



COUNTY OF INYO, CA

2026 County Priorities

*Approved by Board of Supervisors on December 16, 2025;
amended on January 20, 2026*



COUNTY OF INYO, CA

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ABOUT INYO COUNTY

Inyo County is a land of magnificent natural diversity and unique splendor. Considered a "Frontier County," Inyo is the 2nd largest in California. The 10,227 square miles which comprise the jurisdiction stretch the wide distance from the California/Nevada state line near Death Valley National Park all the way to the spine of the Sierra Nevada. The Owens Valley forms the main north-south corridor along the west side of the County with Highway 395 stretching alongside it. This region is known as the Payahuunadü, or the Land of the Flowing Water, and is home to the Paiute-Shoshone people. Today, a significant portion of the water utilized by the residents in the City of Los Angeles originates from Inyo County and the Owens Valley.

Conveniently located about four hours from the metropolises of Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and Reno, the region is easily accessed via Highway 395 as well as through commercial flights into Bishop Airport. Despite the proximity to major cities, only about 19,000 people call Inyo County home on a year-round basis. Inyo County and the Eastern Sierra region offer a full spectrum of adventure as well as the opportunity to get away from it all. The striking landscape is truly unique. To the west, along the crest of the Sierra Nevada, Mount Whitney towers over the small community of Lone Pine. At 14,500 feet, it is recognized as the highest peak in the lower 48 states. Just a short distance away is Death Valley National Park, which, among other things, is home to Badwater – the lowest point in the U.S. at -282 feet below sea level. The White Mountains are home to the oldest known life forms in the world – the Great Basin Bristlecone Pines – and there are millions of acres of Wilderness designation-protected critical habitat in various locations throughout the County, which is 98% public land.

The County is dotted with historic towns providing professional services and the equipment needed for excursions in this recreation mecca. Whether one is seeking out opportunities for hiking, skiing, climbing, biking, fishing, horse packing, hang gliding, photography, or just sightseeing, the experience will be world-class.

Inyo County was established on March 22, 1866 – formed out of the territory of the unorganized Coso County, which had been created on April 4, 1864, from parts of Mono and Tulare counties. It acquired more territory from Mono County in 1870 and Kern County and San Bernardino County in 1872. Named for the "dwelling place of the great spirit" in the Mono language, Inyo County has been the historic homeland for thousands of years of the Mono Tribe, Coso people, Timbisha, and Kawaiisu Native Americans.

Inyo County has a rich indigenous history, as well as a legacy that also traces its roots to pioneering, mining, railroading, ranching, and farming. Much of this history is not only on display today in museums and cultural centers throughout the County, but in the culture, livelihoods, and family trees of those who call Inyo County home.

2026 Inyo County Strategic Initiatives

View the Inyo County Strategic Plan: <https://bit.ly/InyoStrategicPlan>





LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM PURPOSE

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to identify and advocate for its legislative and funding priorities in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. To be effective in this mission, the Board is pleased to present its 2026 Legislative Platform.

Inyo County's Legislative Platform is a summary of the priorities of the organization, supported by the Board of Supervisors, and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts with the Executive and Legislative branches of the U.S. Government and the State of California regarding legislation and regulation.

Updated annually, the Platform contains general principles held by the County of Inyo as well as the County's definitive stance on critical issues (especially as they relate to rural counties) and, in some cases, specific proposals, programs, and pieces of legislation. The document is structured to proactively frame sponsorship, support, and advocacy regarding key legislative and regulatory priorities while also monitoring numerous bills.

In recent years, the Platform has been distributed to Inyo County's state and federal delegations to make legislators aware of our local, rural issues so they may better lobby for our interests. It also provides general direction to the County Administrator's Office and County departments, and the public on positions of support or opposition to key policy initiatives which impact the way the County does business. Adoption of this document also allows each Board member the flexibility to take the position identified in the document, on behalf of the Board, without waiting for a full vote of the Board. Conversely, when confronted with an issue that is not listed in this document, that issue will need Board approval before an Inyo County position may be presented in a letter or other form of advocacy.

While the Platform explicitly states the County's position on numerous programs, proposals, principles, and pieces of legislation, it also offers implicit guidance for responding to related issues. If the County takes a support position on an issue, it holds true that the County therefore also opposes issues that conflict with the underlying principles and goals of the original position of support. For example, the Platform states that the County will oppose legislation that would diminish local authority over commercial cannabis regulation. Conversely, this means the County would then support legislation to increase local authority over commercial cannabis regulation.

Updates to this year's Platform have been made in consultation with department heads, other key staff, and the Board of Supervisors.

The Platform is adopted annually but can be updated at any time throughout the year by action of the Board.





2026 INYO COUNTY ADVOCACY PRIORITIES



Public Lands Counties Funding Challenges

Support long-term reauthorization, reconsideration of funding formula, and full funding for the Payment-In-Lieu-Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs and expand the scope and support for programs by which local governments are reimbursed for the cost of providing services to property tax-exempt federal lands.

