



# Legislative Platform

State and Federal Priorities

Kings County Board of Supervisors

February 2018





**LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**  
State and Federal Priority Areas  
Kings County Board of Supervisors

February 2018

Kings County  
Board of Supervisors

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**2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**  
**Kings County, California**

The Kings County Board of Supervisors has identified a number of priority areas for legislative action and monitoring in the current year. These topics have immediate and lasting impacts to the County, to the health and safety of our residents, and to a variety of constituents who are reliant upon local government's effectiveness and representation to yield best outcomes for the local, state, federal and global economies we influence.

- **High Speed Rail – High Priority**

Oppose any state funding or support of the California High Speed Rail project.

Oppose using any State Cap-and-Trade funds on the California High-Speed Rail project. This funding stream varies widely and ends in 2020 unless renewed by the Legislature which it has, to date, refused to do. It is designed to fund short-term projects that will reduce greenhouse gases. High Speed Rail will not be operational until at least 2025, if ever.

Oppose any legislation that attempts to modify a voter-approved state general obligation bond measure without gaining voter approval for the modification for example Assembly Bill 1889, clarifies the term "suitable and ready" for the funding plan required under the provisions of Proposition 1A also known as the High Speed Rail Act, and helps the State meet its obligation to deliver bond money allocated in Senate Bill 1029, a 2012 Budget Appropriation bill.

Support any bills that require financial accountability.

Support legislation which is designed to ensure that taxes and fees collected in the State Highway Account are used to repair the State's crumbling streets, highways and roads, and ensure that the taxes and fees collected are not used by the High Speed Rail Authority to pay off Proposition 1A bond debt.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Water- High Priority**

Find solutions for dealing with water shortages. California has the unfortunate characteristic of being prone to prolonged and severe droughts at any time, and farmers in Kings County routinely have to take steps to prepare for continued severe reduction in water during the summer months. In addition to having negative impacts to jobs and the food supply for this State and the Nation, for every crop dollar lost, \$3.50 will be lost in the economy. Kings County, with 87% of its land in agricultural use, ranks 10th in agricultural value among all counties in California, which is the number one agricultural producing state in the nation. Without increased water storage, the demands placed on our water resources will not be achieved for food and fiber, urbanized growth, energy needs, or habitat restoration. At present, an estimated 40% of Kings County's water use comes from groundwater. Because of Endangered Species Act-related court rulings and ongoing historic drought conditions, water has become extremely limited in Kings County and groundwater levels are at historic lows.

Much of the Kings County economy is based on agribusiness. Accordingly, when farmers are unable to obtain water to produce crops, laborers cannot find work. The result is that neither essential

component of our County's workforce can conduct business and contribute to our local economy. Prolonging the planning or delaying the funding for water storage/reservoir/hydropower projects is counterproductive to the demands that population growth places upon our region, as well as our State. Bringing badly needed water to our communities is essential. Kings County supports to enhance regional water supply reliability including increased surface water supply and the implementation of additional conjunctive use projects, the County supports surface water storage projects.

The County will advocate for legislation that streamlines the permitting processes for storage projects.

The County will advocate for legislation that streamlines the permitting processes for storage projects. The County will continue to support regional efforts to construct the Temperance Flat Dam in the County's role as a member of the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority (SJVWIA). Kings County supports the recent efforts of members of the California Assembly to bring greater accountability to the California Water Commission Water Storage Investment Program and believes the recent under scoring of the public benefits of the Temperance Flat project exemplify the Commission's failure to clearly articulate their scoring criteria and work collaboratively with project applicants such as the SJVWIA.

The County will advocate for statewide policy changes that will facilitate groundwater storage and banking projects to meet local needs to replenish depleted groundwater aquifers and lessen the stress on those aquifers in times of drought.

A significant portion of the County is considered a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community and lack resources to ensure a safe and reliable source of drinking water. The County will continue to advocate for the funding of water supply projects that benefit disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities to ensure that they have access to a reliable water supply that meets safe drinking water standards.

