COLAB
San Luis Obispo County
The Coalition of Labor Agriculture and Business

Weekly Update
March 23 - 30, 2026

SLO Ag by the Numbers

California agriculture is facing growing challenges on many fronts. The cost of fuel, limited access to water for irrigation, increasing labor expenses, competition from foreign countries and unreasonable compliance overhead are all contributing factors in many cases, these challenges are becoming insurmountable for small family farms.

This is important because agriculture is a key component of the San Luis Obispo County economy. According to a report published in 2019 by Martin Settevendemie, SLO County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, San Luis Obispo agriculture contributes $2.54 billion to our local economy. However, that was the most recent comprehensive study of its kind. The ensuing seven years have brought new challenges, new interests in various crops as well as both expansion and reductions in ag land.

Item 4 on the March 24 San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors agenda reads: "Request to authorize a budget adjustment in the amount of $38,300 from the Unclaimed Gas Tax Interest Trust account to Fund Center (FC) 141-Agricultural Commissioner Special Dept. Expense account to purchase a Crop Report Plus agricultural economic analysis by 4/5th vote."

According to Crop Report Plus, “state law (Section 2279 of the California Food and Agriculture Code) requires every county to report the annual value of agriculture, but traditional crop reports capture only gross production values. These numbers, unfortunately, reflect only a portion of agriculture’s total value.

Policy makers and the public stand to benefit from deeper analysis of agriculture’s economic “value.” For example, how much employment does agriculture support? What is the economic value of local food processing? What economic ripples do agricultural production, processing, and employment create through economic multiplier effects? Where does agriculture rank in comparison to real estate, construction, health care, and other county industries?”

Without clear data, policy makers can only make their best guess when addressing an issue. Unfortunately, such guesses often miss the mark by a wide margin when it comes to something as specialized as agriculture.

The following graph comes from the 2019 Crop Report Plus. It is a summary of the findings.

FOR 2017, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AGRICULTURE:

...contributed a total of 2.54 billion to the local economy, including:

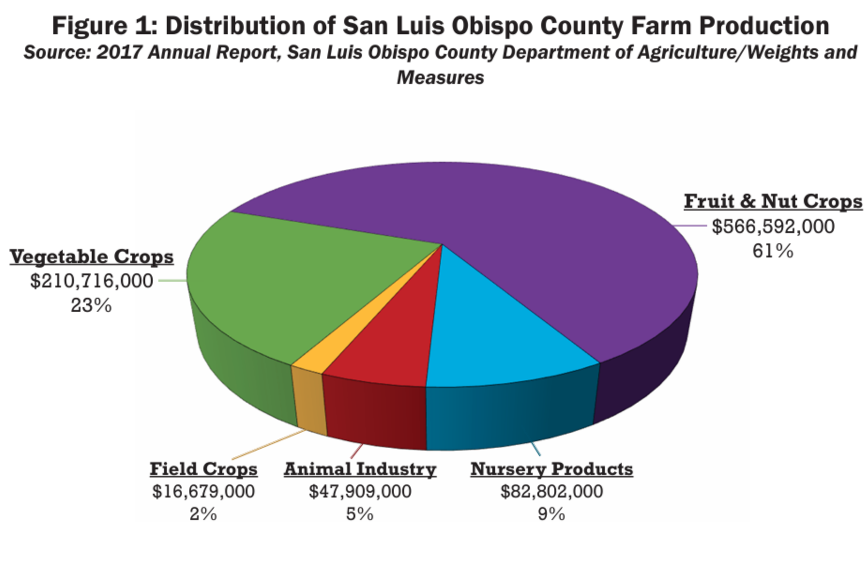
- 1.79 billion in direct economic output, representing 7.0% of the county’s total economic output.
- $758.4 million in additional economic output in the form of expenditures by agriculture companies and their employees
- This equates to just over $6.97 million per day.

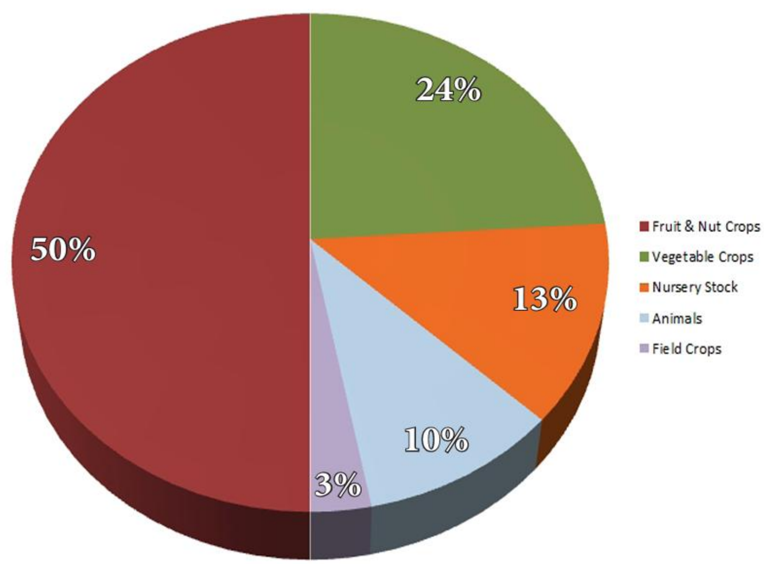
...provided 13,393 jobs, including:

- 10,651 direct employees, or about one out of every sixteen jobs in the county.
- 2,743 additional jobs attributable to expenditures by agriculture companies and their employees.

...had a medium level of resilience to economic shocks, as measured by its Shannon-Weaver Index of 0.52. Resilience has increased slightly since last checked in 2011.

The following two graphs are from the 2019 and the 2013 reports and are presented to illustrate the changes that occurred in that 7-year period:





Source: 2011 San Luis Obispo County Crop Report and IMPLAN

1. DISTRIBUTION OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY AGRICULTURE BY PRODUCTION VALUE - 2013

The last graph represents overall economic effects of SLO County agriculture in 2019:

TYPE OF EFFECT	DIRECT		INDIRECT		INDUCED		TOTAL	
FARM PRODUCTION SECTOR								
	2013	2019	2013	2019	2013	2019	2013	2019
OUTPUT EFFECT ($ MILLIONS)	$736	$900	$186	$191.5	$194	$233.1	$1,116	$1,324
EMPLOYMENT EFFECT (# JOBS)	12,276	8,196	1,908	750	1,681	780	15,864	9,726
LOCALLY SOURCED, VALUE-ADDED PROCESSING SECTOR								
OUTPUT EFFECT ($ MILLIONS)	$559	$886.2	$141	$212.2	$57	$121.7	$758	$1,220
EMPLOYMENT EFFECT (# JOBS)	3,343	2,454	941	748	497	465	4,781	3,667
TOTAL VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY								
OUTPUT EFFECT ($ MILLIONS)	$1,296	$1,786	$328	$403.6	$251	$354.8	$1,874	$2,544
EMPLOYMENT EFFECT (# JOBS)	15,619	10,651	2,849	1,498	2,178	1,245	20,645	13,393

With big changes, such as Paso Water Basin sustainability and the new fallow program coming into effect, having a clear picture of what is happening in this vital segment of our economy is critical. We encourage BoS members to be supportive.

Sales Tax Measures Progress

Agenda item 15 reads: Submittal of a resolution to approve the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) Final Transportation Expenditure Plan. We are hearing chatter that the SLOCOG plan may be struggling to win the 2/3rd general election votes necessary to pass. This news has led some to believe that the BoS will not vote to put it on the ballot because it would be a waste of resources for something that is doomed from the start.

SLOCOG's position is that they have not yet had the opportunity to do advocacy for the measure, and that they believe they can raise awareness and support.

In the meantime, a "citizen initiative" (formed because such a measure only requires a simple majority to pass) is underway. According to Garrett Olson, President/CEO of the San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce, organizers have already got 3,600 valid signatures towards the required 12,400 valid signatures that would qualify the measure for the November general election ballot.

