NORTH SAN DIEGO BUSINESS CHAMBER

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FEBRUARY 2024

LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS AND ELECTED OFFICIAL SCORECARD

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Accredited

North San Diego Business Chamber
10875 Rancho Bernardo Road Suite 104 | San Diego CA 92127
(858) 487-1767 | SDBusinessChamber.com

The only US Chamber Accredited Organization in San Diego.

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February 2024
LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

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Members of the Economic Development and Advocacy Advisory Council have carefully reviewed and vetted the propositions and measures below and their economic impact to the region. The decisions to support or oppose come from a majority vote of the Advisory Council and Board of Directors and does not reflect the opinion of just one person.

NO on San Diego Housing Federation's Proposed Ballot Measure titled: Homes For San Diegans

Real Estate Transfer Tax

The Chamber'S OPPOSE stance is grounded in several key concerns, including the proposed tax thresholds and rates, particularly noting the absence of a sunset provision for the tax in the event of the establishment of a duplicative County, State, or Federal property transfer tax. Ranging from 2.5% to 6.5%, these rates would impose substantial tax burdens on real estate transactions of various scales. Transactions exceeding $25 million, for instance, could incur transfer taxes upwards of $1.625 million. Drawing from the cautionary tale of Los Angeles' similar measure, we anticipate severe repercussions. The drastic reduction in real estate transactions and revenue shortfalls observed in LA serve as stark warnings of the potential economic strain that could befall San Diego. It is worth noting that the proposed tax measure in San Diego exceeds the severity of LA's, indicating an even greater potential for economic hardship.

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YOUR VOICE, YOUR VOTE

North San Diego Business Chamber serves as a lead advocate for business issues and works to create a business-friendly environment for our region – representing the interest of business on a local, state, and federal level.

The Chamber monitors legislation and works closely with local city councils, state officials, and congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. to ensure that the interests of the business community are well-represented in public policy decisions.

We encourage members and community residents to exercise their right to vote and be informed of how their local representatives have voted on issues that are relevant to them.

ELECTED OFFICIAL SCORECARD: HOW THEY VOTED SNAPSHOT

US House of Representatives	Levin (D)	Issa (R)	Jacobs (D)	Peters (D)
Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act	Y	Y	Y	Y
Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act	Y	Y	Y	Y
Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act	N	Y	N	N
Improving Access to Small Business Information Act	Y	Y	Y	Y
Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act	N	Y	N	N
Freedom for Health Care Workers Act	N	Y	N	N
Protecting Taxpayers and Victims of Unemployment Fraud Act	N	Y	N	N

California State Senate and Assembly	Atkins (D)	Nguyen (R)	Jones (R)	Maienschein (D)	Ward (D)	Boerner-Horvath (D)	Sanchez (R)	Waldron (R)
Corporate Climate Accountability Act- SB 253	Y	N	N	/	Y	Y	N	N
Dismantles Referendum Process- AB 421	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
De Facto Ban of Warehouses- AB 1000	/	/	/	/	Y	Y	/	N
Expansion of Litigation Under FEHA- AB 524	Y	N	N	Y	Y	/	N	N
Bans Employer Speech- SB 399	Y	N	N	Y	Y	/	/	/
Costly Minimum Wage Increase: Health Care Workers- SB 525	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Improved Labor Law Compliance- SB 592	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Costly Sick Leave Expansion on All Employers- SB 616	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Lowers Voter Threshold to Increase Property Taxes- ACA 1	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	/
Increased Unemployment Insurance Taxes to Subsidize Striking Workers- SB 799	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Water Rights- AB 460	/	/	/	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment- AB 46	/	/	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Fast-Food Franchisor Responsibility Act- AB 1228	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Climate-Related Financial Risk- SB 261	Y	N	N	/	Y	Y	N	N
Work Hours: Flexible Work Schedules- SB 703	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Labor Standards Information and Enforcement – SB 592	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/