The County will support legislative reform that enhances the ability of local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to implement groundwater sustainability plans and requisite management actions locally.

Regulatory restrictions on pumping in the Delta have led to increased reliance on groundwater which has led to groundwater depletion, water quality degradation, and impacts to infrastructure. The County will support legislative efforts to implement adaptive management of Delta pumping to maximize surface water deliveries in times of excess.

The County will support local efforts to implement conservation programs in coordination with Community Service Districts and Cities within the County and advocate for funding of voluntary conservation technology implementation. The County will oppose mandatory statewide conservation regulations that unnecessarily complicate and duplicate local efforts.

The County supports the beneficial use of water for irrigation of all crops and any post-harvest processing of agricultural commodities that are marketed both domestically and globally.

Contact: Colleen Carlson, County Counsel, (559) 852-2448

- **Public Safety**

Provide new resources on sustaining and funding local gang prevention and enforcement activities. Resources will offer additional routes to sustaining local youth and gang violence prevention efforts. Kings County's Gang Task Force and law enforcement agencies drew a total of 477 major investigation cases in 2017.

Support legislation that provides funding for local public safety programs including Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and for school resource deputies in rural counties.

Support funding to implement Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015, which will require the Sheriff's peace officers to annually report to the Attorney General data on all stops conducted by the Sheriff's peace officers, and require that data to include specified information, including the time, date, and location of the stop, and the reason for the stop. The new data collection requirements will reduce the patrol time in the community due to the amount of time it will take to fill out forms and report data.

Contact: David Robinson, Sheriff, (559) 852-2795

- **Inmate Detentions**

Support legislation that would allow a court to require the appearance of a defendant held in any state, county, or local facility within the county on felony or misdemeanor charges to be conducted by two-way electronic audio-video communication between the defendant and the courtroom in lieu of the physical presence of the defendant in the courtroom for noncritical portions of the trial.

Support funding to implement the Transparent Review of Unjust Transfers and Holds Act (Truth), which requires the Sheriff's Office, prior to an interview between Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and an individual in custody, to provide a written consent form (translated into specified languages) that would explain the purpose of the interview, that it is voluntary, and that the individual may decline the interview. In addition, support funding to implementing Senate Bill 54, a law that now prevents law enforcement agencies from detaining immigrants longer than necessary for minor crimes and also prevents federal immigration authorizes to take them into custody. In addition to this law communication between ICE and state local law enforcement agencies is now limited, effectively making California a "sanctuary state" by legalizing and standardizing statewide non-cooperation policies between California law enforcement agencies and federal immigration authorities.

Support legislation that expands Medi-Cal eligibility to allow counties to receive any available federal financial participation for medical services performed for adult and juvenile inmates that occur on the grounds of the correctional institute.

Support funding to reimburse the County for State Mandated programs and services for which funding has been removed under Senate Bill 190 (removal of juvenile fines and fees, including attorney fees), costs for juvenile probation programs and services has traditionally been subject to reimbursement by the parents or legal guardians of the minors. This includes cases where a minor is offered informal services to avoid court involvement. With the passage of SB 190, counties have lost the ability to recuperate the costs for these mandatory services, including, but not limited to, the provision of counsel for minors, substance abuse counseling, rehabilitative programming, and detention costs, thereby putting further financial strain on counties.

Contact: David Robinson, Sheriff, (559) 852-2795

- **Video Recording**

Amend Government Code Section 26202.6 which governs the retention of video recordings that are made for “routine monitoring” purposes, so that recordings are only needed to be retained for 60-90 days versus the one year requirement now. Annual retention of routine monitoring is extremely costly for counties and is discouraging the use of video cameras in various operations.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Capital Projects**

Support legislative efforts which would reduce the voter approval requirement for local taxes and bonds from a 2/3rd vote to 55% for purposes of authorizing and issuing local infrastructure bonds and public safety tax increases. Seek and support bond funding for the construction of new or the renovation of existing public libraries and criminal justice facilities. The County tried twice in 2016 to pass a local public safety tax. The results were close, but a 2/3 supermajority is insurmountable.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Voting Rights Act**

