



# Legislative Bulletin

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*A Publication of the County Executive Office/Legislative Affairs*

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February 8, 2022  
Item No. 17

## **County of Orange Positions on Proposed Legislation**

The Legislative Bulletin provides the Board of Supervisors with analyses of measures pending in Sacramento and Washington that are of interest to the County. Staff provides recommended positions that fall within the range of policies established by the Board. According to the County of Orange Legislative Affairs Procedures adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 10, 2019, staff recommendations for formal County positions on legislation will be agendaized and presented in this document for Board action at regular Board of Supervisors meetings. When the Board takes formal action on a piece of legislation, the CEO will direct the County's legislative advocates to promote the individual bills as approved by the Board. The Legislative Bulletin also provides the Board of Supervisors with informative updates on State and Federal issues.

The 2021-2022 Legislative Platform was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on December 5, 2020.

On February 8, 2022, the Board of Supervisors will consider the following actions:

### **RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

- 1. APPROVE: 2022 Legislative Priorities (Attachment A)**
- 2. Receive and File Legislative Bulletin**

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- 1. County Position Matrix: CEO-LA**
- 2. Sacramento Legislative Report**
- 3. Washington DC Legislative Report**

## RECOMMENDED ITEMS

### **1. APPROVE: 2022 Legislative Priorities (Attachment A)**

#### SUMMARY

Approving the 2022 Orange County Legislative Priorities will allow the County to pursue critical policy initiatives in Sacramento and Washington, D.C.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Orange County Board of Supervisors recognizes the need to protect its interests in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. To be effective in this mission, the County develops its Legislative Platform with the County Executive Office of Legislative Affairs in advance of each two-year legislative session, in conjunction with the Board, County departments, and the County's state and federal legislative advocates. In addition to the Legislative Platform the Orange County Board of Supervisors annually adopts the County Legislative Priorities. The County Legislative Priorities provide goals, which help to focus the legislative and advocacy activities for the year.

On December 15, 2020, your Board approved the 2021-22 County of Orange Legislative Platform.

#### 2022 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

There are five proposed State 2022 County Legislative Priorities and five proposed Federal 2022 County Legislative Priorities for Board consideration and approval. The list of priorities summarizes the direction received from individual meetings with Board members and reflects issues of greatest importance to your Board for 2022. The proposed 2022 County Legislative Priorities are listed below, and a full write-up of each can be found in Attachment A.

##### *State:*

- Mental Health & Recovery Services
- Homelessness & Housing
- OC CARES/Criminal Justice
- Veterans Cemetery
- Health & Social Services

##### *Federal:*

- Mental Health & Recovery Services
- Homelessness & Housing
- OC CARES/Criminal Justice
- Infrastructure Funding
- Homeland Security & Public Safety Funding

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

### 1. County Position Matrix: CEO-LA

The tables below list active bills the Board of Supervisors has taken positions on in the 2021-22 legislative session.

State Legislation


*As of Thursday, February 3, 2022*

Bill Number	Author	Subject	Position	Date of Board Action	Status
<b><u>AB 988</u></b>	<u>Bauer-Kahan</u>	Mental Health: 988 Crisis Hotline	<b>Support</b>	8.24.21	Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee – 2 Year Bill
<b><u>AB 989</u></b>	<u>Gabriel</u>	Housing Accountability Act: Appeals	<b>Oppose</b>	9.2.21	Senate Floor – Inactive
<b><u>AB 1051</u></b>	<u>Bennett</u>	Medi-Cal: Specialty Mental Health: Foster Youth	<b>Support</b>	7.13.21	Senate Floor – Inactive
<b><u>AB 1595</u></b>	<u>Quirk-Silva</u>	Veterans Cemetery: County of Orange	<b>Sponsor</b>	1.11.22	Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs
<b><u>SB 12</u></b>	<u>McGuire</u>	Local Government: Planning and Zoning: Wildfires	<b>Oppose</b>	7.13.21	Assembly Housing and Community Development – Failed Passage
<b><u>SB 43</u></b>	Umberg	Veterans Cemetery: County of Orange	<b>Oppose Unless Amended</b>	7.5.21	Assembly Military and Veterans Affairs – 2 Year Bill
<b><u>SB 454</u></b>	<u>Bates</u>	Child Support: Enforcement	<b>Sponsor</b>	3.9.21	Assembly Appropriations – Failed Passage