The Chamber is one of the main sponsors of the citizen initiative.

The citizen effort has one more month to gather the remaining 8,800 valid signatures. This means that they will have had to get around 18,000 signatures in total to overcome those that are not valid.

The citizen effort has hired a consultant and a professional signature gathering firm. The cost per valid signature for this process is $14. According to Olson, the firm believes it is on track and will deliver the necessary number of valid signatures.

Both measures feature the same language and accomplish the same thing.

The SLOCOG measure is called "Local Roads First". The citizen initiative is called "Better Roads For All". For more details on the proposals, here are links to each:

LOCAL ROADS FIRST
SLO COUNTY & CITIES

Local Roads First | SLO County | San Luis Obispo County, CA, USA

About – SLO Better Roads

Being a "self-help" county has some very real advantages. Being at the top of the list for high sales taxes has some real disadvantages. If one of these sales tax measures is on the November General Election ballot, will local voters have enough faith in the system to invest more tax dollars, or will they say enough is enough?

Intelligently Regulating Artificial Intelligence

With artificial intelligence entering so many aspects of our life, it's really no surprise to find that it's also being used heavily in government. Item 18 on the BoS agenda reads: Request to approve the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Acceptable Use Policy.

While we're pleased to see county leadership attempting to keep the use of AI within reasonable parameters, we remain skeptical about how tightly the controls can be exercised.

According to the staff report, "The purpose of this policy is to define the scope in which Generative Artificial Intelligence ("AI") may be utilized by County of San Luis Obispo ("County") employees, contractors, volunteers and vendors ("County Workforce") to improve processes and enhance services to County residents, while ensuring compliance with existing laws, regulations, and policies."

Finding efficiencies, duplication and even governmental fraud are all useful tools that have come from AI. That said, AI can also be used as a cheat or crutch for individual policy makers incapable of sufficient original thought. When that happens, human perspective and common sense can be lost. What may seem logical to a machine processing data points could end up being entirely impractical or unfair.

Detection of the use of AI is very difficult. The natural question with such a policy is how will it be enforced?
According to the policy draft: "Any violation of this policy may be cause for discipline up to and including termination. County Workforce may use Generative AI only for the uses listed in Exhibit A, Approved AI Uses, and only if such use is consistent with the terms of this policy, including the legal and regulatory compliance requirements."

The following initial AI uses are approved, as long as a person checks and approves the results before they are shared, published, or used:

- Creating or editing emails, letters, reports, or other publications;
- Coding or debugging software;
- Mocking role-based conversations for training;
- Performing research;
- Outlining or summarizing information;
- Recording and transcription of meetings;
- Searching data and extracting information;
- Categorizing documents; and
- Automating processes.

The proposed policy covers a wide variety of regulated applications including: Accuracy and Verification, Confidential Information, Identification of Confidential Information, Secure AI Software, Reporting, Intellectual Property, Intellectual Property, Public Records Act Compliance, Compliance with Other Laws and Vendor and Contractor Compliance.

The final paragraph of the policy draft covers sanction for noncompliance. It reads: “County Workforce members are responsible for knowing and complying with the terms of this policy, including any amendments or additions to Exhibit A (Acceptable Uses) and Exhibit B (Department-Specific Confidential Information). Any violation of this policy may be cause for discipline up to and including termination.”

We commend county leadership for taking on the important but seemingly almost impossible task of controlling the use of AI within county government and are reminded of this quote by Stephen Hawking:

“Everything that civilization has to offer is a product of human intelligence; we cannot predict what we might achieve when this intelligence is magnified by the tools that AI may provide, but the eradication of war, disease, and poverty would be high on anyone's list. Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last”.

Get to Know Your Candidates

The June 2 Primary Election is about 10 weeks away. With the Governor race at the top of the ticket, we hope that voters will be motivated to actually turn out and participate. An even higher hope is that voters might pay a little attention and learn something about the candidates beyond the soundbites that make up campaign ads.

This is especially true for “downticket” races. Your vote is important to every candidate, but voters often stop after choosing their favorite statewide races. This means that local races are usually decided with a much smaller voter universe. It is not uncommon for local races to have just 15 or 20% of the voter participation that those at the top of the ticket get.

This is how local races are occasionally decided by single digit margins.

One of the best opportunities for gaining true insight about candidates is attending or watching a forum. In person forums are naturally the best because candidates usually hang around after, offering an opportunity for voters to meet them in person and ask follow up questions.

When attendance in person is not possible, many forums are now posting their program online. A good way to learn about forums is to follow candidates on their social media sites. Most will post announcements about forthcoming forums as well as other in-person activities.

Two forums are scheduled in the coming weeks.

San Luis Obispo County FARM BUREAU

The first is presented by the San Luis Obispo Farm Bureau. It is a Supervisor Candidate Forum which will be March 31 at 5:00 pm at Farm Bureau offices in San Luis Obispo. All four candidates will be there with a live audience. It will also live-stream the event. For more information, visit: [San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau - Home Page]

SAN LUIS OBISPO CHAMBER of COMMERCE

Another important race will be featured at a San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce forum. This event features candidates for the 30th Assembly District (currently held by Dawn Addis). Challenger Shannon Kessler is running a serious campaign that could bring about a big upset.

The District 30 Assembly Candidate Forum event will be held on Friday, April 17th at The Pavilion at SLO Ranch from 10am-11:30am. This event will likely have around 40 community members in attendance. This innovative forum features 5 minutes per candidate to open and introduce themselves to the whole group. Then candidates break into a more conversational format, where they will rotate to different tables and have about 15 minutes at each table to have an unscripted conversation and give the attendees an opportunity to ask the candidate questions. For more information, visit: Home | San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce

Even if you have decided who you support, it is good to go and support your candidate. It isn't easy stepping out into the public eye and discuss issues that can be controversial. It is very reassuring for the candidate to look out into the audience and see voters who have their back.

Dedicate a few hours over the next couple of months to get engaged, meet candidates and learn something new about how our community works.

We thank these and other organizations that sponsor such forums. It is an important community service.

We wish to thank in advance the nearly 600 COLAB supporters that will be attending the 17th annual fundraising dinner on Thursday, March 26. We promise all of you an exciting evening with great food, a fascinating speaker and an open bar. An important (and fun) part of the evening will be the raffle, the paddle raise and the spectacular live auction.

If you have forgotten to get your dinner tickets, give us a call at 805-548-0340. We will try to fit you in.

We wish to offer a very special note of appreciation to our event sponsors. You are the best – Thank You! Here is the list. Please let them know how fortunate we are to have their support:

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Last, but not least, we thank California Globe Editor in Chief and Investigative Reporter Extraordinaire, Katy Grimes for her tremendous insight and commentary.

Guest Speaker Katy Grimes

Last Week

There is an unintended theme to this week's update: Where do we draw a line? How much is too much and what does it take to get more people to engage?

Our County Supervisors are spending a billion taxpayer dollars in the county budget. Are you comfortable with the priorities and amounts?

Regardless of the outcomes, our County Board of Supervisors will change the way they do business after this election. Are you engaging to assist the candidate you think will do the best job?

We are getting great news on homeless populations, but are you comfortable with the cost?

PRAGA continues to do the same nothing it has been doing over the past few years while spending several millions of taxpayer dollars. Are you happy with more of the same?

The City of San Luis Obispo seems to be going off the rails. Will their antics spread to neighboring cities? Are you cool with that?