Oppose legislation that makes preclearance Statewide as well as singling out Kings, Monterey, and Yuba Counties.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Williamson Act Program funding**

Seek legislative support for positive modifications to the agricultural land conservation program. Reduction of the Williamson Act Subvention funding has financially strapped our rural County. Losing the subvention funds has had a negative impact to the County as well as the landowners within the County. Legislative support to re-establish reimbursements to participating counties is essential to agricultural preservation in the State.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Military and Veterans Code**

Support efforts to educate the Governor’s Office, the Legislature, and the public on the importance and value of the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs). The eventual goal is to fully fund CVSOs by permanently appropriating the full \$11 million in local assistance funding as reflected in Military and Veterans Code Section 972.1(d).

California is home to approximately two million veterans. Currently, the state budget allocates \$5.6 million in funding to the County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) in 58 California counties. CVSOs are the first contact for most veterans and are historically able to bring in \$100 of federal veterans benefits for every \$1 spent by the state. Without full funding, California’s veterans will not get the government benefits which they earned through their military service.

Support legislation that would continue to support expansion of veterans’ treatment courts to more counties by providing state funding of veterans’ treatment courts in California.

Contact: Scott Holwell, Veterans Service Officer, (559) 852-2659

- **Human Services**

Support efforts to restructure the In Home Supportive Services Maintenance of Effort to avoid future negative impact on the County General fund and to ensure that available Social Services Realignment revenues are sufficient to cover this cost without shifts from other realignment accounts or reliance on county general fund revenues.

Support efforts to increase funding for administration of the In Home Supportive Services program and the Public Authority and create funding formulas that appropriately fund county staff in order to meet current State mandates.

Maintain funding for Medi-Cal Administrative allocation that enables counties to properly administer the Medi-cal program on behalf of the State.

Support legislative cleanup, and allocating additional funding and start-up funds for the implementation of the foster parent recruitment and retention program changes. Partnerships with Behavioral Health organizations will need to be made in order to strengthen the access to mental health for the youth in foster care. Kings County currently has over 350 youth in the foster care program.

Support increased funding for the CalWORKs Single Allocation in order to implement changes in the CalWORKs Employment Services program aimed at improving services to families and improving work participation rates to meet federal program standards.

Support increased funding for rapid rehousing activities for homeless California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs) families and allow the use of CalWORKs permanent housing assistance for shared housing. Current funding levels do not meet demand.

Support funding for trauma informed care for high needs foster youth that include placement options, intervention and prevention services. Develop Intensive Residential Facilities that would serve youth with severe behavioral, health, mental health or developmental issues that currently have no available options for placement in California and end up in out of State placements that are costly and delay stepping down and reunification efforts.

Contact: Sanja Bugay, Director Human Services Agency, (559) 852-2200

- **Child Support Services**

Support legislative efforts to revise the funding allocation methodology, utilized by the California Department of Child Support Services. The current model for allocating funds to local child support agencies was developed in the 1990s, which does not account for additional expenses including increased county costs, cost of living or salary/benefit negotiations. The base administrative allocation and revenue stabilization fund that was approved by the State legislature in 2009-2010 is no longer sufficient to maintain an adequate number of caseworkers to provide core child support services such as establishing paternity, child support, and securing court ordered child support payments for Kings County families.

Contact: Barbi Brokhoff, Director Department of Child Support Services, (559) 852-2467

- **Health and Behavioral Health**

Maintain sufficient health realignment funding to ensure that Kings County has the resources to meet its obligations to fulfill its statutory public health and indigent health care mandates.

Support strategies to streamline funding and program complexities of the California Children's Services (CCS) program in order to meet the demands of the complex medical care and treatment needs for children in California with certain physically disabling conditions. Monitor the CCS program and seek protections against increased county program costs. Oppose any efforts to require counties to provide funding for the CCS program beyond their Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Explore opportunities to "realign" county share of cost for CCS back to the state. Advocate for CCS pilot project implementation strategies that do not destabilize the current CCS program. Ensure counties retain sufficient resources to meet their CCS responsibilities, including those remaining under the Whole Child Model.

