

Humboldt County



2024 Legislative Platform

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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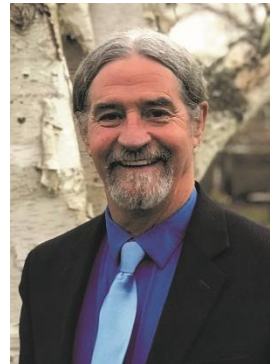
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HUMBOLDT COUNTY

LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS

<p>Governor Gavin Newsom (D) Governor of California State Capitol Building Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-445-2841</p>	<p>Website: gov.ca.gov 124 Hall of States 444 North Capitol Street NW Washington, D.C. 20001 Phone: 202-624-5270</p>
State Representatives	
State Senate	
<p>Senator Mike McGuire (D) State Senate District 2 1036 5th Street, Suite D Eureka, CA 95501 Phone: 707-445-6508</p>	<p>Website: http://sd02.senate.ca.gov State Capitol 1303 10th Street, Room 5061 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-651-4002</p>
State Assembly	
<p>Assemblymember Jim Wood (D) State Assembly District 2 1036 5th Street, Suite D Eureka, CA 95501 707-445-7014</p>	<p>Website: http://a02.asmdc.org State Capitol P.O. Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249 Phone: 916-319-2002</p>
Federal Representatives	
United States Senate	
<p>Senator Alex Padilla (D) United States Senate 501 I Street, Suite 7-800 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-448-2787</p>	<p>Website: www.padilla.senate.gov 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3553</p>
<p>Senator Laphonza Butler (D) United States Senate One Post Street, Suite 2450 San Francisco, CA 94104 Phone: 415-393-0707</p>	<p>Website: www.butler.senate.gov 112 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-3841</p>
United State House of Representatives	
<p>Congressman Jared Huffman (D) California's 2nd Congressional District 317 Third Street, Suite 1 Eureka, CA 95501 Phone: 707-407-3585</p>	<p>Website: www.huffman.house.gov 2445 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515-0501 Phone: 202-225-5161</p>

Contents

LEGISLATIVE GOALS	1
AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL RESOURCES	2
1. CANNABIS	2
2. AGRICULTURE	3
3. CLIMATE RESILIENCE	4
4. ENERGY	6
5. NATURAL RESOURCES	7
6. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT	7
7. FISH AND WILDLIFE	7
8. WATER	8
9. FOREST MANAGEMENT AND WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY	9
EMERGENCY SERVICES, DISASTER RESPONSE/PREPAREDNESS	9
1. FOREST, FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)	9
2. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, OPERATIONS AND RECOVERY	10
HOUSING, LAND USE, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION	10
1. HOUSING	10
2. LAND USE AND PLANNING	11
3. PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE	12
4. ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION	12
5. AVIATION	13
GENERAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY	14
1. BROADBAND, CYBERSECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	14
2. NATIVE AMERICAN AND TRIBAL NATIONS	15
3. TAXATION AND LOCAL REVENUES	15
4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	16
5. CHILDCARE	17
6. ELECTIONS	17
7. GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND SERVICES, GOVERNANCE	17
8. IMMIGRATION	18
9. VETERANS SERVICES	18
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	18
1. CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILIES	18
2. ADULTS	19
3. HOMELESS ASSISTANCE	19
4. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	20
5. PUBLIC HEALTH	20
6. ADMINISTRATION OF COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS	20
7. CHILD SUPPORT	21
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY	21
1. JUVENILE JUSTICE	21
2. PUBLIC SAFETY	21
3. INDIGENT DEFENSE, DIVERSION	22

LEGISLATIVE GOALS

Protect and preserve of the county's ability to fund local programs.

Oppose attempts to shift costs to counties.

Support legislation that advocates for maximum local control and flexibility in the allocation of resources and administration of county programs.

Seek or support efforts that advance climate resiliency programs and projects.

Seek or support continued and increased appropriations for public infrastructure projects.

Support efforts to increase production of housing.

Support legal cannabis cultivators.

Support increases in efforts related to social justice and effective policing.

Support relief from state and federal mandates and/or elimination of statutory barriers.

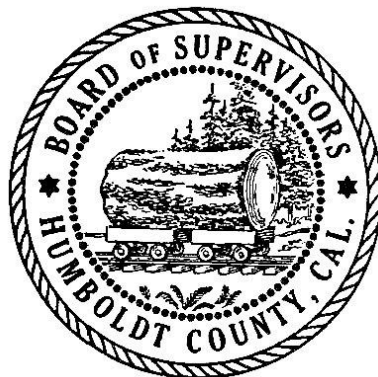
Support maintaining and increasing funding for key county programs.

Support efforts to bring modern services to rural communities.

Support and advance local interests in natural resource discussions.

Support efforts to provide services to vulnerable communities.

Support increasing state and federal partnership in county programs.



