outcomes that achieve the objectives.

District Attorney

Support funding of prevention and intervention programs with the long-range goal of reducing costs in the juvenile and adult justice systems.

Support legislation and budget actions that:

- Provide adequate resources to deliver services.
- Ensure the safety of the public, law enforcement officers, first responder personnel, and property of County residents.
- Provide funding for information technology initiatives that improve coordination between multiple agencies at all levels of government.

Oppose legislation and budget actions that:

- Reduce funding at the State and local level for public safety and first responders.
- Compromise the safety of the public, local law enforcement or first responder personnel.
- Impede the local law enforcement or first responder's ability to deliver services.

Support funding that will assist with gang enforcement.

Support full funding for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking task force (HIDTA).

Support full funding of grants that fund public safety efforts, e.g. COPS, Law Enforcement Technical, Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act, etc.

Support funding that will enhance criminal justice and public safety information technology infrastructure.

Support funding that will allow for multi-agency integration of criminal justice related data.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

Agriculture

Support legislation that would increase cost recovery to local government for providing mandated services and programs.

Support legislation that would protect our citizens, agricultural industry, and environment from the introduction of invasive species of pests, including insects, weeds, vertebrates, and plant diseases.

Support adequate funding for pest prevention activities including pest exclusion, pest detection, pest management/eradication, and public outreach.

Support funding for education, outreach and compliance assistance activities related to the safe use of pesticides.

Support increasing environmental review of new school site proposals so that if they are sited in agricultural areas, mitigations such as buffers, setbacks, and pick-up/drop-off locations are incorporated onto the new school footprint and designed to minimize interference with agricultural operations.

Support budgetary efforts to maintain funding for agricultural border stations.

Support research on invasive species pathways as well as funding mechanisms to close potential pathways.

Support legislation for state and/or federal programs that promote public awareness of invasive species and of their detrimental effects on agricultural as well as residential landscaping and gardening.

Support legislation that improves funding for the California and National Organic Programs and enhances the integrity of the programs.

Support legislation that improves federal and/or state funding to counties for Wildlife Services and managing conflicts with wildlife to protect the health and safety of the public, and the health and value of agriculture, the environment, and other resources.

Support legislation regarding the agricultural production and cultivation of industrial hemp.

Weights & Measures

Support legislation that improves protection of consumers from unfair business practices, which may include but are not limited to transactions involving inaccurate weights or measures, inaccurate pricing, inaccurate or unclear net quantity statements, and deceptive advertising.

Support legislation to protect industry and promote fair business competition.

Support legislation that preserves and enhances funding resources for weights and measures programs at the state and local level for consumer protection.

Oppose legislation that would weaken or remove existing consumer protection laws and regulations.

Air Pollution Control

Support working with the US EPA and CARB to identify air quality impacts caused by the emissions from idling “commercial & passenger” vehicles at our land ports of entry and to develop solutions to lessen those emissions and their impacts.

Support legislation that encompasses a streamlining process that crosses Air District boundaries, states and international political lines.

Support legislation to require additional, commercial & passenger cost effective reductions in mobile source emissions.

Support legislation that reduces or eliminates administrative burdens on Air Pollution Control.

Support legislation that will revise federal emission offset requirements, i.e. inter-pollutant trading, for designated marginal, moderate or serious non-attainment areas to allow trading and/or payment by project proponents in such areas to a state or district for mitigation programs in lieu of offsets.

Support legislation that requires project applicants to pay lead and responsible agencies for all costs associated with CEQA reviews and indemnify such agencies against all court costs, attorney fees and judgments related to their projects.

Support legislation to maintain state and federal grant funds to air districts at levels commensurate with state and federal mandates.

Support increased funding of emission reduction programs related to stationary and mobile sources.

Support funding to reduce diesel emissions from school buses and all public transit mobile sources.

Support legislation that would require that fines and penalty monies for violations issued by an air district remain with that air district.

Support state funding to air districts for emission reduction projects (e.g. Carl Moyer program, FARMER, and AB 617) based on the number of registered vehicles and the number of mobile sources crossing at ports of entry.

Support increasing state subvention funding for air pollution control districts to pay for state mandated air pollution control activities that help protect public health.

Support Binational efforts to reduce transboundary emissions by working with our Counterparts in Mexico at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Seek the cooperation of landowners of land beneath the Salton Sea as we work to effect the mitigation of exposed lands.

Support legislation that allows for a streamlined process where a County, Air Pollution Control District, or Air Quality Management District may sub-redistrict an already identified State or federal non-attainment area for funding purposes to address uniquely specific non-attainment issues allowing for parallel classifications within a designated boundary.