Support policies addressing the prevention of chronic disease and promotion of wellness.

Support policies that seek to reduce health disparities and inequities by working to eliminate barriers to good health for Kings County's diverse population.

Support requiring state financial participation in the funding of medical care for inmates in our jail that were realigned to counties by Assembly Bill 109, which diverts people convicted of certain classes of less serious felonies from the Department of Corrections (state prison) to local county jails.

Support state funding of home visitation programs. The strategic results sought by Prop 10, California Children and Families First Act of 1998, which imposes additional tax on cigarettes of 50 cents per pack, as well as additional taxes on other tobacco products, include healthy children learning and ready for school, strong families, and integrated, consumer-oriented, accessible services. Home visitation programs for families with children from birth to age five can accomplish these objectives by addressing parenting behaviors, attachment, discipline, health, nutrition, safety, sleep, transitions, and family well-being.

Oppose new mandates without specified, stable, and adequate funding commitments.

Support funding for Valley Fever vaccine and treatment research and development.

Contact: Edward Hill, Public Health Director, (559) 852-2625

Support legislation that increases Drug Medi-Cal service claim deadlines to six months. Currently, state regulations require Drug Medi-Cal claims to be submitted within 30 days of the date of service.

Support legislation that would simplify the process and reduce the burden placed on veterans seeking mental health services and requires the counties to cooperate with federal agencies, as specified, to seek reimbursement after providing mental health services to veterans. This bill would require a county to provide mental health services to any veteran who requests treatment, without regard to his or her status as a veteran or eligibility for health services provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any other federal health care provider.

Oppose any legislation that would amend the Mental Health Services Act by instead requiring that any funds allocated since the 2008–09 fiscal year, except as specified, to a large, medium, small, or very small county, as defined, that have not been spent for their authorized purpose within three years of being allocated, and any interest earned on unspent funds, revert to the state for deposit into the newly established Mental Health Services Act Reversion Fund. The bill would authorize a very small county to apply for a waiver, subject to approval by the commission, requesting a delay of the reversion of funds, but not for more than five fiscal years from the time of allocation of funds.

Seek additional funding for Substance Use Disorder treatment. Access to treatment has become increasingly burdened and limited with the response to the passage of Assembly Bill 109 (which allows non-serious, nonviolent and nonsex offenders serve their time in county jails instead of state prison) and Proposition 47 (which reduces certain drug possession felonies to misdemeanors) in small counties. Providers are at a premium and treatment providers have to answer to the courts and Probation as a first line of defense. People in need of help that are not part of the court system may be pushed to the end of the line due to the lack of funding and/or ballooning need for treatment.

Support legislation that includes additional funding for Mental Health program implementation of Continuum of Care – Foster Care Reform.

Contact: Lisa Lewis, Behavioral Health Director, (559) 852-2382

- **Transportation Reform**

Preserve much needed road maintenance funding provided by Senate Bill 1(SB1). SB 1 increased several taxes and fees, (i.e. fuel tax, value based transportation improvement fee, and price based excise tax, and new zero emissions vehicle fee) to raise over \$5 billion annually in new transportation revenue for maintenance and rehabilitation and safety improvements on state highways, local streets and roads, and bridges and to improve the state’s trade corridors, transit, and active transportation facilities. SB 1, which will provide Kings County with an additional \$36 million over the next 10 years, is the target of at least two repeal attempts. Given how critical this funding is to Kings County in order to maintain and improve the motor vehicle transportation network that pays into the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), protecting SB 1 is a top priority for Kings County.

Explore Road User Charge Policy Options. Work with other responsible agencies on mileage-based user charges as an eventual replacement for the gasoline excise tax. As improvements in the fuel efficiency of vehicles reduces gas tax revenue per mile travelled and inflation continues to erode the purchasing power of the excise tax revenues, alternatives to the gas tax must be seriously considered by all transportation stakeholders.