Federal Legislation

*As of Thursday, February 3, 2022*

Bill Number	Author	Subject	Position	Date of Board Action	Status
<b><u>HR 1368</u></b>	Porter	Mental Health Justice Act of 2021	<b>Support</b>	7.13.21.	House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security
<b><u>HR 2367</u></b>	Levin	The Studying Outcomes and Benchmarks for Effective Recovery (SOBER) Homes Act	<b>Support</b>	5.11.21	House Committee on Energy and Commerce – Subcommittee on Health
<b><u>S. 339</u></b>	Portman/ Manchin	Federal Initiative to Guarantee Health by Targeting (FIGHT) Fentanyl Act	<b>Support</b>	3.23.21	Senate Committee on Judiciary

 Highlighted sections symbolize a status change

## 2. Sacramento Legislative Report

### *Prepared by Precision Advocacy Group LLC*

The house of origin deadline for two-year bills passed on January 31, with several controversial bills having been left behind due to a lack of votes on the floor. The most high profile bill, which was the subject of several media campaigns both for and against, was [AB 1400 \(Kalra\) Guaranteed Health Care for All](#), which would have established a single-payer health care coverage program in California provided a funding mechanism was passed by the Legislature and approved by voters. Due to the controversy, Assemblymember Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) chose not to bring the bill up for a vote rather than have it voted down by his colleagues.

The next big deadline is the Legislature's bill introduction deadline on February 18.

### Budget Early Action Package

As part of his January budget proposal, Governor Newsom requested the Legislature act on several high priority items early in the year. The Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee will consider the items on February 3, and the Assembly Budget Committee will follow suit on February 7. The measures are not yet in print, however should be by the time they are heard in committee. Below is an outline of early action items we anticipate will be taken up, including current year COVID-19 funding and an extension of paid sick leave.

**COVID-19 Funding:** The administration is requesting \$1.4 billion in the current year to support continued vaccine distribution and administration, including booster shots, statewide testing, statewide hospital and medical surge efforts, precautionary measures in state institutions, contact tracing, and efforts to protect public health and the border. The total funding request, which includes funding for the 2022-23 budget year, is proposed at \$2.7 billion General Fund.

**COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave:** [SB 95](#) (Skinner), Chapter 13, Statutes of 2021, which expired on September 30, 2021, required specified employers to provide COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave to covered employees. Last week, Governor Newsom and legislative leaders [announced](#) an agreement on a framework to extend COVID-19 supplemental paid sick leave through September 30, 2022. The agreement includes up to two weeks of supplemental paid sick leave to recover from COVID-19 or care for family members with the virus, would apply to all businesses with 26 or more employees, and would be retroactive to January 1, 2022.

Employers would be required to provide up to 40 hours of flexible paid COVID-19 sick leave for full-time workers who are sick or caring for an ill loved one. It would also require employees to provide proof of a positive test to qualify for an additional 40 hours of paid time off. Part-time workers would be eligible for sick leave equal to the number of hours they typically work in a week.

#### **Human Services**

- Appropriates \$27.5 million for reimbursement rate supplements to support family child care providers.
- Authorizes a social worker to place a child in the home of a relative in which the juvenile court has authorized placement, regardless of the status of any criminal record exemption or resource family approval, if the court has found that the placement does not pose a risk to the health and safety of the child.
- Authorizes the Department of Social Services, until December 31, 2022, to the extent permitted by federal law and guidance, to use federal funds administered by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement to award contracts and grants to private for-profit organizations to support refugee resettlement efforts within the State of California. The bill would require the

department to prioritize funding for qualified nonprofit organizations and counties over funding for private for-profit organizations, if practicable, and would require the department to track and document the funding provided to each type of service provider and the purposes for use of the funding.

**Net Operating Losses/Tax Credits:** The administration has proposed a number of changes to California's tax system that must be implemented early in order to be utilized in the 2022-23 budget year.