Oppose legislation that prohibits an Air Pollution Control District from seeking information on non-traditional and traditional stationary sources for the purpose of determining air quality impacts to determine whether additional emission limits, and/or testing and reporting requirements are required.

Airport

Support the County's eligibility in the Essential Air Service (EAS) program and adequate funding for EAS.

Support funding for the Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), a state-mandated program, that requires the Commission to review development plans, building plans or other oversight responsibilities.

Support funding, outside of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funds, to improve airport facility infrastructure and security measures.

Support pursuing federal infrastructure funding for airports, and legislation that includes FAA reauthorization priorities described below:

- Aligning Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) eligibility with eligible uses in current law for airport revenue, thus allowing PFCs to be used on any capital project.
- Increasing Airport Improvement Program (AIP) authorization level and ensure stable, predictable funding through a multi-year reauthorization bill.
- Extending authorization in current law for supplemental AIP funding above baseline levels and allowing FAA to use supplemental funds for a broader range of projects, including, parking lots, terminals and environmental projects.

Support legislation that improves or expands community outreach and awareness of airspace matters.

Support legislation and funding for improved broadband infrastructure at airports.

Pursue and engage in legislative and regulatory initiatives and processes that secure meaningful noise relief, including nighttime noise relief.

Support legislative efforts to monitor, regulate, and enforce helicopter noise in residential areas while being respectful of law enforcement and emergency first responder operations.

Support legislation that promotes and improves public safety and counter-criminal measures at and around the airport grounds.

Encourage the FAA to develop clear rules and regulations for governing the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), while preserving local control to regulate the use and application of UASs for industry and City/County services.

Oppose legislation or regulations that impose new requirements for airports to report incidents to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) where the TSA has limited or no jurisdiction.

Oppose measures that require additional staff time due to redundancies.

Planning and Land Use

Support legislation to reform CEQA by changing the standard for standing to match up with NEPA. The need is to return CEQA to what it was originally intended – a disclosure document.

Support legislation to eliminate local match or loan requirements for State funded grants to be utilized in areas with high levels of poverty and unemployment.

Support legislation that streamlines State regulatory requirements for new and expanding businesses to promote retention, expansion and new businesses in Imperial County.

Support legislation that would establish sites for facilities in our community in order to facilitate economic development.

Support funding to pay for, or provide low or no interest loans, upgrades to water or wastewater infrastructure in small, economically disadvantaged rural communities.

Support legislation that promotes housing development by adequately funding infrastructure.

Oppose legislation that arbitrarily limit fees or other exactions necessary to support county infrastructure, facilities, or services required by new development.

Oppose legislation that would result in a loss of local control over land use decision-making.

Economic Development

Support legislation that creates new and improves already existing tools for economic development, such as Opportunity Zones and other incentives for business development and retention.

Support legislation that will improve unemployment rates, per capita incomes, and poverty rates.

Support the protection of the economic development set aside in the non-entitlement Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

Support legislation that assists businesses in their efficiencies, but not at the expense of its workforce.

Support legislation, which helps to create and locate baseline type businesses such as manufacturing or production type facilities.

Support efforts which seek to produce incentives for the creation and location of manufacturing businesses, but also provide locals authorities with the ability to fund infrastructure improvements using tools such as incremental financing, i.e. Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts.

Support efforts to create new incentives, increased permitting authority, maintain a viable and productive public benefits agreement, protect prime farmland from development, and support policies and regulations that will lead to the development of additional renewable resources in Imperial County, including, but not limited to, the Salton Sea Known Geothermal Resource Area (KGRA).

Support legislation that will require guaranteed future Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for any lands that are donated to the government in perpetuity and dedicated to provide habitat for wildlife species that are affected by the project.

Support policies, practices, incentives, and other processes to cultivate the immense potential for the local production of bio fuels from renewable resources such as algae, sugar cane, biomass, bio-digesters, and more.

Support efforts to ensure that projects built on federal or state lands pay royalties based on their production of electricity and that a portion of those royalties are shared with the counties and not subject to deduction from our existing PILT payments.

Support legislation or executive/administrative action that will expand the local permit authority for geothermal power plants from the current 50 megawatts.

Support funding to expand the scope of the efforts that will create an overlay for renewable energy project sites similar to the existing geothermal overlay.

Support efforts in the field of critical mineral extraction from geothermal brine including research, development and production.

Support legislation that will ensure equitable, Customer-Centered Design and Delivery of Programs to Support Small Businesses and Innovative Startups.