Support California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) streamlining for projects including the infrastructure necessary to support developments, especially as opportunities present themselves in transportation special session or in the continued discussion of proposals to streamline the development of housing for families of all income levels.

Support legislation that would simplify the collection of the Monument Preservation Fund Fee.

Contact: Kevin McAlister, Public Works Director, (559) 852-2700

Elevate State Route 198's (SR 198) priority into the state's Strategic Plan as it is considered part of the state Interregional Transportation system. SR 198 is a priority for Kings County for auto and truck traffic safety with the improvement of this interregional roadway connecting the Central Coast to the San Joaquin Valley. The improved corridor will also serve communities like Coalinga and Huron to the statewide passenger rail network. The connection to San Joaquin – Amtrak rail system would be a benefit to rural communities in the region. The route is not only part of the Central Coast and San Joaquin Valley East-West connection, the highway also serves Lemoore Naval Air Station to Interstate 5. Most of the improvement projects on SR 198 are outside Kings County jurisdiction, but would greatly serve the needs of the county by improving this travel corridor.

Truck traffic for Farm to Market transportation and freight movement from Interstate 5 to Lemoore Naval Air Station (NAS) should be a state priority. The passenger car traffic would also improve with an increase to State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects eligibility, if this route becomes a higher priority. The truck volume due to the recent drought and future land retirement in Westlands Water District will see reduced seasonal agricultural demands. Automobile travelers will increase with additional personnel added to Lemoore NAS.

Contact: Joe Neves, Board of Supervisor, (559) 852-2370

- **Community Development**

Support direct allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds to Kings County. If direct allocation to Kings County is not possible, then continued support for maintaining CDBG and HOME funding levels to the State which would maintain funding opportunities for Kings County.

Support State funding efforts for the increasingly complex General Plan update processes to remain current and in compliance with State mandated General Plan requirements. Small counties have limited staff and due to time constraints are limited in order to stay compliant. Increased funding can ensure these General Plan requirements set by the Office of Planning and Research are met.

Contact: Greg Gatzka, Community Development Agency Director, (559) 852-2680

- **Economic Development Incentives**

With the elimination of Redevelopment Agencies and the Enterprise Zone Counties and cities with high unemployment and high poverty rates find it more difficult to compete for business expansion and location with more affluent areas. Disadvantaged communities are unable to afford the public infrastructure needed to create the jobs to boost or sustain their economies. What is needed is a targeted incentive package, aimed at cities or Counties that have an average unemployment rate and poverty level of 125% of the statewide average for the preceding year. These designated zones would allow a more advantageous new employee hiring credit and possibly other economic development and public infrastructure incentives to help even the competitive field of business development.

Contact: John Lehn, Job Training Office Director, (559) 585-3536

**2018 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**  
**Kings County, California**

This document offers summary information on a number of key policy areas for legislative and/or regulatory action and monitoring in the current year. Each item includes a contact person to be reached for any additional supporting information or to alert in the event of pending legislative/regulatory action, remedy or resolution.

- **High Speed Rail – High Priority**

Oppose any and all efforts to provide additional federal funding or support for California’s High Speed Rail (HSR) project. Kings County is opposed to the HSR project for a number of reasons. For starters, it does not conform to the County’s General Plan. In addition, the proposed routes do not follow existing transportation corridors, and a number of agricultural impacts will go unmitigated. Moreover, the California HSR Authority’s business plan does not comply with the Proposition 1A bond measure that California voters approved in 2008. Finally, the project continues to be mired by significant delays and rising costs.

Oppose any efforts to have federal agency decisions supersede the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for any projects in California, including High Speed Rail.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **California Drought Resiliency**

Find solutions for dealing with water shortages. California has the unfortunate characteristic of being prone to prolonged and severe droughts at any time, and farmers in Kings County are taking steps to prepare for continued severe reductions in water during the summer months. In addition to having negative impacts to jobs and the food supply for the state and nation, for every crop dollar lost, \$3.50 will be lost in the economy. Kings County, with 87% of its land in agricultural use, ranks 10th in agricultural value among all counties in California, which is the number one agricultural producing state in the nation.