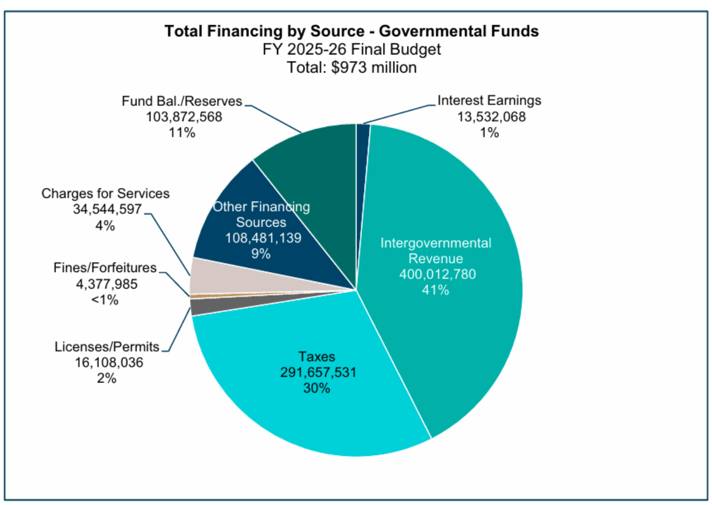
The only way to bring about change is to get involved. Even a tiny bit of engagement can make a big difference. Find something you can say, or someone you can support. Keep your efforts focused on positive solutions. Give some time and/or financial support. Don't let election time come and go without playing a role.

New Budget: Details and Questions

The first real preview of the '26/'27 fiscal year budget was presented at the March 10 San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors meeting. While it didn't seem to forecast any significant financial difficulties, the report was carefully worded to remind everyone about the potential for impacts from the state budget as well as impacts from HR.1, the One Big Beautiful Bill.

The stability and reliability of the state budget has come into question because of a recent report by the Legislative Analyst Office which found the state to be nearly $18 billion short. The HR 1 concern is that it could drop some people from Medicaid resulting in a heavier load for county services.

Here is a graphic illustrating the funding sources for our county. Intergovernmental Revenue is primarily state and federal funding – sometimes programmatic passthrough and sometimes via grants.



The following eight items are pointed out as notable issues with the current budget. The figure on the right is how much over budget the particular agency is projected to be.

Information Technology	❖ negotiated salary increases, employee payouts, temporary help for the ERP Project ❖ lower reimbursement revenues for use of County communications towers	$385,013
Health Agency – Behavioral Health	❖ increased costs of Out-of-County placements, Institutions for Mental Disease, Board & Care, Aegis services ❖ revenue shortfall	$29,863
Sheriff-Coroner – Law Enforcement Health Care	❖ negotiated salary increases	$105,008
Veterans Services	❖ negotiated salary increases	$19,962
Parks–Community Parks	❖ low Cayucos Vets Hall rental revenue ❖ services and supplies over expenditures	$188,552
Parks–Regional Parks	❖ low camping reservation fees collected ❖ services and supplies over expenditures	$0
District Attorney	❖ negotiated salary increases ❖ revenue shortfall	$479,121
Sheriff-Coroner	❖ low cannabis revenue, reduced Opioid funds, depletion of the trial court trust, decreased federal immigration funding	$1,424,426

The following graph shows a comparison between the last budget and the current fiscal year budget.

Expense and Revenue Comparison

	2nd Quarter FY 2024-25	2nd Quarter FY 2025-26
Governmental Funds:		
Expenditures	33%	33%
Revenue	30%	33%
General Fund:		
Expenditures	36%	38%
Revenue	33%	34%

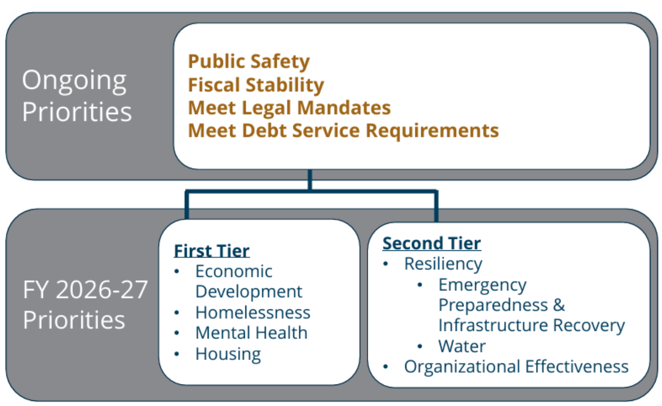
The March 10 presentation focused on the General Fund portion of the budget and began with an outline of the priorities and Financial Rebalancing and Resilience Initiative considerations.

The initiative was put in place last year as the county was facing economic turmoil due to expenses outpacing revenues. The initiative resulted in nearly $35 million in cuts and numerous personnel reductions via cancellation of open positions. It is designed to improve efficiency and accountability.

It is often overlooked that despite the cuts last year, the overall county budget grew by 9% over the previous year.

Budgeting priorities are listed in the graphic below. Note that of the four "Ongoing Priorities" listed, the last three are mandated by law. Counties are required by law to have a balanced budget. They are required by law to meet mandates as well as pay their debts. It is kind of like making paying your taxes a priority…

In the "first-tier category", economic development gets a new position. Transportation continues to be ignored.



The almost identical graph from the last budget cycle illustrates a rearrangement of the deck chairs on what we hope doesn't become a fiscal Titanic.

The following graph illustrates the current fiscal year general fund revenues and expenditures compared to anticipated revenues and expenditures for the coming year budget.

FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget (Baseline)

November Forecast = GAP Range of $4-$11 million

Baseline Surplus = $13.6 million (not accounting for Add-Back Requests totaling $14.5 M)

FY 2026-27 General Fund Budget	FY 2025-26 Budget	FY 2026-27 Baseline
Total Financing Sources (revenues)	$817.9M	$825.5M
Total Financing Uses (expenditures)	$817.9M	$811.9M
Total General Fund (if - gap, if + surplus)	**$0**	**$13.6M**

The overall budget authorizes a Governmental Funds category which features core government services and programs funded by specific revenue sources. We have yet to see the additional funds that will round the budget out to somewhere in the $1 billion range. Below is a chart illustrating all of the funding categories that make the overall budget for the current ’25/’26 fiscal year.

Summary of Governmental Funds – Authorized Funding Levels

Fund	FY 2024-25 Adopted	FY 2025-26 Recommended	Change from FY 2024-25	% Inc/Dec
General Fund	756,759,220	810,624,898	53,865,678	7%
Capital Projects	7,517,653	7,766,400	248,747	3%
Homeless Services and Affordable Housing	10,673,988	11,715,612	1,041,624	10%
Debt Service	8,296,172	8,281,091	-15,081	0%
Driving Under the Influence	47,932	0	-47,932	-100%
Emergency Medical Services	575,767	577,267	1,500	0%
Fish and Game	38,871	34,429	-4,442	-11%
General Government Building Replacement	3,882,437	6,603,553	2,721,116	70%
Countywide Automation Replacement	5,908,270	7,500,000	1,591,730	27%
Library	15,892,568	13,886,838	-2,005,730	-13%
Pension Obligation Bonds	16,509,396	12,217,200	-4,292,196	-26%
Public Facility Fees	2,243,769	1,654,414	-589,355	-26%
Regional Parks	7,621,481	7,595,885	-25,596	0%
Roads	34,330,578	34,168,077	-162,501	0%
Roads - Impact Fees	1,409,002	624,200	-784,802	-56%
Tax Reduction Reserve	0	26,609,305	26,609,305	N/A
Wildlife and Grazing	7,880	12,080	4,200	53%
Total	871,714,985	949,871,250	78,156,265	9%

The baselines were established as conceptual minimum funding and do not truly reflect the requested operating amounts from most county departments. The graphs below illustrate Add Back Requests (ABRs) by departments that each respectively determine as necessary to operate at current levels. ABRs are made up of challenges to current spending reduction proposals in order restore areas of current levels. Budget Augmentation Requests (BARs) are additions to current spending levels.