Support legislation that will ensure that all entrepreneurs have access to capital to start and grow their business.

Transportation and Public Works

Support legislation that provides additional flexibility for counties and streamline project delivery and environmental review processes for roads projects funded from SB 1 transportation revenues.

Support increase funding for the Highway Bridge Programs and/or alternative programs to allow for future replacement of County maintained bridges and approaches.

Support legislation and other efforts to obtain funding to complete the replacement of the Anza Road Bridge.

Support requests for additional technical assistance from Caltrans regarding Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation.

Support the alignment of the current Local Assistance Procedures Manual with the Code of Federal regulations.

Support efforts to increase resources for local governments to develop the necessary infrastructure to implement organics diversion programs.

Oppose legislation that would allow any increase in truck length or weight, which would cause significantly more damage to our transportation infrastructure.

Oppose any “borrowing” from any State transportation account in order to balance the State General Fund budget as it results in delays in delivering local projects and makes completion of those projects more expensive.

Oppose the secession of the State of California from the Union or split into separate states as this will negatively affect available federal funds for road and infrastructure projects.

Oppose efforts to use transportation revenues outside their intended purposes.

Border Infrastructure

Support adequate funding of the United States-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP), which provides assistance to help support drinking water and wastewater projects that improve human health and the environment for border communities.

Support funding of the Coordinated Border Infrastructure program (CBI) at the same or higher level as it was in previous authorizations, including the specific language that limits the expenditures from this fund to the immediate border region. We also support formulas in the legislation that will result in increasing the amount of federal funds that are returned to “donor states” such as California to at least 95 cents on the dollar.

Support additional funding to improve the Ports of Entry that connect Imperial County with Mexicali.

Support the expansion of lane capacity at the Calexico East Land Port of Entry.

Support additional state and federal funding to allow for the expansion of capacity of local roadways exiting northbound from the Ports of Entry to ease ingress and egress and decrease border wait times.

Support federal and state funding and resources to allow for phased improvements at the SR86 border patrol check point that will add additional lanes for inspection to allow for better flow of traffic.

Support federal funding that will allow all Ports of Entry along the Southern Border to be fully staffed to facilitate secure and efficient operations to reduce current unacceptable delays and air quality impacts.

Support greater public participation in DHS programs such as SENTRI that reduce border wait times while increasing security at our border ports of entry.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Social Services

Support legislation and budget actions that:

- Provide adequate resources to deliver services to vulnerable populations.
- Ensure the safety of the public, social workers and staff conducting public social services to County residents.
- Provide funding for information technology initiatives that improve efficient delivery of services and coordination between multiple agencies at all levels of government.
- Adequately addresses and supports areas of needs and services identified or as unfunded mandates or impacts from unintended consequences.
- Protects the confidentiality of the image of public social services customers conducting business in our offices.
- Support efforts to effect meaningful reform on the policy of housing insecurity to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Oppose legislation and budget actions that:

- Reduce funding at the State and local level for public social services and protective services.
- Compromise or impede the delivery of public social services and protective services.
- Diverts 1991 and 2011 realignment funding from the county for administration, assistance payments and services.
- Any legislation impacting vulnerable populations negatively.

CalWORKs and Employment Services

Support legislation to increase the applicant and recipient Earned Income disregards to support low-income working families with supportive services.

Support legislation that prevents homelessness and increases services, such as Housing Support, temporary homeless assistance, and homeless assistance that would increase work participation rate.

Support legislation that protects counties from implementing State-only requirements that result in Federal sanctions and oppose legislation that requires counties to share Federal sanctions.

Support legislation that provides full funding for CalWORKs Administration and Employment Services and restoration of Performance Incentives.

Support legislation that increases funding for retention services once self-sufficiency is achieved.

Support legislation that provides funding for subsidized employment.

Support legislation that provides State funding for subsidized childcare services for families participating in CalWORKs Welfare-to-Work activities.

Support legislation that allows participants to complete combined employment and training activities that are beneficial to their family to meet participation requirements.

Support legislation that funds Linkages and to continue the collaborative effort between Child Welfare, CalWORKs Eligibility and Welfare-to-Work and the provision of supportive services to CalWORKs parents including Family Stabilization and housing support services.

Children and Family Services

Support legislation that advocates for improvements to the child welfare system, including reasonable workloads and caseload standards to allow for individualized focus on the needs of children and families.

Support legislation that advocates for increased flexibilities; enhance the use of existing funding sources for prevention and early intervention strategies to promote family preservation and child safety.

Support preventative services that strengthen and preserve families by fortifying advocacy, outreach, case management, housing, and evidenced-based services.

