



COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

# BUDGET 101

THE COUNTY BUDGET EXPLAINED

# AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIR

Before we jump into the budget, here's a quick word from the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, V. Manuel Perez.

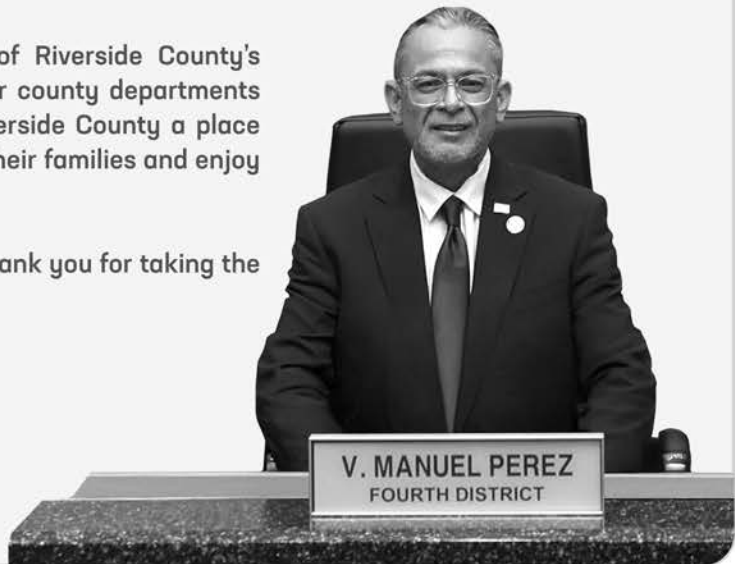
Riverside County has a role, an important responsibility, in our lives. For those who may not be familiar with what is the purpose of the county, we are the safety net. We fight poverty and we make things happen from public safety, housing, infrastructure, planning, parks and green spaces, and more.

As we put together a budget for the county government, we are committed to ensuring that we remain focused on providing essential municipal services to our residents. Our budget plans will also address some of the most critical needs in our communities as we strive to do more for all of our residents throughout Riverside County. We want you to be involved.

As this year's Chair of the Board of Supervisors, I am excited we are doing new things this year to increase outreach to community members during the budget process. For the first time, we will be bringing these discussions to our communities, in all five Supervisorial districts of Riverside County. We want to hear from you: what is most important in your county government.

With that, we look forward to a budget that tells of Riverside County's accomplishments and successes, the good work of our county departments and initiatives, and the investments that will keep Riverside County a place people want to continue coming to, to live, work, raise their families and enjoy a great quality of life.

Welcome to our county budget process for 2025 and thank you for taking the time to participate



V. MANUEL PEREZ  
4TH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR





# WELCOME TO BUDGET 101!

## WHO IS THIS DOCUMENT FOR?

If you're reading this, you're probably curious about what your local government is up to. If you're not, stay with us - county decisions impact everyone who lives here. These impacts are a big part of your daily lives, whether you realize it or not.

This guide will bring you up to speed on the nuts and bolts of how the County of Riverside funds services for its residents. Put simply, services cost money. Building fire stations, maintaining roads and planning new parks are examples of county services. The costs that come with purchasing equipment, managing buildings and paying employees keep things running. This work cannot happen without a well-managed budget.

Every year, our team creates a massive budget document for all county departments that is available online. But traditional budget books are in-depth, heavy on data and even longer in pages, so we've created this to walk you through the budget process.

## WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN BUDGET 101

This guide will provide you with insights into the county's organization, as well as an overview of where our money comes from, and where it goes. You'll also find more opportunities for participating in county government. The time it'll take to read this document will be worth your while - after all, we're *your* county government and we work for *you*.



## CONTENTS

- 4 LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**  
What is a county and how does it factor into your daily life
- 6 COUNTY GOVERNANCE**  
An overview of county leadership and organization
- 8 BUDGET BASICS**  
The fundamentals of county finances
- 12 THE BUDGET LIFECYCLE**  
A look at the annual budget process
- 13 PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS**  
Read about the county's efforts from Corona to Blythe
- 20 YOUR VOICE**  
Discover the ways you can take part in this important process
- 21 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY**  
The county fights for you at every level of government



# LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

## A BIRD'S EYE VIEW

It's time for a basic civics lesson! The United States government shares power between the national (or federal) government and individual states. Each of the 50 states is made up of counties, which focus on local responsibilities. There are over 3,000 counties in the United States, and they range in size and population - some have fewer than 100 residents! Riverside County, with 2.5 million residents, is the 4th most populous county in the state and the 10th most populous in the country. It also spans more than 7,300 square miles, stretching from the sunny farmlands of Blythe and the Coachella Valley to the snowcaps of Idyllwild, to the rolling vineyards of Temecula and bustling cityscapes of Riverside.