DEPARTMENT REQUESTS
Add-Back Requests (ABRs) & Budget Augmentation Requests (BARs)

	ABRs	BARs
Number Submitted	66	65
Expense	$14.4M	$13.8M
Revenue	-$0.16M	$3.6M
General Fund Support	$14.5M	$10.3M
Positions (FTE)	39.00 FTE	44.00 FTE

The following graph illustrates the possible impact of ABRs and BARs on the forthcoming budget and the next graph breaks out the ARBs and BARs by department:

General Fund position – FY 2026-27 (Preliminary)

Category	Nature of Request	Amount ($M)	Running Balance ($M) (+Surplus / -Deficit)
Baseline Budget	Result of revised framework	13.6	13.6
Add-Back Requests (ABRs)	Restoration of reduced positions / services	(14.5)	(0.9)
Budget Augmentation Requests (BARs)	New or expanded General Fund Support (program growth pressure)	(10.3)	(11.2)

General Fund Support by Service Group (FY 2025-26 Adopted vs. FY 2026-27 Baseline)

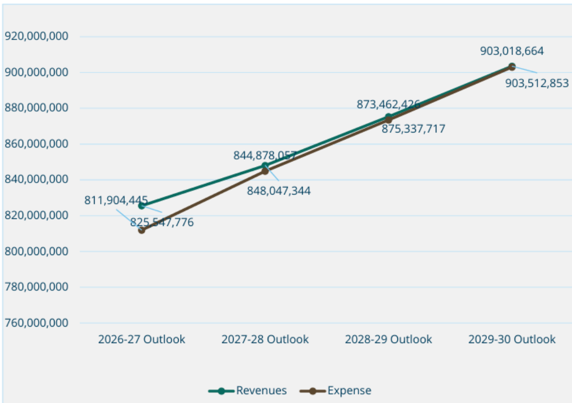
SERVICE GROUP	FY 2025-26 ADOPTED GFS ($M)	FY 2026-27 BASELINE GFS ($M)	ABRS ($M)	BARS ($M)
Land Based	$22.8	$22.2	$.04	$4.3
Public Protection*	$160.1	$158.8	$6.3	$3.5
Health and Human Services	$61.4	$53.4	$4.1	$1.1
Community Services	$7.3	$7.7	$1.9	$0.2
Fiscal and Administrative	$30.1	$29.8	$0.5	$0.2
Support to County Departments	$40.8	$44.0	$1.0	$1.0
Capital and Maintenance	$10.5	$10.5	$0.0	$0.0

**Adjusted to include amount placed into the Fire Equipment Designation*

It's interesting to note the asterisk next to Public Protection in the above graph. It mentions an amount placed into the Fire Equipment Designation. There is no explanation beyond that, but we hope that this does not indicate a potential budget cut to the rest of public protection services because additional fire equipment funds were added. Extra fire equipment should not come at a cost of Sheriff or District Attorney services.

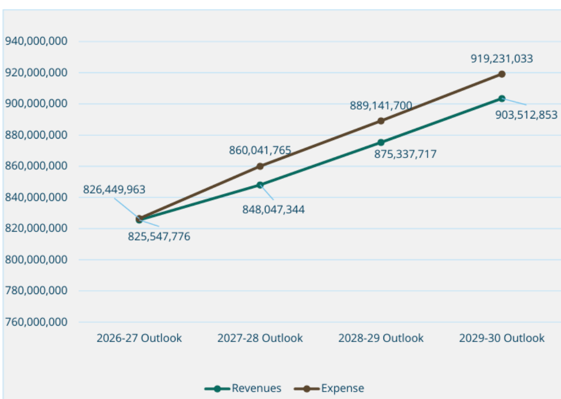
The next two graphs anticipate the long-term financial picture for the county budget if it were to continue with the conceptual baseline verses if it were to adopt the anticipated ABRs:

Financial Forecast
Scenario 1: No Add Back Requests are Approved



	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	FY 2029-30
Revenues	825,547,776	848,047,344	875,337,717	903,512,853
Expense	811,904,445	844,878,057	873,462,426	903,018,664
Surplus/ Deficit	**13,643,331**	**3,169,287**	**1,875,291**	**494,189**

Financial Forecast
Scenario 2: All Add Back Requests are Approved



	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	FY 2028-29	FY 2029-30
Revenues	825,547,776	848,047,344	875,337,717	903,512,853
Expense	826,449,963	860,041,765	889,141,700	919,231,033
Surplus/ Deficit	**-902,187**	**-11,994,421**	**-13,803,983**	**-15,718,180**

The Next Steps shown below include three which have already taken place. The CEO review is currently underway. The CEO will undoubtedly review all ABRs and BARs to determine which should get higher priority.

Next Steps...

- ✓ Early Dec — Budget Kickoff
- ✓ Jan — Budget Goals & Policies
- ✓ Dec – Jan — Departments Prepare & Submit Budgets

- Feb – Apr — CEO review & compilation
- May 19 — Introduce Recommended Budget
- June 8-10 — Budget Hearing

Supervisors will be getting a great deal of pressure from county departments and service providers for more dollars. It would be wise for those making such requests to realize that the pie isn't getting any bigger. Service providers requesting a larger slice should quantify how much less of a slice others should be expected to accept.

Who Gets Your Vote?

Last week we featured a story about the on-line debate between 2nd district Supervisorial candidates Jim Dantona and Michael Erin Woody. Unfortunately, we got Mr. Woody's name wrong. We apologize.

Below is a link to his campaign, and while we are at it, we have included a link to Mr. Dantona's campaign as well as the two candidates running in the 4th district; Jimmy Paulding and Adam Verdin.

The outcome of these races has the potential to bring profound changes to the way the County of San Luis Obispo is governed. The races could be very close. Grassroots support will be a factor as will fundraising. We encourage everyone to follow the races closely and get involved.

Woody for Supervisor https://www.woodyforsupervisor.com
Jim Dantona for SLO County Supervisor: https://jimdantona.com
Jimmy Paulding - District 4 County Supervisor: https://jimmypaulding.org
Adam Verdin for Supervisor: https://verdinforspervisor.com

We have seen some incredibly close races in recent campaigns around our county. It is sad and frustrating watching a candidate that you support loose by just a few votes. Especially when an afternoon of knocking on doors or a modest check to buy a couple more radio adds might have made the difference – and you did neither.

Candidates also need help in their headquarters stuffing envelopes or making phone calls. They appreciate small neighborhood gatherings where you invite 20 or so people over for refreshments and casual discussion with the candidate. And don't think that you need to live in the district to help. These races will impact everyone throughout the county. So please dedicate a little time and/or financial support to get your choice elected.

Good Trend for Homeless Count

Item 29 on the March 10 agenda read:
Request to 1) Receive and file a report on progress of County's Five-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness; 2) Approve the Regional Homelessness and Affordable Housing Compact with the cities of Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Grover Beach, Morro Bay, Paso Robles, Pismo Beach, and San Luis Obispo; and 3) Provide direction as needed. (Social Services).

The report was full of good news regarding reductions in homeless individuals and increases in successfully placing such people into homes. More housing is coming on line and fewer people are on the street.

We applaud the efforts that have brought such success. However, there is an undercurrent that needs to be fully examined,

At the conclusion of the county staff report, Supervisor Peschong inquired about total county spending on all the various homeless programs. It was a fair question and deserves a straightforward answer. Staff was unable to quantify the spending that has brought about such success.

To be sure, many of the homeless service programs have improved over the years. Their practices have become more refined and they have learned what works and what doesn't. Collaboration among different service providers is paying off. In short, they are becoming good at what they do.

Unfortunately, the dedicated folks that are doing such a great job running homeless programs don't seem to be very good at accountability.

