

2019 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Orange County's philosophy of government is simply put: we support programs that improve outcomes while reducing the financial burden on taxpayers. As the third most densely populated county in the state, Orange County is responsible for implementing a variety of state, federal and local programs for a diverse population. To meet the needs of our residents and ensure the health and stability of our communities, the County strives to provide a strong safety net system, while remaining fiscally prudent and accountable to county taxpayers. In furtherance of these objectives, the County has identified the following state policy priorities. These goals will help focus our legislative and advocacy activities for 2019.

Funding Equity

Property tax revenue is the County's largest income source and is used to fund critical services to a diverse population. The County will pursue a legislative or budget solution to address its rank as the lowest recipient of property tax revenue among all California counties.

Orange County Housing Finance Trust

Assembly Bill 448 (Daly) authorized the creation of the Orange County Housing Finance Trust, a joint powers authority for the purposes of funding housing to assist the homeless population and persons and families of extremely low, very low, and low income within Orange County. The County will seek initial funding for the planning and construction of 2,700 permanent supportive housing units from the Proposition 1 Local Housing Trust Fund and Proposition 2 in proportion to its representation of 8% of the state population.

In-Home Support Services

A significant and growing gap between In-Home Support Services (IHSS) costs and available revenues continues to put extraordinary cost pressures on the County's budget and other core services and mandated programs, including public health, behavioral health and public safety. The County will work with impacted stakeholders to pursue a long-term solution to alleviate IHSS cost pressures.

Trial Court Security

The amount of 2011 Realignment funding from the state for trial court security has not kept up with increased personnel and overhead costs. Orange County is one of many counties subsidizing this state function. In Orange County, the current estimate of County General Fund subsidy in FY 2018-19 is approximately \$8 million. The County will work with impacted stakeholders to seek a reasonable solution that addresses this shortfall.

Mental Health Services Act

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding has been vital in helping to transform the County's mental health system. The County will remain committed to serving individuals living with mental illness by protecting MHSA funding and pursuing additional sources of funding.



2019 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Orange County's philosophy of government is simply put: we support programs that improve outcomes while reducing the financial burden on taxpayers. As the sixth most densely populated county in the nation, Orange County is responsible for implementing a variety of state, federal and local programs for a diverse population. To meet the needs of our residents and ensure the health and stability of our communities, the County strives to provide a strong safety net system, while remaining fiscally prudent and accountable to county taxpayers. In furtherance of these objectives, the County has identified the following federal policy priorities. These goals will help focus our legislative and advocacy activities for 2019.

Port of Entry Status for John Wayne Airport

JWA's Port of Entry application has been pending with United States Customs & Border Protection for nearly five years. JWA meets the defined criteria for a POE designation, and the County will continue to pursue a legislative or regulatory solution.

Homelessness

The County will seek increased federal appropriations and new legislative initiatives to support housing programs that offer comprehensive services and case management for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The County will also advocate for an increase in federal funding commensurate with its growing veterans population.

Infrastructure Funding

Congress and the President have indicated that infrastructure funding will be a key priority in 2019. The County will identify and advocate for major infrastructure investment needs, including two critical flood control protection projects:

- ▶ Santa Ana River Mainstem Project: The County will advocate for another \$40 million to be appropriated in the next fiscal year.
- ▶ Westminster-East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study: The County will advocate for a favorable cost ratio to be included in the 2020 "Chiefs Report," and authorization to proceed with the 100-year plan.

Homeland Security & Public Safety Funding

The County will advocate for continued or increased federal funding for critical public safety programs, including the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, the Urban Area Security Initiative and the State Homeland Security Grant Program.

Sober Living Home Oversight

The County will continue to advocate for federal regulations that address the epidemic of unlicensed and unregulated sober living homes while providing a safe and sober home environment for those who seek recovery from addiction.