- Net Operating Losses: \$5.5 billion in 2022-23 to restore the use of net operating losses and business tax credits.
- Innovation Headquarters Tax Credit: A tax credit Administered by the Franchise Tax Board, beginning in 2022 for companies investing in activities and technologies mitigating climate change that are headquartered in California.
- Green Energy Tax Credit: A tax credit to fund pre-development costs for electric vehicle manufacturing and infrastructure; geothermal, lithium extraction, and battery manufacturing; long-duration storage; addressing methane emissions; and hydrogen technologies to reduce the use of natural gas. If the business becomes profitable, a share of profits would be repaid to the State.
- Elective Pass -Through Entity Tax: Statutory changes are proposed to assist California businesses in participating in an elective tax and credit program designed to allow certain business owners to fully deduct on their federal tax returns the California taxes they pay on pass-through business income. The administration is requesting statutory changes prior to the March 15, 2022 tax filing and payment deadline for pass-through business entities.
- State Small Business Credit Initiative: California will receive \$1.2 billion through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. \$1 billion will support the Capital Access Program for Small Business, California Capital Access Program Collateral Support at California Pollution Control Finance Authority, and the Small Business Loan Guarantee Program. \$200 million will establish a Venture Capital Program at IBank for underrepresented venture capital managers, underserved entrepreneurs and business owners, socio-economically disadvantaged areas, and climate equity and climate justice. The application for funding through the State Small Business Credit Initiative was released December 10 and is due by February 11, 2022.

## Felony Sentences for Certain Thefts Under \$950

One of the initiatives that is currently being proposed for the November 2022 ballot is the [authorization of felony sentences for certain thefts under \\$950](#). If passed, this measure would allow prosecutors to file felony or misdemeanor charges for thefts of any amount under \$950, which is currently only chargeable as a felony in certain circumstances, against a person with two or more prior specified theft convictions. Additionally, this measure would allow sentencing enhancements for any felony resulting in significant property loss or damage and authorizes prosecution for theft in any county where the acts occurred.

### **Background**

Current state law defines felonies as either violent and serious felonies (which include murder, robbery, and rape) or felonies that are not violent or serious (which include human trafficking and selling illegal drugs). People whose current or past felony convictions are serious or violent can be sentenced to state prison, while those who have no current or past convictions for serious or violent crimes are typically sentenced to county jails and/or supervision by a county probation officer.

People convicted of misdemeanors can be sentenced to county jail, supervision by a county probation officer, a fine, or some combination of the three. Misdemeanor crimes typically carry maximum punishments of six months to a year in county jail, and many times are supervised by a

county probation officer for less time than felony convictions. But state law includes various sentence enhancements depending on the circumstances of the crimes or their criminal histories.

Some crimes, such as identity theft, can be sentenced as either a felony or a misdemeanor, commonly known as "wobblers." Sentencing decisions on wobblers is left to the court and based on the specific circumstances of the crime and the criminal history of the person being sentenced. In 2014, voters approved Proposition 47 which reduced certain theft-related crimes from wobblers to misdemeanors. Prop 47 further requires that the annual savings to the state resulting from the proposition's sentencing changes be spent on mental health and substance use services, truancy and dropout prevention, and crime victim services. The estimated savings for the 2020-21 fiscal year is about \$116 million.

### ***Proposal***

If passed, this measure changes state law to make petty theft (theft involving property worth \$950 or less) and shoplifting (stealing property worth \$950 or less from a commercial establishment) punishable as wobblers rather than misdemeanors for people who have two or more prior convictions for certain theft-related crimes and could receive sentences of up to three years in county jail or state prison. Additionally, this measure creates sentence enhancements for crimes in which a high dollar amount of property was stolen or damaged.

When a person takes, damages, or destroys any property in an attempt to commit a felony, the court shall impose an additional term of one year if the loss exceeds \$50,000, an additional term of two years if the loss exceeds \$200,000, an additional term of three years if the loss exceeds \$1,000,000, an additional term of four years if the loss exceeds \$3,000,000, and an additional term of one year for every additional loss of \$3,000,000 thereafter. Any pleading involving multiple charges could impose the additional sentencing terms if the aggregate losses to the victims from all felonies exceed the amounts specified above and arise from the common scheme that has been found to be true.