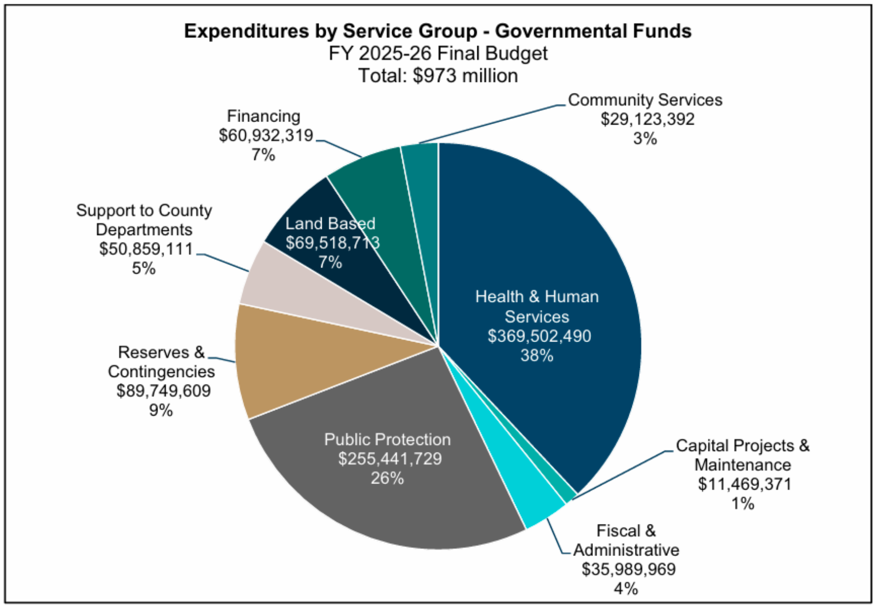
Our society simply cannot afford to have these programs run on unlimited funds. When we get a report on the County's Five-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness, it should include a comprehensive report on the cost of the plan. We should have information on what various programs cost, and which are more successful. We should have an idea of where the point of diminishing returns occurs - including a warning when we are getting close.

Treating the homeless issue is not a one size fits all formula. There are many different causes for homelessness, and many more methods to reduce the homeless population. They all involve a level of compassion, but also of responsibility for spending other people's money. It is only fair to the taxpayers that are paying for those many programs to have an idea of how much they are being asked to provide.

Does it cost $1,000, $10,000, $100,000 per person? Maybe more?

In the presentation, the figure of $13.6 million is mentioned. However, that amount does not represent the total spending for homeless programs by the county. And to be clear, grants from state or federal sources are also taxpayer dollars.

Below is a breakdown of the current fiscal year operating budget by department.



With $369,000,000 (yes- that is 369 million) going to Health and Human Services, we know that a large part of that is for homeless services. Why didn't the report cover this in some detail?

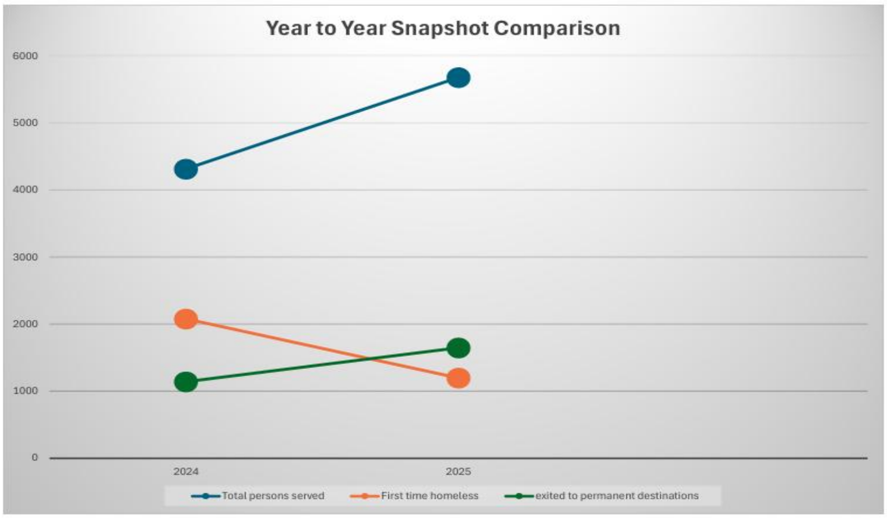
County staff made it clear many times throughout their presentation that the success that they are experiencing will not be sustained without strong funding. It might be worth their while to provide an accounting that relates to the real costs of the programs and what those costs produce. The coming budget will be very tight, and these questions will come up.

Below is a summary of (most of) the key points of the presentation:

System Snapshot: Calendar Year 2025

- 5,676 Individuals served in HMIS participating programs
- 1,195 Individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time
- 1,646 Individuals exited to permanent destinations
- $13.6M in funding awarded in FY 25/26:
  - $8.9M for homeless services programs
  - $3.9M for affordable housing & PSH projects
  - $752K for public facilities

The following graph also illustrates the good trend developing with homeless programs in the county:



- 31.7% increase in the number of persons served
- 42.5% decrease in first time homelessness
- 44.4% increase in exits to permanent housing

We hope that the success rate continues and that we see an effort of greater accountability with finances.

The PRAGA Saga Continues

The Paso Robles Area Groundwater Authority held a “feedback session” for fee options on March 12 to outline its next steps towards charging the Paso Robles groundwater basin over layars to fund a theoretical sustainability program. It appears that they are pursuing a Prop 26 fee structure. Beyond that, details are very vague.

The critical point of their efforts is establishing a service for which they are entitled to charge such a fee. Without a provided service, the charge becomes a tax.

PRAGA is suggesting that keeping their organization running is a service. They estimate that “keeping the lights on” will cost around $1.1 million annually. This covers the management fee for… managing? It also covers the consultant’s fee for consulting and it covers public outreach. There are also insurance costs.

For over a million dollars, the basin gets to have a report filed with the state annually. It's unclear what additional efforts are dedicated to sustainability, but Prop 26 prohibits funds from being used for capital projects.

One interesting twist is how they will address di minimis users. There is a tendency to not charge such users because they consume very little, and tend to return most of what they do use. These are typically housholds or small family farms subsiding on their own private well water.

However, if a fee is charged to some for the benefit of just having PRAGA bless the over layer community with its presence, how can they exclude others who may also be basking in such a wonderful atmosphere?

As we keep saying, the lack of public trust regarding this issue is so overwhelming that it's highly unlikely that over layers will accept such a fee without a fight. It's efforts such as this that has destroyed faith in the PRAGA leadership. Charging a "fee" to do practically nothing is outrageous. It is even more outrageous that they may try to base rates on last year consumption – not on current consumption.

Paso Robles Area
Groundwater Authority

Whatever justification PRAGA comes up with for charging fees, it seems quite possible that it will be challenged. Once again, we could see a court battle, or referendum or some other form of pushback – all because the PRAGA saga is a story of heavy-handed overreach. It won't change until PRAGA changes.

The next PRAGA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25th. The PRAGA board will be presented with a budget for the next fiscal year and fee structuring options from "gathered feedback". This presents a great opportunity for members of the public to watch what is going on and to engage.

Private Property Rights in the Wind

Frequent readers will recall a couple recent pieces regarding San Luis Obispo (city) plans to establish a rental registry which could easily morph into rent control. Now the city has taken up a new concept towards building permits. Some would call it a "taking" while others might use the term "pay to play". Some might even use more criminal terms to describe the proposed "deal".

From what we know, three builders have teamed up to do a project in SLO to provide more housing in the city. They have an old, dilapidated house on a large lot and wish to demolish the old house. They then wish to build four single family structures and four Additional Dwelling Units (ADUs).

The city is requesting that the builders give the city one ADU as a condition of the building permit. Apparently, the city wants to sell the ADU at a steep discount as part of their affordable housing program.

Can city staff (or leadership) really think that such a plan somehow makes housing more affordable? How could they possibly think such a request could be legal?

Imagine if the city had similar requirements for other businesses – the Apple Store would need to give the city one MacBook for every seven sold, or Firestone Grill would need to provide tri-tip sandwiches. How about the car dealers on LOVR?

It would be comical if it wasn't true how many politicians in our community preach about the high cost of housing while at the very same time contribute to such high costs.

Fortunately, the Pacific Legal Foundation has taken the case and will be litigating it on many levels. The PLF is known for many private property victories and serves as a cornerstone for common sense.

PACIFIC LEGAL FOUNDATION

Here is how they describe themselves: "Pacific Legal Foundation is a national public interest law firm that defends Americans from government overreach and abuse. We sue the government when it violates your constitutional rights—and we win."

