

# **Humboldt County**



## **2026 Legislative Platform**

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# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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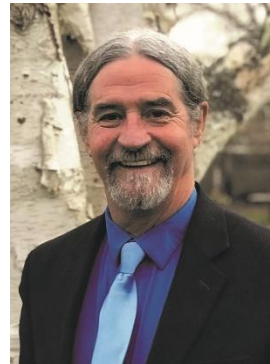
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# HUMBOLDT COUNTY

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# LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Protect and preserve the county's ability to fund local programs.

Oppose attempts to shift costs to counties.

Support legislation that advocates for maximum local control and flexibility in the allocation of resources and administration of county programs.

Support efforts that advance climate resiliency programs and projects.

Support continued and increased appropriations for public infrastructure projects.

Support efforts to increase production of housing.

Support legal cannabis cultivators.

Support increases in efforts related to social justice and effective policing.

Support relief from state and federal mandates and/or elimination of statutory barriers.

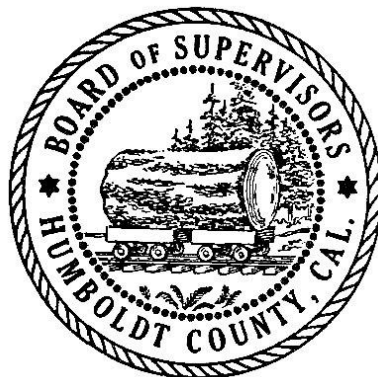
Support maintaining and increasing funding for key county programs.

Support efforts to bring modern services to rural communities.

Support and advance local interests in natural resource discussions.

Support efforts to provide services to vulnerable communities.

Support increasing state and federal partnership in county programs.



# POLICY AREAS

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## AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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### 1. Cannabis

#### a. **Small cultivator support**

- Ensure small cultivators can remain competitive in the marketplace.
- Support efforts to allow direct sales by farmers Including, but not limited to, on-farm sales, cannabis event sales, and eventual direct shipping in interstate commerce modeled on the existing system for wine.
- Support efforts to allow on-site processing and testing on small, licensed farms.
- Ensure timely payment for legal businesses within the supply chain.
- Support establishment, ongoing operations and funding of cannabis appellations programs, including small cultivator participation in the program(s).

#### b. **Insurance cancellation/spiking**

Oppose insurers cancelling homeowner insurance policies or spiking rates for on-site cannabis.

#### c. **Water storage and illegal diversions**

- Support exemptions on water storage improvements from property tax reassessments, and other tax policy that encourage the adoption of sustainable water practices.
- Support funding for enforcement of illegal water diversions.

#### d. **Local control and government coordination**

- Support retaining local control of cannabis, including the flexibility to adopt of new programs in full, to modify the program as they see fit, or to opt out of programs completely.
- Support requiring state and federal agencies to coordinate with local governments in cannabis enforcement efforts and land use decisions.

#### e. **Cannabis taxes and allocations**

- Oppose reinstating state cultivation taxes and increasing state excise taxes.
- Support non-competitive or direct allocation of state cannabis tax revenue for small and rural counties.
- Support state cannabis tax revenue for youth and early childhood prevention efforts.

#### f. **Other federal needs**

- De-scheduling cannabis – Support cannabis regulations at the federal level, including removing cannabis from Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act. Any change to the legal status of cannabis at the federal level must be accompanied by a thorough

regulatory framework that delineates the clear roles and responsibilities of the jurisdictions involved.

- Protection of state-legal cannabis – Support the continuation of legislation that prohibits the Department of Justice from using federal resources to prosecute individuals or businesses that are acting in compliance with state medical cannabis laws. The county also supports efforts to expand these protections to state-legal recreational laws.
- Banking – Support federal legislation that would ensure greater access to banking for cannabis-related businesses and allow proper medical research on the effects of cannabis use.

g. **Other state needs**

- Local Equity Program modifications – Support modifications to the state Local Equity Program to allow more individuals in Humboldt County to access funding from this program.
- Local Equity Program match – Support lowering or eliminating match requirements and ensuring Humboldt County receives more funding through this program.
- Reduction in state licensing fees – Support reducing the state licensing fee structure, particularly for small cultivators and license holders.

h. **Integration of hemp in cannabis supply chain**

- Oppose integration of high-THC hemp products into cannabis supply chain unless sufficient parity exists with licensed cannabis farmers and products.

## 2. Agriculture

a. **Invasive species program**

Support protecting existing revenue sources, enhanced state and federal funding and full cost recovery for programs to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests. Humboldt supports local flexibility in expenditures and research on invasive species pathways.

b. **USDA/California County Wildlife Services Program**

- Support legislation or administrative rulemaking to allow farmers to take feral hogs without a depredation permit or hunting license when the hogs are damaging crops or agricultural infrastructure and supports wildlife management tools and/or methods that have proven effective.
- 
- Support a 50:50 cost ratio for each respective county and the federal government, and distributing enhanced funding according to need.

c. **Industrial hemp**

- Oppose legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not provide 100% funding and resources for additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners or Sealers.
- Oppose any legislative initiatives that impair or restrict local land use authority.

d. **Marketplace equity and consumer protection**

- Support legislation that improves consumer confidence in labeling, weighing and measuring.
- Support funding for metrology, quantity control, package inspection, and funding that preserves and enhances resources for weights and measures programs at the state and local level.