## YOUR HOME, RIVERSIDE COUNTY

The County of Riverside was created in 1893 from parts of San Bernardino and San Diego counties. But Riverside County's timeline dates much further back than 1893, it spans more than 10,000 years, starting with the arrival of the first Native Americans. The groups of people now known as the Cahuilla, Luiseño, Gabrieleño, and Serrano lived rich lives for millennia. This cultural heritage remains strong among the Native American tribes who reside in Riverside County to this day.

Riverside County hosts many thriving industries such as construction, healthcare, tourism, and manufacturing. It has a strong agricultural and equestrian culture. The county is also full of natural parks, historic spots like Jensen Alvarado Ranch, and large events like the Coachella Music & Arts Festival, the Date Fest, the Temecula Valley Balloon & Wine Festival, and the Mission Inn Festival of Lights. All these communities and landscapes are important to Riverside County. The county's budget is therefore essential to the stewardship of this land, the health of its residents, and the long-term forecast of the region's economic prosperity.

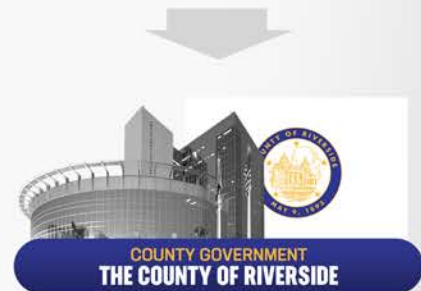
### THE NATIONAL HEIRARCHY



Covers things like Social Security, Medicare, national defense, and big projects like interstate highways



Takes care of services like education, state freeways, state parks, and funding county public assistance programs



Counties use their budgets for local services like road repairs, public safety, housing support, health services, and social services



## THE 5 DISTRICTS

The County of Riverside is divided into five supervisorial districts, not surprisingly, the districts are numbered 1 through 5. These district lines are geographically redrawn every 10 years in line with the county's population changes reported by the U.S. Census. Following an open process with strong community participation, the County adopted new lines for the elected supervisors' districts on Dec. 14, 2021.



## THE 28 CITIES

Riverside County has 28 cities, each with its own local government. Communities outside these cities are considered "unincorporated" and rely on the county for more direct services like fire, police and public works projects. Residents living in cities still rely on the county for regional services like flood protection, libraries and social services. Cities are key partners in creating safe and healthy communities for all.

<b>DISTRICT 1</b> PERRIS RIVERSIDE COUNTY SEAT JURUPA VALLEY Unincorporated Communities: GOOD HOPE   HIGHGROVE   MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE   MEAD VALLEY   MEADOWBROOK	
<b>DISTRICT 2</b> CANYON LAKE CORONA EASTVALE JURUPA VALLEY LAKE ELSINORE NORCO Unincorporated Communities: CANYON RIDGE   CORONITA   EL CARISO   EL CERRITO   EL SOBRANTE   GAVILAN HILLS   HOME GARDENS   LAKE HILLS   LAKE MATHEWS   LAKELAND VILLAGE   RANCHO CAPISTRANO   RANCHO CARRILLO   TEMESCAL VALLEY   VICTORIA GROVE   WARM SPRINGS   WOODCREST	
<b>DISTRICT 3</b> MENIFEE MURRIETA TEMECULA WILDOMAR Unincorporated Communities: AGUANGA   ANZA VALLEY   DE LUZ   EAST HEMET   FRENCH VALLEY   GREEN ACRES   HOMELAND   LA CRESTA   LAKE RIVERSIDE   ROMOLAND   SAGE   TENAJA   WINCHESTER   VALLE VISTA	
<b>DISTRICT 4</b> BLYTHE CATHEDRAL CITY COACHELLA DESERT HOT SPRINGS INDIAN WELLS LA QUINTA INДИO PALM SPRINGS PALM DESERT RANCHO MIRAGE Unincorporated Communities: BERMUDA DUNES   CHIRIACO SUMMIT   COLORADO RIVER COMMUNITIES   DESERT CENTER/LAKE TAMARISK/EAGLE MOUNTAIN   DESERT EDGE   DESERT PALMS   INДИO HILLS   MECCA   MESA VERDE   NORTH SHORE   OASIS   RIPLEY   SKY VALLEY   THERMAL   THOUSAND PALMS   VISTA SANTA ROSA   IDYLLWILD & MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES	
<b>DISTRICT 5</b> BANNING BEAUMONT CALIMESA HEMET MORENO VALLEY SAN JACINTO Unincorporated Communities: CABAZON   CHERRY VALLEY   LAKEVIEW   NUEVO   RECHE CANYON   SAN TIMOTEO   VALLE VISTA	