POLICY AREAS

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Cannabis

- a. **Direct sales**
Support efforts to allow direct sales by farmers Including, but not limited to, on-farm sales, cannabis event sales, and eventual direct shipping in interstate commerce modeled on the existing system for wine.
- b. **Insurance cancellation/spiking**
Oppose insurers cancelling homeowner insurance policies or spiking rates for on-site cannabis.
- c. **Water storage incentives**
Support exemptions on water storage improvements from property tax reassessments, and other tax policy that encourage the adoption of sustainable water practices.
- d. **Small cultivator support**
Ensure small cultivators can remain competitive in the marketplace.
- e. **Local control of cannabis**
Support retaining local control of cannabis, including the flexibility to adopt of new programs in full, to modify the program as they see fit, or to opt out of programs completely.
- f. **Government coordination**
Support requiring state and federal agencies to coordinate with local governments in cannabis enforcement efforts and land use decisions.
- g. **Enforcement of illegal water diversions**
Support funding for enforcement of Illegal water diversions.
- h. **On-site processing and testing**
Support efforts to allow on-site processing and testing on small, licensed farms.
- i. **Allocation of cannabis taxes**
Support non-competitive or direct allocation of state cannabis tax revenue for small and rural counties.
- j. **Early childhood support**
Support state cannabis tax revenue for youth and early childhood prevention efforts.
- k. **De-scheduling cannabis**
Support cannabis regulations at the federal level, including removing cannabis from Schedule 1 of the Controlled Substances Act. 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.

l. Federal protection for state-legal cannabis

Seek or support the continuation of legislation that prohibits the Department of Justice from using federal resources to prosecute individuals or businesses that are acting in compliance with state medical cannabis laws. The county also supports efforts to expand these protections to state-legal recreational laws.

m. Cannabis banking

Seek or support federal legislation that would ensure greater access to banking for cannabis-related businesses and allow proper medical research on the effects of cannabis use.

n. Fully fund county cannabis-related expenditures

Support allowing cannabis-related expenditures to be reportable expenses for the purpose of calculating Maintenance of Effort expenses for Unclaimed Gas Tax reimbursements to County Agricultural Commissioners.

o. Local Equity Program

- Support modifications to the state Local Equity Program to allow more individuals in Humboldt County to access funding from this program.
- Support lowering or eliminating match requirements and ensuring Humboldt County receives more funding through this program.

p. Timely payments

Ensure timely payment for legal businesses within the supply chain.

2. Agriculture

a. Invasive species program

Seek or support protecting existing revenue sources, enhanced state and federal funding and full cost recovery for programs to prevent the introduction and potential spread of invasive pests. Humboldt supports local flexibility in expenditures and research on invasive species pathways.

b. USDA/California County Wildlife Services Program

- Seek or support legislation or administrative rulemaking to allow farmers to take feral hogs without a depredation permit or hunting license when the hogs are damaging crops or agricultural infrastructure and supports wildlife management tools and/or methods that have proven effective.
- Seek or support collaborative efforts to fund and complete CEQA documentation for all Wildlife Services in California.
- Seek or support a 50:50 cost ratio for each respective county and the federal government, and distributing enhanced funding according to need.

c. Industrial hemp

- Oppose legislation creating local mandates or programs that do not provide 100% funding and resources for additional regulatory activities to be carried out by Agricultural Commissioners or Sealers.

- Humboldt County also opposes any legislative initiatives that impair or restrict local land use authority.
- d. **Marketplace equity and consumer protection**
 - Seek or support legislation that improves consumer confidence in labeling, weighing and measuring.
 - Support funding for metrology, quantify control, package inspection, and funding that preserves and enhances resources for weights and measures programs at the state and local level.
 - e. **State organic program (SOP)**
Seek or support legislation that strengthens the SOP and organic production.
 - f. **Allowing for safe and reusable compost from mammalian carcasses**
Seek or support legislation that removes hurdles to composting and land application of mammalian flesh.
 - g. **Invasive weed management funding, pesticide use**
 - Seek or support stable federal and state funding sources for Weed Management Areas and programs for the control of harmful non-native or invasive weed pests.
 - Humboldt County prioritizes manual (non-chemical) methods of invasive weed control both for the community-wide economic benefits derived through jobs created by this approach and as a reflection of the prevailing public concern over the use of pesticides.
 - h. **Funding for local pesticide enforcement activities**
 - Seek or support the provision of long-term stable funding for county pesticide regulatory activities.
 - Support efforts that maintain or increase funding through the pesticide mill fee that is sufficient for pesticide regulatory activities to protect the safety of workers, the public and the environment and provides funding for education, outreach and compliance assessment activities related to the safe use of pesticides.
 - i. **Funding for California fairs network**
Support efforts that provide funding for local fairs and the network of California Fairs.
 - j. **United States Postal Service (USPS) inspection authority**
Support statutory and/or rulemaking efforts to facilitate inspector access to First Class, Priority or Express mail packages containing plant material profiled by detector dogs.
 - k. **Williamson Act**
Seek or support legislative or budget proposals to fund the Land Conservation Act subventions to counties, one of the most effective tools in preventing the loss of farmland and open space, while also helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

3. Climate Resilience

Humboldt County is home to one of the world’s most significant ecosystems, with incredible capacity to sequester carbon, world class wind resources, and critical biodiversity. Now in jeopardy due to heat gain, fires, drought, sea level rise and other climate amplified threats, we must work quickly to mitigate and adapt our natural and human-made systems for community and climate resilience.