San Diego County Supervisors	Anderson (R)	Lawson-Remer (D)	Montgomery Steppe (D)	Desmond (R)	Vargas (D)
APPROVAL OF A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM IN THE SOUTH BAY REGIONAL CENTER AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS TO COMBAT THE CHILDCARE CRISIS	/	Y	Y	Y	Y
ORDINANCE REVISION EXTENDING THE COUNTY'S ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) FEE WAIVER PROGRAM	/	Y	Y	Y	Y
Local microenterprise home kitchen operation program update/options	Y	/	Y	Y	Y
San Diego County $8.17 billion 2023-24 budget	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Post-Storm Recovery Efforts	N	Y	Y	Y	Y
Keeping Veterans & Military Families Together	Y	Y	/	Y	Y

San Diego City Council	LeCava (D)	Campbell (D)	Von Wilpert (D)	Lee (R)	Campillo (D)
Tenant Protection Ordinance	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Getting It Done 2023-2024 SD City Budget	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Housing Action Package 2.0	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
City of San Diego Water Rate Hike	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
City of San Diego Water Rate Increase	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Homeless Camping Ban	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
San Diego City Development Regulation Update	N	N	N	Y	N

SANDAG Board Vote	Vehicle Mileage Tax Removal from 2025 Regional Plan
Chairwoman Vargas	Y
Second Vice Chair Heebner	Y
Councilmember Burkholder	Y
Councilmember Cardenas	Y
Councilmember Duncan	Y
Councilmember Gaasterland	Y
Mayor Wells	Y
Councilmember Morasco	Y
Councilmember Fisher	Y
Deputy Mayor Keim	Y
Councilmember Frank	Y
Councilmember Campillo	Y
Mayor Jones	Y
Councilmember Melendez	Y
Mayor Kranz	N
Councilmember Shu	N
Mayor Pro Tem Gastil	N
Vice Mayor Molina	N

U.S. House of Representatives

Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act

This bill increases and modifies child tax credit provisions, increases depreciation allowances to promote economic innovation and growth, increases tax relief provisions for losses due to natural disasters and wildfires, and increases the low-income housing tax credit.

Latest Action: 02/01/2024 Received in the Senate

How They Voted

- Rep Levin (D)- Yes
- Rep Jacobs (D)- Yes
- Rep Peters (D)- Yes
- Rep Issa (R)- Yes

Protect Small Business and Prevent Illicit Financial Activity Act

This bill revises the requirements for small U.S. companies to report certain beneficial ownership information that take effect on Jan. 1, 2024. Beneficial ownership information includes the identity of an individual behind a corporate entity.

The bill extends the deadline for companies to report ownership information to the Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Specifically, existing companies must file their initial ownership report within two years. New companies must file their initial ownership report within 90 days (current regulations require the report within 30 days). Companies must report updates or changes within 90 days.

Latest Action: 12/13/2023 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

How They Voted

- Rep Levin (D)- Yes
- Rep Jacobs (D)- Yes
- Rep Peters (D)- Yes
- Rep Issa (R)- Yes

Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act

This joint resolution nullifies the final rule issued by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau titled Small Business Lending under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B) and published on May 31, 2023. The rule requires financial institutions to collect and report to the bureau credit application data for small businesses. On July 31, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas ordered the bureau not to implement or enforce the rule until a related pending case is resolved.

Latest Action: 01/10/2024 Failed of passage in Senate

How They Voted

- Rep Levin (D)- No
- Rep Jacobs (D)- No
- Rep Peters (D)- No
- Rep Issa (R)- Yes

Improving Access to Small Business Information Act

This bill excludes from the Paperwork Reduction Act action taken by the Office of the Advocate for Small Business Capital Formation within the Securities and Exchange Commission. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act, agencies must comply with specific procedures when gathering information from the public.

This bill establishes several exceptions. For example, the office must inform the person receiving the collection of information the reasons the information is being collected, as required under current law.

Latest Action: 07/12/2023 Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

How They Voted

- Rep Levin (D)- Yes
- Rep Jacobs (D)- Yes
- Rep Peters (D)-Yes
- Rep Issa (R)- Yes

Family and Small Business Taxpayer Protection Act

This bill rescinds certain unobligated amounts made available to the IRS by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 for (1) its enforcement activities and operations support, (2) the efile tax return system, and (3) funding the U.S. Tax Court and certain Department of the Treasury tax agencies.

