



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

STATE OF CALIFORNIA



2023

**LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**





Adopted By:

Glenn McGourty, Chair  
District 1

Dan Gjerde  
District 4

John Haschak  
District 3

Maureen Mulheren  
District 2

Ted Williams  
District 5

Prepared By:

Chief Executive Officer  
Darcie Antle



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION STATEMENT .....	1
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT MAP .....	2
COUNTY OVERVIEW .....	3
LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OVERVIEW .....	6
LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS.....	6
DISASTER PREVENTION, RECOVERY, RESILIENCY AND MITIGATION .....	6
COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY .....	7
NATURAL RESOURCES .....	8
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.....	10
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.....	11
• SOCIAL SERVICES	
• PUBLIC HEALTH	
• ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	
• MENTAL HEALTH	
PUBLIC SAFETY .....	12
CANNABIS.....	13
HOMELESSNESS.....	14
STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES .....	16



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors' mission is to create and maintain a responsive and responsible government that enhances the quality of life of the people of Mendocino County.

The County's mission is to deliver services that meet: Public safety, health, social, cultural, education, transportation, economic, and environmental needs of our communities.

***Goals to achieve our Mission Statement:***

- ◆ To treat all people with dignity and respect. To create a County employee culture where each citizen is treated in a courteous, professional, and sensitive manner.
- ◆ To forge effective working relationships within the community in both the private and public sectors. Through such cooperation we can maximize services to our citizens. Having engaged people will achieve organizational goals.
- ◆ To develop a work environment and employee culture that strives for excellence. Training and development opportunities and career advancement will be highly valued by the organization.
- ◆ To streamline our governmental processes so that excellent service delivery is responsive, reliable, and cost effective. Productivity and efficiency are important organizational values which result in maximum benefits for all concerned.
- ◆ To manage our fiscal resources effectively and responsibly. To plan and budget in a way that recognizes the financial limitations of the County, and enhances the long term economic viability of the County and its citizens.

**Adopted August 19, 1999**

By the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board of Supervisors is the legislative body of Mendocino County government. The Board adopts policies, establishes programs, appoints certain non-elected department heads, and adopts annual budgets for all County departments. The Board of Supervisors also serves as the governing board for two special districts: the Mendocino County Water Agency, and the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District. Supervisors also serve on regional agencies and as ex-officio members on the boards of county service districts. The Board of Supervisors is a five-member board elected by district on the basis of population, as required by State law. Supervisors are elected on a non-partisan basis and serve for a term of four years. Along with the Board's committee and agency appointments, Supervisors also elect a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson annually among themselves.