e. **State organic program (SOP)**

Support legislation that strengthens the SOP and organic production.

f. **Invasive weed management funding, pesticide use**

- Support stable federal and state funding sources for Weed Management Areas and programs for the control of harmful non-native or invasive weed pests.
- Humboldt County prioritizes manual (non-chemical) methods of invasive weed control both for the community-wide economic benefits derived through jobs created by this approach and as a reflection of the prevailing public concern over the use of pesticides.

g. **Funding for local pesticide enforcement activities**

- Support the provision of long-term stable funding for county pesticide regulatory activities.
- Support efforts that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment and provides funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.

h. **Funding for California fairs network**

Support efforts that provide funding for local fairs and the network of California Fairs.

i. **United States Postal Service (USPS) inspection authority**

Support statutory and/or rulemaking efforts to facilitate inspector access to First Class, Priority or Express mail packages containing plant material profiled by detector dogs.

j. **Williamson Act**

- Support legislative or budget proposals to fund the Land Conservation Act subventions to counties, one of the most effective tools in preventing the loss of farmland and open space, while also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Support state tax credits and other incentives for Williamson Act contract holders who go above and beyond baseline requirements to implement enhanced land stewardship practices, including protecting soils, water storage and groundwater recharge, wetlands, and critical plant and wildlife habitat.

### **3. Climate Resilience and Sustainability**

Humboldt County is home to one of the world's most significant ecosystems, with incredible capacity to sequester carbon, world class wind resources, and critical biodiversity. Now in jeopardy due to heat gain, fires, drought, sea level rise and other climate amplified threats, we must work quickly to mitigate and adapt our natural and human-made systems for community and climate resilience and sustainability.



**a. Support For Climate Resilience and Sustainability**

- Support investing funds from cap-and-invest, existing water and climate bonds and other funding sources to support programs that improve climate resiliency and sustainability efforts, including funding for dedicated personnel, to support offshore wind, fire prevention, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and other activities.
- Support state and federal investment in the collaborative process, including regional intergovernmental planning and knowledge transfer, via regional block grants or other funding, required to implement effective on-the-ground efforts of local and Tribal governments and other organizations to improve climate resiliency and sustainability.
- Support incentives for distributed water storage at the household level, stewardship tax credits for conservation of private lands, expanded waterless toilet usage, increased forest health projects including thinning and fuel reduction, and funding for road restoration to prevent silt erosion.
- Support providing local governments with effective tools and flexibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including through building codes and land use regulations, and oppose state actions that limit local authority to implement climate resilience and sustainability measures.

**b. Sea level rise adaptation**

- Support funding to counties, Tribal Nations and cities along the coast to design, test, develop, implement, monitor and adaptively manage sea level rise adaptation plans.
  - Funding should prioritize regional approaches that incentivize jurisdictions working together across common hydrographic areas to maximize the effectiveness of adaptation measures.
  - Funding should also prioritize nature-based solutions, multi-objective projects, and actions that benefit public infrastructure and economically disadvantaged communities.
- Support efforts to ensure planning endeavors use the best available science, that adaptation measures are planned and designed with landscape-scale understanding, and support a variety of approaches including, where appropriate, multiple lines of defense, natural features and/or built structures, flood accommodation, orderly transition to new land uses, or other community- or area-specific strategies. Plans must be able to span multiple ownerships, if necessary.
- Support funding to the Great Redwood Trail Agency (or its successor agency) to maintain and repair its deteriorated and damaged assets along the Humboldt Bay shoreline to mitigate flood risks for Highway 101, the Humboldt Bay Trail, and inland areas.
  - The feasibility of improving railroad infrastructure to serve a coastal protection function for sea level rise adaptation should be assessed.
- Support revisions to laws and regulations that modernize the regulatory framework to encourage and support sea level rise adaptation projects, such as providing flexibility with wetland fill policies, other policies to enable nature-based solutions, beneficial reuse of sediment and reasonable improvements to dikes and levees.

- Requirements for technical studies, mitigation, monitoring, and maintenance should not be overly burdensome to avoid these requirements being a deterrent for urgently needed action.
- Support funding where adaptation requires retreat or moving away from properties.

## 4. Energy

### a. **Infrastructure and capacity to support energy, zero emissions goals**

- Support investments in transmission, distribution and other infrastructure, necessary to attack climate change, convert to electrical power, install charging stations, and develop housing and other facilities.
- Support investments in and efforts to provide the technical, physical and personnel infrastructure needed in rural areas and Tribal regions to reduce carbon emissions, including strengthening federal, state and local capacity for carbon analysis and accounting, and emissions reduction strategies to support climate resilient planning and decision-making.

### b. **Renewable energy research and review**

Support legislation that: encourages research and analysis of renewable energy projects; streamlines and eases environmental review processes on the North Coast; increases investment in critical infrastructure, including the Port of Humboldt Bay and the regional electric grid; allows partner involvement; and supports the development of renewable energy.