a. **Support For Climate Resilience**

- Seek or support investing funds from cap-and-trade and existing water bonds and other funding sources to support programs that improve climate resiliency, including funding for dedicated personnel.
- Support state and federal investment in the collaborative process, including regional intergovernmental planning and knowledge transfer, via regional block grants or other funding, required to implement effective on-the-ground efforts of local and Tribal governments and other organizations to improve climate resiliency.

b. **Sea level rise adaptation**

- Seek or support funding to counties, Tribal Nations and cities along the coast to design, test, develop, implement, monitor and adaptively manage sea level rise adaptation plans.
 - Funding should prioritize regional approaches that incentivize jurisdictions working together across common hydrographic areas to maximize the effectiveness of adaptation measures.
 - Funding should also prioritize nature-based solutions, multi-objective projects, and actions that benefit public infrastructure and economically disadvantaged communities.
- Support efforts to ensure planning endeavors use the best available science, that adaptation measures are planned and designed with landscape-scale understanding, and support a variety of approaches including, where appropriate, multiple lines of defense, natural features and/or built structures, flood accommodation, orderly transition to new land uses, or other community- or area-specific strategies. Plans must be able to span multiple ownerships, if necessary.
- Seek or support funding to the Great Redwood Trail Agency (or its successor agency) to maintain and repair its deteriorated and damaged assets along the Humboldt Bay shoreline to mitigate flood risks for Highway 101, the Humboldt Bay Trail, and inland areas.
 - The feasibility of improving railroad infrastructure to serve a coastal protection function for sea level rise adaptation should be assessed.
- Seek or support revisions to laws and regulations that modernize the regulatory framework to encourage and support sea level rise adaptation projects, such as providing flexibility with wetland fill policies, other policies to enable nature-based solutions, beneficial reuse of sediment and reasonable improvements to dikes and levees.
 - Requirements for technical studies, mitigation, monitoring, and maintenance should not be overly burdensome to avoid these requirements being a deterrent for urgently needed action.
- Seek or support funding where adaptation requires retreat or moving away from properties.

4. Energy

a. **Infrastructure and capacity to support energy, zero emissions goals**

- Seek or support investments in transmission, distribution and other infrastructure, necessary to attack climate change, convert to electrical power, install charging stations, and develop housing and other facilities.
- Seek and support investments in and efforts to provide the technical, physical and personnel infrastructure needed in rural areas and Tribal regions to reduce carbon emissions, including strengthening federal, state and local capacity for carbon analysis and accounting, and emissions reduction strategies to support climate resilient planning and decision-making.

b. **Renewable energy research and review**

Seek or support legislation that: encourages research and analysis of renewable energy projects; streamlines and eases environmental review processes on the North Coast; increases investment in critical infrastructure, including the Port of Humboldt Bay and the regional electric grid; allows partner involvement; and supports the development of renewable energy.

c. **Offshore Wind (OSW)**

- Seek or support efforts to develop OSW collaboratively with local partners, to mitigate impacts of development, and to provide compensation and support regarding unavoidable impacts.
- Support efforts to improve energy reliability for Humboldt County communities, increase regional capacity, engagement and planning around OSW, provide community benefits, increase local workforce and supply chain development, investment in necessary infrastructure, including housing, port development and infrastructure, transmission, roads, health care, childcare, and efforts to ensure development benefits Tribal and underrepresented communities.
- Support efforts to provide ongoing benefits, including revenue sharing and lower energy prices for local communities hosting offshore wind operations.
 - Where possible, rate reductions should be designed to promote efficiency and resiliency efforts.
- Support procurement solicitation criteria that clearly outlines the need for investments into local communities impacted by offshore wind.
- Support funding for transmission research and planning processes, with emphasis on local public participation and local engagement. Support for transmission to serve and/or benefit local communities, including underserved communities and Tribal Nations.

d. **Funding for energy conservation and renewable energy generation projects**

- Seek or support legislation that would accelerate the development of renewable energy resources including price supports, grant funding and utility policy that facilitates export of renewable energy generated from the county.
- Support incentives and policies to promote residential and commercial energy conservation, including Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing.

e. **Support Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs**

- Seek or support strong national consumer protection standards for the program, which could be modeled after California’s laws.
- Humboldt County also supports the right to implement PACE programs and establish property assessment liens for energy conservation and renewable energy investments.
- Finally, the county supports legislation that would prevent Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and other federal residential and commercial mortgage lending regulators from adopting policies that contravene established state and local PACE laws.

5. Natural Resources

a. **Long-term funding for natural resource affairs**

- Seek or support efforts that provide stable funding for long-term engagement, administration and capacity development of natural resources affairs in Humboldt.
- Seek or support legislation that adequately funds operations of national parks such as the King Range and Six Rivers National Park, which form an essential component of Humboldt’s tourism industry.

b. **Land stewardship incentives**

- Support legislation that creates land stewardship standards that align with public trust practices, and provides incentives, such as tax or streamlined permitting, for those who meet them.

6. Solid Waste Management

a. **Account for rural considerations in food waste collection requirements**

The county supports legislation on food waste collection requirements that are appropriate for rural areas.

b. **California redemption value recycling**

- The county supports legislation that enables comprehensive reform of the CRV Redemption Program. Such reform should: include beverage manufactures as Extended Producer Responsibility; set standard deposit fee regardless of container size, and; incorporates provisions for communities that have curbside recycling programs to ensure equitable payments to recycling centers and material recovery facility sort lines.
- The county supports legislation that enables the development of North American markets for all recyclable materials.