You can learn more about PLF here: https://pacificlegal,org

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Mainstream coverage of California Issues is pathetically thin with the legacy media avoiding the tough questions that define life in the Golden State. Katy Grimes, Editor-in-Chief of The California Globe, is known for fact-filled, hard hitting investigative reporting that exposes the real consequences of Sacramento's policy-making.

Join us to hear firsthand from Katy about California's essentially one-party system of governance and the realities most media outlets routinely ignore - along with some good news, too.

Katy Grimes, Editor in Chief of The California Globe

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CA Senate Enviro Committee Democrats Kill Gas Tax Relief Bill

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COLAB in Depth
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Other People's Money: Democratic Socialism's Zombie Revival

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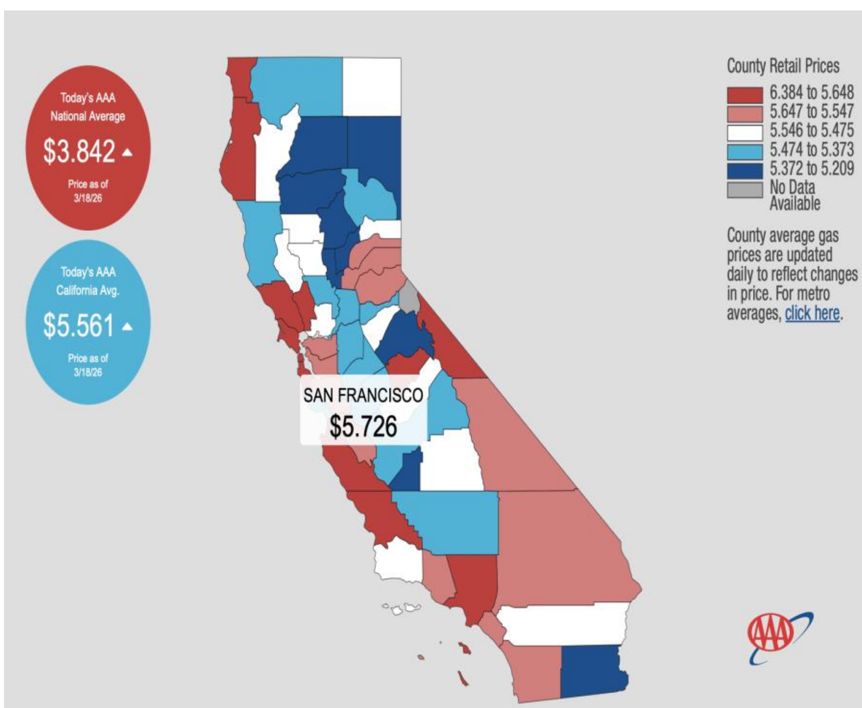
CA Senate Enviro Committee Democrats Kill Gas Tax Relief Bill

'Democrats in Sacramento refused to help struggling Californians'

By Katy Grimes, March 18, 2026

Wednesday in the California Senate Environmental Quality Committee, Democrats killed Senate Bill 1035 by Senator Tony Strickland (R-Huntington Beach), which would have provided immediate relief for California drivers at the gas pump by lowering the price of a gallon of gas by $1.08. SB 1035, the Gas Tax Relief Act, would have offered a lifeline for drivers.

Gas prices today in California average $5.56 per gallon. Yesterday the average price was $5.54 per gallon. Lowering the price by $1.08 per gallon would take California's average gas price down to $4.48 per gallon, and could save $21.60 per tank of gas.



AAA gas prices March 18, 2026, California. (Photo: aaa.com)

USC Professor Michael Mische, a public policy expert on oil attended to testify in support of the bill. Professor Mische has long warned that gas in California would escalate to over $8.00 per gallon with the refinery closures and retributive state regulations on the oil and gas industry.
“To say I’m disappointed is an understatement. I’m frustrated because we have an opportunity to help working families at a time when we have an affordability crisis. Democrats in Sacramento refused to help struggling Californians,” said Senator Strickland.

Senate Bill 1035 would have provided immediate cost relief to Californians by temporarily suspending The State gas tax, The Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS), and The LCFS cap-and-invest compliance mechanism, totaling approximately $1.08 per gallon, and saving a typical household with two drivers between $900 and $1,100 per year, according to Sen. Strickland.

The 2023 CARB Low Carbon Fuel Standard amendments document unabashedly outlines in black-and-white, the new gas tax increases through 2042 (page 57):

Table 22 presents a range of potential LCFS credit price pass-through for gasoline, diesel, and fossil jet due to the proposed amendments relative to the baseline. The range is based on staff's analysis described in the sections above. Once the proposed amendments are implemented in 2024, they are projected to potentially increase the price of gasoline by an average of $0.37 per gallon, potentially increase the price of diesel by an average of $0.47 per gallon, and fossil jet fuel $0.35 per gallon based on the average change in estimated annual LCFS credit price and annual deficits from 2024 through 2030. On average, from 2031 through 2046 the proposed amendments are projected to potentially increase the price of gasoline by $1.15 per gallon, potentially increase the price of diesel by $1.50 per gallon and fossil jet fuel by $1.21 per gallon.

Table 22: Gasoline, Diesel, and Fossil Jet Fuel Pass-through Cost

Year	Gasoline ($/gal)	Diesel ($/gal)	Fossil jet fuel ($/gal)
2024	0.12	0.14	0.00
2025	0.47	0.59	0.44
2026	0.52	0.66	0.50
2027	0.49	0.62	0.47
2028	0.39	0.50	0.38
2029	0.38	0.48	0.38
2030	0.25	0.32	0.25
2031	0.47	0.60	0.47
2032	0.59	0.76	0.60
2033	0.66	0.85	0.68
2034	0.72	0.94	0.75
2035	0.79	1.03	0.82
2036	0.86	1.12	0.89
2037	1.25	1.63	1.31
2038	1.44	1.88	1.51
2039	1.69	2.21	1.78
2040	1.80	2.35	1.90
2041	1.83	2.40	1.94
2042	1.61	2.12	1.71

“California anticipated tightening fuel supply with planned refinery closures by Valero and Phillips 66. While these closures are expected to reduce in-state refining capacity over time, they are not immediate. With gas prices continuing to increase, my bill is the only immediate, short-term solution. The intent is to give California drivers breathing room. Meanwhile, the Legislature must work on mid- and long-term solutions, which is why I’ve called on the governor to convene an emergency session,” added Senator Strickland.

Sen. Tony Strickland. (Photo: sr36.senate.ca.gov)

Today, California drivers are paying about $5.56 for gas, while the national average is $3.84. In January, California drivers paid roughly $4 per gallon for unleaded gas. By mid-February, prices increased by approximately 35 to 40 cents, largely due to short-term refinery disruptions and tight supply conditions.

“Today’s vote against lowering gasoline prices for Californians was predictable and unfortunate. Irrespective of the Iranian situation, California gasoline will continue to increase simply due to the taxes and environmental programs that support initiatives such as the high-speed rail project. Regrettably, because of today’s actions, Californians will still be paying the highest gasoline prices in the nation,” said Professor Mische.

In addition, SB 1035 includes transparency requirements requiring receipts to show the amount of tax that would have been charged, allowing Californians to clearly see the savings. The bill also includes a protection clause to ensure transportation projects remain funded by temporarily providing General Fund dollars to offset infrastructure funding losses.

Click HERE to listen to Senator Strickland's post-reaction and USC Professor Mische's economic analysis of oil prices, and HERE to watch the 03/18/2026 Senate Environmental Quality Committee hearing.