### c. **Offshore Wind (OSW)**

- Support efforts to ensure OSW development timelines are retained.
- Support efforts to develop OSW collaboratively with local partners, to mitigate impacts of development, and to provide compensation and support regarding unavoidable impacts.
- Support efforts to improve energy reliability for Humboldt County communities, increase regional capacity, engagement and planning around OSW, provide community benefits, increase local workforce and supply chain development, investment in necessary infrastructure, including housing, port development and infrastructure, transmission, roads, health care, childcare, and efforts to ensure development benefits Tribal and underrepresented communities.
- Support efforts to provide ongoing benefits, including revenue sharing and lower energy prices for local communities hosting offshore wind operations.
  - Where possible, rate reductions should be designed to promote efficiency and resiliency efforts.
- Support procurement solicitation criteria that clearly outlines the need for investments into local communities impacted by offshore wind.
- Support funding for transmission research and planning processes, with emphasis on local public participation and local engagement. Support for transmission to serve and/or benefit local communities, including underserved communities and Tribal Nations.

- Support efforts for ongoing resources for staff support needed to track and respond to OSW regulatory and related processes.
- d. **Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling and Development**
  - Oppose new offshore oil and gas drilling and related onshore infrastructure development off the coast of Humboldt County and California.
- e. **Funding for energy conservation and renewable energy generation projects**
  - Support legislation that would accelerate the development of renewable energy resources including price supports, grant funding and utility policy that facilitates export of renewable energy generated from the county.
  - Support incentives and policies to promote residential and commercial energy conservation, including Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.
- f. **Support Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs**
  - Support strong national consumer protection standards for the program, which could be modeled after California's laws.
  - Support the right to implement PACE programs and establish property assessment liens for energy conservation and renewable energy investments.
  - Support legislation that would prevent Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and other federal residential and commercial mortgage lending regulators from adopting policies that contravene established state and local PACE laws.

## 5. Natural Resources

- a. **Long-term funding for natural resource affairs**
  - Support efforts that provide stable funding for long-term engagement, administration and capacity development of natural resources affairs in Humboldt.
  - Seek or support legislation that adequately funds operations of national parks such as the King Range and Six Rivers National Park, which form an essential component of Humboldt's tourism industry.
- b. **Land stewardship incentives**
  - Support legislation that creates land stewardship standards that align with public trust practices, and provides incentives, such as tax or streamlined permitting, for those who meet them.

## 6. Solid Waste Management

- a. **Account for rural considerations in organic products requirements in SB 1383**
  - Support legislation on organic waste collection requirements that are appropriate for rural areas.
  - Support efforts to exempt heavily forested counties from being required to purchase mulch.
- b. **California redemption value recycling**
  - Support legislation that enables comprehensive reform of the CRV Redemption Program. Such reform should: include beverage manufactures as Extended Producer

Responsibility; set standard deposit fee regardless of container size, and; incorporates provisions for communities that have curbside recycling programs to ensure equitable payments to recycling centers and material recovery facility sort lines.

- Support legislation that enables the development of North American markets for all recyclable materials.
  - Support legislation to allow Humboldt's pilot CRV redemption program to become permanent, and support continued funding for this program. Humboldt's program involves multiple rural recycling sites operating collectively to meet the state's 32-hour per week requirement.
- c. **Household Hazardous Waste, Emergency Flares**
- Support legislation that establishes extended producer responsibility for household hazardous waste.
  - Support legislation that ensure manufacturers of emergency distress flares help fund and operate a collection system to manage expired or unwanted flares.

## 7. Fish and Wildlife

- a. **Fishery closures**
- Support efforts to engage local communities with sufficient timing prior to proposing closing active fisheries.
  - Support efforts to improve data collection of recreational fisheries.
  - Support efforts to implement and sustain regional information sharing of recreational fishing data, such as the Regional Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN).

## 8. Water

- a. **Incentives for water storage**
- Support legislation that incentivizes responsible water storage systems for existing construction.
- b. **Potter Valley Project (PVP)**
- Regarding PG&E's proposal on a framework for continued discussions with a wide range of partners to develop the content and terms of a potential License Surrender Agreement and Water Diversion Agreement, the Board of Supervisors has adopted principles for the regional proposal as follows:
- The preferred position of Humboldt County is that Eel River water should stay within the Eel River watershed.
  - If water continues to be diverted out of the Eel River Basin into the Russian River Basin, (1) water diversions must be limited to the wet season and the amount and timing of diversions must be consistent with restoration of Eel River fisheries; and (2) an Eel River Restoration Fund must be established and supported in part by ongoing financial charges on water diversions. The Eel River Restoration Fund will need to be

funded at a robust level that accounts for continued impacts and supports ecological recovery from historic impacts.