7. Fish and Wildlife

a. **Fishery closures**

- Support efforts to engage local communities with sufficient timing prior to proposing closing active fisheries.

- Support efforts to improve data collection of recreational fisheries.
- Support efforts to implement and sustain regional information sharing of recreational fishing data, such as the Regional Fisheries Information Network (RecFIN).

8. Water

a. Incentives for water storage

- Support legislation that incentivizes responsible water storage systems for existing construction.

b. Potter Valley Project (PVP)

Regarding PG&E's proposal on a framework for continued discussions with a wide range of partners to develop the content and terms of a potential License Surrender Agreement and Water Diversion Agreement, the Board of Supervisors has adopted principles for the regional proposal as follows:

- The preferred position of Humboldt County is that Eel River water should stay within the Eel River watershed.
- If water continues to be diverted out of the Eel River Basin into the Russian River Basin, (1) water diversions must be limited to the wet season and the amount and timing of diversions must be consistent with restoration of Eel River fisheries; and (2) an Eel River Restoration Fund must be established and supported in part by ongoing financial charges on water diversions. The Eel River Restoration Fund will need to be funded at a robust level that accounts for continued impacts and supports ecological recovery from historic impacts.
- Humboldt County will continue to join proponents of the proposal in negotiating a fair and equitable outcome to fully implement the co-equal goals contingent upon no delay in PG&E's timeline for dam removal. Humboldt County will remain committed to protecting the health and resilience of the Eel River and the interests of people and communities connected to the Eel River.

c. Klamath Basin

- Humboldt County supports efforts to ensure dam removal and ensuing river restoration efforts include robust long-term monitoring funding.
- The county supports efforts to allow continued collaboration with partners, including tribes and environmental groups, as well as legislative and regulatory efforts to ensure restoration will benefit Klamath River fisheries, provide economic stability for affected agricultural interests, and improve the overall ecosystem health of the Klamath River basin.
- Humboldt County opposes any congressional – or legal – effort designed to block access to water that legally belongs to the county and/or local Tribes.
- Oppose any water diversions from the Trinity River Division associated with operational changes to the Central Valley Project or State Water Project.

d. Water Resources

- Seek or support federal initiatives designed to help communities develop more resilient water infrastructure, expand the use of modern water management tools

and technologies, and assist disadvantaged areas in meeting their water needs. Federal efforts should focus on helping regions better achieve water self-sufficiency through recycling, storage, desalination, and water-use efficiency measures.

e. **California Water Resilience Portfolio initiative**

- Seek or support efforts to adopt Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) as the principal framework for implementing the Water Resilience Portfolio, which will implement actions to ensure safe and dependable water supplies, flood protection and healthy waterways for the state’s communities, economy and environment.
- Seek or support funding for regional, multi-benefit planning and projects.
- The county supports working with the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) and other partners to address needs.

9. Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention and Safety

a. **Funding for fuels reduction**

Seek or support legislation to increase funding for fuels reduction in rural areas. Long-term block grants are ideal as long-term funding will help build the workforce.

b. **Fire prevention and home hardening**

- Seek strategic policy changes that balance fire prevention, habitat protection, and rural economic development.
- Support legislation, including and similar to AB 38, the Home Hardening bill. We encourage the state to invest in efforts to prepare homes and infrastructure to withstand damage from wildfire, meet defensible space standards, design communities to mitigate impacts of wildfire, prepare communities for successful evacuation, reduce wildfire ignitions, establish roadside shaded fuel breaks, and educate citizens about how to prepare families, home, and communities for wildfire.

c. **Enhancing existing firebreaks**

Seek or support additional funding for fire prevention efforts near roads, trails, transmission lines and other areas that could or do serve as already existing firebreaks.

d. **Building in wildland interface**

Seek or support legislation that promotes planning for fire safety and environmental considerations regarding development in the wildland interface.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, DISASTER RESPONSE/PREPAREDNESS

1. Forest, Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

a. **Rural Fire, first responder EMS, and ambulance providers that respond to incidents on state highways**

- The county supports legislation that addresses the state’s responsibility for EMS/rescue response on state highways as a public safety priority.

- Furthermore, the county supports legislation that provides funding and resources to sustain rural fire, first responder EMS, and ambulance providers that respond to incidents on state highways on behalf of the state.
- b. **Sustainability of local and volunteer fire agencies**
Seek or support efforts to support the survival and sustainability of local fire service organizations and agencies as well as the retention of volunteer firefighters.
- c. **Taxation of commercial forest lands**
Seek or support legislation that amends California law to either (1) remove the exclusion of commercial forest lands that are timbered from Fire Protection District Law; or (2) provide clear criteria specifying the limitations on including such lands, similar to those found in Section 25210.7 of County Service Area Law.
- d. **Wildfire response and assistance to communities impacted by wildfires**
Seek or support legislation that would increase wildfire preparedness and post-fire response, including efforts to provide enhanced federal assistance to communities that have been impacted by wildfires.