## THE 12 TRIBES

Riverside County is home to a dozen unique and diverse tribal nations. These are sovereign nations with their own government councils, revenue and services. The County maintains strong relationships with all tribal nations to ensure all interests are supported and all needs are met.

- |               |                |                   |
|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| AGUA CALIENTE | COLORADO RIVER | SANTA ROSA        |
| AUGUSTINE     | MORONGO        | SOBOBA            |
| CABAZON       | PECHANGA       | TORRES MARTINEZ   |
| CAHUILLA      | RAMONA         | TWENTY-NINE PALMS |



# COUNTY GOVERNANCE

## THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The County of Riverside is governed by the five-person Board of Supervisors. Voters in each of the five supervisorial districts elect a single Supervisor to serve a four-year term. The board is based in Riverside, but most supervisors have a local office in their district.

The Board determines the priorities of the county and its departments, as well as legislating via resolution, board order, or ordinance\*. The Board also adopts the annual budget, approves contracts, decides how land can be developed for the unincorporated areas, as well as appoints certain officers and members of various boards and commissions. The Board may also impose taxes, assessments, and fees.\* New taxes may not be imposed without a vote of the people.

## THE COUNTY'S POWERS

Counties get their powers from the state to take care of their residents' health and safety. This includes making local laws, managing land, and collecting taxes. However, only the Board of Supervisors can make these decisions. In practice, the county must follow state rules, which we'll explain more when we talk about the budget.

The county serves the community in several ways. Through elected officials, it administers and enforces state laws, collects taxes, assesses property, records public documents, and issues certain licenses. Through appointed boards and officials, it provides parks, libraries, flood control, emergency management, public assistance, healthcare, and conducts elections. For public safety, county departments work with the Sheriff's Office, Probation, courts, the District Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office. It also maintains roads in unincorporated areas, offers health services, and handles building permits, land planning, and code enforcement.

## THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

To keep things working, the Executive Office (EO) makes sure the Board's policy direction is carried out. It manages the county's day-to-day operations and assigns an Assistant CEO to oversee a portfolio\* of different departments. Each department is led by a department director - sometimes referred to as a department head. The EO works with these leaders to ensure their departments are able to carry out their mission, find solutions to problems and advise the Board on things like labor relations and employee benefits. But one of the most important parts of the EO? Creating, managing, and overseeing the county budget, revenues and expenses. Without strong fiscal oversight, county programs and services could cease to exist. After all, it takes a lot of money.



**The Board of Supervisors (from left):** District 5 Supervisor **Yxstian Gutierrez**, District 2 Supervisor & Board Vice Chair **Karen Spiegel**, District 4 Supervisor & Board Chair **V. Manuel Perez**, District 1 Supervisor **Jose Medina**, and District 3 Supervisor **Chuck Washington**



### TERMS TO UNDERSTAND

- Ordinance** - A local law passed with the same legal process as a state or national law.
- Tax** - A required payment from people or property owners to fund public services, no matter how much they personally use them.
- Assessment** - A required charge on land that helps pay for public improvements or services that benefit the property.
- Fee** - A payment made voluntarily for a specific service, but it can't be more than the actual cost of providing that service.
- Portfolio** - A group of related departments that focus on similar tasks or toward related goals and objectives.



# THE COUNTY ORGANIZATION CHART



RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
**CONSTITUENTS**



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
Elected by you, the constituents



DISTRICT 1  
**JOSE MEDINA**



**VICE CHAIR**  
DISTRICT 2  
**KAREN SPIEGEL**



DISTRICT 3  
**CHUCK WASHINGTON**



**CHAIR**  
DISTRICT 4  
**V. MANUEL PEREZ**



DISTRICT 5  
**YXSTIAN GUTIERREZ**

**COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Appointed by the Board



**JEFF VAN WAGENEN**

**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**  
Selected by the CEO



**JUAN PEREZ**

OFFICE OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**  
Elected by the voters

There are five elected positions in the county that are selected by the people's vote and operate independently of - and in partnership with - the Board of Supervisors. They serve four-year terms.