- Humboldt County will continue to join proponents of the proposal in negotiating a fair and equitable outcome to fully implement the co-equal goals contingent upon no delay in PG&E's timeline for dam removal. Humboldt County will remain committed to protecting the health and resilience of the Eel River and the interests of people and communities connected to the Eel River.

c. **Klamath Basin**

- Humboldt County supports efforts to ensure dam removal and ensuing river restoration efforts include robust long-term monitoring funding.
- The county supports efforts to allow continued collaboration with partners, including tribes and environmental groups, as well as legislative and regulatory efforts to ensure restoration will benefit Klamath River fisheries, provide economic stability for affected agricultural interests, and improve the overall ecosystem health of the Klamath River basin.
- Humboldt County opposes any congressional – or legal – effort designed to block access to water that legally belongs to the county and/or local Tribes.
- Oppose any water diversions from the Trinity River Division associated with operational changes to the Central Valley Project or State Water Project.

d. **Trinity River**

Support efforts for Humboldt County to secure its contract water with Bureau of Reclamation for not less than 50,000 acre-feet annually for fisheries enhancements and other downstream beneficial uses.

e. **Water Resources**

- Support federal initiatives designed to help communities develop more resilient water infrastructure, expand the use of modern water management tools and technologies, and assist disadvantaged areas in meeting their water needs. Federal efforts should focus on helping regions better achieve water self-sufficiency through recycling, storage, desalination, and water-use efficiency measures.

f. **California Water Resilience Portfolio initiative**

- Support efforts to adopt Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) as the principal framework for implementing the Water Resilience Portfolio, which will implement actions to ensure safe and dependable water supplies, flood protection and healthy waterways for the state's communities, economy and environment.
- Support funding for regional, multi-benefit planning and projects.
- Support working with the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and other partners to address needs.

g. **Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs)**

Support the reauthorization and robust funding of the federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) programs. These programs are critical tools for counties and local agencies to finance drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, and recycled water infrastructure, particularly in rural and disadvantaged communities.

## **9. Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention and Safety**

### **a. Funding for fuels reduction**

Support legislation to increase funding for fuels reduction in rural areas. Long-term block grants are ideal as long-term funding will help build the workforce.

### **b. Fire prevention and home hardening**

- Seek strategic policy changes that balance fire prevention, habitat protection, and rural economic development.
- Support legislation at the state and federal level that invests in home hardening, defensible space, wildfire-resilient community design, evacuation readiness, ignition reduction, roadside shaded fuel breaks, and public education on wildfire preparedness.

### **c. Enhancing existing firebreaks**

Support additional funding for fire prevention efforts near roads, trails, transmission lines and other areas that could or do serve as already existing firebreaks.

### **d. Building in wildland interface**

Support legislation that promotes planning for fire safety and environmental considerations regarding development in the wildland interface.

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## **EMERGENCY SERVICES, DISASTER RESPONSE/PREPAREDNESS**

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## **1. Forest, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

### **a. Rural Fire, first responder EMS, and ambulance providers that respond to incidents on state highways**

- Support legislation that addresses the state's responsibility for EMS/rescue response on state highways as a public safety priority.
- Support stable state funding to sustain emergency medical services and emergency response on state highways.

### **b. Sustainability of local and volunteer fire agencies**

Support efforts to support the survival and sustainability of local fire service organizations and agencies as well as the retention of volunteer firefighters.

### **c. Taxation of commercial forest lands**

Support legislation that amends California law to either (1) remove the exclusion of commercial forest lands that are timbered from Fire Protection District Law; or (2) establish a clear definition of commercial timberland and provide clear criteria specifying the limitations on including such lands, similar to those found in Section 25210.7 of County Service Area Law.

### **d. Wildfire response and assistance to communities impacted by wildfires**

Support legislation that would increase wildfire preparedness and post-fire response, including efforts to provide enhanced federal assistance to communities that have been impacted by wildfires.

## **2. Emergency Preparedness, Operations and Recovery**

### **a. Emergency and disaster preparedness assistance, funding for emergency operations centers**

- Support additional funding for emergency planning, preparations, operations and recovery, including addressing the safety of residents and seniors and those with disabilities.
- Support additional funding for emergency response facilities.
- Oppose increased cost-share requirements for FEMA disaster assistance programs, including Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.
- Support efforts to create a single, universal disaster assistance application that simplifies and accelerates access to federal disaster aid.

### **b. Lower thresholds for providing recovery funding**

Support legislation that lowers the threshold of damages a rural community must sustain to receive funding to recover from disasters or emergencies.

### **c. Human services funding for emergency response**

Support legislation that improves county human service response to emergencies and natural disasters.

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## **HOUSING, LAND USE, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION**

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## **1. Housing**

### **a. Housing and RHNA allocations**

- Support efforts that would increase affordable housing partnering with cities and in areas near employment, services and public transit.
- Support regulatory exemptions for truly rural areas as a location for very low- and low-income housing.
- Oppose the idea that RHNA goals should require provision of housing at a growth rate which exceeds the population growth rate.
- Support legislation that gives rural counties flexibility in meeting RHNA allocations.
- Support legislation that provides rural counties with assistance for affordable housing, including new tools to incentivize developers to construct housing in the more rural areas.
- Support efforts to ensure alignment and coordination between housing agencies.

- Support efforts to ensure projects are consistent with the county's housing element and fully entitled prior to being awarded state or federal housing funding.
- Support efforts to streamline local governments' ability to establish regional housing financing approaches.
- b. **Grant funding for infill development**  
Strongly support legislation that would provide grant funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development for infill development incentives in Housing Opportunity Zones.
- c. **Provide maximum Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding**
  - Support the maximum level of funding for the CDBG program.
  - Support allowing permanent housing to be considered an eligible activity for the program and increased operational flexibilities.
- d. **Increase funding for the HOME Program**  
Support efforts that would increase funding for the HOME Program.
- e. **Allowing workforce-specific affordable housing**  
Support efforts to allow employer or public investment to create affordable housing for specific types of workers, including healthcare, those necessary to support offshore wind, public employees and those in other sectors.

