



COUNTY OF LAKE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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2026 County of Lake State Legislative Priorities

Pursuant to the County of Lake's longstanding commitment to maintaining a high quality of life for all while creating a favorable environment for business, the County government will maintain a consistent presence in Sacramento. The County will ensure its perspective is represented in the State policy process and will pursue policies that improve its ability to serve its residents.

In general, the County will support policies that increase local decision-making authority and provide increased resources to deliver State and local programs. The County will generally oppose policies that limit local governing authority or reduce county resources.

The County will prioritize the following issues in 2026:

- **Preserve and Pursue Funding for Health and Social Services Programs**
H.R. 1 made sweeping changes to Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and SNAP by reducing benefits, eliminating eligibility for some populations, shifting costs to states and counties, and increasing county administrative responsibilities. It will also indirectly increase the burden on local service providers such as food banks, clinics, and hospitals.

Lake County will co-advocate with the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA), Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), and other partners (where aligned) to support policies that provide State funding to cover the County share of new costs and cost shares, backfill services for non-eligible populations that would otherwise be the County's responsibility, and pay for newly required eligibility services.

The County will also support bills and budget proposals that ease the administrative burden on counties, allow use of innovative technologies to improve services and reduce time spent per case, and help decrease federal penalties on Counties, for instance by improving error rates.

Of particular import are ensuring statistically sound and equitable cost-sharing methodologies for CalFresh administrative funding, streamlining and aligning CalFresh Work Requirements and reporting, and promoting State-level solutions for In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Provider Pay. Ensuring healthcare workforce pathways are flexible and hospitals and essential health services are stabilized is likewise crucial to meeting healthcare needs in rural Lake County, and ensuring public health capacity is preserved and increased, where possible. Maintaining flexibility of Mental and Behavioral Health and supportive housing funding, simplifying documentation requirements, and ensuring availability of facilities providing a higher level of care for

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those with serious mental and behavioral health conditions are likewise critical. Mobile Crisis services must likewise be maintained as a statewide (State-funded) Medi-Cal benefit; failure to do this will result in increased law enforcement contact and justice system involvement by vulnerable individuals.

Federal defunding burdens cannot sustainably be passed along to Counties; absent new revenue, detrimental decreases to Health and Human Services will occur. Priorities listed here are examples, only, and our Board supports State funding for maintenance and expansion (where resources permit) of effective health and human services.

- **Emergency/Disaster Response and Preparedness and Environmental Resilience**
 - **Robin Lane Sewage Release.** Pursue funding to provide meaningful support for affected property owners and implement immediate and long-term solutions.
 - **Property Insurance.** Support efforts to ensure the availability of property insurance. Pricing models and cancellation decisions should be transparent and acknowledge home- and community-hardening.
 - **Wildfire Resilience.** Support policies that increase wildfire preparedness, including implementation of 2023 Community Wildfire Protection and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans and water for fire suppression, in collaboration with local and State-level agencies and Fire Protection Districts, where appropriate.
 - **Tree Mortality and Hazardous Vegetation Removal.** Pursue funding and policy changes to mitigate the risk to County roadways and evacuation routes posed by dead and dying trees. Coordinate with State and Federal agencies and public utilities to ensure hazardous vegetation is appropriately managed.
 - **Flood Risk Reduction.** Support policies that reduce the risks of floods, including funding for projects that safeguard Lake County residents and their property.
- **Funding for Resources and Infrastructure.** Pursue direct funding and project eligibility for funds made available through Proposition 4 and the state's Cap-and-Trade program, as well as increased funding from State Sources for the County's roadways that acknowledge Pavement Condition Index. Support efforts to reform road user charges to fairly distribute costs between electric and internal combustion vehicles. Likewise, urgently pursue funding to support upgrades to water and wastewater infrastructure, and policies that deliver quality infrastructure and water availability and reliability at the lowest possible level of cost. Social Infrastructure and community resources are likewise a priority of this Board, including, but not limited to, co-advocacy for California Library Services Act funding and shared priorities of the California Library Association and NorthNet Library System and funding to support Lake County's extraordinary Parks.
- **Housing Resources for Suburban and Rural Areas.** Support efforts to provide new housing at all income levels. Pursue policy changes to State and Federal funding programs and tax credits to ensure the County and its residents can benefit from them. Communicate with our State Legislative Delegation surrounding housing-related laws that are not suitable to rural Counties, and may frustrate maintenance of adequate housing quality and supply.

- **Water Reliability.** Support efforts to ensure sufficient groundwater and surface water quality and availability for all beneficial uses, including agriculture, municipal, and environmental purposes, while safeguarding natural, cultural, and economic resources. Dependable funding for compliance with the Big Valley Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan (a Medium Priority Basin) and Invasive Mussel programs are enduring needs that require State support.
- **Lake Pillsbury.** Advocate for a deliberative and inclusive process to decide the fate of Scott Dam and the Lake Pillsbury area, representing the interests of the County and its residents, including those whose lives and property will be directly affected.
- **Homelessness.** Support funding assistance and policies that better enable the County to shelter and connect unhoused residents with wraparound services.
- **Economic Development.** Support State policies that enhance the County's efforts to create a favorable environment for business, including increased recreation and hospitality, broadband availability, waste woody biomass utilization, geothermal, and other energy projects, while ensuring appropriate protections for Clear Lake and other sensitive resources.
- **Protecting Lake County Agriculture.** Adequate State support for the work of Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers of Weights and Measures Statewide is critical to both environmental and economic resiliency, including funding for Invasive Species and Weed Management.
- **Public Safety.** The County will support policies and funding proposals that enhance the County's ability to respond to crime, provide services to victims of crime, and deliver programs that reduce recidivism. This includes resources to fully implement the provisions of Proposition 36 (2024).