Specific priorities include:

- Recalculate PILT or develop an additional funding stream that is not based on historical timber extraction, but recognizes the current financial impacts of tourism and the cost of providing services to visitors of public lands counties



Sustainable Recreation and Gateway Communities

Support coordinated, multi-jurisdictional land management and regional planning efforts with federal partners. Support funding for sustainable recreation; visitor services and related infrastructure; County Road maintenance within federal and state lands; utility infrastructure; waste reduction; and other measures to mitigate impacts to Inyo County communities.

Some specific initiatives include:

- Investments and upgrades to Inyo County parks and campgrounds—regardless of land tenure issues or holdover lease status
- Locality pay equality for federal staff that recognizes the expense of living in the Eastern Sierra
- Support for the Sustainable Recreation and Ecosystem Management Program and other activities sponsored by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments



Infrastructure Investments

Support legislation to provide funding for constructing, repairing, upgrading, and maintaining water and wastewater infrastructure serving Inyo County residents. Seek out and support thoughtful updates to road funding programs considering gas tax impacts. Continue support for alternative fuel and electrification infrastructure needs. Further investments to ensure climate resiliency for all infrastructure.

Some specific projects include:

- Lone Pine Water System Replacement Project
- Bishop Airport Water Line Extension
- Wastewater System for the City of Bishop, Eastern Sierra CSD, and Bishop Paiute Tribe



Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

Protect and enhance federal participation from FEMA (and CalOES) of local response activities required to ensure public safety during emergency events. Support efforts to improve disaster preparedness including preparation for extreme heat events, wildfire events, winter storm and flooding events, earthquakes, and other emergencies. Support programs that identify and assist vulnerable populations with emergency readiness, evacuation planning, and shelter access, including accessible cooling and filtered shelters during excessive heat and unhealthy air events.

Some specific projects include:

- Lone Pine Creek Diversion
- County Cooling Centers, Shelters, and Backup Generators
- Development of emergency evacuation ingress/egress routes in every Inyo County community.



Emergency Medical Services

High overhead costs, low call volumes, payor mix challenges, inadequate reimbursement, and a decline in local volunteerism have combined to create a crisis in rural EMS services. The isolated frontier nature of Inyo County, including long travel distances and limited local services, increases costs beyond those experienced by typical rural communities. Further complicating the matter are the 2 million-plus visitors coming into or passing through Inyo County who often require these services.

Some solutions include:

- Enhanced reimbursement for rural EMS services in Medicare and Medicaid programs
- Grant programs and base funding specifically for rural/frontier EMS services



Fire Prevention and Protection

Support programs, regulations, legislation, and funding at the state and federal levels that enhance fire prevention efforts and reduce hazardous fuels on public land. Support efforts to reward home-hardening and wildfire mitigations taken by homeowners. Support funding for the County's small, local and volunteer fire districts.

Some specific projects include:

- Funding for water system infrastructure improvements for fire defense, especially within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).
- Upgrading water sources and capacity to meet flow rates adequate for fire suppression.



THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Support Inyo County communities through infrastructure investments, effective service delivery, and thoughtful planning.

Inyo County's position is unique. As the second largest county in California, more than 98% of the land base is owned and managed as public land which does not allow for residential or commercial development. The County must therefore creatively approach how it addresses critical infrastructure needs as it seeks to serve a small population spread across more than 10,000 square miles. Given the significant resources available from the federal government related to infrastructure, Inyo County must continue to engage with its federal representatives, relevant agencies, and local stakeholders to position itself for success. The County looks to expand its role in discussions related to upcoming infrastructure legislation, with the goal of increasing access to, and the receipt of, federal and state funds.

Inyo County's legislative platform seeks support for Thriving Communities through federal and state infrastructure investments, effective delivery of key community services, and thoughtful, locally driven planning and land use policy.

HIGHEST AND BEST USE OF LIMITED PRIVATE LAND

Isolated Communities

- Advocate in support of programs that can benefit isolated frontier communities and provide means for supplemental investments into these communities.
- Advocate for a frontier designation that recognizes the unique challenges of these communities.

Land Tenure Challenges

- Seek out legislative changes which recognize the unique challenges with land tenure faced by Inyo County, in particular operating in a holdover status on lease agreements.

IMPROVED HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Workforce Housing

- Advocate for policies and funding opportunities to support the creation of workforce housing for the “missing middle.”

Housing for Vulnerable Residents

- Support policy and regulatory changes that promote access to state and federal housing funds for rural areas.
- Remove barriers in planning processes, regulatory frameworks, and funding programs that make it more difficult for low-resource rural and frontier areas to access state and federal housing funds.

ENHANCED HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND SENIOR SERVICES

Health Care and Behavioral Health Access

- Support programs that improve access to health services in rural areas, including emergency services, rural and community health clinics, medical and non-medical transportation, behavioral health services, and hospital facilities.

Youth

- Pursue federal funding to better allow the County to meet the needs of its young people and provide them opportunities to excel outside of the classroom.

Seniors

- Support programs and seek funding for services that assist the County’s aging population.

Veterans

- Work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to increase access to veterans health centers, veterans housing, and other critical veterans services.

QUALITY PARKS AND RECREATION

Funding for Facility Improvements

- Support funding and programs for the construction and enhancement of community facilities such as parks, campgrounds, libraries, and museums.

Playing Fields and Parks

- Invest in sports and recreation facilities, including parks, rec centers, and playing fields, as a strategy to get youth outdoors.

TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Water and Wastewater

- Pursue funding for water projects of significant value to the County, especially those related to clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

Broadband

- Support broadband expansion, broadband adoption, telecommunications improvements, technology infrastructure projects, and other technology advancements.

Community Centers

- Support funding for improved community center infrastructure, including redundant power, heating, cooling, and other emergency response and sheltering essentials

General Infrastructure

- Seek out funding to support the maintenance and replacement of dilapidated and failing critical infrastructure.

ENHANCED TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Airports

- Advocate for funding that will allow the County to develop and expand commercial and general aviation infrastructure that supports communities and spurs economic development.

Ground Transportation

- Support the development of public ground transportation throughout the County, serving residents as well as visitors and tourists.

COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION THROUGH EFFECTIVE PLANNING

Environmental Review and Project Delivery

- Advocate for the streamlining of environmental review processes to make the delivery of the County's priority infrastructure projects more timely and efficient.

Downtown Revitalization

- Advocate for programs and funding that revitalize rural towns through support of small businesses.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Natural Resources

- Support legislation that protects and enhances rural counties' natural resources as well as recreational infrastructure, without harming the landscape or the economy that relies on access to public lands.

Wildfire Prevention, Mitigation, and Protection

- Support realistic federal policy and regulatory reforms that balance environmental protection with the preservation of life and property and that lead to better mitigation of wildfires on federal, state, and private lands.
- Support federal policies that assist agricultural producers experiencing drought-related losses, including those stemming from reductions in regional water supplies due to federal drought-mitigation actions.



ECONOMIC ENHANCEMENT

Engage in activities which encourage economic growth for existing industries and promote business and workforce resilience.

A diverse and vibrant local economy is central to the long-term growth of Inyo County. The County relies on its small businesses to provide services to the millions of visitors who come to hike Death Valley and climb Mount Whitney, while also making sure its residents continue to have employment opportunities and have access to all their daily needs. Support for these small businesses is paramount to Inyo County's economic growth, as is its pursuit of support from the Economic Development Administration to develop a diverse and resilient economy within the County and the Eastern Sierra region.

Inyo County's legislative platform seeks support for Economic Enhancement through investments which encourage economic growth for existing industries and promote business and workforce resilience.

BUSINESS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND WORKFORCE

Small Business

- Support programs and activities that provide assistance to small businesses and promote entrepreneurship.

Agriculture

- Support legislation that would expand agriculture programs, with specific interest in increasing access for rural communities with significant public land holdings to develop and utilize sustainable agricultural practices and grow a self-sustainable agricultural industry.

SUSTAINABLE RECREATION INITIATIVES

Tourist Economy and Gateway Communities

- Advocate for funding that would make the County's tourism and recreation economy more resilient and robust, including those that increase access to public lands.

COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Public Lands Funding

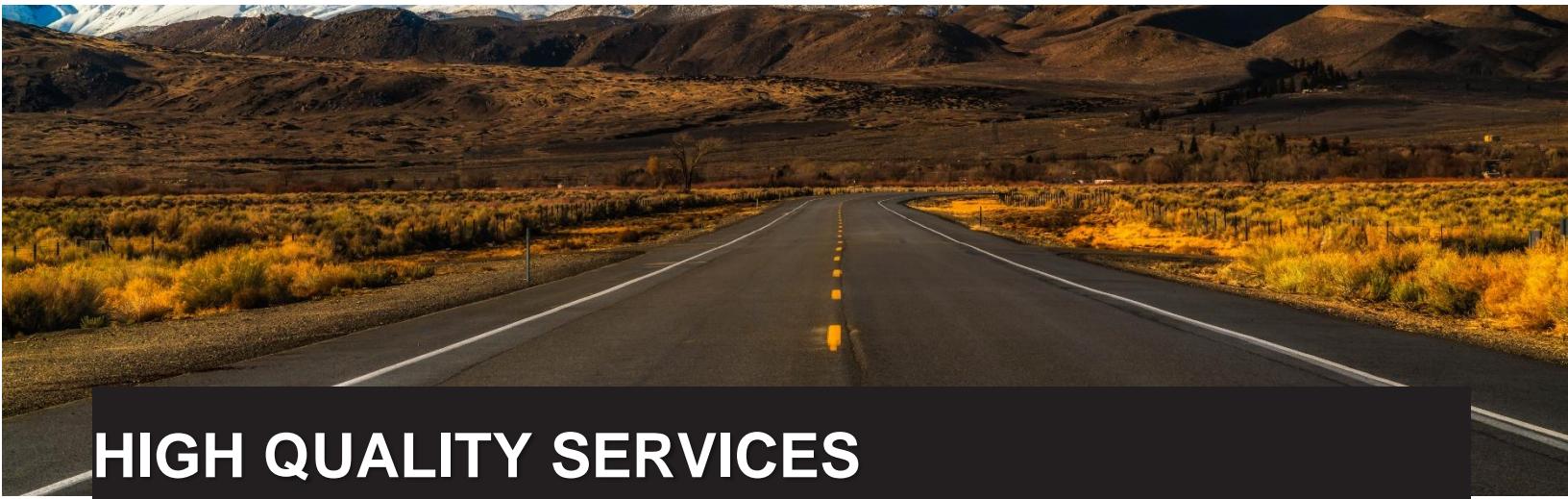
- Advocate for the creation of a new federal program that would provide funding to communities with significant public lands and reliance on those lands for tourism and recreation economies.