Under this measure, the jurisdiction of a criminal action for theft shall include the county where the offense occurred, the county in which the merchandise or property was recovered, or the county where any act was done by the defendant in instigating, procuring, or aiding in the commission of an offense. If the person has multiple offenses that occurred in multiple jurisdictions, then any of those jurisdictions are a proper jurisdiction for all of the offenses.

### ***Fiscal Impact***

It is estimated that the passage of this measure would increase costs to both the state and county criminal justice systems in the low tens of millions of dollars annually due to potential increases in state prison and county jail populations. This measure could increase the number of people sentenced to state prison with additional costs for state courts to try those with felonies involving high dollar amounts of theft or damage for sentence enhancements. An increased number of felony filings and reduced number of misdemeanors would result in an increased workload for state courts as felonies take more time to adjudicate than misdemeanors. Similarly, this measure would result in some people receiving longer county jail or probation terms, increasing county correctional populations and subsequently increasing county court-related costs.

It is possible for the state to reduce costs to the criminal justice system by partially offsetting the amount spent on mental health and substance use services, truancy and dropout prevention, and crime victim services. But because this measure would undo certain reductions in punishment for petty theft and shoplifting enacted by Prop 47, this measure would reduce the state savings attributable to Prop 47 depending on the methodology used to estimate the state savings. If the measure's increase in penalties reduces crime, some criminal justice system costs could be avoided. The actual number of people affected would depend on decisions made by courts.

## Upcoming Hearing

To view hearings after they take place, you may access them in the [Assembly](#) or [Senate](#) media archives where they are generally available within a few hours of committee adjournment.

**Monday, February 7, 11:00 a.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Assembly Budget](#)**

Early Action Package; SB 114 Paid Sick Leave; SB 113 Revenue and Taxation; SB 115 Amendment to 2021 Budget Act; SB 116 Human Services; SB 117 MOU

**Monday, February 7, 2:30 p.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services](#)**

COVID Response; Department of Public Health; California Health and Human Services Agency, Office of Youth and Community Restoration; Department of Health Care Access and Information; Department of Health Care Services; California Health Benefit Exchange

**Monday, February 7, 2:30 p.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Public Safety](#)**

California Victim Compensation Board; Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training; State Public Defender

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1 on Education](#)**

Department of Education, Expanded Learning/After School Care, Special Education

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Assembly Public Safety](#)**

Human Trafficking: Reexamining the Scope of the Problem and Solutions

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor, and Transportation](#)**

Judicial Branch, California Victim Compensation Board, Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, State Public Defender, California Law Revision Commission

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 1:30 p.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services](#)**

Department of Aging, Commission on Aging, Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services, IHSS, SSI/SSP, Community Care Licensing

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 1:30 p.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration](#)**

Homelessness Funding Oversight

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – [livestream](#)**

**[Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 2 on Resources, Environmental Protection, and Energy](#)**

Department of Conservation, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Food and Agriculture, Drought Resilience and Response Package

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – [livestream](#)**

### [Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation](#)

Natural Resources Agency, Department of Conservation, State Lands Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wildlife Conservation Board, California Coastal Commission, Native American Heritage Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River and Mountains Conservancy, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

**Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 1:30 p.m.– [livestream](#)**

### [Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 4 on State Administration and General Government](#)

Governor's Office of Business And Economic Development, Office of Planning And Research, State Controller, State Treasurer, Commission on State Mandates

**Thursday, February 10, 2022, Upon adjournment of session – [livestream](#)**

### [Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services](#)

Department of State Hospitals

## **Governor's Press Releases**

Below is a list of the governor's press releases beginning January 26.

**February 1:** [Governor Newsom Proclaims Lunar New Year](#)

**February 1:** [Governor Newsom Statement on Death of Stockton Firefighter](#)

**January 31:** [Governor Newsom Promotes Physical Fitness and Mental Well-Being with Advisory Council](#)

**January 31:** [Governor Newsom Announces Major Mental Health Housing Expansion to Keep Most Vulnerable Off California's Streets](#)

**January 31:** [TODAY: In Los Angeles County, Governor Newsom to Highlight Historic Housing and Behavioral Health Investments to Keep Vulnerable Californians Off the Streets](#)

**January 30:** [Governor Newsom Proclaims Fred Korematsu Day](#)

**January 28:** [Governor Newsom Appoints Nancy Farias Director of the Employment Development Department](#) - Director of the Employment Development Department, Chief of the Division of Occupational Safety and Health at the California Department of Industrial Relations, Chair of the California Public Employment Relations Board, and the California Agricultural Labor Relations Board.