Latest Action: 01/25/2023 Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders
How They Voted

- Rep Levin (D)- No
- Rep Jacobs (D)- No
- Rep Peters (D)-No
- Rep Issa (R)- Yes

Freedom for Health Care Workers Act

This bill nullifies the rule titled Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination, which was issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on November 5, 2021, and prohibits the issuance of any substantially similar rule. The rule requires health care providers, as a condition of Medicare and Medicaid participation, to ensure that staff are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Latest Action: 02/03/2023 Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
How They Voted

- Rep Levin (D)- No
- Rep Jacobs (D)- No
- Rep Peters (D)- No
- Rep Issa (R)- Yes

Protecting Taxpayers and Victims of Unemployment Fraud Act

This bill addresses fraud and overpayments of pandemic unemployment insurance benefits, including by providing incentives for states to investigate and recover overpayments of these benefits. Specifically, the bill allows states to retain 25% of any recovered fraudulent overpayments. These retained funds may be used for modernizing unemployment compensation systems and information technology, reimbursing administrative costs, hiring fraud investigators and prosecutors, and for other program integrity activities.

The bill also repeals a section of the CARES Act that provided funding for the UI program integrity activities. Subject to appropriations, the unobligated balance of this funding shall be transferred to the Department of the Treasury and periodically credited to the appropriate state account in the Unemployment Trust Fund, as outlined by the bill.

Latest Action: 05/11/2023 Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection
How They Voted

- Rep Levin (D)- No
- Rep Jacobs (D)- No
- Rep Peters (D)- No
- Rep Issa (R)- Yes

California State Senate and Assembly

Corporate Climate Accountability Act- SB 253

Imposes a mandatory climate tracking, and auditing on climate emissions that will heavily impact California businesses, impacting competitiveness and increasing costs.

Latest Action: Signed into Law 10/07/23

How They Voted

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)-
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Dismantles Referendum Process- AB 421

Dramatically changes state's direct democracy process, which will make referenda more confusing for voters.

Latest Action: Signed into Law 9/08/23

How They Voted

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

De Facto Ban of Warehouses- AB 1000

Mandates a statewide setback of 1,000 feet from sensitive receptors for all new or expanded logistics use facilities, regardless of environmental impacts, establishing a de facto ban. Also creates a new private right of action in California.

Latest Action: Active Bill - In Committee Process

How They Voted:

- Senator Atkins (D)-
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)-
- Senator Brian Jones (R)-
- ASM Maienschein (D)-
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)-
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Expansion of Litigation Under FEHA- AB 524

Exposes employers to costly litigation under the Fair Employment and Housing Act by asserting that any adverse employment action was in relation to the employee's family caregiver status, which is broadly defined to include any employee who provides direct care of any person of their choosing and creates a de facto accommodation requirement that will burden small businesses.

Latest Action: Vetoed 10/08/23

How They Voted

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)-
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Bans Employer Speech- SB 399

Chills employer speech regarding religious and political matters, including unionization. Is likely unconstitutional under the First Amendment and preempted by the National Labor Relations Act.

Latest Action: Failed deadline in Assembly Appropriations Committee
How They Voted

No Assembly Floor vote

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)-
- ASM Sanchez (R)-
- ASM Waldron (R)-

Costly Minimum Wage Increase: Health Care Workers- SB 525

Imposes significant cost on health care facilities and any employer who works with health care facilities by mandating increase in minimum wage to $25.

Latest Action: Signed into Law 10/13/23
How They Voted

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Improved Labor Law Compliance- SB 592

Requires labor law guidance to be translated into commonly spoken languages in California and protects business owners from being penalized if they relied in good faith on guidance issued by the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement.

Latest Action: Failed deadline in Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee
How They Voted

- Senator Atkins (D)-
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)-
- Senator Brian Jones (R)-
- ASM Maienschein (D)-
- ASM Ward (D)-
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)-
- ASM Sanchez (R)-
- ASM Waldron (R)-

Costly Sick Leave Expansion on All Employers- SB 616

Imposes new costs and leave requirements on employers of all sizes, by nearly doubling existing sick leave mandate, which is in addition to all other enacted leave mandates that small employers throughout the state are already struggling with to implement and comply.