Land Management Agencies

- Engage with the Department of Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, and the USDA Forest Service to better manage public lands in cooperative partnerships.

Property Tax Mitigation

- Oppose activities of the federal, state, and other localities' governments to acquire and transfer private lands to public ownership without mitigation for loss of local property tax revenue.



HIGH QUALITY SERVICES

Deliver relevant and high-value County government services which are responsive to community needs and prioritize a thriving workplace for staff.

With approximately 2% of land in Inyo County available for economic or residential development coupled with having the seventh lowest population in the State, the County's ability to collect revenue through traditional means (such as property tax) is greatly limited. To further complicate matters, more than 2 million visitors traverse the County each year as they visit Death Valley, Mt. Whitney, Mammoth Lakes, Yosemite, and other natural attractions throughout the area. All these factors play a significant role in the County's ability to provide government services on which residents and visitors rely. While the County is fiscally stable and effectively manages its limited financial resources, the pursuit and utilization of federal and state dollars as well as grant funds is critical to the overall health, wellness, and quality of life in Inyo County communities.

Inyo County's legislative platform seeks support for the delivery of relevant and High Quality Services which are responsive to community needs and prioritize a thriving County workforce.

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES

Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILT)

- Support legislation and budget efforts that continue to maximize the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) revenue from the federal and state government to counties and continues full funding of PILT without restrictions beyond the current authorization.

Tribal Nations

- Support programs and pursue funding that benefits local Tribal Nations and allows the County to better engage those communities, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and grow a self-sustainable agricultural industry.

ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT AND IMPROVED COUNTY FACILITIES

- Support efforts to improve the delivery of services and make government more accountable to the people of Inyo County.
- Provide funding to rural counties to ensure that community-facing County services and facilities are adequate and comparable to those available in higher population areas.
- Support reforms that address excessive statute of limitations periods and exorbitant damage awards that strain municipal taxpayer resources otherwise available for essential taxpayer services.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Law Enforcement

- Support funding for public safety, including search and rescue activities, law enforcement communications, and public safety equipment.

Fire Response Infrastructure

- Pursue funding and legislative changes that improve the ability for volunteer fire departments and emergency responders to operate effectively and serve residents of the County.
- Oppose reductions in FEMA's Schedule of Equipment Rates (SER) to ensure equitable reimbursement for applicant-owned equipment deployed in disaster response and recovery, and preserve critical, life-saving mutual aid arrangements.

Emergency Medical Services

- Seek funding and other mechanisms which support the provision of Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, as well as funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facility and equipment needs.





2026 INYO COUNTY POLICY AREAS

→ [Agriculture/Weights and Measures](#)

→ [Cannabis/Hemp](#)

→ [Child Support](#)

→ [Elections](#)

→ [Solid Waste and Landfills](#)

→ [General Government](#)

→ [Labor Relations and Employee Benefits](#)

→ [Health and Human Services](#)

→ [Transportation](#)

→ [Public Works and Infrastructure](#)

→ [Natural Resources, Environment, Land Use, and Planning](#)

→ [Economic Development](#)

→ [Public Safety and Emergency Response](#)

→ [Tribal and Intergovernmental Relations](#)

→ [Veterans' Services](#)

→ [Wildfire](#)

→ [Rural Communities](#)

→ [Los Angeles Department of Water and Power](#)





AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

- Support full cost recovery for new agricultural, weights and measures, and pesticide enforcement state programs or mandates.
- Support continued and enhanced funding of invasive species programs through legislation and/or appropriations.
- Support federal and state legislation and resources that would provide stable funding for Weed Management Areas for control on harmful non-native or invasive weed species.
- Support continued funding of US Forest Service biomass fuel reduction programs.
- Support authority for USDA to set up cooperative agreements with states for pest exclusion programs.
- Support control and mitigation for the spread of invasive species to protect, conserve and restore public and private lands and wildfire prevention.
- Support efforts to provide and protect local authority for device registration fees.
- Oppose efforts by state agencies to usurp Agricultural Commissioner's permitting authority for the application of pesticides.
- Oppose efforts to ban the use of rodenticide for agricultural and public health purposes in California.
- Support revisions to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System regulations that eliminate regulatory and application form inconsistencies; improve permit documentation, transparency and oversight; clarifying existing regulations; and remove outdated provisions.
- Support budgetary efforts to restore and maintain funding for agricultural border stations.
- Monitor legislation related to backfilling gas tax funding as the state transitions to electric vehicles.
- Support legislation that would exclusively provide resource conservation funding for small rural counties.
- Support legislation that would expand agriculture programs, with specific interest in increasing access for rural communities with significant public land holdings.
- Advocate for increased protections for local farmers, including the prevention of the importation of certain agricultural goods, and increase funding for the development of alternative pesticide products.
- Seek funding and support legislation that would allow the County to develop and utilize sustainable agricultural practices and grow a self-sustainable agricultural industry in Inyo County.
- Advocate for changes to the federal classification of cannabis and cannabis-based products, and better protection of the local cannabis industry.
- Seek funding to provide counties with equipment to fulfill mandates to test EVSE fueling stations
- Support the passage of a Farm Bill that maintains or increases funding allocations for wildlife services as well as pest prevention and control programs.