**January 28:** [With More Than \\$1 Billion Back in the Hands of California Families, Governor Newsom Highlights CalEITC Awareness Week](#)

**January 28:** [Governor Newsom Announces Appointments](#) - Senior Advisor for Communications for the Office of the Governor, Communications Director for the Office of the Governor, and the Chief of Staff in the Office of the First Partner.

**January 27:** [Governor Newsom Announces Appointments](#) - California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (California Energy Commission), Technical Advisor to Commissioner Darcie Houck at the California Public Utilities Commission, Bureau Chief of the California Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers, General Counsel at the California State Transportation Agency, and the California Transportation Commission.

**January 27:** [California Signs Equal Pay Pledge, Highlights Investments and Actions to Advance Pay and Gender Equity](#)

**January 26:** [Governor Newsom Announces Reward for Unsolved Murder in Los Angeles](#)

**January 26:** [Governor Newsom Statement on U.S. Supreme Court Justice Breyer Retirement Reports](#)

**January 26:** [Governor Newsom Outlines Historic \\$10 Billion ZEV Package to Lead the World's Transition to Clean Energy, Combat Climate Change](#)



### 3. Washington DC Legislative Report

*Prepared by Van Scoyoc Associates*

#### **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY**

##### **FY2022 Appropriations**

With the current federal funding set to expire on February 18<sup>th</sup>, Congress is in a rush to complete their annual spending bills in the coming weeks. The top leaders on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees met and exchanged top-line spending levels, though a final figure has not been agreed to. Reaching an agreement will then allow all of the 12 spending bills to begin reverse engineering the spending levels to arrive at that top-line number. However, beyond top-line disagreements, there are still many policy riders which can be most divisive. If a top-line figure is reached by the end of the week, Congress will have to work very hard to pass the legislation before the February 18<sup>th</sup> deadline. It remains likely a short extension would be needed to accommodate that task.

##### **Build Back Better “Dead”**

This week Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) stated that the Build Back Better Act is “dead,” and that if the White House or Democratic leaders in the Congress wish to advance the bill, they must start from scratch. He further stated he has not spoken to the White House about the bill for some time. Manchin’s statement only reaffirms what many most in Washington, DC, have suspected since December: that Build Back Better is not passing and public statements by Democratic leaders are little more than wishful thinking.

##### **House Poised to Pass Major Research Legislation**

The House is poised to pass the America COMPETES Act. The massive legislation would reform federal policy regarding research and development to improve long-term economic competitiveness against China. House Republicans are opposed to the bill, which added many Democratic bills to a previously bipartisan base-bill. As of this report, the House is beginning debate on more than 200 amendments to the bill, which will take considerable time. However, passage is expected with few (if any) Republicans lending support.

What happens after House passage is less clear. In 2021, the Senate passed the US Innovation and Competitiveness Act (USICA) which was passed on a bipartisan basis. That bill is substantially different than America COMPETES. It is unclear if and how the two chambers plan to reconcile the differences between these two bills.

##### **Electoral Count Act**

Following the January 6<sup>th</sup> attack on the US Capitol, many lawmakers have expressed concern that the Electoral Count Act, which provides a process for certification of the electoral college after presidential elections, could be abused in a manner that jeopardizes the peaceful transfer of power. Republicans and Democrats have sought to amend the legislation to ensure it cannot be abused. This week legislation was introduced in the Senate to do just that. However, Republican leaders are seeking changes. The path forward is not yet clear, but many in the Senate want to pass effective legislation soon. But for some Democrats, addressing the Electoral Count Act without addressing the Voting Rights Act is counterproductive.

##### **Legislation Introduced by Orange County Delegation**

Senator Dianne Feinstein:

- Introduced a [resolution](#) designating January as “National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month.”

Reps. Michelle Steel and Katie Porter

- Introduced the [Driving Veterans Success Act](#) which would “require the Department of Transportation to set a goal of ensuring that at least 10% of federal highway and transit contracts go to veteran-owned small businesses.”