ASSESSOR-CLERK RECORDER **PETER ALDANA**    AUDITOR-CONTROLLER **BEN BENOIT**    DISTRICT ATTORNEY **MIKE HESTRIN**    SHERIFF **CHAD BIANCO**    TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR **MATT JENNINGS**

**ADDITIONAL OFFICIALS**  
Appointed by the Board



COUNTY COUNSEL **MINH TRAN**    CLERK OF THE BOARD **KIMBERLY RECTOR**

**ASSISTANT COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**  
Selected by the CEO



**HEALTH & HOSPITAL**  
**ZAREH SARRAFIAN**

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
MEDICAL CENTER  
PUBLIC HEALTH



**PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**MICHELLE PARADISE**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY\*  
FIRE  
INDIGENT DEFENSE  
COURTS  
PROBATION  
PUBLIC DEFENDER  
SHERIFF\*

\* - Indicates elected officials



**HUMAN SERVICES**  
**KIM BRITT**

CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES  
PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES  
FIRST 5  
HOUSING & WORKFORCE  
OFFICE ON AGING  
VETERAN SERVICES



**PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CHARISSA LEACH**

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER  
ANIMAL SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
FLOOD CONTROL  
PARKS  
TLMA/BUILDING & SAFETY  
TLMA/CODE ENFORCEMENT  
TLMA/PLANNING  
TLMA/TRANSPORTATION  
WASTE RESOURCES



**FINANCE & GOVERNMENT**  
**DON KENT**

ASSESSOR-CLERK RECORDER\*  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER\*  
TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR\*

\* - Indicates elected officials



**INTERNAL SERVICES**  
**SARAH FRANCO**

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT  
HUMAN RESOURCES  
PURCHASING  
FLEET SERVICES  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

# BUDGET BASICS

## “MAKING CENTS OF IT ALL”

A budget is a plan for how money comes in and how it's spent. It helps governments use taxpayer money wisely to fund important services (we'll get into those later).

Think of county budgeting like your own personal finances. You earn money (income) and put it in your bank account. Then, you pay the necessary bills like rent, food, and gas. If you have any left over, it's your "disposable income" - money for saving, investing, or fun stuff. Simple, right? For the county, "income" is called "revenue," and "spending" is "expenditures." Leftover money goes into savings, called "reserves." Sometimes, expenses are higher than income. For you, this might mean cutting back or using savings to cover costs. For the county, this is a "deficit." Now, what does the county do to cover a deficit? Well, much like you do in your personal finances, we either use our savings to cover the gap or we cut back on expenses. The goal? Keep a surplus and enough reserves for unexpected expenses.

### FROM THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Every year, the County of Riverside sets out to do something both deceptively simple and deeply complex: allocate our shared public dollars to serve the needs of more than 2.5 million residents across 7,300 square miles. The County budget is the tool we use to prioritize services, invest in infrastructure, and respond to the changing needs of our communities. But the budget is more than just numbers: it's a reflection of our collective values and the shared priorities that help shape life for all of us that live, work and enjoy life in the County of Riverside. We created this "Budget 101" guide to help demystify the County budget process so that you can engage with confidence.

We want you to clearly see where the money comes from, where it goes, and how you can participate in the process. Why? Because your voice matters. When we hear directly from the people we serve, it leads to better, more responsive budgeting. The best decisions are ones that are informed by those who live with the outcomes. This effort is part of our broader commitment to transparency and community engagement.

Our hope is that this guide makes a complicated process more accessible, and that it sparks conversations about the kind of county we want to be: safer, healthier, and ready for the future.

Thank you for taking the time to connect with your County government. We're glad you're here.



**JEFF VAN WAGENEN**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER





## REVENUE SOURCES

Revenue comes from a large variety of sources. You can see the chart below for a breakdown.

REVENUE SOURCES



\* B = billion  
M = million

*interest earnings, fines, permits, licenses, fees, other taxes, and more*

## PROPERTY TAXES

An important source of county revenue is property tax. Property taxes are taxes levied on real estate ownership based on the assessed value of a property.

WHERE DO PROPERTY TAXES GO?