**Glenn McGourty**  
District 1



**Maureen Mulheren**  
District 2



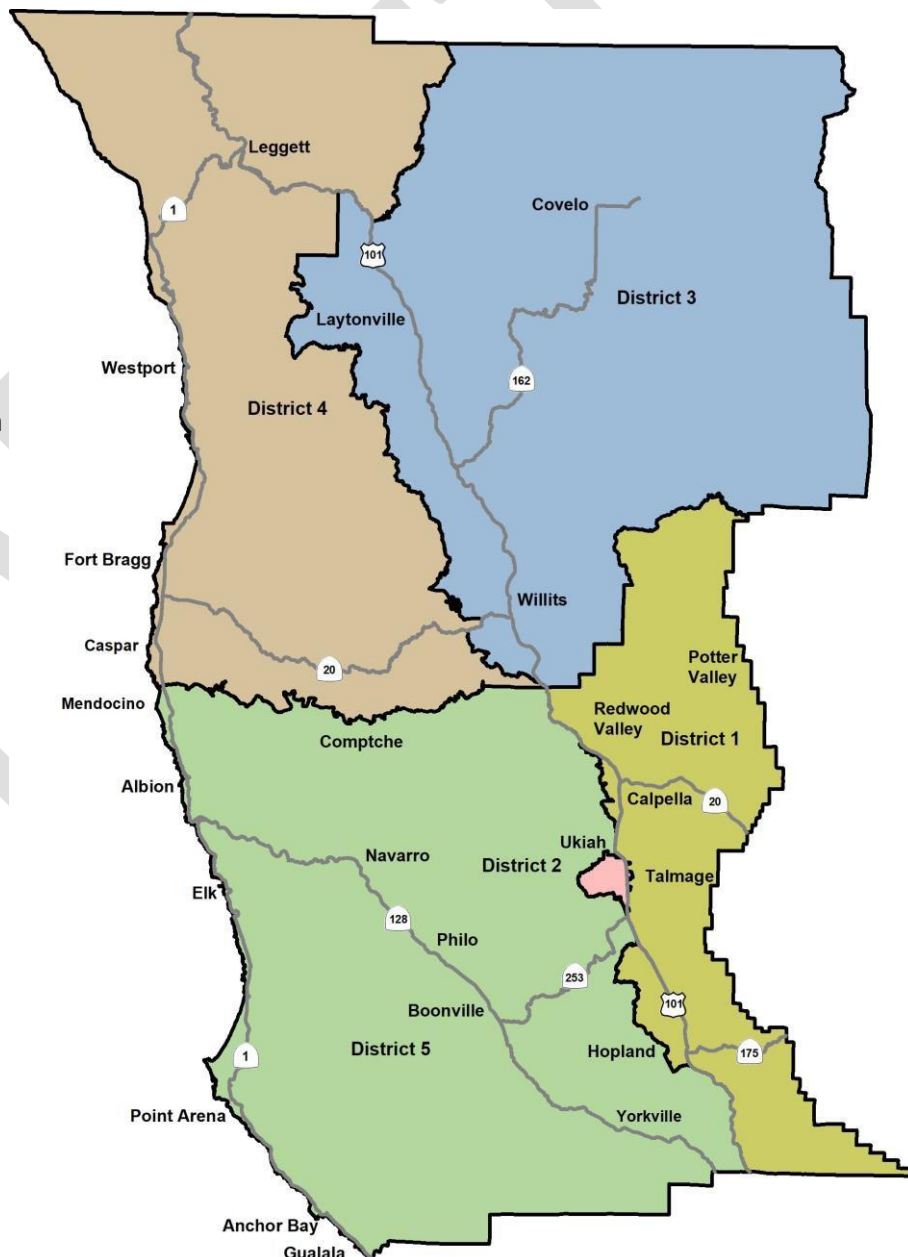
**John Haschak**  
District 3



**Dan Gjerde**  
District 4



**Ted Williams**  
District 5







# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## OVERVIEW

### MENDOCINO COUNTY WINE - WAVES - WILDERNESS

Mendocino County is located about 100 miles north of San Francisco and is bordered by Sonoma County to the south, Humboldt and Trinity Counties to the north, Lake County to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The County has a population of approximately 91,305 with about 16,600 people living in Ukiah, the largest city and the County seat. Additionally, there are three incorporated cities: Willits, Fort Bragg and Point Arena. Mendocino County encompasses an area of over two million acres or approximately 3,500 square miles and is known for its redwood forests, 120+ miles of rugged coastline, picturesque villages and award-winning wineries - and is larger than the States of Rhode Island and Delaware combined. There are seven parks located throughout the County – each with its own “personality”, showcasing a different facet of Mendocino County’s wealth of natural resources. . Residents and visitors enjoy camping, fishing and water sports at Lake Mendocino as well as throughout the coastal areas of Mendocino County. Combining the best of the outdoors with the finest aspects of living well, Mendocino County embodies the very best that California and Mother Nature have to offer.

### COUNTY STRUCTURE

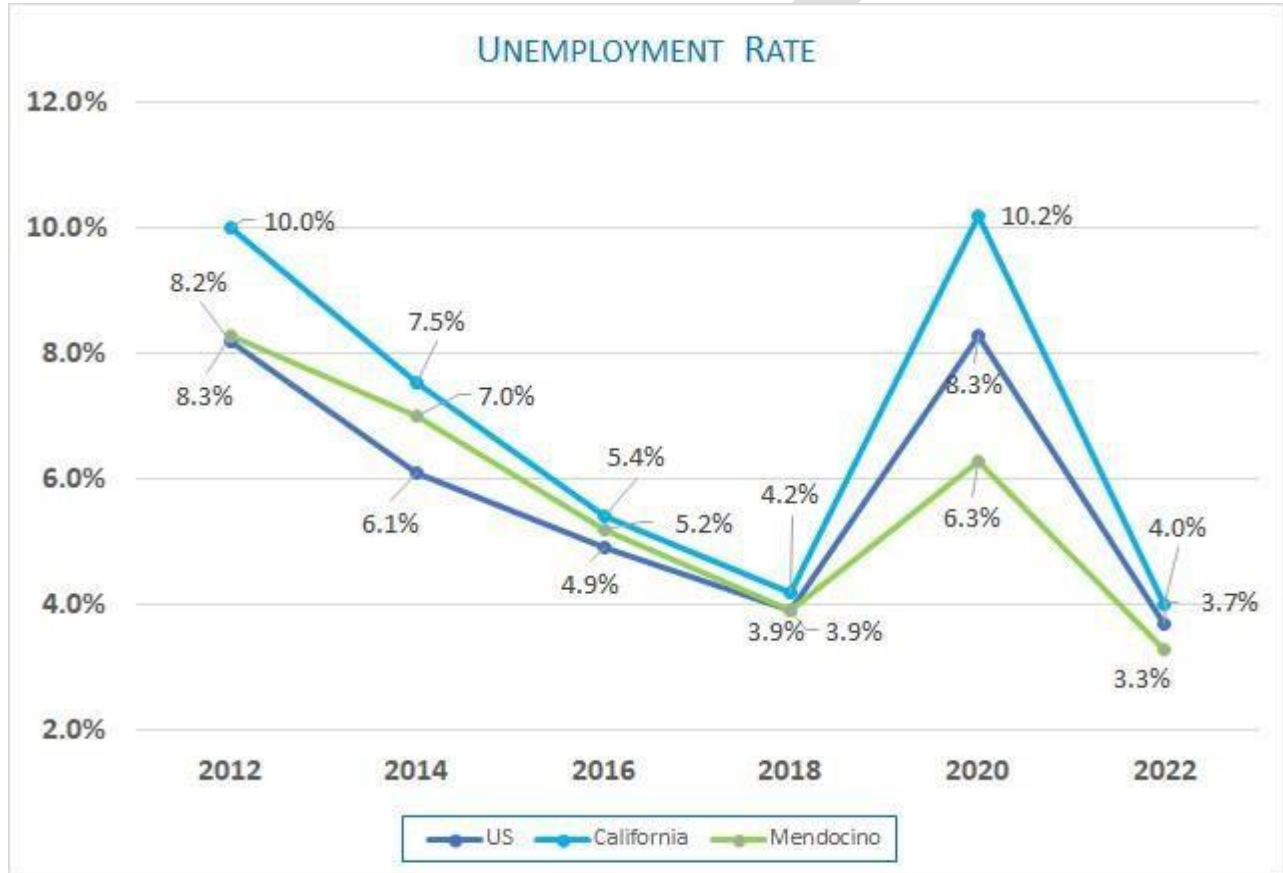
Mendocino County is a general law county established in 1850 by the State legislature and is a political subdivision, or unit, of the State. The County is represented by five non-partisan, elected members comprising the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors is the governing body and sets policy and priorities for the County. The County is responsible for providing municipal programs and services in unincorporated areas of the County, and its powers are limited to those granted by the State. The County implements many programs in the areas of health, welfare and law enforcement, which are mandated, regulated and mostly funded by the State. The Board of Supervisors has limited authority over the policy and administration of these programs. The County also provides local services, such as public safety, libraries, a museum, land-use planning, county road construction and maintenance, disaster prevention, recovery, resiliency and mitigation