Latest Action: Signed into Law 10/04/23
How They Voted

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Lowers Voter Threshold to Increase Property Taxes- ACA 1

This constitutional amendment lowers voter approval threshold from two-thirds to 55% to increase taxes for affordable housing and public infrastructure, thereby providing increased tax authority for every government agency in California—not just cities and counties, but thousands of potentially overlapping special districts.

Latest Action: Signed into Law 09/20/23

How They Voted

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)-

Increased Unemployment Insurance Taxes to Subsidize Striking Workers- SB 799

This bill will allow striking workers to claim UI benefits when they choose to strike. Because the UI Fund is paid for entirely by employers, SB 799 will effectively add more debt onto California employers. Moreover, SB 799 will effectively force employers to subsidize strikes at completely unrelated businesses because the UI Fund's debt adds taxes for all employers, regardless of whether they've had a strike.

Latest Action: Vetoed 9/30/23

How They Voted:

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Water Rights- AB 460

Gives State Water Board broad authority to issue interim relief orders for a wide variety of alleged water use violations, with little or no opportunity to be heard. Prevents judicial review of an interim relief order.

Latest Action: Failed Deadline

How They Voted:

- Senator Atkins (D)-
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)-
- Senator Brian Jones (R)-
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Military Services Retirement and Surviving Spouse Benefit Payment- AB 46

This crucial legislation, introduced with numerous coauthors from both parties, seeks to exclude retirement pay received by a taxpayer from the federal government for service in the uniformed services and annuity payments received by qualified taxpayers from the United States Department of Defense Survivor Benefit Plan from gross income for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2034.

Latest Action: Placed on suspense file

How They Voted:

- Senator Atkins (D)-
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)-
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- Yes
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- Yes
- ASM Waldron (R)- Yes

Fast-Food Franchisor Responsibility Act- AB 1228

The provisions of this bill, which require fast-food restaurant franchisors to share civil legal responsibility and liability for franchisee violations of specific laws and orders, may have unintended consequences that extend beyond the realm of food service or fast-food franchises.

Latest Action: Signed into law 09/28/2023
How They Voted:

- Senator Atkins (D)- Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)- Yes
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Climate-Related Financial Risk- SB 261

This bill will require that business entities report on their climate-related risks and also report on measures being undertaken to reduce the risk associated with their climate-related risk disclosure.

Latest Action: Signed into law 10/07/2023
How They Voted:

- Senator Atkins (D)-Yes
- Senator Janet Nguyen (R)- No
- Senator Brian Jones (R)- No
- ASM Maienschein (D)-
- ASM Ward (D)- Yes
- ASM Boerner-Horvath (D)- Yes
- ASM Sanchez (R)- No
- ASM Waldron (R)- No

Work Hours: Flexible Work Schedules- SB 703

SB 703 would provide employees more flexibility because the employee could request an alternative workweek schedule on an individualized basis. It would also relieve employers the administrative cost and burden of adopting an alternative workweek schedule per division.

Latest Action: Failed
How They Voted: N/A

Labor Standards Information and Enforcement – SB 592

Chamber signed on to a SB 592 Support Letter with the California Chamber of Commerce which will bolster labor law compliance by requiring the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) to translate its website, in its entirety, into the languages most spoken by Californians.

Latest Action: Failed
How They Voted: N/A

San Diego County Supervisors

APPROVAL OF A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM IN THE SOUTH BAY REGIONAL CENTER AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION

The County of San Diego (County) has been aggressively cutting greenhouse gas emission and reducing utility costs for many years. The Department of General Services has been coordinating with SolarStorage Fund D, LLC (SolarStorage) an affiliate of TotalEnergies to install a proposed 530 kilowatt BESS at the South Bay Regional Center (SBRC BESS), which is designed to offset expensive demand charges from San Diego Gas and Electric (SDGE). The SBRC BESS will utilize the existing onsite PV and the electric grid to store energy to reduce Demand Charges. The SBRC BESS will be installed, operated and maintained by SolarStorage at no cost to the County and is expected to save approximately $75,000 annually. SolarStorage is able to install and operate the SBRC BESS at no cost to the County due to a nearly $1.8 million dollar incentive expected from the California Public Utility Commission's Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP) and pursuant to additional federal tax incentives that SolarStorage anticipates receiving.