## **EXECUTIVE BRANCH ACTIVITY**

### **HHS Announces Release of \$100 Million in LIHEAP Funds**

The Department of Health and Human Services announced the release of \$100 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help families pay their outstanding heating and cooling bills. This funding comes on top of investment in [the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP) through the American Rescue Plan and the Continuing Resolution most recently passed by Congress.

The \$100 million is the first installment of the five-year, \$500 million investment in the program provided from the infrastructure law.

The \$500 is the third appropriation of LIHEAP funding in the past year. In March 2021, Congress more than doubled the annual amount of LIHEAP funding – appropriating \$4.5 billion in supplemental funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, in order to account for higher needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In September 2021, Congress appropriated \$3.7 billion in annual LIHEAP funding through the Continuing Resolution. In total, the three appropriations total nearly \$8 billion over a 12-month period.

Individuals interested in applying for energy assistance can search for their local LIHEAP intake agency or office using HHS’ map of LIHEAP Local Agency Locations. Alternatively, they can contact their state, territory or tribal office, or contact ACF’s Office of Community Services for assistance at 1-866-674-6327.

### **Treasury and White House Announce New Child Tax Credit Website**

The U.S. Department of the Treasury and the White House announced the re-launch of a revamped Child Tax Credit website – [ChildTaxCredit.gov](#) – with several new features to help taxpayers access the remainder of the expanded Child Tax Credit (CTC) or the full amount of the CTC as tax filing season begins.

In March, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) expanded the Child Tax Credit and, for the first time, gave low-income families access to the full amount of the credit. The ARP also allowed the IRS to distribute half of the tax credit to families through monthly payments from July through December of 2021. To receive the other half of their payments, taxpayers must file a tax return.

Some taxpayers who have qualifying children didn’t receive advance payments in 2021 (ex: because they welcomed a new baby in 2021, haven’t filed taxes before, etc). These taxpayers will get their full credit by filing their tax returns.

The website’s new features include a tool that directs taxpayers to the best free filing options based on answers to a handful of simple questions. These options include both virtual and in-person support in multiple languages. It also features clearly written, reliable information about the CTC, eligibility, and how to get the credit.

### **DHS Warns State and Local Governments of Potential Cyberattacks**

The Department of Homeland Security issued a bulletin warning that Russia could launch a cyberattack against U.S. targets on American soil if it believes Washington’s response to its potential invasion of Ukraine threatens its long-term national security. DHS sent the memo to U.S. critical infrastructure operators and state and local governments around the country, warning that “Russia

maintains a range of offensive cyber tools that it could employ against U.S. networks”. State and local governments can find cybersecurity resources to help secure their networks from cyberattacks at <https://www.cisa.gov/>.

### **White House Restarts Cancer Moonshot**

The [White House announced](#) it is taking major steps to unite industry, academia, health systems, and a whole of government to reduce tackle cancer. The President called the announcement, “a **call to action on cancer screening** to jumpstart progress on screenings that were missed as a result of the pandemic, and help ensure that everyone in the United States equitably benefits from the tools we have to prevent, detect, and diagnose cancer.”

If you or your staff have any questions or require additional information on any of the items in this bulletin, please contact Peter DeMarco at 714-834-5777.

# 2022 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

To meet the needs of our residents and ensure the health and stability of our communities, the County of Orange strives to strengthen the social safety net, while remaining fiscally prudent and accountable to taxpayers. As the sixth most densely populated county in the nation, the County is responsible for implementing a variety of state, federal, and local programs for a diverse population. Accordingly, the County has identified the following state policy priorities for 2022.

### Mental Health & Recovery Services

Orange County will continue efforts to protect County allocations and advocate for increased funding for mental health and recovery services. Flexible funding and resources that improve cross-sector service coordination and advance key County initiatives, including the Be Well behavioral health campuses, are critical to building a responsive continuum of care for people experiencing substance use, trauma, or other mental health crises.

### Homelessness & Housing

Orange County has used state and federal funding to prevent homelessness and house our homeless population. The County will continue to advocate for ongoing additional funding and resource flexibility to provide short and long-term housing stability, as well as address the complex needs of vulnerable populations that include veterans and transitional-aged youth, among others.