### COMMUNITY PROFILE

US Census Bureau Quick Facts	Mendocino County	California
Population, 2020 US Census	91,601	39,538,223
Population, 2010 (April 1) estimates base	87,850	37,254,519
Percent change, April 4, 2010 to July 1, 2020	1.04%	6.1%
Persons under 5 years, percent, 2020	5.0%	6.0%
Persons under 18 years, percent, 2020	21.1%	22.5%
Persons 65 years and over, percent, 2020	23.1%	14.8%

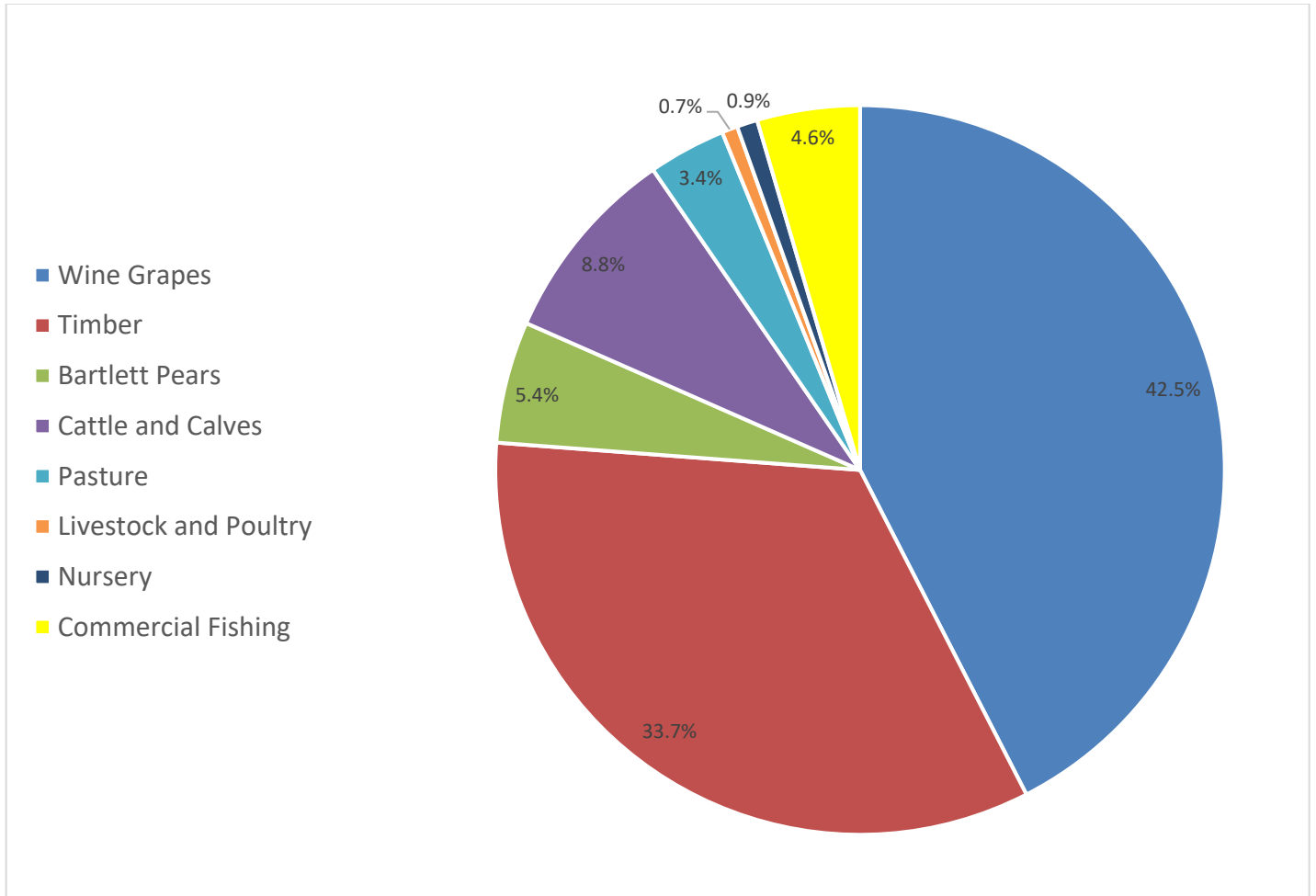
### Mendocino County Community Indicators