Members of the California Air Resources Board are appointed as follows:

Board Position	Current Member	Appointed By	Term Ends
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Agricultural Member	John Eisenhut	Governor	December 31, 2029
Automotive Member	Susan Shaheen, Ph.D.	Governor	December 31, 2029
Physician Member	John R. Balmes, MD	Governor	December 31, 2027
Public Member	Diane Takvorian	Governor	December 31, 2029
Public Member	Cliff Rechtschaffen	Governor	December 31, 2029
Senate Environmental Justice Member	Dean Florez	Senate President Pro Tempore	December 31, 2024
Assembly Environmental Justice Member	Miguel Santiago	Assembly Speaker	January 1, 2031
Bay Area AQMD Member	Lynda Hopkins	Governor	December 31, 2026
San Luis Obispo County APCD Member	David Silva	Governor	December 31, 2028
Sacramento Region Air Districts Member	Eric Guerra	Governor	December 31, 2029
San Diego APCD Member	Paula Stigler Granados, Ph.D	Governor	December 31, 2030
San Joaquin Valley APCD Member	Tania Pacheco-Werner, Ph.D.	Governor	December 31, 2026
South Coast AQMD Member	Patricia Lock Dawson	Governor	December 31, 2026
Senate Ex Officio Member	Senator Henry Stern	Senate Speaker	–
Assembly Ex Officio Member	Assemblymember Corey A. Jackson	Assembly Speaker	–

Katy Grimes
Katy Grimes, the Editor in Chief of the California Globe, is a long-time Investigative Journalist covering the California State Capitol, the co-author of California's War Against Donald Trump: Who Wins? Who Loses? and a contributor to "Taxifornia 2016."
A California native and Navy mom, Katy lives in Sacramento, CA.

Nick Shirley Uncovers Over $170 Million in Alleged Fraud Across California Daycare and Hospice Operations

Shirley's latest viral video follows President Trump's announcement and executive order yesterday that Vice President JD Vance will lead the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud

By Megan Barth, March 17, 2026

Independent journalist Nick Shirley has released a devestating 40-minute investigative video that exposes what appears to be massive waste and potential fraud in California's hospice, Medi-Cal and daycare programs. His report, now viewed more than 7.7 million times on X, uncovers over **$170 million** in questionable billings tied to ghost hospice and daycare operations that show virtually no signs of actually caring for patients or children.

WATCH:
Shirley, already known for shining a light on government waste through his earlier work on Minnesota's daycare system which featured the infamous "Learing Center," has brought the same boots-on-the-ground approach to California— an approach that any state or federal auditor could have found if they acted on the numerous red flags and warnings found in years of California State Auditors' annual reports and related *California Globe* reporting.
In the viral video, Shirley reports that hospice enrollment in California has skyrocketed by approximately 1,000 percent in recent years—a staggering increase that should have triggered additional scrutiny.
His team conducted field investigations at dense clusters of hospice and adult care providers in Los Angeles, focusing heavily on Victory Boulevard in Van Nuys. Time and again, registered addresses turned out to be vacant shells: buildings with dead phone lines, piles of unopened mail, parking lots filled with luxury vehicles, and zero evidence of patients or caregiving, even as millions of taxpayer dollars continued to flow from public programs.

Shirley notes: "These practices have gone on for years under weak oversight. Hardworking Californians deserve real accountability, and this level of abuse cannot be allowed to continue."

The video presents several damning highlights. Shirley documented extraordinary concentrations of registered providers—nearly 500 hospice agencies crammed into a three-mile radius in Van Nuys, with up to 89 listed at a single address—most showing no operational activity whatsoever.
The footage points to stolen Medicare beneficiary numbers being used to enroll people who never received a single service.
In one tense exchange, a man who has been running hospice businesses since the 1990s was visibly shaking when pressed about the operation and admitted he wasn't a fan of Dr. Mehmet Oz, who had just visited Van Nuys to highlight medicare fraud in an Armenian community, and alleged fraudulent home care operations were run by the Russian Armenian mafia. In response to Oz's video exposé, Governor Newsom filed a civil rights complaint alleging racism.

Shirley's additional encounters showed people refusing to answer questions, demanding Shirley's identification, calling 9-11, and fleeing the scene in luxury vehicles.

Vehicles leaving these ghost facilities included a Mercedes-Maybach S 680 (base prices from $233,500 to $270,000, with loaded models nearing $345,000) and a BMW M8 (typically $117,000 to $131,000).

The investigation further revealed apparent ties among providers suggesting family-run enterprises, with clear indications that coordinated networks (like the Russian Armenian mafia) are managing billing and locations across multiple sites.
This raises serious questions about how such schemes have been permitted to flourish for so long. Shirley noted that when pressure mounts, operators simply shutter one location and reopen elsewhere under new names or addresses—a cycle of fraud and evasion flouts excess and mocks state oversight.

Shirley's findings align directly with years of reporting from The California Globe, which has consistently exposed waste under California's progressive leadership. Our March 11, 2026, article "Hospice Fraud Explodes in California After State 'Crackdown': 742 Flagged Providers, $105 Million Overbilled, and Ghost Offices" cited a CBS News investigation that identified more than 700 providers in Los Angeles County with multiple red flags—clustered addresses, billing without patient documentation, and other clear warning signs. Despite the state revoking roughly 280 licenses since 2024, auditors calculated $105 million in overbilling in a single year in L.A. County alone, and the number of flagged providers has climbed to 742.
In December 2025, Rep. Kevin Kiley charged that California was "the Fraud Capital of America," pointing to tens of billions lost to fraud, waste, and abuse across unemployment insurance, homelessness programs, and health care initiatives under one-party Democrat control.
Before turning to hospices, Shirley traveled to San Diego to investigate child care facilities, teaming up with conservative researcher Amy Reichert. Reichert had flagged multiple centers reporting high enrollment figures—sometimes as many as 39 children—yet showing no children present during state inspections or site visits.

Shirley includes captured footage of these locations, documenting children left alone, playgrounds next to homeless encampments, and the same pattern of apparent inactivity that has become a hallmark of his reporting. He has stated that the scale of problems he is uncovering in California, including in San Diego's child care sector, may surpass what he documented previously in Minnesota.

San Diego daycare provider doesn't speak English (Screenshot)

The San Diego video's release drew a deflective response from Governor Gavin Newsom's official @GovPressOfficeaccount on X by personally attacking the messenger:

Shirley called the post "disgusting" and warned he is considering legal recourse, emphasizing there is "no need to try & make me look like the bad guy for exposing fraud."

"We ALL work way too hard and pay too much in taxes for this to be happening. These fraudsters have been able to defraud American taxpayers for years without any pushback from the public and politicians. It is time to EXPOSE IT ALL and end America's fraud crisis."

Shirley's latest viral video follows President Trump's announcement and executive order yesterday that Vice President JD Vance will lead the Task Force to Eliminate Fraud and White House aide Stephen Miller will serve as senior adviser.

"In states across the country, fraudsters are depriving vulnerable citizens of basic social services, stealing billions of your tax dollars, and eroding America's social fabric," a Vance spokesperson told *The New York Post*. "This fraud has happened

on such a massive scale that it’s endangering the future viability of America’s entire social safety net.”
A document obtained by *The Post* describing the order said that, in addition to Minnesota, “there is strong reason to believe similar vulnerabilities exist in California, Illinois, New York, Maine, and Colorado, where insufficient safeguards and weak oversight increase the risk of large-scale fraud.”
“We know California is many times worse, but Minnesota is terrible,” Trump said to the press.

As exposed by Nick Shirley and deflected by Governor Newsom, California is *hundreds-of-millions* times worse.

Megan Barth
Megan Barth is the Executive Editor of The California Globe and former, founding editor of the Nevada Globe. Specializing in investigative reporting, her work has appeared in national and local news. The highlights of her career include interviewing President Donald Trump, Vice President J.D. Vance, and FBI Director Kash Patel. When she isn’t editing, writing, or talking, you can find her hiking and relaxing in Northern Nevada.