Kings County is the home to Lemoore Naval Air Station. During times of severe drought, fallow fields surrounding the air base attract rodents and other varmints which, in turn, leads to a significant increase in the presence of avian predators. The result is a corresponding increase in bird strikes, which puts our nation’s air fleet and security at severe risk.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Water**

Without increased water storage, the demands placed on our water resources will not be achieved for food and fiber, urbanized growth, energy needs, or habitat restoration. At present, an estimated 40% of Kings County’s water use comes from groundwater.

Support efforts to amend the *Endangered Species Act* (ESA) and other environmental laws in a manner that increases allocation to Central Valley Project water contractors, and oppose any legislation that impacts such contractual allocation. Because of ESA-related court rulings and ongoing historic drought conditions, water has become extremely limited in Kings County and groundwater levels are at historic lows.

Much of the Kings County economy is based on agribusiness. Accordingly, when farmers are unable to obtain water to produce crops, laborers cannot find work. The result is that neither essential component of our County's workforce can conduct business and contribute to our local economy. Prolonging the planning or delaying the funding for water storage/reservoir/hydropower projects is counterproductive to the demands that population growth places upon our region, as well as our State. Bringing badly needed water to our communities is essential.

Kings County continues to work on groundwater sustainability planning, and has been awarded a \$500,000 State Sustainable Groundwater grant to develop a baseline groundwater model that includes policy, programs, and regulations, to name some examples.

Support any funding that enhances water storage expansion efforts. Kings County is a member of the newly developed Joint Powers Authority, the San Joaquin Valley Water Infrastructure Authority, which is made up of five counties, two cities (including a disadvantaged community), two water agencies, one tribal council, and one member at large. Its mission is to seek funding for water infrastructure improvement projects, such as, but not limited to local surface storage projects, groundwater recharge projects, and construction starting with the Temperance Flat Dam project.

Contact: Colleen Carlson, County Counsel, (559) 852-2448

- **Fee-to-Trust Reform/Indian Gaming**

Support federal legislation, as well as regulatory changes in the current fee-to-trust process, that would provide an incentive for counties and tribes to enter into judicially enforceable agreements when tribes are permitted to engage in economic development activities, including gaming. Agreements should fully mitigate local impacts from a tribal government's business activities and fully identify the governmental services to be provided by the county to that tribe. In cases in which a county and tribe are unable to reach a local mitigation agreement, federal legislation/regulations should require the Secretary of the Interior to certify that all anticipated off-reservation impacts have been mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. Kings County has an enforceable agreement in place, but is supportive of reforms that would protect the county's interests in case of a possible future expansion or new development.

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Public Safety**

Kings County's Gang Task Force and local law enforcement agencies drew a total of 477 major investigation cases in 2017, and many of those cases involve higher level narcotics investigations. Support legislation and appropriations for County efforts directed at: programs that recognize the extent of the gang and narcotics problems in our County and in the San Joaquin Valley; prevention programs that educate youth about drugs and gangs; treatment programs; and tougher penalties for methamphetamine-related crimes.

Provide adequate funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which partially reimburses Kings County for the significant costs of incarcerating undocumented criminals. Due to cuts in the appropriation for SCAAP, along with an increasing number of jurisdictions applying for the program, Kings County's SCAAP allocation has fluctuated in recent years. Additionally, Congress should approve legislation that provides a long-term reauthorization of the SCAAP program.

Congress should provide adequate funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) Program.

Support legislation that provides funding for local public safety programs including Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and for school resource deputies in rural counties.

Contact: Dave Robinson, Sheriff, (559) 852-2795

- **Telecommunications/Interoperability/Broadband**

Support funding for first responder infrastructure upgrades and/or repair, such as repeater site restoration and upgrades. Dedicated funding has not been set aside since 2007 with the Public Safety Interoperability Communications grant, and systems are aging with no replacement funds in sight. Categorical funding, such as Homeland Security funding, is allocated in one-time amounts that are not sufficient to completely convert our local systems.