### OC CARES / Criminal Justice

The County will continue ongoing efforts to strengthen linkages between the County criminal justice system and various systems of care that provide services to inmates and at-risk individuals to increase self-sufficiency, facilitate successful reentry into the community, and reduce recidivism. Consistent with the County's OC CARES initiative, the County will advocate for increased funding and resources to support diversion and reentry, enhance mental health and substance use programs for youth and adults, and ensure continuity in treatment. The County will also advocate for resources to successfully implement state initiatives, such as Division of Juvenile Justice Realignment.

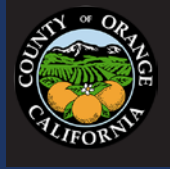
### Veterans Cemetery

Orange County has allocated over 200 acres of county-owned land located at Gypsum Canyon in Anaheim to the Orange County Cemetery District, laying the groundwork for a public cemetery inclusive of a portion dedicated to veterans. In 2021, the County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved allocating \$20 million exclusively for the development of the veterans portion of the cemetery at Gypsum Canyon, which is formally supported by a coalition of veterans organizations, state and federal delegation members, and all 34 cities in the County. The County will pursue legislation to amend the California Military & Veterans Code to acquire, study, design, develop, construct, and equip a state-owned and operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in Orange County.

### Health & Social Services

The County will advocate for increased resources and funding to improve health outcomes and access to services; strengthen social services including, among others, increased access to high-quality, affordable early care and education programs and childcare services; successfully implement state initiatives, such as CalAIM and the Master Plan for Aging; and improve system integration and service delivery while mitigating administrative burdens and negative workforce and revenue impacts. The County will also support increased investments in public health workforce and infrastructure to improve health equity across the County and effectively respond to the ongoing pandemic and other health emergencies.

# 2022 COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

As the sixth most densely populated county in the nation, Orange County is responsible for implementing a variety of state, federal and local programs to meet the needs of a diverse population. To ensure the health and stability of our residents and communities, the County strives to strengthen the social safety net, while remaining fiscally prudent and accountable to taxpayers. Accordingly, the County has identified the following federal policy priorities for 2022.

### Mental Health & Recovery Services

Orange County will continue efforts to protect County allocations and advocate for increased funding for mental health and recovery services. Flexible funding and resources that improve cross-sector service coordination and advance key County initiatives, including the Be Well behavioral health campuses, are critical to building a responsive continuum of care for people experiencing substance use, trauma or other mental health crises.

### Homelessness & Housing

The County has endeavored to comprehensively prevent and address homelessness, while working with limited funding. The County will seek increased federal appropriations for key housing and homeless assistance grant programs and advocate for legislative initiatives that authorize funding for comprehensive services and care coordination, including housing stabilization services funding paired with housing subsidies. The County will also support increased funding for federal programs, including but not limited to, the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Community Development Block Grant Program, and Emergency Solutions Grants; and advocate for increased resources to meet the increasing demand for disability compensation, health care related claims, and the housing needs of its growing veteran population.

### OC CARES / Criminal Justice

The County will continue ongoing efforts to strengthen linkages between the County criminal justice system and various systems of care that provide services to inmates and at-risk individuals to increase self-sufficiency, facilitate successful reentry into the community, and reduce recidivism. Consistent with the County's OC CARES initiative, the County will advocate for increased funding and resources to support diversion and reentry, enhance mental health and substance use programs for youth and adults, and ensure continuity in treatment. The County will also advocate for adequate resources to successfully implement state and federal criminal justice reforms.

### Infrastructure Funding

Orange County will advocate for spending plans, grant criteria, and funding formulas that will maximize the County's capture of infrastructure funding and promote investment in County projects, including the Santa Ana River Mainstem and Westminster-East Garden Grove Flood Risk Management Projects. The County will also advocate for ongoing funding and resources to support sustainability and resiliency efforts and strengthen the infrastructure in place to effectively prepare, mitigate, and respond to disasters and emergencies.

### Homeland Security & Public Safety Funding

Orange County will advocate for continued and/or increased federal funding for critical public safety programs, including the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center, the Urban Area Security Initiative, and the State Homeland Security Grant Program. The County will also support measures that promote and advance federal, state, and local partnerships to provide evidence-based treatment services to those in custody with mental illness and substance use disorders.