CANNABIS/HEMP

1. Oppose legislation that would diminish local authority over commercial cannabis regulation.
2. Oppose legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not provide 100% funding and resources for any additional regulatory activities to be carried out by the Agriculture Department, impair local authority, fail to provide adequate security for staff, or create interference between cannabis regulations and existing authorities granted to Commissioners/Sealers.



CHILD SUPPORT

1. Support legislation that would protect existing state and federal funding for local child support programs.
2. Support policies, funding and services for non-custodial parents that promote self-sufficiency and ability to care for their child(ren).
3. Support legislation that would improve child support enforcement for tribal support agencies.
4. Oppose any recommendations that would reduce federal financial participation in child support programs.
5. Oppose efforts to delay the implementation of the Internal Revenue Service's third-party payment application reporting requirements.



ELECTIONS

1. Support legislation to provide opt-in as opposed to opt-out for receiving electronic sample ballots.
2. Support legislation that requires counties to be reimbursed for the cost of special elections called by the Governor or Legislature.
3. Support efforts to reinstate language directing the state to provide reimbursement to counties that hold a special election to replace a member of Congress or a member of the state Legislature to fill a vacancy, as well as for the cost of special elections called for other reasons.
4. Support legislation that would authorize federal and state governments to assist counties in the purchase of voting equipment and technology.
5. Support legislation that provides the option for rural counties to conduct elections via "Vote by Mail" while also enfranchising rural voters.



SOLID WASTE AND LANDFILLS

1. Support the continued exemption of rural counties from Organics Recycling Mandates.
2. Support legislation that requires the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery to consider the impacts on jurisdictions and their waste diversion programs caused by China's restrictions on imported recyclables and the resulting market loss.
3. Support legislation, such as the California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act of 2018, to stabilize the recycling marketplace, provide immediate, temporary relief to California's retailers and grocers affected by the 2016 recycling center closures, and ensure consumers have local redemption opportunities.



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1. Oppose legislation that minimizes, restricts and/or eliminates local Boards of Supervisors control over the allocation of funds through the budget process.
2. Oppose legislation that would require counties to share State expenses and liability on projects outside local jurisdiction.
3. Support legislation that reduces state and federal regulations that impede or increase the cost of the delivery of services by local governments and special districts.
4. Monitor closely any legislative efforts/initiatives regarding reform of the state budget process.
5. Oppose legislation that is unduly burdensome to private industry.
6. Support protection of funding discretion and use bond funds.
7. Oppose legislation that eliminates, diminishes, limits, or interferes with the nonprofit organizations that the County has membership in, i.e., the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), State Sheriff's Association, Chief Probation Officers Association, State Welfare Directors Association, etc., in actively participating in the legislative and ballot measure processes. (Added by Board Order 8-20-13)
8. Oppose legislation that increases the County's exposure to litigation.
9. Support legislation and regulations that preserve – and do not impair – the ability of counties to provide public health, safety, welfare or environmental services by local government.
10. Support expanded permission to use private contracts to provide local services in justifiable areas as a means of achieving efficiency and economy.
11. Support legislation that provides additional State Park funding to rural counties.
12. Support continued funding of programs that would improve cybersecurity and cloud-based security programs for local governments.
13. Pursue funding for County cybersecurity initiatives that would protect critical local infrastructure and utility systems.
14. Support full funding of the Public Library Fund in future state budgets.





LABOR RELATIONS AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

1. Support collective bargaining legislation that:
 - Recognizes the responsibility of local elected officials to govern and manage the organization and to implement public policy; and
 - Minimizes conflict over procedural matters.
2. Oppose legislation that minimizes, restricts and/or eliminates local Boards of Supervisors control over collective bargaining and employer-employee relations.
3. Support legislation that would allow “a contracting agency and the exclusive representative of employees of that agency to agree through collective bargaining that the employer contribution for employee and annuitant health benefits coverage for employees first hired on or after the effective date of a memorandum of understanding may differ from the employer contribution provided to existing employees and annuitants pursuant to Sections 22890 and 22892” and any other legislation that will permit the County to take advantage of a multi-tier benefit package through Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. Support streamlining Medicaid reimbursement in jail settings.
2. Support efforts to protect County Medical Services Program (CMSP) funding, minimize county participation fees, and sustain reasonable provider reimbursement rates.
3. Support efforts to simplify Medi-Cal enrollment for participants and providers, including medical providers in border states (i.e., AZ, NV, OR).
4. Support efforts to continue or establish new Section 1115 Medicaid waivers (e.g., CalAIM) that promote whole-person care, reduce health disparities, and/or provide other innovative approaches to improve healthcare services for the Medi-Cal population.
5. Support parity between behavioral health and physical health funding.
6. Support efforts to increase and sustain the behavioral health workforce.
7. Support legislation to divert persons with mental illness from the criminal justice system.
8. Support efforts that fund suicide prevention.
9. Support legislation that funds additional behavioral health residential treatment facilities for individuals who are deemed gravely disabled.
10. Support funding to adequately staff local public health agencies.
11. Support initiatives to expand access to dental health services for low-income populations.
12. Support legislation to prevent or reduce tobacco use and its health/economic impacts.
13. Support streamlined funding and programming for California Children's Services (CCS).
14. Support efforts to reform the In-Home Supportive Services program in ways that reduce fiscal and administrative impacts and risks of fraud.
15. Support initiatives to reduce homelessness by expanding affordable housing and supportive services.
16. Support funding for transitional and permanent housing capacity.
17. Support funding increases for Adult Protective Services and other programs for the aging population.
18. Support legislation to fully fund Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) requirements and other services that protect the physical, emotional, and mental health of children and youth; promote their educational development; and ensure the availability of supportive services for juveniles.
19. Support funding flexibility and blended funding across human service programs.
20. Support efforts to streamline state administrative oversight and reduce administrative costs to counties.
21. Support regionalized administrative tasks for small counties.
22. Support legislation that streamlines recruitment of qualified staff.
23. Support legislative changes to attract and retain qualified EMS volunteers.
24. Support legislation that ensures the financial feasibility of Emergency Medical Services in rural communities.
25. Support legislation to adequately fund Emergency Services Function 6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services) at the local level.
26. Support and advocate for base allocation formulas for new funding targeting small counties.
27. Support and advocate for equitable funding for health and human services programs in rural areas.
28. Oppose reforms that limit or discontinue health care coverage.