To execute the proposed SBRC BESS project, the Department of General Services has negotiated a ground lease and service agreement (Lease) to construct, operate, and maintain the SBRC BESS in an approximately 620 square foot area of an existing parking lot at the SBRC with SolarStorage at no cost to County. The Lease is proposed with a term of 12 years. Since the proposed Lease has a term longer than 10 years, approval by the Board of Supervisors is required. Additionally, the Board is requested to make several statutory findings required by State law.

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. All costs associated with the design, permitting, installation, operation, and maintenance of the SBRC BESS through the term of the proposed Lease will be paid by SolarStorage. Savings in utility costs at the SBRC of $75,000 annually are anticipated based on reduced utility costs and SDGE Demand Charges, and/or "savings guarantee" payments from SolarStorage.

Latest Action: Approved 1/23/24

How They Voted

- Supervisor Anderson (R)-Yes
- Supervisor Lawson-Remer (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Vargas (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Montgomery Steppe (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Desmond (R)- Yes

INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENTS TO COMBAT THE CHILDCARE CRISIS

San Diego County is facing a massive childcare crisis. Many families live in childcare deserts without access to providers, creating a complex equity issue. This item will help to bolster infrastructure, workforce, and communications needs for programming locally so that new providers in childcare deserts are able to more easily provide services to their respective communities.

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Operational Plan in Finance Other. If approved, this request will result in cost and revenue of $2.0 million dollars in the Health and Human Services Agency for childcare startup costs for new childcare providers, a childcare database, and mentorship and workforce opportunities. The funding source for this request is American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocated directly to the County of San Diego.

Latest Action: Approved 1/23/24

How They Voted

- Supervisor Anderson (R)-Not Present
- Supervisor Lawson-Remer (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Vargas (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Montgomery Steppe(D)- Yes
- Supervisor Desmond (R)- Yes

ORDINANCE REVISION EXTENDING THE COUNTY'S ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU) FEE WAIVER PROGRAM

The waiver of impact and permit fees for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) supports the local economy by creating new incentives for increasing the supply of housing in the unincorporated area. These types of programs remove financial barriers and create incentives for improved affordability of smaller housing types available to households that may include young people, couples, students, professionals, and seniors. New development of ADUs will also create local job growth and support the local economy.

Latest Action: Approved 1/09/24

How They Voted

- Supervisor Anderson(R)-Not Present
- Supervisor Lawson-Remer (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Vargas (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Montgomery Steppe (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Desmond (R)- Yes

Local microenterprise home kitchen operation program update/options

Due to the high start-up costs for restaurants, it is challenging for many cooks to benefit independently from their labor, skills, and limited resources, reducing an opportunity to produce a viable income. Alternatively, home cooks may choose to operate illegally, which can be treated as a criminal act. Continuing to allow home-cooked food sales through the continuation and expansion of home-based businesses, such as MEHKO and CFO Programs, will have the following positive impacts:

· Regulate unsafe private kitchen practices that may cause foodborne illness when food is cooked at unpermitted facilities;
· Promote food justice in communities that do not have access to healthy and affordable food options;
· Enable home cooks, who are mostly underrepresented groups such as women, immigrants, and people of color, to use their skills to generate income.

Latest Action: Approved 12/06/2023

How They Voted

- Supervisor Anderson (R)-Yes
- Supervisor Lawson-Remer (D)- Not Present
- Supervisor Vargas (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Montgomery Steppe (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Desmond (R)- Yes

San Diego County $8.17 billion 2023-24 budget

The revised budget adds $60.6 million to the May plan. The overall budget constitutes an 11% increase — or $806.4 million — over 2022's approved spending. The revised budget includes another 50 staff positions, with the majority assigned to the county initiative of removing barriers to housing. The 0.2% increase brings the total county employees to 20,387.25 staff years, an increase of 539.75 staff years from last year.

According to the proposal, the increase in both budget and staff will go toward supporting "new and expanded social service programs and increasing case loads to assist vulnerable populations." It also includes investments in infrastructure, such as a new Public Health Lab and affordable housing projects, according to the county.