Support funding for Department of Commerce broadband infrastructure and planning grants. Communities and outlying areas are in great need of broadband infrastructure to bring and enhance much needed services in the area of education, public safety, economic development, and for medical purposes. Broadband connection rates need to be reasonable in order to be competitive for local government use.

Support legislative efforts to maintain current levels of funding for the implementation of universal service and library connectivity discount provisions E-Rate (Telecommunications Act of 1996, allowing any communications business compete in any market against any other).

Contact: Rebecca Campbell, County Administrative Officer, (559) 852-2375

- **Human Services**

Support legislation that would retain the Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs. Support updating the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) on which assistance is based on and changing the 1996 levels under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act.

Support maintaining the Title IV-E Foster Care and Child Welfare services program as an open entitlement and expanding the use of this funding source for prevention activities. The Child Welfare Services caseload in Kings County currently totals 357 children.

Continue to fully fund the Social Services Block Grant, which funds child protective services.

Oppose the Family First Prevention Services Act until provisions of the bill are amended to better align with current Continuum of Care Reform, a statutory and policy framework designed to ensure services and support provided to a child and his/her family are tailored toward the ultimate goal of maintaining a stable permanent family.

Oppose efforts to block grant the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which provides a monthly supplement for purchasing food.

Contact: Sanja Bugay, Director Human Services Agency, (559) 852-2200

- **Health**

Ensure that any potential reforms of health and welfare entitlement programs do not shift additional cost burdens from the Federal government or State to the Counties. According to the California Department of Health Care Services, as of November 2016, 45,131 Kings County residents were enrolled in Medi-Cal, which is 20,356 more than four years earlier, (prior to federal reforms that resulted in.)

Oppose any effort to reduce the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). The PPHF, which was created by Section 4002 of the *Affordable Care Act* is the nation's first mandatory funding stream dedicated to improving our nation's public health. This fund created an unprecedented opportunity for local health departments to augment and expand existing chronic disease programs or to participate in new programs to address longstanding chronic disease issues in their communities. However, over the years, the PPHF has become increasingly vulnerable and has been diverted to fund other purposes, such as the 21st Century Cures Act passed by Congress in December 2016, an act that boosts funding for medical research.

Support increased and flexible federal funding/resources directed at building the capacity of local public health departments to combat and control communicable diseases. Oppose efforts to reduce state and federal funding streams which would create cost shifts to local health departments.

Oppose converting the federal Medicaid program into a block grant. Recent federal proposals would result in cuts to California's Medicaid allotment, which, in turn would put additional financial strain on the state and counties. If Medicaid is converted to a block grant, it may be necessary for the state to restrict eligibility, cut benefits, and reduce payments to health care providers.

Support continued funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The WIC program ensures access to adequate nutrition for pregnant women and children ages 0-5, and provides nutrition education for parents so that their child/children can have a healthy start. There are currently over 8,000 participants who meet the income criteria for eligibility for this program in Kings County.

Contact: Edward Hill, Public Health Director, (559) 852-2625

- **Military and Veterans Code**

Support legislation that would provide increased access for County Veterans Service Offices (CVSO) to Veterans Affairs (VA) information systems (i.e. Veterans Benefits Management System, Veterans Appeals Control and Locator System, Modern Award Processing - Development, etc.) for use in developing and monitoring claims submitted on behalf of veterans. County Veterans Service Offices (CVSOs) are local government agencies responsible for assisting veterans, their dependents and survivors in obtaining benefits to which they may be entitled. As such CVSOs need maximum possible access, regardless of VA Power-of-Attorney (POA), to VA client and claims databases. Enhancing this access will result in better and timelier services to claimants and reduce the workload in VA call centers.