29. Oppose disincentives for Medi-Cal enrollment/utilization, like co-payments and premiums.
30. Oppose reductions in Medi-Cal Administrative Activities/Targeted Case Management reimbursements.
31. Oppose funding reductions for public health emergency preparedness.
32. Oppose unfunded state mandates for increased benefits or salaries in the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program.
33. Oppose legislative changes to the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for the In-Home Supportive Services program that result in higher county costs.
34. Oppose efforts to reform services under the Older American's Act that result in reduced service levels or increased county costs.
35. Oppose efforts that negatively impact the County's health and human services realignment funds.





TRANSPORTATION

1. Support transportation funding legislation that:
 - Provides revenues without affecting funding sources of other County projects;
 - Continues federal funding efforts for local transportation projects;
 - Reaffirms and continues state responsibility for highway financing;
 - Bolsters the multiple transportation funding sources that provide for improved transportation systems and multimodal networks, including SB 1 as enacted, and delivery of projects that rehabilitate and improve local roads;
 - Supports and encourages the use and development of transit facilities and infrastructure.
2. Support any legislative efforts that assist the County in mitigating for the transportation of transuranic waste to the Nevada Test Site, Yucca Mountain, or other selected sites through California on routes located in or transecting Inyo County. Specifically, funding and assistance is needed in several areas including road and infrastructure improvements, first responder training, radiological detection instruments and training, and emergency medical and hospital training.
3. Support state legislators' efforts to address identified state highway safety needs in our communities.
4. Support legislation that enhances counties' ability to designate appropriate uses of county roads.
5. Support state and federal legislation efforts that benefit our local airports.
6. Oppose the effort to repeal SB 1, which would result in the loss of new transportation funds and make it more difficult to raise State and local transportation funds in the future.
7. Support legislation that provides funding opportunities to coordinate transportation plans with the County's General Plan.
8. Support legislation that provides funding to sustain and expand the region's public transit system.
9. Support legislation that supports interregional and intercity bus lines that connect with the County's transit system.
10. Support reauthorization and implementation of federal aviation policy at the State level to ensure that California continues to receive and dedicate investments to support commercial and general aviation airports.
11. Support legislation that clarifies and/or preserves local authority to protect public roads.
12. Oppose a one-size-fits-all greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled reduction policy that hamstrings a rural county's ability to improve safety for residents and visitors.
13. Support CalSTA's stated action as a part of the CAPTI 2025 update to better account for the low VMT impact of rural projects in VMT analysis and mitigation guidance.





PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Oppose legislation that changes public contracting laws in a manner in which it negatively impacts the County's contract authority and/or increases costs to the County and/or unduly lengthens the time it takes for the County to enter into a Public Works contract.
2. Pursue funding for local parks, campgrounds, community centers, museums, libraries, and other community-facing infrastructure, including those that double as shelters and/or heating and cooling centers during extreme weather events.
3. Engage with the state and federal government to ensure Inyo County has access to reliable electric and power utilities, particularly in relation to grid resiliency from extreme weather events.
4. Seek funding and support programs that provide electric and power utility services to communities in a cost-efficient manner.
5. Push for policies that reinforce critical infrastructure, such as power lines, water systems, and transportation networks, to withstand natural disaster events and ensure continuity of essential services during and after disasters.



NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT, LAND USE, AND PLANNING

1. Support legislation to provide funding for programs to protect lakes, creeks, and river parkways and groundwater basins, and restore damaged river habitat and fisheries.
2. Monitor federal or state activities limiting public access to public lands.
3. Support federal funding proposals that enhance the County's ability to acquire federal and state funding for the purpose of managing watersheds et al.
4. Support legislation which promotes and/or provides monetary aid to local jurisdictions for land use coordination with state and federal agencies.
5. Oppose any legislation which eliminates or diminishes the requirement for federal and state land use agencies to coordinate with local government on decisions affecting local jurisdictions.
6. Support legislation which maintains Inyo County's ability to protect and enhance its land use authority to determine the use of its natural resources, including but not limited to mining, water storage, renewable energy, and agricultural resources.
7. Support efforts by federal and state government to support homeowners impacted by insurance rate hikes, cancellations, and non-renewals.
8. Monitor efforts by federal and state government to increase fees for and reduce and/or eliminate fire protection services on public lands.
9. Support legislation that protects local jurisdictions that aggressively address mussel infestation in water systems from liability.
10. Oppose any legislation that could negatively impact outdoor recreation. (Added by Board Order 8-21-2012).
11. Support state's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard being re-calculated to include rooftop solar.
12. Oppose legislation that makes California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements more burdensome and provides for less public notification in the county where the projects are located.
13. Support legislation that recognizes, funds, and protects the ecological resources of the Sierra Nevada as part of the effort to reach California's Climate Change goals.
14. Support increased funding for public land management agencies to address deferred maintenance in forests, national parks, and reserves that rural counties depend on for tourism and recreation-based economies.
15. Support legislation to remove state tax exemptions for solar energy development facilities.
16. Support and encourage efforts that streamline the process for obtaining permits from State, Federal and local land management agencies for activities such as livestock grazing, commercial filming, guiding and outfitting, packing, and special events.
17. Oppose legislation that minimizes and/or eliminates local control over land use decisions.
18. Support legislative efforts to enable local governments, utilities, energy developers, California Native American Tribal governments, affected landowners, and members of the public to actively participate in the renewable energy and utility corridor planning processes.
19. Support legislation which reduces and/or eliminates State requirements regarding the General Plan and its updates.
20. Oppose legislation which limits or reduces the authority of counties under the State Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).



21. Oppose legislation which limits or reduces the authority of counties decisions affecting the plans and policies of local jurisdictions.
22. Support legislation which maintains Inyo County's ability to protect and enhance its land use authority to determine the highest and best use of its natural resources.
23. Support legislation that protects and/or reinstates the payment of geothermal royalties to local jurisdictions.
24. Support legislation that provides funding opportunities to local jurisdictions to implement state General Plan requirements.
25. Oppose legislation that would hinder, because of mandated redactions or any other alterations of recorded documents, a private citizen's ability to establish ownership of real property or conduct private or commercial business operations.
26. Oppose legislation that removes or restricts local governments' discretion over the placement of wireless structures and/or prevents local governments from negotiating either rates or improved broadband services as a condition of a "small cell" permit.
27. Pursue funding for water cleanup projects, natural resource preservation, and water resource management.
28. Seek funding that would improve water quality in Bishop Creek and surrounding areas.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Support programs and activities that provide assistance to small businesses and promote entrepreneurship.
2. Advocate for the reauthorization of Opportunity Zones in upcoming federal tax legislation and ensure that the reauthorized program better benefits rural and isolated communities.
3. Advocate for legislation that expands the ability of Inyo County's small businesses to engage with the state and federal governments and benefit from economic development initiatives.
4. Advocate for more equitable distribution of sales taxes for goods purchased online to specifically support the level at the "point of sale" instead of the "point of distribution," allowing the County to receive the sales taxes from goods purchased online and shipped into the County.
5. Seek support of changes to mining claims forms that allow for efficient and timely filing of mining claims.





PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

1. Support legislation that maximizes county discretion in developing programs for juveniles.
2. Support legislation that eliminates the requirement that counties pay for court reporter transcripts.
3. Support federal and state funding to combat the impacts of controlled substance production, distribution, and use, including the ongoing opioid addiction crisis.
4. Support legislation that would allow counties to enact an ordinance to allow up to a \$10 penalty assessment for every \$100 fine for criminal offense, including traffic fines, for the maintenance and purchase of law enforcement facilities and vehicles.
5. Oppose any changes in the state criminal justice system that increases costs to counties for jail operations, including but not limited to early releases of prisoners, commutation of sentences and/or commutation of variable sentencing options (i.e., wobblers), without a corresponding dedicated long-term reliable revenue stream and the ability to administer it locally.
6. Support legislation that will complete the work initiated through the Trial Court Unification Act by making justice system costs that are controlled or imposed by the judiciary but inadvertently remain the responsibilities of the counties the clear responsibility of the State of California and the California Superior Court to fund.
7. Support efforts to increase and/or preserve funding allocations to support criminal justice realignment costs including inmate healthcare and jail expense costs.
8. Support federal and state funding and programs to provide comprehensive, effective mental health and substance abuse treatment programs for criminal defendants, thereby reducing recidivism and protecting the public.
9. Support full state funding of any new pre-trial release and supervision requirements related to bail system reform efforts.
10. Support legislation and policies to improve re-entry options for adult and juvenile probationers, including housing.
11. Support legislation and policies to expand and enhance evidence-based programs available to clients.
12. Support legislation and policies that will allow for continued investment in community corrections training.
13. Support legislation to bolster flexible policies and resources for drug treatment and mental health services for probationers.
14. Support legislation and policies to protect resources that support foster youth in Continuum of Care Reform.
15. Support legislation and policies that ensure resources for supervision, rehabilitative programming, and re-entry services for adult and juvenile offenders.
16. Support legislation and policies to preserve and provide resources at the federal, state, and local level for effective community supervision practices.
17. Support legislation that enhances educational programs for adult and juvenile offenders.
18. Support legislation which will provide funding for probation services provided to drug offenders, and mentally ill incarcerated offenders.
19. Support legislation to authorize local probation departments to collect outstanding victim restitution through the civil process.