2. Emergency Preparedness, Operations and Recovery

- a. **Emergency and disaster preparedness assistance, funding for emergency operations centers**
 - Seek or support additional funding for emergency planning, preparations, operations and recovery, including addressing the safety of residents and seniors and those with disabilities.
 - The county supports additional funding for emergency response facilities.
- b. **Lower thresholds for providing recovery funding**
Support legislation that lowers the threshold of damages a rural community must sustain to receive funding to recover from disasters or emergencies.
- c. **Human services funding for emergency response**
Support legislation that improves county human service response to emergencies and natural disasters.

HOUSING, LAND USE, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION

1. Housing

- a. **Housing and RHNA allocations**
 - Seek or support efforts that would increase affordable housing partnering with cities and in areas near employment, services and public transit.
 - The county also supports regulatory exemptions for truly rural areas as a location for very low- and low-income housing.

- Oppose the idea that RHNA goals should require provision of housing at a growth rate which exceeds the population growth rate.
 - Seek or support legislation that gives rural counties flexibility in meeting RHNA allocations.
 - Seek or support legislation that provides rural counties with assistance for affordable housing, including new tools to incentivize developers to construct housing in the more rural areas.
 - Support efforts to ensure alignment and coordination between housing agencies.
 - Seek or support efforts to ensure projects are consistent with the county's housing element and fully entitled prior to being awarded state or federal housing funding.
 - Support efforts to streamline local governments' ability to establish regional housing financing approaches.
- b. **Grant funding for infill development**
 Strongly seek or support legislation that would provide grant funding from the California Department of Housing and Community Development for infill development incentives in Housing Opportunity Zones.
- c. **Provide maximum Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding**
- Seek or support the maximum level of funding for the CDBG program.
 - In addition, the county supports allowing permanent housing to be considered an eligible activity for the program and increased operational flexibilities.
- d. **Increase funding for the HOME Program**
 Seek or support efforts that would increase funding for the HOME Program.
- e. **Allowing workforce-specific affordable housing**
 Support efforts to allow employer or public investment to create affordable housing for specific types of workers, including healthcare, those necessary to support offshore wind, public employees and those in other sectors.

2. Land Use and Planning

- a. **Funding for assistance on Local Coastal Plans (LCP)**
 Seek or support additional funding to the Coastal Commission to help assist local jurisdictions creating and updating their LCPs.
- b. **Funding for discrepancies between state and federal building codes**
 Seek or support funding and legislation to mediate the discrepancies between state and federal building requirements, particularly with respect to public projects.
- c. **Develop legislation, bond grant guidelines that include Brownfield remediation**
 Seeks or strongly supports legislation and developing bond grant guidelines that include Brownfield Remediation and/or additional funding to expand the program and provide greater incentives to property owners to cleanup and redevelop Brownfield properties.
- d. **Historic preservation, façade improvement and beautification**
 Seek or support increased funding for rural communities to improve the physical appearance and function of structures.

3. Public Works and Infrastructure

a. Surveyor monument preservation

The county supports legislation that would remove the exemption from the survey monument fee in Government Code Section 27585.

b. Redwood Creek multi-benefit estuary restoration and flood control project

- Seek or support the allocation of funds for planning, design, and construction for flood protection, ecosystem restoration and endangered species recovery in the Redwood Creek levee system.
- Support legislation or administrative action to release Prop 84 (Flood Control, Natural Resources and Parks Bond Act) or other state funding to be used for rehabilitation, repairs, and maintenance to the Redwood Creek levee system near Orick.

c. Funding for rural water supply and wastewater projects

Seek or support small community grant applications designed to fund and support key water and wastewater projects. The county also supports technical and other assistance for rural communities to administer this funding.

d. Funding for nuclear storage

Support increased funding for dealing with nuclear waste from shutdown reactors.

4. Roads and Transportation

a. Funding for roads and maintenance

- Support a set-aside in the Cap-and-Trade funding for eligible transportation system improvements, including multi-modal and transit improvements.
- Support a funding set-aside for preventative maintenance of road systems for all local governments.
- Support legislation that allows all counties on the State Controller's MOE list to be eligible for the self-help component of SB 1.

b. Road User Charge

- Engage in state and federal road charge pilot programs including efforts where all levels of county government can participate in policy development.
- Begin to develop and explore locally controlled road charge alternatives.
- Support legislation that is locally controlled, locally equitable, and at minimum, maintains current road maintenance and operations funding levels.

c. Local rehabilitation project eligibility for State and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (STIP and RTIP) funding

The county supports legislation that would state that local road rehabilitation projects are eligible for STIP and RTIP funds.

d. Road safety

- Due to current safety concerns, the County of Humboldt seeks to maintain increased safety enforcement through the segment of State Highway Route 101 between the Eureka Slough Bridge and the Gannon Slough Bridge.