## 2. Land Use and Planning

- a. **Funding for assistance on Local Coastal Plans (LCP)**  
Support additional funding to the Coastal Commission to help assist local jurisdictions creating and updating their LCPs.
- b. **Funding for discrepancies between state and federal building codes**  
Support funding and legislation to mediate the discrepancies between state and federal building requirements, particularly with respect to public projects.
- c. **Develop legislation, bond grant guidelines that include Brownfield remediation**  
Strongly support legislation and developing bond grant guidelines that include Brownfield Remediation and/or additional funding to expand the program and provide greater incentives to property owners to cleanup and redevelop Brownfield properties.
- d. **Historic preservation, façade improvement and beautification**  
Support increased funding for rural communities to improve the physical appearance and function of structures.

## 3. Public Works and Infrastructure

- a. **Surveyor monument preservation**  
Support legislation that would remove the exemption from the survey monument fee in Government Code Section 27585.
- b. **Redwood Creek multi-benefit estuary restoration and flood control project**



- Support the allocation of funds for planning, design, and construction for flood protection, ecosystem restoration and endangered species recovery in the Redwood Creek levee system.
  - Support legislation or administrative action to release Prop 84 (Flood Control, Natural Resources and Parks Bond Act) or other state funding to be used for rehabilitation, repairs, and maintenance to the Redwood Creek levee system near Orick.
  - Support efforts to investigate the flood protection of Redwood Creek provided by existing levees, and incentivize vegetation management and gravel removal to maintain flood protection.
- c. **Funding for rural water supply and wastewater projects**
- Support small community grant applications designed to fund and support key water and wastewater projects. The county also supports technical and other assistance for rural communities to administer this funding.
  - Support funding for distributed water storage at the parcel level for fire protection and domestic water supply backups.
- d. **Funding for nuclear storage**
- Support increased funding for dealing with nuclear waste from shutdown reactors.
  - Support increasing slope stability protection at the local spent rod storage site.

#### **4. Roads and Transportation**

- a. **Funding for roads and maintenance**
- Support a set-aside in the Cap-and-Trade funding for eligible transportation system improvements, including multi-modal and transit improvements.
  - Support a funding set-aside for preventative maintenance of road systems for all local governments.
  - Support legislation that allows all counties on the State Controller's MOE list to be eligible for the self-help component of SB 1.
- b. **Road User Charge**
- Engage in state and federal road charge pilot programs including efforts where all levels of county government can participate in policy development.
  - Begin to develop and explore locally controlled road charge alternatives.
  - Support legislation that is locally controlled, locally equitable, and at minimum, maintains current road maintenance and operations funding levels.
- c. **Local rehabilitation project eligibility for State and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (STIP and RTIP) funding**
- The county supports legislation that would state that local road rehabilitation projects are eligible for STIP and RTIP funds.
- d. **Road safety**
- Due to current safety concerns, the County of Humboldt seeks to maintain increased safety enforcement through the segment of State Highway Route 101 between the Eureka Slough Bridge and the Gannon Slough Bridge.

- Support road safety improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists on US Highway 101, including along Broadway and 4th and 5th Streets through Eureka.
- e. **Humboldt Bay, port and marina**
  - Support legislation and funding in favor of sufficient funding to US Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the mouth of the bay at the 48-foot depth and federal channels within the bay at 42-foot depth.
  - Support consistent regulations, streamlined processes, and increased funding related to marina dredging and maintenance, including those related to sensitive species, prevent local governments from dredging the marina more consistently.
  - Support legislation to facilitate increased multi-modal freight and cargo handling capacity at the Port of Humboldt Bay, including Samoa Industrial Waterfront Transportation Access Plan funding by the State of California and expedited environmental review by Humboldt County and the Coastal Commission.
  - Support additional funding for construction and maintenance of the Port of Humboldt Bay and related operations.
- f. **Federal transportation funding**
  - Support opportunities to compete for federal discretionary grant program funding.
- g. **Reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools**
  - Support a long-term funding solution for the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, including alternate models that provide stable funding for counties.
  - In the absence of a long-term agreement, the county supports a short-term program extension.
  - As part of a long-term reauthorization bill, the county supports re-establishing active management of the nation's forests, promoting responsible timber production on Forest Service commercial timber land, and revising Title III of the Act to allow fire protection funds to be spent as flexibly as possible, as funds are currently limited to fire protection activities on federal lands, severely restricting fire departments from containing fires adjacent to federal land.
- h. **Complete streets**
  - Support legislation which provides additional funding for active transportation and transit facilities, and legislation which prioritizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities as part of road maintenance, repair and improvement projects funded by state and federal dollars.
  - Support updates to applicable state and federal guidelines, rules and regulations to provide more emphasis on non-vehicular facilities.
- i. **Forest service roads**
  - Support efforts to improve and maintain roads infrastructure within US Forest Service lands.