Median Household Income (2021)	\$56,378
Median Value of Owner Occupied Home	\$388,500
Median Gross Rent	\$1,200
Poverty Rate (2021)	16.1%

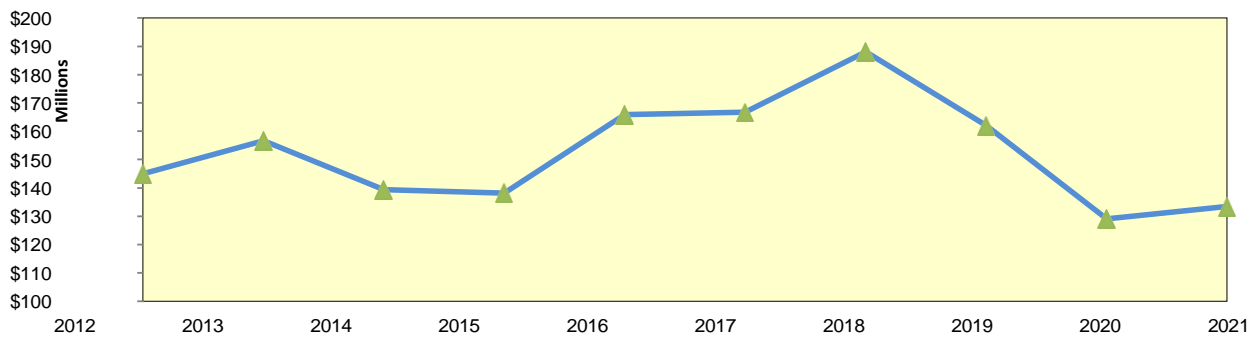


Source: State of California, Employment Development Department  
United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## AGRICULTURE VALUE 2021 CROP REPORT



### VALUE OF MENDOCINO COUNTY AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING TIMBER) 2012-2021







# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

### **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM OVERVIEW**

Pursuant to County Policy No. 19, the Board of Supervisors adopts an annual Legislative Platform reflecting the County priorities for legislative advocacy, State and Federal funding, and issues of interest to local government and communities. The purpose of this Legislative Platform is to clearly outline the positions of the County on priority issues and matters that impact the County's ability to operate effectively, while allowing the considerations of legislative and budget issues that arise during the legislative session. In keeping with the past practice, the Board referred the development of the 2023 Legislative Platform to the General Government Standing Committee, comprised of Supervisor Maureen Mulheren and Supervisor Dan Gjerde, to work with County Department Heads and Executive Office staff in developing a framework of issues for Board consideration.

On January xx, 2023, the Board adopted the 2023 Legislative Platform reflecting the County's legislative priorities and policies for the upcoming legislative cycle. In adopting an annual legislative advocacy platform, the Board of Supervisors strives to enhance the quality of life in Mendocino County through effective state and Federal legislation.

### **STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND FOCUS AREAS**

In adopting this year's legislative platform, the following serve as Mendocino County's priorities and focus areas for Federal and State legislative advocacy:

### **DISASTER PREVENTION, RECOVERY, RESILIENCY AND MITIGATION**

**ISSUE:** During the 2017 Redwood Complex Fire, Mendocino County suffered tremendous loss, 36,000 acres were burnt, homes were lost, agricultural land was damaged, and watersheds were affected. However, this does not touch on the loss of lives. In the midst of disaster recovery, Mendocino communities continue to be hit hard by unprecedented disasters, including significant fires in 2018, 2020 and 2021 along with public safety power shut offs in 2019, drought, COVID-19 public health emergency, and severe winter storms. The devastation of these events will live on for decades. The support of the State and Federal government in both appropriations and policy changes are vital as the County continues to rebuild resilient communities and prepare for the "new normal" of increasingly catastrophic natural disasters.

### **STATE ACTION**

- Support efforts to enact legislation, regulations, and executive orders that ease the burden and promote rapid recovery and preparedness for future disasters.
- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.

- Support additional funding at a local level for disaster preparedness and recovery.
- Advocate for the State to evaluate regulations and requirements for grants, housing projects and mitigation projects for opportunities to streamline processes and provide exemption when necessary.
- Advocate and support State protection for homeowner's insurance availability and affordability in fire prone areas.
- Support funding for Wildfire Prevention including the development and/or improvement of second access routes and emergency egress for communities in the wildland urban interface.
- Support funding for the assessment and removal of dead and dying hazardous trees.

#### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.
- Support implementation of new requirements that limit "funding claw backs" and oppose efforts to withhold disaster recovery payments to Mendocino County.
- Advocate for additional FEMA technical assistance for counties to assist staff in navigating direct assistance programs and regulatory requirements for approved disaster projects.

#### **COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

**ISSUE:** Since January 2020, the County has been part of a coordinated public health response involving the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The Director of Emergency Services/Chief Executive Officer, Carmel Angelo declared a Local Emergency and the Health Officer declared a Local Health Emergency on March 4, 2020. The County's response efforts to protect human life and minimize the strain on the health care system during the COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to exceed \$28 million in 2020. Costs include labor, essential supplies and materials, contracts with public health and technical consultants, testing, education, and outreach, contacting investigation and tracing, motel rooms for homeless individuals, preparation and operation costs for the health emergency alternative care facility, staff overtime costs, and emergency food relief programs.

#### **STATE ACTION**

- Support ongoing State provided COVID-19 testing sites to assist Mendocino County in meeting State required testing thresholds.
- Support State resources to assist counties in vaccine distribution, which may require special refrigeration and other expenses for distribution.
- Support ongoing and increased assistance by the State in providing epidemiologist and bilingual/bicultural contact investigators and tracers.
- Support ongoing operational funding for project HomeKey projects.
- Support continued flexible funding for COVID-19 response and recovery to assist counties in providing services including, but not limited to emergency operations, isolation and quarantine housing, economic development, and testing.
- Support maximum reimbursement for the County's COVID-19 emergency protective measure required to respond to the pandemic.
- Advocate for continued support for wastewater surveillance as a new, important method of early and ongoing assessment of community risk from infections.

### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support ongoing Federal coronavirus aid to local government to support the COVID-19 response including, but not limited to testing, vaccines, isolation/quarantine housing and economic recovery.
- Support maximum reimbursement from FEMA for County COVID-19 emergency protective measure required to respond to the pandemic.
- Support additional flexibility for the American Rescue Plan Act

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

**ISSUE:** Mendocino County supports efforts to conserve and preserve the county's natural resources to help restore its fisheries, maintain healthy forests, support clean reliable water supplies, and ensure agriculture is preserved for future generations. The County supports activities and policies that promote responsible land management that integrate local government involvement in Federal and State land management decisions. The County supports increased State and Federal funding for public land management to address deferred maintenance of infrastructure in forests and fire prevention and mitigation activities.

### **STATE ACTION**

- Support local control in the implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and development/implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- Support State funding for implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP).
- Support State funding for storm water infrastructure improvements and compliance with storm water quality regulations.
- Advocate for recycling and organic waste reduction legislation that take into account the needs of rural communities.
- Advocate for legislation to allow and streamline the process for water districts to consolidate districts. Support State funding for drought response and infrastructure to facilitate water resiliency in rural communities.
- Support State funding for flood response and infrastructure, as droughts happen, floods follow including post-wildfire debris flows.
- Support the restoration of Williamson Act (the California Land Conservation Act) Subvention funds. Mendocino County, like most other rural counties, is dependent on State funding to offset the loss of property tax revenue to the County. Without a resumption of subvention payments, the County budget will suffer a detrimental impact.
- Support Restorative funding for the Division of Measurement Standards, within the California Department of Food and Agriculture to ensure that consumer protection and commercial device accuracy support is maintained.
- Support the development and expansion of Cap-and-Trade funding programs specifically targeted at rural communities.
- Years of extremely dry conditions are taking a toll on forested lands across the State with rapid tree mortality. The County supports State and Federal local assistance, financial resources, regulatory relief and assistance with outreach and coordination efforts to address health and safety risk from dead and dying trees, including areas within the coastal range overseen by the California Coastal Commission.



- Advocate for legislation that would address the formation of a governing authority for the Potter Valley Project.
- Advocate for State funding to assist the Inland Water and Power Commission and Planning Agreement Parties in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re-licensing process for the Potter Valley Project
- Advocate for legislation that would address the formation of governing authority for the Potter Valley Project that includes Mendocino County representation.
- Advocate for State funding to assist the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission in preserving the water supply provided by the Potter Valley Project for the thousands of people who use the water domestically, for agriculture, and for environmental uses in the Russian River watershed.
- Prioritize projects that reduce or prohibit development and vehicle miles traveled potential on conservation lands, open space, agriculture and working lands, and important watersheds.
- Promote new and innovative programs and projects that reduce or sequester greenhouse gases, including vegetation management, urban greening, and land use planning.
- Ensure any new State climate action mandates include full cost recovery by counties.
- Support focusing on parks and open space lands, as public natural resources, in the provision of carbon neutrality.

#### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Engage in the re-licensing process for FERC Project No. 77 – the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project and other related items to achieve Mendocino County goals.
- Support the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and the Two-Basin Partnership efforts to re-license the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project.
- Monitor the legal challenges to the Waters of the United States rule (by the EPA and Army Corps) aimed at re-defining the definition of "Waters of the US" inside the Clean Water.
  - Continue to advocate for developing a new rule that would not inappropriately or unnecessarily expand coverage to new land features or waters or broaden the overall jurisdiction of the agencies. Additionally, the detrimental impacts and burdens to municipalities and agriculture nationwide could be more thoroughly assessed and minimized.
  - Support Congressional efforts to establish a more effective definition of "Waters of the U.S."
- Support restoring full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates public lands counties for untaxable Federal land.
- Support long-term Federal reauthorization and full funding for Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (SRS), which provides funding for rural counties and school districts to replace revenue from dwindling forest receipts due to national decline in timber harvesting.
- Engage with United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other Federal land management agencies to ensure that local communities are consulted regarding land management issues including recreation, fire management and law enforcement.
- Engage in the efforts with to preserve the water supply provided by the Potter Valley Project for the thousands of people who use the water domestically, for agriculture, and for environmental uses in the Russian River watershed.
- Support the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission in the efforts with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to raise Coyote Dam at Lake Mendocino and secure the related water supply.

## ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**ISSUE:** Mendocino County advocates for economic and community development opportunities suitable for rural community's unique character through business development. The County supports legislative efforts designed to foster economic development tools and funding options for effective programs and job creation. The County supports legislative efforts that promote strategic land use and development practices that maintain and/or increase local control.

### STATE ACTION

- Oppose efforts that would divert SB 1 transportation funds from road and highway projects.
- Support legislation that fosters, promotes, and creates incentives for the adoption, use, and economic benefits of renewable and sustainable energy endeavors benefitting Mendocino County.
- Support legislation that provides ongoing State funding for mandated planning projects such as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment, Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), General Plan Housing Element updates, and other planning initiatives under AB 32 and SB 375.
- Promote a full range of housing in all communities to better address the housing needs and solutions in rural communities.
- Support the repeal of Article 34 of the California Constitution, which would reduce administrative burden on local governments around affordable housing development.
- Support expansion of State tax incentives for the provision of affordable housing. The tax codes and financial industry regulations need to be revised to provide stimulus to produce affordable housing, particularly for median, low, and very low-income households.
- Oppose legislation that creates restrictions on local control of land use and development.
- Oppose legislative actions or reform measures that penalize jurisdictions for non-compliance with state-mandated Housing Element update schedules.
- Broadband Deployment
  - Support "Dig Once/Trench Once" and other policies which streamline the deployment of conduit for underground fiber-optic and electrical cables and minimize regulatory burdens and permitting processes for deployment of internet connectivity.
  - Advocate to maximize broadband infrastructure investment and equitable county-wide connectivity from the delivery of Middle and Last Mile projects under SB 156 and other State and Federal funds. In addition to explore options that would include wireless and satellite technology in providing internet service delivery where underground fiber-optic is not possible or feasible.
- Support and monitor the development and deployment of a robust county-wide Middle Mile open access fiber-optic backbone to stimulate economic development and affordable broadband availability to homes, businesses, schools, libraries, public safety facilities, health services, and other institutions throughout Mendocino County.
- Advocate for complete and accurate broadband connectivity data needed for smart policy and design decisions required to effectively bridge the growing digital divide.
- Advocate to strongly encourage, if not require, last mile to the consumer broadband providers to supply equitable service to all potential customers as part of a new area service acquisition.
- Advocate for support for installation of solar power and hydro-power as renewable energy sources.

### FEDERAL ACTION

- Support efforts by the Administration and Congress to increase the nation's infrastructure investments to help promote economic development, public safety and overall mobility through

a comprehensive infrastructure package, surface transportation reauthorization and water resources bill.

- Advocate for complete and accurate broadband connectivity data, which is necessary to effectively bridge the growing digital divide as the Federal government relies on this information to determine the true need for critical broadband resources.
- Supports the deployment and availability of broadband and emerging technology, to rural communities to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all.
- Advocate for Federal funding for rural airport infrastructure projects.
- Advocate for the expansion of Federal tax credits to better meet the statewide need for subsidized affordable housing units.
- Advocate for a change in Federal tax law to eliminate current tax incentives for short term rentals, as these Federal tax incentives are leading to the conversion of housing for year-round residents to a commercial use of housing for the purpose of short-term rentals for visitors.

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

**ISSUE:** Counties are mandated to protect Californians against threats of widespread disease and illness and are tasked with promoting health and wellness. Mendocino County supports and encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional approaches to health care. Mendocino County supports the maximum amount of flexibility in managing programs and adequate and secure State and Federal funding to accomplish mandated services. Counties should have the ability to expand or consolidate facilities, services, and program contracts to provide a comprehensive level of service and accountability and achieve maximum cost effectiveness.