- Support road safety improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists on US Highway 101, including along Broadway and 4th and 5th Streets through Eureka.
- e. **Humboldt Bay transportation infrastructure**
The county supports state legislation to facilitate increased multi-modal freight and cargo handling capacity at the Port of Humboldt Bay, including Samoa Industrial Waterfront Transportation Access Plan funding by the State of California and expedited environmental review by Humboldt County and the Coastal Commission.
- f. **Dredging Humboldt Bay and marina**
- Seek or support legislation and funding in favor of sufficient funding to US Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the mouth of the bay at the 48-foot depth and federal channels within the bay at 42-foot depth.
 - Seek or support consistent regulations, streamlined processes, and increased funding related to marina dredging and maintenance, including those related to sensitive species, prevent local governments from dredging the marina more consistently.
- g. **Federal transportation funding**
Seek or support opportunities to compete for new federal discretionary grant program funding authorized under the IJJA.
- h. **Reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools**
- Seek or support a long-term funding solution for the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program, including alternate models that provide stable funding for counties.
 - In the absence of a long-term agreement, the county supports a short-term program extension for reauthorization of secure rural schools.
 - As part of a long-term reauthorization bill, the county supports re-establishing active management of the nation’s forests, promoting responsible timber production on Forest Service commercial timber land, and revising Title III of the Act to allow fire protection funds to be spent as flexibly as possible, as funds are currently limited to fire protection activities on federal lands, severely restricting fire departments from containing fires adjacent to federal land.
- i. **Complete streets**
- The county supports legislation which provides additional funding for active transportation and transit facilities, and legislation which prioritizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit facilities as part of road maintenance, repair and improvement projects funded by state and federal dollars.
 - The county also supports updates to applicable state and federal guidelines, rules and regulations to provide more emphasis on non-vehicular facilities.

5. Aviation

- a. **Assistance with recruitment of air service**
- Seek or support the state developing a match program to pay for the local share of the Small Community Air Service Grant.
 - Seek or support additional funding to recruit air service to rural airports.
- b. **Increase California Aid to Airports Program (CAAP) funding**

Seek or support legislation that increases funding for CAAP. Going forward, this funding should be tied to inflation.

c. **Remove cap on Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) and reduce local matching requirement**

- Seek or support legislative efforts that would remove the federal cap on PFCs in order to allow the county to collect sufficient revenue from airport users to better fund critically needed infrastructure and safety improvement projects.
- Seek or support the maximum level of funding for key aviation programs, including the Airport Improvement Program and the Small Community Air Services Development Program (SCASDP), and reduction to or elimination of local match requirement.

d. **Homeland Security – Full funding of security mandates for commercial airports**

Seek or support funding to cover the costs of providing mandated security at the California Redwood Coast – Humboldt County Airport.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. Broadband, Cybersecurity and Telecommunications

a. **Expanding use for existing broadband and utility lines**

Seek or support legislation that would allow access to already-laid telecommunications and utility lines.

b. **Rural broadband and net neutrality**

- Seek or support legislation that provides resources to improve rural counties access to high-speed broadband.
- The county also supports legislation that protects access to broadband service.

c. **Funding for broadband service to rural areas**

- Seek or supports legislation to provide funding or business incentives to assist companies in bringing broadband service to unserved and underserved areas.
- Seek or support continued implementation of, and access to the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law’s Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, which provides billions of dollars to the State of California for broadband service deployment to unserved and underserved areas.

d. **Telecommunications, broadband deployment and accessibility while preserving local zoning authority**

- Support efforts to recognize counties as co-regulators, providers and partners in extending the benefits of advanced telecommunications and broadband technology, including improvements to county emergency preparedness and response systems, to all residents.
- Support local decision-making authority and accountability.

- Oppose actions that preempt or limit zoning, siting authority of local governments.
 - Seek or support legislative efforts that would nullify the Federal Communication Commission’s 2018 wireless infrastructure rule (*83 Fed Reg. 51867*).
 - Seek or support the deployment and availability of emerging technologies, such as small cell 5G, to rural areas of the nation to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all.
- e. **Telecommunication services for rural areas**
Support efforts to ensure residents of Humboldt County have access to affordable, reliable telecommunications services.

2. Native American and Tribal Nations

- a. **Mitigation of impacts from tribal gaming compacts**
- Seek or support legislation which would increase funding to mitigate impacts from Tribal Gaming Compacts.
 - If the state renegotiates contracts with Native American tribes, the county supports legislation which would allow more county and local government involvement to address environmental, social, and planning concerns of the local community.
- b. **Funding for Tribal Liaison**
Support funding for tribal liaison function within local governments, especially in rural areas with large Tribal presence.

3. Taxation and local revenues

- a. **Funding for abandoned vehicles, and increase to Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Fee**
Seek or support efforts to increase resources directed towards abandoned vehicles.
- b. **Vacation rentals and transient occupancy tax collection**
- Seek or support legislation and planning to mitigate the effects of short-term vacation rentals on existing housing stock and housing availability, particularly housing affordable to lower income groups.
 - Seek or support legislation that requires online vacation rental and home sharing sites to collect and share vacation rental information with local municipalities; collect TOT on behalf of California municipalities; and allow for the audit of their users.
- c. **Restoration of property tax administration program**
Support restoration of the Property Tax Administration program which would re-establish and restore funding for the state’s share of property tax administration costs.
- d. **Funding for newly formed cities**
Seek or support allowing newly formed cities to receive a share of vehicle license fees aiming to restore options for future city incorporations, promoting civic engagement and enhancing local services and residents' quality of life.
- e. **Long-term funding solution for Payments In Lieu Of Taxes (PILT)**
- Supports efforts that would provide long-term funding certainty for the PILT program.