Support legislative, regulatory, and/or policy changes that would create a federal/state/local government partnership to reduce the VA veteran's claims backlog and expand outreach services to veterans. VA has expressed the belief that one important way to reduce the unacceptable claims

backlog is the initial submission of more fully completed claims packages. Individual claimants are unfamiliar with the requirements of the VA claims system. Accordingly, it is necessary to have competent, trained intermediaries, such as CVSO, participate in the preparation and submission of claims. Many CVSOs do not have the resources to do the community outreach that would enable them to reach the maximum possible number of benefit claimants. Federal/state/local partnerships will enable State and County veterans service programs to reach and assist more claimants thus helping to reduce the chronic VA claims backlog.

Contact: Scott Holwell, Veterans Service Officer, (559) 852-2659

- **Community Development Block Grant**

Provide maximum funding for the CDBG program. Kings County utilizes these program funds with increasing success to develop unincorporated communities and provide better housing conditions and opportunities to Kings County residents. CDBG funding has typically been used for first-time home buyers' loans since the late 1990's, as well as owner-occupied rehabilitation projects in locations in remote communities within the County since the mid-1970's.

Allow continued use of the CDBG program income for continued operational costs without risking the ability to apply for future grants.

Contact: Chuck Kinney, Deputy Director-Planning, (559) 852-2674

- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Programs**

Support full funding for local Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Programs. Two years after the implementation of WIOA, Kings County has yet to receive the amount of funds allocated through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to assist local eligible residents to increase their training for and exposure to the workforce. This comes at the same time increased WIOA administrative requirements and costs are being absorbed. Kings County urges the Administration to allow the bipartisan WIOA to unfold and to achieve its full potential of preparing our workers for the current and future economy. This business-led local effort is our best hope at improving local economies and to regional growth industries, including the attraction of manufacturing jobs back to the United States.

Contact: John Lehn, Job Training Office Director, (559) 852-4949

- **Franchise Business Model**

Oppose the National Labor Relations Board's efforts aimed at forcing franchise companies to assert total control over the daily operations of the independently owned franchised restaurants, such as human resource management, controls over scheduling, pay rates, benefits, and working conditions, to name a few. This change will add an increased financial burden to small employers in the County.

Contact: Doug Verboon, Board of Supervisor, (559) 852-2362

- **Transportation**

Support federal funding for transportation, including bridge rehabilitation and replacement.

Work to ensure that California counties are well-positioned to utilize environmental streamlining opportunities available from the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act*.

Support legislation to rehabilitate 240 miles of rural roads that are impacted due to use by, among others, Kings County farms, dairies, and processing plants.

Contact: Kevin McAlister, Public Works Director, (559) 852-2700

Seek funding to assist with the movement of goods on State Route 198 (SR 198). Normal highway traffic rates are 15-18%, and SR 198 has a higher rate of use at 38%. In 2017, an influx of new military related personnel started to arrive and will be staying in the area due to the basing of the new F-35C Lightning II Strike Fighter squadrons and two relocated F-18 Super Hornet squadrons. Widening approximately 20 miles of SR 198 will assist with goods movement to Lemoore Naval Air Station Lemoore, as well as the Central Valley of California.

Support any move by NAS Lemoore to expand additional runway construction to support the aging airstrips currently being used. This is due to the addition of F-35C Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter squadrons and the rotary wing squadron that continues to support the mission of the Naval Air Station and realignment of Navy operations in California.

Contact: Joe Neves, Board of Supervisor, (559) 852-2370

- **Institute of Museum and Library Services**

Continue Federal support for grants and funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Elimination of such funding will jeopardize the \$16 million the California State library receives in federal funds, money that also funds the Braille and Talking Book library. The Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) is exclusively for libraries and is administered through IMLS. LSTA funds, in which the California State Library receives \$16 million, is where the Kings County Library has benefited. The Kings County Library successful programs were funded by receiving LSTA grant funds. Programs such as Veterans Connect at the Library, Career Online High School, The Family Place Library, Brainfuse Online Homework Help, Book-To-Action, and Touchpoints in Libraries Training are an example.

Contact: Natalie Rencher, Library Director, (559) 852-4005