### STATE ACTION

- Support legislative efforts to provide sustaining wages to IHSS workers while limiting the County's obligation to increases in local required funding.
- Support efforts to sustain or restore funding for Health and Human Services safety-net programs and regulations, including: CalFresh Categorical Eligibility; School Lunch Programs; Health Care Enrollment (inmates); Preventing Elder and Dependent Care Abuse; Fees and Charges for Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly; Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program; Drug Abuse Prevention and Safe Disposal Program; Childhood Vaccinations; and Child Welfare Services.
- Advocate for the allocation of additional realignment revenues. Current cost-sharing ratios no longer reflect counties' long-term ability to control costs in the programs.
- Support additional funding and programs that provide improved access to local mental health services, including increased and consistent funding for mental health housing programs, crisis support, and jail diversion programs and services for foster youth with complex needs.
- Support insurance parity for mental health services to ensure residents with private insurance have the same services available as those with Medi-Cal.
- Advocate for the legislature to review the innovation component of the Mental Health Services Act for accountability. Innovation in rural, suburban, and urban counties vary drastically and should be evaluated based on local demographics.
- Support sustainable funding for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems.
- Support funding incentives for homeless providers who develop and implement meaningful and integrated workforce development programs.
- Support funding for small business wage subsidies to hire homeless and recently homeless individuals.
- Continue to monitor legislative efforts that provide sustaining wages for IHSS workers while limiting the County's obligation to increase local funding.



### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support for a new Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicaid waivers for California. The new Cal-AIM waiver proposal is essential to enhance services at the local level particularly in regards to mental health, substance use treatment services and homeless services.
  - Medicaid/Medi-Cal waiver projects have allowed for substantial funding and local expansion of services outside of traditional Medi-Cal billable services, including the Whole Person Care waiver pilot that has enhanced mental health and homeless services. And more recently, the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System pilot to expand substance use treatment services.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

**ISSUE:** Mendocino County strongly supports community safety by providing high quality public safety services to maintain health and safety standards for its residents. The County supports additional State and Federal funding and tools to enhance law enforcement programs and the safety of its residents and public safety employees. It is recognized that the State, and not the county, is responsible for trial court operations costs and any growth in those costs in the future. Nevertheless, counties continue to be responsible for justice-related services, such as, but not limited to, probation, prosecutorial and defense services, as well as the provision of local juvenile and adult detention facilities. Therefore, it is imperative there is secure, stable, and sufficient funding allocated to Mendocino County to fulfil the State responsibilities mandated to the local level to implement. The County firmly oppose future and further unfunded State mandates.

### **STATE ACTION**

- Ensure that adequate, secure, and stable funding is provided to implement the evidence-based practices mandated by realignment.
  - The County believes that the State should assume cost increases associated with state-imposed program changes and expansions, as well as Federal maintenance of effort mandates.
  - Oppose State and/or Federal funding reductions that shift responsibility for services, administration or fiscal support to counties.
- Support additional State funding for the Sheriff's Office, Probation, Public Defender, and District Attorney to implement money bail reform as it relates to the Humphrey decision and bills like SB 262.
- Support secure and adequate funding for the implementation of SB 823.
- Oppose legislation that would directly or indirectly shift costs related to State prisoners that are transferred under realignment to counties.
- Support additional permanent and stable State back-fill to cover the counties revenue loss resulting from AB 1869, the recent removal of criminal justice fines, fee, and penalties by the Legislature.
- Support permanent, stable, and consistent funding of SB 678 in light of AB 1950.
- Oppose any additional State efforts to change criminal justice fines, fees, and penalties without providing a corresponding revenue back-fill that is permanent and stable.

### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Support amending the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy under the Social Security Act to remove limitations on Medicaid, Medicare, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Veteran's Affairs health services benefits for pre-trial inmates of public institutions.
- Support policies and programs that divert non-violent individuals struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from local jails into more appropriate treatment services.

## CANNABIS

**ISSUE:** Mendocino County is a pre-eminent producer county in the State of California, home to a very large number of multi-generational cultivators, manufacturers, and other added-value cannabis industry participants. In every license category, consideration must be given to the difficulties facing small cannabis operators in rural communities, unable to compete in the emerging legal market if it demands large sums of investment to scale up and meet regulatory requirements. Mendocino County supports the State's implementation of the Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation and Safety and will continue to advocate maintaining local government's flexibility and authority to address individual community needs through local control measures. Mendocino County supports Federal initiatives to either repeal or modify the Federal prohibition of cannabis and encourages Federal recognition of State laws regulating cannabis.