## 5. Aviation

- a. **Assistance with recruitment of air service**

- Support the state developing a match program to pay for the local share of the Small Community Air Service Grant.
- Support additional funding to recruit air service to rural airports.
- b. **Increase California Aid to Airports Program (CAAP) funding**  
Support legislation that increases funding for CAAP. Going forward, this funding should be tied to inflation.
- c. **Remove cap on Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) and reduce local matching requirement**
  - Support legislative efforts that would remove the federal cap on PFCs in order to allow the county to collect sufficient revenue from airport users to better fund critically needed infrastructure and safety improvement projects.
  - Support the maximum level of funding for key aviation programs, including the Airport Improvement Program and the Small Community Air Services Development Program (SCASDP), and reduction to or elimination of local match requirement.
- d. **Homeland Security – Full funding of security mandates for commercial airports**  
Support funding to cover the costs of providing mandated security at the California Redwood Coast – Humboldt County Airport.

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## GENERAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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### 1. Broadband, Cybersecurity and Telecommunications

- a. **Expanding use for existing broadband and utility lines**  
Support legislation that would allow access to already-laid telecommunications and utility lines.
- b. **Rural broadband and net neutrality**
  - Support legislation that provides resources to improve rural counties access to high-speed broadband.
  - Support legislation that protects access to broadband service.
- c. **Funding for broadband service to rural areas**
  - Support legislation to provide funding or business incentives to assist companies in bringing broadband service to unserved and underserved areas.
  - Support continued implementation of, and access to the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, which provides billions of dollars to the State of California for broadband service deployment to unserved and underserved areas.
- d. **Telecommunications, broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local zoning authority**
  - Support efforts to recognize counties as co-regulators, providers and partners in extending the benefits of advanced telecommunications and broadband technology,

including improvements to county emergency preparedness and response systems, to all residents.

- Support local decision-making authority and accountability.
- Oppose actions that preempt or limit zoning, siting authority of local governments.
- Support legislative efforts that would nullify the Federal Communication Commission's 2018 wireless infrastructure rule (*83 Fed Reg. 51867*).
- Support the deployment and availability of emerging technologies, such as small cell 5G, to rural areas of the nation to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all.

e. **Telecommunication services for rural areas**

Support efforts to ensure residents of Humboldt County have access to affordable, reliable telecommunications services.

f. **Cybersecurity Grants for Local Governments**

Support increased funding for cybersecurity grant programs, including the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), to help counties and local governments protect critical infrastructure and essential services.

## 2. Native American and Tribal Nations

a. **Mitigation of impacts from tribal gaming compacts**

- Support legislation which would increase funding to mitigate impacts from Tribal Gaming Compacts.
- If the state renegotiates contracts with Native American tribes, the county supports legislation which would allow more county and local government involvement to address environmental, social, and planning concerns of the local community.

b. **Funding for Tribal Liaison**

Support funding for tribal liaison function within local governments, especially in rural areas with large Tribal presence.

## 3. Taxation and local revenues

a. **Funding for abandoned vehicles, and increase to Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Fee**

Support efforts to increase resources directed towards abandoned vehicles.

b. **Vacation rentals and transient occupancy tax collection**

- Support legislation and planning to mitigate the effects of short-term vacation rentals on existing housing stock and housing availability, particularly housing affordable to lower income groups.
- Support legislation that requires online vacation rental and home sharing sites to collect and share vacation rental information with local municipalities; collect TOT on behalf of California municipalities; and allow for the audit of their users.

c. **Restoration of property tax administration program**

Support restoration of the Property Tax Administration program which would re-establish and restore funding for the state's share of property tax administration costs.

d. **Funding for newly formed cities**

Support allowing newly formed cities to receive a share of vehicle license fees aiming to restore options for future city incorporations, promoting civic engagement and enhancing local services and residents' quality of life.

e. **Long-term funding solution for Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILT)**

- Supports efforts that would provide long-term funding certainty for the PILT program.
- In absence of a long-term authorization, the county supports a one-year extension of mandatory PILT funding.

f. **Sales tax**

- Support efforts to direct sales taxes to rural communities, particularly Bradley Burns and Proposition 172.

g. **Fulfill the provisions of the PILT act related to Fish & Wildlife property**

Support legislative action that would fund the required payments to fulfill the provision of Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act related to Fish & Wildlife property.

h. **State and Local Tax Deduction**

Support legislation that would fully restore the SALT deduction, and oppose any effort to further reduce or eliminate this tax benefit.

i. **Protecting tax-exempt bonds**

Support efforts to protect the municipal bond and PAB tax exemption, as well as legislation that would restore the exemption for advance refunding bonds.

j. **Vacancy tax**

Support state efforts to propose and/or implement a vacancy tax on vacant homes with funding directed toward affordable housing.

#### **4. Economic Development**

a. **Planning and collaboration**

- Support legislation and efforts aimed at enhancing regional collaboration.
- Support legislation that positively impacts the county's ability to engage in and implement economic development programs and policies.

b. **Financing tools, districts**

Support legislation that maintains and strengthens tax increment financing tools for communities.

c. **Workforce training, administration**

- Support efforts to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and preserve local flexibility in program administration and service delivery.
- Support efforts that increase proper planning, administration and supervision of comprehensive local systems of workforce training and employment.
- Support additional workforce development programs throughout Humboldt County to expand opportunities to businesses and residents, including collaborations with small business development programs.

d. **Business retention and growth**

- Support the development and implementation of a statewide “proactive” California business retention strategy, led by the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). The county supports partnerships with local economic development organizations.
- Support legislation that supports the private sector and the development of new or expanded businesses in communities.
- Support legislation that incorporates renewable energy and preparedness in economic development efforts.