Budget highlights include:

- $18.3 million for implementation of the CARE Act, a state program for people with serious behavioral health issues that may provide services, shelter and treatment through a civil court proceeding
- a $25 million increase for the Innovative Housing Trust Fund to help build affordable housing
- $2.7 million to restore land and improve water quality in the Tijuana River Valley

- $12.8 million for court programs to “support those with mental health, substance use and other needs,” such as Collaborative Courts, Drug Courts, Mandatory Supervision Courts, Reentry Courts, Veterans Courts and Behavioral Health Courts
- a $141.1 million increase for safety net benefit payments, higher wages for In-Home Supportive Services caregivers, additional employment services and training for CalWORKS and CalFresh recipients and expanding Info Line 211 Access
- $17 million to build a Jacumba Fire Station
- $35.6 million to build a Santee Animal Shelter

Latest Action: Approved 6/27/23
How They Voted

- Supervisor Anderson(R)-Yes
- Supervisor Lawson-Remer(D)-Yes
- Supervisor Vargas (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Montgomery Steppe(D)- Not Present
- Supervisor Desmond (R)- Yes

Post-Storm Recovery Efforts

According to county officials, initial damage from the late January 2024 storm was estimated at $90 million across the region and $4.1 million for the county itself. The $10 million storm relief will come from the “evergreen” component of the American Rescue Plan Act to facilitate rebuilding.

Latest Action: Approved 1/30/2024
How They Voted

- Supervisor Anderson (R)-No
- Supervisor Lawson-Remer (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Vargas (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Montgomery Steppe (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Desmond (R)- Yes

Keeping Veterans & Military Families Together

This directs County staff to create a pilot program under the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs that would perform outreach and education to active-duty military members and veterans that qualify for the federal government’s Military Parole in Place (MIL-PIP) program. County staff will return within 120 days with the first iteration of this pilot program and the Board of Supervisors will have an opportunity to make additional recommendations to the proposed pilot program at that time.

Latest Action: Approved 11/07/2023
How They Voted

- Supervisor Anderson (R)-Yes
- Supervisor Lawson-Remer (D)-Yes
- Supervisor Vargas (D)- Yes
- Supervisor Montgomery Steppe (D)-Not Present
- Supervisor Desmond (R)- Yes

San Diego City Council

Tenant Protection Ordinance

The purpose and intent of this Division is to promote stability in the San Diego rental housing market and limit adverse impacts on displaced tenants forced to find replacement housing in the expensive and limited San Diego housing market.

This Division protects the rights of tenants by requiring just cause for termination of a tenancy consistent with California Civil Code section 1946.2, limiting the grounds for termination of a tenancy, requiring greater tenant relocation assistance in specified circumstances, and providing additional tenant protections. The rights conferred by this Division are in addition to any existing rights provided to tenants by state or federal law.

Latest Action: Signed into law by Mayor Gloria 5/25/2023

How They Voted

- Councilmember LaCava (D) -Yes
- Councilmember Campbell (D)-No
- Councilmember Von Wilpert (D) - Yes
- Councilmember Lee (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campillo (D)- Yes

Getting It Done 2023-2024 SD City Budget

The budget allocates an additional $24.5 million to maintain and operate the nearly 70% growth in shelter bed capacity under Gloria's administration, an additional $5 million to further expand shelter capacity in the coming year, including funding for a Safe Sleeping program; $2.3 million for rental assistance for San Diegans at risk of losing their housing; and $1.4 million in funding to support new positions and vehicles to remove waste from the public right-of-way in areas most heavily affected by homeless encampments.

The budget also allocates nearly $140 million to street repair/resurfacing, expected to enable the city to resurface 157 miles of streets, including both full overlay and slurry seal. According to the mayor's office, another $38.6 million is tabbed for parks, playgrounds and green spaces.

Latest Action: Approved 6/12/2023

How They Voted

- Councilmember LaCava (D) -Yes
- Councilmember Campbell (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Von Wilpert (D) - Yes
- Councilmember Lee (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campillo (D)- Yes

Housing Action Package 2.0

HAP 2.0 amends the San Diego Municipal Code by implementing recently adopted state law, revising accessory dwelling unit regulations, and amending existing affordable housing programs, including, but not limited to, Complete Communities Housing Solutions, to encourage new homes on public and private land and for a variety of housing product types, including families, students, and individuals. HAP 2.0 also phases out previously conforming incompatible uses located near residential uses within the San Diego Promise Zone. Ordinance amending the Land Development Code and Local Coastal Program, Resolution amending the Neighborhood Enhancement In Lieu Fee, and Resolution determining the approval of amendments revising the City's Accessory Dwelling Unit Home Density Program is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15282(h).