- In absence of a long-term authorization, the county supports a one-year extension of mandatory PILT funding.
- f. **Sales tax**
- Humboldt County is opposed to any legislative or regulatory action that seeks to delay, limit, or even prohibit the collection/remittance of online sales taxes and remittance to local jurisdictions.
 - Support efforts to direct sales taxes to rural communities, particularly Bradley Burns and Proposition 172.
- g. **Fulfill the provisions of the PILT act related to Fish & Wildlife property**
Seek or support legislative action that would fund the required payments to fulfill the provision of Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act related to Fish & Wildlife property.
- h. **State and Local Tax Deduction**
The county supports legislation that would fully restore the SALT deduction, and opposes any effort to further reduce or eliminate this tax benefit.
- i. **Protecting tax-exempt bonds**
Support efforts to protect the municipal bond and PAB tax exemption, as well as legislation that would restore the exemption for advance refunding bonds.
- j. **Vacancy tax**
Support state efforts to propose and/or implement a vacancy tax on vacant homes with funding directed toward affordable housing.

4. Economic Development

- a. **Planning and collaboration**
- Seek or support legislation and efforts aimed at enhancing regional collaboration.
 - Seek or support legislation that positively impacts the county's ability to engage in and implement economic development programs and policies.
- b. **Financing tools, districts**
Seek or support legislation that maintains and strengthens tax increment financing tools for communities.
- c. **Workforce training, administration**
- Support efforts that increase proper planning, administration and supervision of comprehensive local systems of workforce training and employment.
 - Seek or support additional workforce development programs throughout Humboldt County to expand opportunities to businesses and residents, including collaborations with small business development programs.
- d. **Business retention and growth**
- Seek or support the development and implementation of a statewide "proactive" California business retention strategy, led by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). The county supports partnerships with local economic development organizations.
 - Seek or support legislation that supports the private sector and the development of new or expanded businesses in communities.

- Seek or support legislation that incorporates renewable energy and preparedness in economic development efforts.

5. Childcare

a. Access and affordability

- Seek or support investment in childcare programs, childcare workforce development and childcare subsidies for essential workers, and measures to expand childcare affordability and access and an expanded eligibility standards for Head Start so that more Humboldt families can access the program.

b. Childcare workers

- Support efforts to increase pay, benefits and other supports for childcare workers.

6. Elections

a. Limit corporate and union contributions in elections

Support a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the ruling in *Citizens United* which allows corporations to use their funds to make election-related expenditures.

7. General Government and Services, Governance

a. Americans with Disabilities Act reforms

Support common-sense reforms and additional funding that would help local agencies and businesses work toward compliance with the ADA.

b. Separating superior court expenses from counties

Seek or support legislation that removes fiscal responsibility from the county for the Grand Jury, security and facility maintenance.

c. Public Records Act relief

Support legislative efforts that balance the public's right to access official records with the public benefit of onerous and time-consuming requests.

d. Teleconferencing for advisory bodies

Support legislation that would allow members of non-decision-making, advisory bodies of local governments to participate in meetings remotely.

e. Property owner insurance coverage

Support any combination of plans, programs, regulation, or legislation at the state and federal levels to mitigate loss of property insurance coverage. Coordinate with insurance companies, state agencies, homeowners, business owners and other partners to minimize the loss of insurance coverage and seek mutually beneficial conditions that would support wide availability of insurance at rates that are both competitive and risk based.

8. Immigration

- a. **Immigration reform, legal protections for immigrant residents and unaccompanied minors**
 - Seek or support legislative and budgetary efforts to enhance legal protections for undocumented immigrants, increase funding for legal services and deportation defense, and address unaccompanied children crossing the border, including increasing funds for immigration-related legal services, shelter and care.
 - In addition, the county supports efforts at the federal level to provide comprehensive immigration reform, as well as establishing a clear path to citizenship, protecting the well-being of undocumented workers, supporting deferred action programs and related efforts to make immigration relief available.
 - Finally, the county supports efforts to protect the health and welfare of children and children whose parents are detained or deported by Immigration and Customs enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol.
- b. **Protecting public safety funds**
 - Humboldt County opposes legislation and administrative rules that would require local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal immigration authorities.
 - Further, the county supports legislation that protects current and future federal funding from such requirements.

9. Veterans Services

- a. **Resources for county Veterans Services Offices**

Support legislation and budget resources for County Veterans Services Offices.
- b. **Funding for veterans' halls**

Support funding from housing bond or other mechanisms for veterans' halls, including funding to make these facilities more climate-resilient and disaster supporting.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Humboldt County supports legislative and regulatory actions that reduce poverty and promote the health and safety of the County's most vulnerable residents.

1. Children Youth and Families

- a. **Supporting children and families**

Support legislation to reduce child poverty, expand child tax credits and increase access to affordable, high-quality childcare and early childhood programs.

- b. **First 5 funding**
Support investment in sustaining First 5 Humboldt.
- c. **Helping families move out of poverty**
Support legislation that strengthens the CalWORKs program, subsidized childcare and employment opportunities.
- d. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Reauthorization**
Support increased federal investment in TANF and other safety net programs.
Support flexibility for states and counties in meeting TANF work participation rates.
- e. **Support food security**
Support efforts to protect and improve food security and augment investments in universal access to subsidized school meals, Food Banks, SNAP and WIC.
- f. **Support for Child Welfare Services**
Support legislation and resources to improve Child Welfare Services prevention and response.
- g. **Adverse Childhood Experiences**
Support increased funding to prevent and address the impacts of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), including screening, care coordination, home-visiting programs, trauma informed practices and health education programs that promote positive childhood experiences.