## 5. Childcare

### a. **Access and affordability**

- Support investment in childcare programs, childcare workforce development and childcare subsidies for essential workers, and measures to expand childcare affordability and access and an expanded eligibility standards for Head Start so that more Humboldt families can access the program.

### b. **Childcare workers**

- Support efforts to increase pay, benefits and other supports for childcare workers.

## 6. Elections

### a. **Limit corporate and union contributions in elections**

Support a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the ruling in *Citizens United* which allows corporations to use their funds to make election-related expenditures.

## 7. General Government and Services, Governance

### a. **Americans with Disabilities Act reforms**

Support common-sense reforms and additional funding that would help local agencies and businesses work toward compliance with the ADA.

### b. **Separating superior court expenses from counties**

Support legislation that removes fiscal responsibility from the county for the Grand Jury, security and facility maintenance.

### c. **Public Records Act relief**

Support legislative efforts that balance the public’s right to access official records with the public benefit of onerous and time-consuming requests.

### d. **Teleconferencing for advisory bodies**

Support legislation that would allow members of non-decision-making, advisory bodies of local governments to participate in meetings remotely.

### e. **Property owner insurance coverage**

- Support any combination of plans, programs, regulation, or legislation at the state and federal levels to mitigate loss of property insurance coverage. Public resources and subsidies should prioritize primary residences.
  - Coordinate with insurance companies, state agencies, homeowners, business owners and other partners to minimize the loss of insurance coverage and seek mutually beneficial conditions that would support wide availability of insurance at rates that are both competitive and risk based.
  - Support efforts to allow insurance rates to be based on actual conditions at each parcel to take into account home hardening and fuel reduction efforts.
- f. **Donation, sale or leasing of government property and facilities to county**
- Support efforts to donate, sell or lease for low cost, state and federal government property and facilities to the county, after consultation with the county.
  - The county supports the state providing the Economic Development Department facility in Eureka, a large facility that is sorely underused, to the county.

## 8. Immigration

- a. **Immigration reform, legal protections for immigrant residents and unaccompanied minors**
- Support legislative, budgetary and administrative efforts to enhance legal protections for undocumented immigrants, increase funding for legal services and deportation defense, and address unaccompanied children crossing the border, including increasing funds for immigration-related legal services, shelter and care.
  - Support comprehensive immigration reform, as well as establishing a clear path to citizenship, protecting the well-being of undocumented workers, supporting deferred action programs and related efforts to make immigration relief available.
  - Support efforts to protect the health and welfare of children and children whose parents are detained or deported by Immigration and Customs enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol.
- b. **Protecting public safety funds**
- Oppose legislation and/or administrative rules that would require local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration authorities.
  - Support legislation that protects current and future federal funding from being withdrawn if a county does not cooperate with federal immigration authorities.

## 9. Veterans Services

- a. **Resources for county Veterans Services Offices**
- Support funding for County Veterans Services Offices and legislation that assists veterans, their dependents and survivors.
- b. **Funding for veterans' halls**
- Support funding from housing bond or other mechanisms for veterans' halls, including funding to make these facilities more climate-resilient and disaster supporting.

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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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Humboldt County supports legislative and regulatory actions that reduce poverty and promote the health and safety of its most vulnerable residents.

### 1. Children Youth and Families

a. **Supporting children and families**

Support legislation to reduce child poverty, expand child tax credits and increase access to affordable, high-quality childcare and early childhood programs.

b. **First 5 funding**

Support investment in sustaining First 5 Humboldt.

c. **Helping families move out of poverty**

Support legislation that strengthens the CalWORKs program, subsidized childcare and employment opportunities.

d. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Reauthorization**

- Support increased federal investment in TANF and other safety net programs.
- Support flexibility for states and counties in meeting TANF work participation rates.

e. **Support food security**

- Support efforts to protect and improve food security and augment investments in universal access to subsidized school meals, food banks, SNAP and WIC.
- Support legislation that helps eligible CalFresh households maintain benefits.
- Support efforts to delay or mitigate the federal benefit and administrative cost shifts in SNAP.

f. **Support for Child Welfare Services**

Support legislation and resources to improve Child Welfare Services prevention and response.

g. **Adverse Childhood Experiences**

Support increased funding to prevent and address the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), including screening, care coordination, home-visiting programs, trauma informed practices and health education programs that promote positive childhood experiences.

h. **Transition Age Youth**

Support legislation that improves the quality of life for young people aged 16-26.

### 2. Adults

a. **Protecting older and vulnerable adults**



- Support efforts to maintain and strengthen programs that protect older and vulnerable adults including county Public Guardian, In-Home Supportive Services, Aging and Disability Resource Centers and Adult Protective Services.
- Support Elder Justice Act reauthorization, increased ongoing investment in Adult Protective Services, full funding for the Older Americans Act, expanded Medicare coverage, resources to address Alzheimer's, legislation that supports the mental health needs of older adults and federal investment in services and supports for older adults and caregivers.
- Support state and federal funding for county Public Guardian services and oppose expanding conservatorships without new, dedicated funding.