Support a meaningful Statewide Child Welfare training budget that focuses on organizational development to support implementation of mandates, such as Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) and the Core Practice Model (CPM).

Support the ongoing CCR implementation to include Child and Family Team meetings, Level of Care, Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessments, family findings, and engagement activities for foster youth.

Support legislation for home-based placements by addressing the current backlog of resource family applications, and reduce long-term congregate care by developing meaningful systems and supports that serve youth with complex care needs.

Support legislation that assist foster youth in the transition to independent living and adulthood by providing supportive services, encouraging permanent connections, and promoting the Foster Youth to Independence voucher program.

Adult Protective Services (APS)

Support legislation that provides funding to support AB 135, and funding that provides extended APS case management for complex cases.

Support legislation that would establish a statewide Adult Protective Services (APS) case management database.

Support legislation to continue American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to enhance, improve and expand the ability of APS to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Support legislation to enhance, improve financial abuse investigations and expanding collaboration between APS with financial institutions via a web-based system, HelpVul.

In Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Support legislation to implement the Permanent Back-Up Provider System which states providers will receive a wage differential when utilized by counties under the Individual Provider (IP) Mode of service delivery.

Support legislation to increase funding to address IHSS caseloads, enhance service delivery and facilitate compliance with State mandates.

Support legislation for the CalSavers Retirement Program for IHSS providers.

Medi-Cal/Managed Care and CalFresh

Support legislation to simplify Medi-Cal and CalFresh eligibility rules, application, and redetermination processes to increase and expedite enrollment and promote retention, through the use of presumptive eligibility, elimination of financial barriers, enabling more disabled persons to qualify.

Support legislation to increase funding of Medi-Cal and CalFresh outreach, enrollment, required documentation procurement, and retention activities.

Support legislation to allow women to utilize their full-scope no-cost Medi-Cal coverage for two years post-partum.

Support legislation for Medi-Cal Administration funding in order to provide services and supports needed for the additional Medi-Cal eligibility workload that will result from the lifting of the Public Health Emergency (PHE).

Support legislation that supports language to the 2021 Budget Act in support of updating the budgeting methodology for Cal Fresh administration.

Support efforts that increase system integration and allow for more streamlined data sharing in order to better support vulnerable populations.

Support legislation to develop and support statewide trainings and resources to improve racial equity and reduce implicit bias.

Public Health

Support legislation that improves access to quality health care among rural and impoverished communities with no added cost to counties.

Support adequate funding for the local public health and behavioral health systems as part of any plan to reform health care.

Support legislation that increases the number and availability of qualified physicians, nursing and other health care professionals through individual incentives such as tuition subsidies and loan repayment as well as economic incentives to health care delivery systems.

Support legislation to maintain sufficient health realignment funding to ensure that counties have resources to meet their obligations to fulfill their statutory public health and indigent healthcare mandates.

Support increasing state and federal funding to support basic public health services, including communicable disease control activities, and community and public health surveillance activities.

Support increasing state and federal funding to support basic public health services for rural, border communities.

Support legislation that would establish and fund chronic disease prevention and health promotion programs, including programs that support healthy environments and address the social determinants of health.

Support legislation that would make health education activities related to chronic disease management, such as diabetes, asthma, obesity counseling and prevention activities, a covered and reimbursable benefit under Medi-Cal, both through fee-for-service reimbursement and health plan capitation payments.

Support legislative efforts to expand opportunities to develop and implement asthma surveillance, prevention and treatment programs.

Support legislation that would expand access to dental health services to low-income populations.

Oppose legislation that would eliminate, cap, or reduce funding for Targeted Case Management (TCM) services and Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MMA).

Oppose legislation that would divert 1991 Realignment funding from counties to the state.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Support legislation that maintains County Board of Supervisors oversight of EMS and supports authority of the Local EMS Agency to plan, implement and evaluate all aspects and components of the EMS system.

Support adequate funding for the improvement of the EMS/trauma/specialty care system and emergency room facilities.

Support the State distribution of Federal emergency services and bioterrorism funding to local governments in a manner that achieves maximum allocation and flexibility for local utilization.

Support and adequately fund Medical Health Operational Area (MHOAC) programs, to include staff, training and other emergency support needs.

Support adequate funding for pre-hospital emergency services, including first responder agencies.

Oppose legislation that would result in fragmentation of the EMS system including provision of EMS independent of the County and its Local EMS Agency.

Oppose legislation that would reduce or eliminate the Maddy Fund distribution formula for local EMS agency use.