## STATE ACTION

- Advocate for the elimination of the State cultivation tax as a means to support the economic recovery of small businesses and quell competition with the illicit market.
- Advocate for a reduction in the State excise tax and a restructuring of the excise tax so that it is assessed at the point of sale of cannabis and cannabis goods to the consumer and remitted by the licensed retail entity. (Items 5 and 14)
- Advocate in support of the California Advisory Committee's (CAC) recommendation to eliminate project-specific CEQA analysis as an annual licensing requirement and support the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) in providing recommendations to local jurisdictions identifying how CEQA compliance can be accomplished during the local permitting process.
- Advocate for cannabis cultivation to be considered an agricultural crop produced for human consumption and regulated in the California Food and Agricultural Code rather than the Business and Professions Code. (Item 1)
- Advocate for the removal of the regulatory prohibition on cannabis activities within a residence so that local jurisdictions can implement cottage industry codes to allow commercial cannabis businesses the ability to analogous activities. (Items 6 and 7)
- Advocate for licensed commercial cannabis business to have access to State-funded disaster relief programs and grant programs. (Item 2)
- Advocate for the streamlining of the State's commercial cannabis regulations and reduce barriers to entry into the legal market in a manner that protects public health and safety while ensuring a regulated environment for commercial cannabis activities that does not impose such barriers that perpetuate, rather than reduce and eliminate, the illicit market for cannabis. (Items 9 and 10)
- Advocate for the ability of licensed cultivators to conduct multiple types of cultivation under a single license. (Item 4) Advocate for the DCC to accept the CEQA compliance pathways set forth by local jurisdictions, including pathways that provide ministerial permits and principally permit cannabis operations, without requiring additional project-specific analysis of the operations before qualifying for a State annual license.
- Advocate for the removal of the 4-acre cap on Cannabis Cooperative Associations to allow economy of scale for small farmers.
- Advocate for State regulatory policy changes that facilitate opportunities for cultivators, processors, and manufactures to engage in direct to consumer sales, including but not limited to direct to consumer sales through on-farm sales, farmers' markets, and direct to consumer delivery operations. (Item 3) Advocate for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop educational materials and guidance document that clarify and support the development of appellation of origin petitions. (Item 11)

- Advocate for the promulgation of comprehensive labeling requirements for all cannabis geographical indications, including county of origin, city of origin, and appellation of origin designations. (Item 11)
- Allocate for the California Department of Food and Agriculture to be sufficiently funded to manage the appellation of origin program and the establishment of a petition review panel. (Item 11)
- Advocate for State legislation and funding to combat illegal trespass cultivation of cannabis on public and private lands. Support adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass cannabis growing operations.

#### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- The county supports Federal legislation that allows cannabis to be regulated at the Federal level, including removing cannabis from Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act. The county takes the position that 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. (Item 15)
- Advocate for Federal funding to combat illegal trespass cultivation of cannabis on public and private lands. Support adequate funding to address illegal water diversion, water pollution, erosion, poisoning of wildlife, and other environmental damage associated with trespass cannabis growing operations.
- Support efforts at the Federal level to allow for and make available banking and other financial services to cannabis operators in order to minimize the use of cash.
- Advocate for changes to the Federal Tax Code to ensure that State licensed commercial cannabis businesses are taxed in the same manner as non-cannabis businesses, including but not limited to, advocating for the elimination of Federal Tax Code Section 280E. (Item 14)

## **Homelessness**

**ISSUE:** Mendocino County has a large population of Homelessness although the core of the homeless population is in the city of Ukiah, the majority of resources are also located in Ukiah. Limited housing and rental availability is a large contribution for continued transient and homeless growth within the county. There is a community impact on local businesses, and they are being affected by the homeless population encampments that need to be addressed. There are resources that may be being underutilized because of the lack of knowledge to the homeless population.

#### **STATE ACTION**

- ACCESS Integrated Care Management: Fully operationalize the ACCESS initiative care coordination teams to coordinate care for key health and social services (e.g., mental health substance use, MediCal, Social Security, primary health, and general assistance enrollments etc.) which are critical determinants of successful entering and maintaining sheltering and housing placements.
- Increase or sustain funding to prevent and end homelessness through direct allocations to either to the county directly or the local continuum of care (COC) as the counties are responsible for the broad scope of services and mandates provided to successfully move individuals out of homelessness; Sustainable and flexible State funding sources to enable communities to serve more people with outreach, shelter, eviction prevention, supportive housing, and short term rent assistance programs; Establishment of immediate solutions to address encampments.
- Increased opportunities such as Project Homekey providing funding, separate regulatory rules specific to address immediate needs; multi-element approaches to address homelessness and



mental illness including cooccurring substance use disorders; and incentivized alignment of health, human services, and housing programs by facilitating data sharing, and providing one-time funding for systems redesign efforts undertaken by willing counties.

- Create new sources of funding and incentive programs to produce affordable housing through incentivized jurisdictional cooperation and regional housing planning
- Preserve mobile home parks as a valuable housing resource
- Improving rent stabilization tools including protections from displacement and unreasonable rent increases for mobile home park tenants.
- Ensuring that code enforcement does not result in closure of mobile home parks (or other affordable housing) unless it is an immediate danger to life, health and safety.
- Address disparities in housing through: Ensuring that disaster recovery resources reach all impacted households, including those with the lowest incomes who are often the hardest hit by disasters and have the fewest resources to recover.
- Advocate for increasing accessibility to levels of support from Federal and State food programs.
- Advocate for funding to assist local businesses with security, clean up, and restoration due to homelessness.

#### **FEDERAL ACTION**

- Homeless Prevention Assistance: Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing Support to prevent individuals at risk of losing their housing, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic that has tremendous financial impacts on low-income individuals and families



# COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

## STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES

### STATE REPRESENTATIVES:

**JIM WOOD, ASSEMBLYMAN (D)**

2<sup>nd</sup> Assembly District

Website: <http://a02.asmdc.org>

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