### **3. Housing and Homeless Assistance**

#### **a. Housing and Homelessness**

- Support legislation that addresses and meets the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
- Support increased, ongoing investment in building and maintaining subsidized housing, homeless prevention, housing supportive services and rent.
- Support protection and continued funding of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) and other programs that increase the affordability and availability of housing.
- Protect federal funding for Permanent Supportive Housing

### **4. Behavioral Health**

#### **a. Overdose Prevention**

Support legislation to prevent overdose deaths.

#### **b. Nitrous Oxide**

Support legislation to reduce the availability of nitrous oxide products for illegal use.

#### **c. Administration of Behavioral Health services**

Support legislation that improves counties' ability to administer Behavioral Health services.

#### **d. Support for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder resources**

- Support investment in mental health and substance use disorder workforce, training, facilities, prevention and treatment.
- Support local direction and flexibility in the use of Behavioral Health Services Act funds and oppose new state mandates or higher levels of service that assume BHSA as the funding source.

### **5. Public Health**

#### **a. Rural health care services**

Support efforts that improves access to health care services in rural places.

#### **b. Public Health infrastructure and prevention funding**

- Support funding for public health prevention services and legislation that protects and promotes public health, including suicide and violence prevention, substance use disorder prevention, cannabis and tobacco use prevention, sexually transmitted and communicable disease prevention, oral health, and public health laboratory infrastructure.
- Support legislation and increased funding for essential local public health responsibilities including workforce development, facilities, communicable disease response, and public health prevention and health equity activities.
- Support federal investment in Medicaid. Oppose legislation to block grant or reduce federal investment in Medicaid.
- Oppose legislation that further restricts eligibility for Medicaid.
- Support legislation that helps Medi-Cal beneficiaries maintain coverage.
- Support legislation to maintain and enhance county indigent health programs.
- Oppose legislation that reduces federal investment in Affordable Care Act marketplaces such as Covered California.

## 6. Administration of County Health & Human Services Programs

- a. Support full state funding and cost-of-living increases for state programs operated by the county.
- b. Oppose shifting federal or state administrative costs to counties.
- c. Support increased state funding for county administration to implement HR 1 Medi-Cal and CalFresh redetermination and work requirements.
- d. Support efforts to align CalFresh and Medi-Cal work requirements and reporting.
- e. Oppose budget cuts to health and human services programs.
- f. Oppose further realignment of state responsibility to counties without full, ongoing, constitutionally dedicated funding.
- g. Oppose diverting funding for realigned programs.
- h. Oppose new mandates and higher levels of service requirements without adequate and ongoing funding.
- i. Support legislative efforts to improve workforce opportunities in county careers and flexibility in the delivery of health and human services.
- j. Support state and federal investment in county facilities.

## 7. Child Support

- a. **Federal Performance Measures**  
Support efforts to modernize federal performance measures to match delivery of child support services, and not only collections.
- b. **State plan flexibility for local programs**  
Support efforts to amend the state child support plan to allow counties greater flexibility in using federal child support funding for local programs, including employee

training, non-custodial parent job training, and other supportive services that strengthen families and improve outcomes.

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## **ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY**

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### **1. Juvenile Justice**

#### **a. Stable funding for juvenile justice**

- Support legislation for continued and increased resources for juvenile justice programs in order to provide for stable and secure sources of funding.
- Support legislation initiatives that prevent youth from entering the justice system, employing evidence-based strategies to minimize detention use.
- Support strengthening probation services by a service-centered model, prioritizing crime survivors, and fostering collaboration across systems of care, Humboldt County aligns itself with the aim of connecting probation services with community needs.

#### **b. Support services for justice-involved youth**

- Support legislation and budgetary efforts that increase re-entry planning and support services for justice-involved youth.

### **2. Public Safety**

#### **a. Tribal officers as Peace Officers**

Support legislation that allows tribal officers to serve as peace officers recognized by POST.

#### **b. Accountability, transparency and behavioral health services in law enforcement**

- Support legislation and budgetary efforts that increase effective service delivery, oversight, accountability, and transparency in law enforcement. In addition, Humboldt County supports additional funding for programs that reduce systemic racism and unconscious bias.
- Support practices that promote effective crime reduction and will also support legislation that improves service delivery, oversight, transparency and law enforcement accountability.

#### **c. Additional funding for court security**

Support full state funding additional funding to counties for courthouse and trial court security.

#### **d. Justice and Public Safety Funding**

- Advocate for maximum program resources for other key federal justice and public safety programs that are administered through the U.S. Department of Justice, including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, the Second Chance Act (SCA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

e. **Prop 36 Implementation**

- Support efforts to provide funding for implementation of Proposition 36, including increased funding for deputy sheriffs, prosecution and defense, Probation, Behavioral Health, drug treatment and other services to provide the intervention voters expect.
- Support utilizing and enhancing existing programs and structures where possible to implement Proposition 36, as opposed to creating new structures.

**3. Indigent Defense, Diversion**

a. **Funding for Mental Health Diversion Statute**

- Support legislation that provides additional funding for the Public Defender to fulfill Assembly Bill 1810, also known as California's Mental Health Diversion Statute.

b. **Funding For Indigent Legal Defense**

Support legislation and budget appropriations sufficient to fulfill the obligations to provide effective representation to indigent people in the aims of the State of California's settlement agreement in *Phillips v. California*.