County Public Administrator

Public Administrator/Guardian/Conservator

Support legislation that would allow the Public Conservator/Guardian discretion to respond to the court by conducting an investigation into the appropriate case management for the conservatee; limit liability for counties and for the Public Conservator/Guardian; and provide a Federal and/or State funding stream for Public Conservator/Guardian services.

Support legislation that provides mental health assessments and treatment programs while incarcerated or under court/probation supervision that would facilitate the process of applying for Probate Conservatorship or LPS Conservatorship for qualified individuals.

Area Agency on Aging

Support legislation that would provide adequate funding for programs that provide meals, transportation and other assistance to needy seniors.

Support legislation that addresses funding and/or tax credits for the development of memory care facilities and support services for Dementia/Alzheimer patients.

Support the preservation of funding for the Older Americans Act and other supportive services to help older Americans remain living successfully and independently in their homes and communities.

Support legislative and budgetary efforts to reduce fragmentation within the long-term care delivery system and adequately fund a system of care for seniors in California.

Support adequate discretionary funding under the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) for the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs).

Support adequate funding for the implementation of the Elder Justice Act (EJA) of 2010.

Support legislation that would fund grant programs in counties to provide transportation to nonemergency medical services for the senior and disabled populations located in rural, desert and mountain areas.

Child Support Services

Support funding that will enable the program, as part of the social safety net, to reach unserved families and grow the program.

Support legislation that facilitates family access to program services or removes barriers to access, increases or eases access to justice, and/or eases operational/administrative burdens.

Support legislation that preserves the ability of local agencies to maintain local control of the Child Support Program.

Support legislation that provides opportunities to increase child support collections directly to families.

Support legislation that encourages or fosters the expansion of sharing of information through local agency collaboration and automating data exchange between agencies to improve services to families.

Support legislation that creates, enhances, or preserves the child support program's ability to use effective collection tools and methods.

Behavioral Health

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Programs

Support legislation to stabilize and expand funding for alcohol and drug treatment services for adolescents, their families and adults.

Support adequate funding for residential treatment services under Medi-Cal for adolescents, their families and adults.

Support the allocation of all surtaxes, interest and penalties collected as a result of a reclassification of alcoholic beverages from beer to a distilled spirit to fund alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment services.

Support adequate, stable funding for the Screening and Brief Intervention Referral and Treatment program.

Support funding for collaborative Drug Courts including DUI, Dependency Drug Court, and Reentry Court.

Support adequate funding for implementation of harm reduction strategies, including naloxone dispensing and distribution, and elimination of stigma for opioid and other substance use disorders across Imperial County.

Support funding for housing options for substance use clients experiencing homelessness.

Support the continued funding of Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Waiver services to address the needs of adolescents, their families and adults with a substance use disorder.

Oppose legislation that attempts to make further cuts to state and federal alcohol and drug treatment funding.

Mental Health

Support the equitable allocation of state and federal mental health funds and provide increased funding in the form of a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all programs.

Support legislation that would ensure that foster children and their parents/guardians have information about and access to safe and effective treatment for children's mental health special needs.

Support legislation that would establish and fund programs that provide better care coordination for adults and older adults with mental health disabilities and children with mental health special needs.

Support the appropriation of funding to augment services and programs that focus on addressing and preventing factors associated with the high incidence of youth suicide and self-inflicted injuries.

Support efforts to continue flexibility in the allocation of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds to counties.

Support efforts to remove the exclusion of Medicaid coverage for patients aged 21 through 64 who are treated in an Institution for Mental Disease (IMD) or a free-standing non-governmental psychiatric facility.

Support state and federal funding for behavioral health courts.

Support legislation that provides military service veterans afflicted with mental health disorders as a result of their military service, and are criminal defendants, with sentencing court options for treatment and rehabilitation services that allow them to be self-sufficient and successfully re-integrate into society.

Support the appropriation of funding to augment services and programs to address the needs of the older adult population suffering from a mental health condition.

Support efforts to modify existing legislation pertaining to involuntary treatment of individuals detained due to being a danger to self, others or gravely disabled, to provide clarification regarding criteria for an individual who is held involuntarily, who is responsible for providing assessment and treatment and the duties and responsibilities of those providing the assessment and treatment.

Support efforts to increase reimbursements to Acute Care Psychiatric Hospitals who treat individuals brought to them on W&I Code 5150 in order to combat the reduction in acute care psychiatric beds throughout the state.

Support funding for housing options for mental health clients experiencing homelessness.

Support state funding for implementation of Care Court.

Oppose legislation designed to divert MHSA funds away from the provision of behavioral health services.

THANK YOU!



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