The Housing Action Package 2.0 aims to create more new homes near transit, provide protections to existing residents, increase the supply of land available for new homes and incentivize new home opportunities in all communities that San Diegans of all income levels can afford. Many proposals are focused on protecting our most vulnerable community members, which include people experiencing homelessness, students, seniors and those in areas with very low, low and moderate access to opportunity.

Latest Action: Approved 12/12/2023

How They Voted

- Councilmember LaCava (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campbell(D) - No
- Councilmember Von Wilpert (D)- Yes
- Councilmember Lee (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campillo (D)- Yes

City of San Diego Water Rate Hike

A series of water rate increases totaling nearly 20% over the next two years will take effect on December 1, 2023. This will be followed by a 5.2% increase on July 1, 2024, and an increase of 8.7% effective Jan. 1, 2025.

Latest Action: Approved 9/19/2023

How They Voted

- Councilmember LaCava (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campbell (D) -Yes
- Councilmember Von Wilpert (D)- No
- Councilmember Lee (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campillo (D)- Yes

Homeless Camping Ban

The ordinance would prohibit encampments on public property, and people could be cited or arrested if they refuse an available shelter bed. The ordinance was written to be in accordance with the Martin v. Boise federal ruling that prohibits a person from being cited for sleeping outside if there are no shelter beds available.

Latest Action: Approved 6/13/2023

How They Voted

- Councilmember LaCava (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campbell(D) -Yes
- Councilmember Von Wilpert (D)- Yes
- Councilmember Lee (D)-No
- Councilmember Campillo (D)- Yes

San Diego City Development Regulation Update

Wide-ranging updates to the city's development regulations include changing the boundaries for certain home construction incentive programs, intended to increase the amount of developable land near major public transit stops.

Among the 78 items adopted, is the changed definition for Sustainable Development Area — replacing the definition of Transit Priority Area. Properties within these areas are eligible for the city's local incentive programs like the Complete Communities Housing Solutions program and the Accessory Dwelling Unit density bonus program intended to encourage building more homes near transit.

City staff said the change will increase the potential developable areas by more than 5,200 acres while also removing other areas that would otherwise be less accessible to public transit. San Diego will still use the California's definition of Transit Priority Areas for other state-mandated incentive programs, the city statement read. Additionally, developers will be able to use the local incentive programs under the city's definition of a Transit Priority Area for a full year after the latest Land Development Code Update takes effect.

Latest Action: Approved 2/15/2023

How They Voted

- Councilmember LaCava (D)-No
- Councilmember Campbell(D) -No
- Councilmember Von Wilpert (D)- No
- Councilmember Lee (D)-Yes
- Councilmember Campillo (D)- No

SANDAG Board of Directors

Vehicle Mileage Tax

The $163 billion Regional Transportation Plan included the Road User Charge (IE Vehicle Mileage Tax) in which a 4 cents per mile along with a 2 half-cent regional sales tax proposed for 2022. SANDAG staff had estimated the mileage tax would raise around $34 billion through 2050 to help fund numerous projects — part of a $165 billion plan to reimagine transportation in the region and tackle problems such as traffic congestion and vehicle emissions.

Latest Action: Board voted to remove the "mileage tax" from any consideration in the 2025 Regional Plan 9/22/2023.

How They Voted:

- Chairwoman Vargas-Yes
- Second Vice Chair Heebner-Yes
- Councilmember Burkholder-Yes
- Councilmember Cardenas-Yes
- Councilmember Duncan-Yes
- Councilmember Gaasterland-Yes
- Mayor Wells-Yes
- Councilmember Morasco -Yes
- Councilmember Fisher-Yes
- Deputy Mayor Keim-Yes
- Councilmember Frank-Yes
- Councilmember Campillo-Yes
- Mayor Jones-Yes
- Councilmember Melendez-Yes
- Mayor Kranz- No
- Councilmember Shu- No
- Mayor Pro Tem Gastil-No
- Vice Mayor Molina-No