Other People’s Money: Democratic Socialism’s Zombie Revival

Without genuine price signals, planners cannot allocate resources efficiently, they can only redistribute scarcity

By Jay Rogers, March 16, 2026

Economic anxiety is a reliable incubator for bad ideas, and the spring of 2026 is providing a bumper crop. The Democratic Socialists of America now claim to have over 100,000 members, the largest socialist organization in a century, and their candidates are winning real elections with real consequences. In November 2025, Zohran Mamdani swept New York City's mayoral race on a platform of rent freezes, city-owned grocery stores, fare-free buses, and a $30 minimum wage. Across the country, Katie Wilson ousted Seattle's mayor on a nearly identical program. These are not protest votes or academic exercises. They are governing mandates, and the policies they will unleash have a well-documented track record, one that should give every resident of both cities serious pause.

Democratic socialism's American lineage runs from Eugene Debs, who won six percent of the presidential vote in 1912, through the DSA's founding in 1982, to Bernie Sanders' 2016 campaign, which transformed a fringe movement into a political infrastructure. Philosophically it offers the appealing promise of economic equality without the coercive apparatus that defined 20th-century communism. But the underlying economic logic has not changed, and its critics have not been answered. Friedrich Hayek's insight in The Road to Serfdom remains decisive: no central authority can replicate the information generated by millions of individuals making voluntary transactions. Ludwig von Mises demonstrated in the socialist calculation debate that without genuine price signals, planners cannot allocate resources efficiently, they can only redistribute scarcity. The Nordic social democracies that progressives routinely invoke as counterevidence are instructive precisely because they are not socialist: they are capitalist economies with generous welfare states, and even those states have spent decades trimming their fiscal commitments as the arithmetic caught up with them.

The policy evidence in America's own cities is equally unambiguous. Rent control, the centerpiece of both Mamdani's and Wilson's agendas, has been studied extensively. Research published by the National Multifamily Housing Council and cross-city panel analyses found that strict rent stabilization reduces available rental inventory by roughly ten percent, as landlords convert units to condominiums or defer maintenance until buildings are withdrawn from the rental market entirely. The policy reliably benefits incumbent tenants at the cost of everyone seeking housing in the future, precisely the people it is designed to help. Seattle's experience with progressive governance during this period is instructive: despite billions in public spending on homelessness, the city's unsheltered population reached historic levels, and rents remained 47 percent above the national average, a direct consequence of supply constraints compounded by regulatory uncertainty. New York City's long experiment with rent stabilization has produced a bifurcated market in which well-connected incumbents occupy below-market units indefinitely while newcomers and the young face some of the country's most punishing rents. Gallup polling from September 2025 showed that Democrats under 50 now view socialism more favorably than capitalism, a remarkable reversal achieved in the absence of any reckoning with these results.

The personal histories of Mamdani and Wilson are relevant not as political opposition research but as a window into how democratic socialism recruits and rewards its talent. Mamdani, the son of a celebrated filmmaker, spent roughly three years in scattered civic roles—housing counseling, campaign organizing—before transitioning to full-time elected office, having relied on subsidized housing throughout, as reported in sources like the New York Post (June 17, 2025). Wilson built a career as a professional organizer and nonprofit executive before unseating an incumbent mayor. Neither has managed a private enterprise, negotiated a union contract from the employer side, or been responsible for a payroll. This matters because the policies they champion require an intimate understanding of the incentive structures they propose to override. A landlord who faces a rent freeze does not absorb the loss philosophically; he exits the market, converts, or defers maintenance until the economics improve. A business facing a $30 minimum wage does not simply redistribute profit; it reduces headcount, raises prices, or relocates. These are not ideological objections, they are operational realities, and they are systematically absent from the worldview of candidates who have never had to navigate them. Democratic socialism has always been a theory developed at a distance from its consequences; its current generation of leaders represents that tendency in concentrated form.

The counterargument deserves fair hearing. Economic anxiety in America is real. Housing costs have outpaced wage growth in every major metropolitan area for a generation. The 2008 financial crisis and its aftermath inflicted lasting damage on younger Americans' savings, homeownership rates, and economic optimism. A 51 percent majority of likely voters aged 18 to 39 telling pollsters they would support a democratic socialist for president in 2028 is not a failure of civics education; it is a rational response to conditions that market advocates have not resolved. The right answer to democratic socialism is not to dismiss its voters as naïve; it is to make the affirmative case for the policies that actually produce affordable housing and broad-based prosperity. That case exists and it is strong, but it requires engagement, not condescension.

The path forward begins with supply. Permitting reform that dramatically reduces the time and cost of residential construction is the single most evidence-supported intervention for housing affordability, and it requires no redistribution, no rent control, and no public subsidy. Texas cities, which liberalized zoning and streamlined permitting over the past decade, have seen housing costs stabilize relative to peer markets—a result no amount of stabilization ordinances has achieved in New York or Seattle. Beyond housing, the argument for limited government and free enterprise must be made in schools, not assumed. An electorate that understands the price mechanism, the incentive effects of taxation, and the historical record of state-directed economies is an electorate that is harder to sell on panaceas. Candidates who have met a payroll, negotiated a lease, or built something that had to survive in a competitive market bring a form of knowledge to public office that no academic credential substitutes for. The democratic process would benefit from demanding it.

Margaret Thatcher's observation that socialist governments eventually run out of other people's money was not a quip; it was a description of arithmetic. The wins in New York City and Seattle are not anomalies or protest votes; they are the leading edge of a movement that has spent a decade building organizational infrastructure, electoral capacity, and ideological confidence. The policies they will now implement have been tried in various forms across American cities and across the world. The results are consistent. The question is not whether democratic socialism works; history has answered that. The question is whether enough Americans have absorbed the lesson before the bill arrives—and whether those who understand the answer are willing to make the case clearly enough to be heard.

Jay Rogers
Jay Rogers is an investment professional and entrepreneur based in Southern California with more than three decades of experience in financial services. He provides expert witness services, and is a guest lecturer at the USC Marshall School of Business. He has appeared on CNN's Your Money and is regularly quoted in the Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg News, and NPR.

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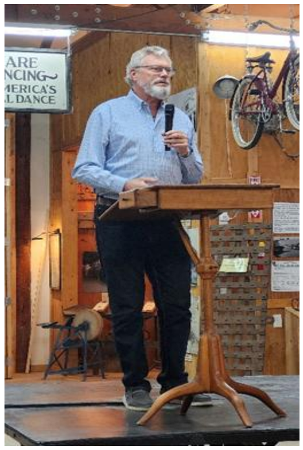

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"Your Property – Your Taxes – Our Future"
PO Box 13601 – San Luis Obispo, CA 93406 / Phone: 805.548-0340
Email: colabslo@gmail.com / Website: colabslo.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS:

General Member: $100 – $249 ❑ $ _______ **Voting Member: $250 - $5,000 ❑ $ _______**

Sustaining Member: $5,000 +❑ $ _______

(Sustaining Membership includes a table of 10 at the Annual Fundraiser Dinner)

General members will receive all COLAB updates and newsletters. Voting privileges are limited to Voting Members and Sustainable Members with one vote per membership.

MEMBER INFORMATION:

Name: ____________________

Company: ____________________

Address: ____________________

City: ____________________ State: ____________ Zip: __________

Phone: ______________ Fax: ______________ Email: ____________________

How Did You Hear About COLAB?

Radio ❑ Internet ❑ Public Hearing ❑ Friend ❑

COLAB Member(s) /Sponsor(s): ____________________

NON MEMBER DONATION/CONTRIBUTION OPTION:

For those who choose not to join as a member but would like to support COLAB via a contribution/donation.
I would like to contribute $ __________ to COLAB and my check or credit card information is enclosed/provided.

Donations/Contributions do not require membership though it is encouraged in order to provide updates and information.
Memberships and donation will be kept confidential if that is your preference.
Confidential Donation/Contribution/Membership ❑

PAYMENT METHOD:

Check ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover ❑ Amex NOT accepted.

Cardholder Name: ____________________ Signature: ____________________

Card Number:____________________Exp Date: ___/___ Billing Zip Code: ______ CVV:____

TODAY'S DATE: ____________________