20. Oppose efforts by federal and state government to adversely impact the ability of volunteer fire departments to provide critical first response and ambulance services in rural communities, including but not limited to recruiting and retaining qualified Emergency Medical Technicians.
21. Support full funding of disaster relief for all eligible counties, and a return to State assistance for the large portion of the costs of state or federally declared disasters.
22. Oppose any changes to, or limitations upon, the eligibility for receipt of disaster costs, especially tying county land use processes and decision-making to disaster relief funding.
23. Support state tax relief for those individuals and businesses who have losses due to disaster.
24. Advocate for programs that support local law enforcement, including the expansion of program eligibility guidelines to better serve rural and isolated communities.
25. Support and seek funding for projects and programs that support emergency and disaster preparedness, response, and management.





TRIBAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

- Support the following goals for County-Tribal intergovernmental relations:
 - facilitate intergovernmental agreements,
 - develop mechanisms to mitigate the off-reservation impacts of Tribal developments on local government services and the environment,
 - promote best practices and models of successful Tribal-County relationships.
- Support the promotion and development of positive working relationships between the County and local Tribes to the mutual benefit of both parties and the communities they respectively serve.
- Support legislation or policy that provides for or recognizes enforceable agreements between Tribes and local governments concerning the mitigation of off-reservation impacts of development on Tribal land.
- Oppose any federal or state limitation on the ability of Tribes, counties, and other local governments to reach mutually acceptable and enforceable agreements, including any federal prohibitions on deed restrictions mutually agreed to by Tribal and local governments.



VETERANS' SERVICES

1. Support legislation and efforts that ensure access to the services and benefits to which veterans are entitled, including housing, healthcare, employment, education and training, and community reintegration assistance.
2. Support legislation that provides funding for veterans housing programs, such as the Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018.
3. Support the development of specific strategies for intervention and service delivery to veterans through cooperation between federal, state, and local governments, as well as community and private organizations serving veterans.
4. Support coordination of services for veterans among all entities that serve this population, especially in housing, treatment, and employment training.





WILDFIRE

1. Support legislation which identifies the impacts of catastrophic wildfires and provides that wildfire mitigation and prevention are goals that meet the requirements of the California Global Warming Solutions Act.
2. Support realistic federal policy and regulatory reforms that balance environmental protection with the preservation of life and property and that lead to better mitigation of wildfires on tribal, federal, state, and private lands.
3. Engage with the Department of Interior, Department of Agriculture, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and state agencies to undertake wildfire prevention and preparedness measures, including funding for local fuel management and fire resiliency efforts.
4. Pursue funding for fuel mitigation efforts, including those that safely gather and burn/utilize biomass and assist with weed removal, and expanded Good Neighbor Authorities and other cooperative agreements for forest management/ecosystem health.
5. Support legislation that reforms wildfire suppression funding, prevents “fire transfers” within firefighting budgets, and gives agencies in charge of fire suppression more budget flexibility.
6. Advocate for legislative efforts that ensure fair compensation and comprehensive benefits for firefighters, including enhanced mental health counseling, recognizing the increasing demands and risks associated with wildfire suppression and prevention.
7. Support initiatives that fund and expand community-based education programs, workshops, and training sessions focused on wildfire preparedness, evacuation planning, and personal responsibility in reducing fire risk.
8. Support reforms that ensure homeowners and businesses in fire-prone areas can access affordable insurance coverage, including state-backed insurance pools or subsidies for high-risk areas.
9. Support training programs and workforce development initiatives that prepare individuals for careers in fire management, forestry, and land management, particularly targeting rural and underrepresented communities.
10. Ensure that wildfire mitigation strategies are incorporated into broader climate adaptation and resilience planning, recognizing the interplay between climate change and increasing wildfire frequency and intensity.



RURAL COMMUNITIES

1. Advocate for improved specificity in the definition of “rural” and “frontier” communities, so that isolated communities such as Inyo County are better able to access funding set aside for rural and frontier communities.
2. Advocate for the reauthorization of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and increased compensation for publicly owned lands.
3. Advocate for the reauthorization of the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program and increased financial compensation for lands that were previously used for timber production, grazing, and other special uses.
4. Advocate for increased locality pay rates for Inyo County so that agencies may better attract and retain land management employees and other federal workers.
5. Support legislation that recognizes the inherent disadvantage rural counties have as it applies to using a population-based criteria (per capita) for allocating state and federal funds and minimizes and/or eliminates the reliance on this funding criteria.



LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

1. Support initiatives that would encourage, incentivize, or require the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to divest land in and around Inyo County communities that have no bearing on watershed management.
2. Oppose changes to Los Angeles Department of Water and Power rules that no longer allow for businesses on leased land to be sold, thereby depriving small business owners of their livelihoods and retirements, preventing multi-generation ownership, and depriving Inyo County communities of desperately needed services.