2. Adults

- a. **Protecting older and vulnerable adults**
 - Support efforts to strengthen programs that protect older and vulnerable adults including county Public Guardian, In-Home Supportive Services, Aging and Disability Resource Centers and Adult Protective Services.
 - Support Elder Justice Act reauthorization, increased ongoing investment in Adult Protective Services, full funding for the Older Americans Act, expanded Medicare coverage, resources to address Alzheimer's, legislation that supports the mental health needs of older adults and federal investment in services and supports for older adults and caregivers.
 - Oppose expanding conservatorships without new, dedicated funding.

3. Homeless Assistance

- a. **Housing and Homelessness**
 - Support legislation that addresses and meets the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.
 - Support increased, ongoing investment in building and maintaining subsidized housing, homeless prevention, housing supportive services and rent.

4. Behavioral Health

- a. **Fentanyl and Xylazine**
Support legislation to address illicit fentanyl, Xylazine and overdose prevention.
- b. **Nitrous Oxide**
Support legislation to reduce the availability of nitrous oxide products for illegal use.
- c. **Administration of Behavioral Health services**
Support legislation that improves counties' ability to administer Behavioral Health services.
- d. **Support for Mental Health and substance abuse disorder resources**
 - Support investment in mental health and substance use disorder workforce, training, facilities, prevention and treatment.
 - Support local direction of Mental Health Services Act funds and oppose new state mandates or higher levels of service that assume MHSA as the funding source.

5. Public Health

- a. **Rural health care services**
Support legislation that improves access to health care services in rural places.
- b. **Public Health infrastructure and prevention funding**
 - Support funding for public health prevention services and legislation that protects and promotes public health, including suicide and violence prevention, substance use disorder prevention, cannabis and tobacco use prevention, sexually transmitted and communicable disease prevention, oral health, and public health laboratory infrastructure.
 - Support legislation and increased funding for essential local public health responsibilities including workforce development, facilities, communicable disease response, and public health prevention and health equity activities.

6. Administration of County Health & Human Services Programs

- a. Support full state funding and cost-of-living increases for state programs operated by the county.
- b. Oppose budget cuts to health and human services programs.
- c. Oppose further realignment of state responsibility to counties without full, ongoing, constitutionally dedicated funding.
- d. Oppose diverting funding for realigned programs.
- e. Support legislative efforts to improve workforce opportunities in county careers and flexibility in the delivery of health and human services.
- f. Support state and federal investment in county facilities.

7. Child Support

a. **Access to Federal Tax Information (FTI) by the Child Support program**

The county supports legislation that would authorize tribal child support programs to have access to federal tax information either directly or through an agreement with a state child support agency; and modernizes the disclosure provisions in the Internal Revenue Code so all elements of federal taxpayer information that are provided to state, local, and tribal child support agencies may be shared with contractors of those agencies for the sole purposes of establishing and enforcing child support obligations.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE, PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Juvenile Justice

a. **Stable funding for juvenile justice**

- Seek or support legislation for continued and increased resources for juvenile justice programs in order to provide for stable and secure sources of funding.
- Seek or support legislation initiatives that prevent youth from entering the justice system, employing evidence-based strategies to minimize detention use.
- Seek or support strengthening probation services by a service-centered model, prioritizing crime survivors, and fostering collaboration across systems of care, Humboldt County aligns itself with the aim of connecting probation services with community needs.

b. **Support services for justice-involved youth**

- Seek or support legislation and budgetary efforts that increase re-entry planning and support services for justice-involved youth.

2. Public Safety

a. **Tribal officers as Peace Officers**

Seek or support legislation that allows tribal officers to serve as peace officers recognized by POST.

b. **Accountability, transparency and behavioral health services in law enforcement**

- Seek or support legislation and budgetary efforts that increase effective service delivery, oversight, accountability, and transparency in law enforcement. In addition, Humboldt County supports additional funding for programs that reduce systemic racism and unconscious bias.
- Seek or support practices that promote effective crime reduction and will also support legislation that improves service delivery, oversight, transparency and law enforcement accountability.

c. **Additional funding for court security**

Seek or support additional funding to counties for courthouse and trial court security.

d. **Justice and Public Safety Funding**

- Advocate for maximum program resources for other key federal justice and public safety programs that are administered through the U.S. Department of Justice, including the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, the Second Chance Act (SCA), the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

3. Indigent Defense, Diversion

a. **Funding for Mental Health Diversion Statute**

- Seek or support legislation that provides additional funding for the Public Defender to fulfill Assembly Bill 1810, also known as California's Mental Health Diversion Statute that's purpose of the statute is to divert individuals suffering from certain mental health disorders who have been charged with misdemeanor and felony offenses away from the criminal legal system (Penal Code §1001.35) to successfully divert clients from the criminal justice system, adequate resources must be allocated to the Public Defender's office to assist eligible clients in locating and receiving critical services such as mental health and drug/alcohol treatment.

b. **Funding For Indigent Legal Defense**

Seek or support legislation and budget appropriations sufficient to fulfill the obligations to provide effective representation to indigent people in the aims of the State of California's settlement agreement in *Phillips v. California*.