## OTHER TAXES

We also get portions of sales taxes and gas taxes, which goes towards law enforcement programs and key transportation projects.

## GRANTS, BONDS, NOTES

Grants are another type of revenue that typically come from the state or federal government for earmarked projects. This means that the county can't take this money and use it for any purpose other than what the grant states it can be used on. For example, the county relies on state and federal grant dollars for child support services, emergency management and addressing homelessness - just to name a few.

Bonds are simply loans. Much like you will take out a car or home loan to pay the car dealer or homeowner, the county takes out bonds to cover purchasing or construction of buildings and large equipment.

Notes are another type of loan, often used to cover regular expenses like payroll while waiting for property tax revenue, which only comes in twice a year. Think of this like a short-term loan with a reasonable interest rate.

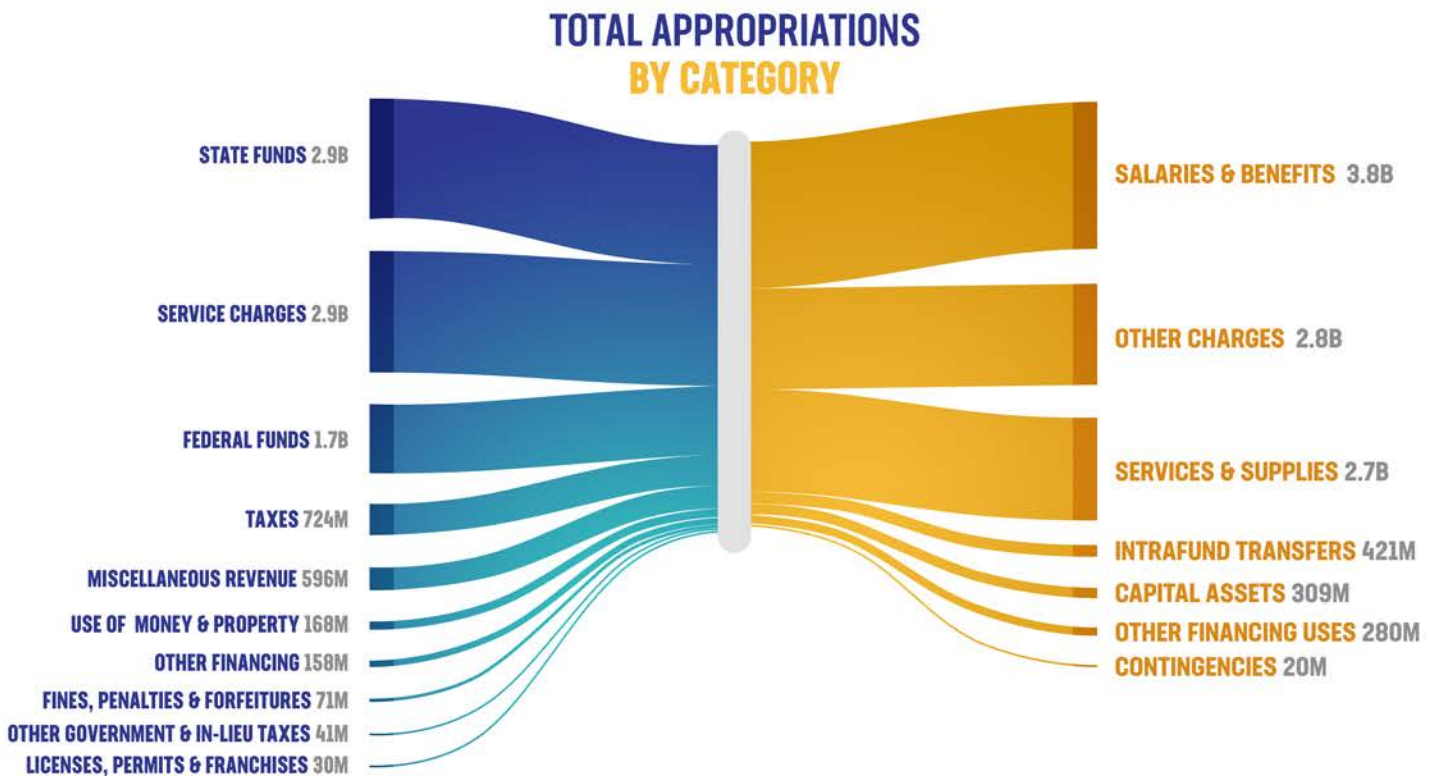
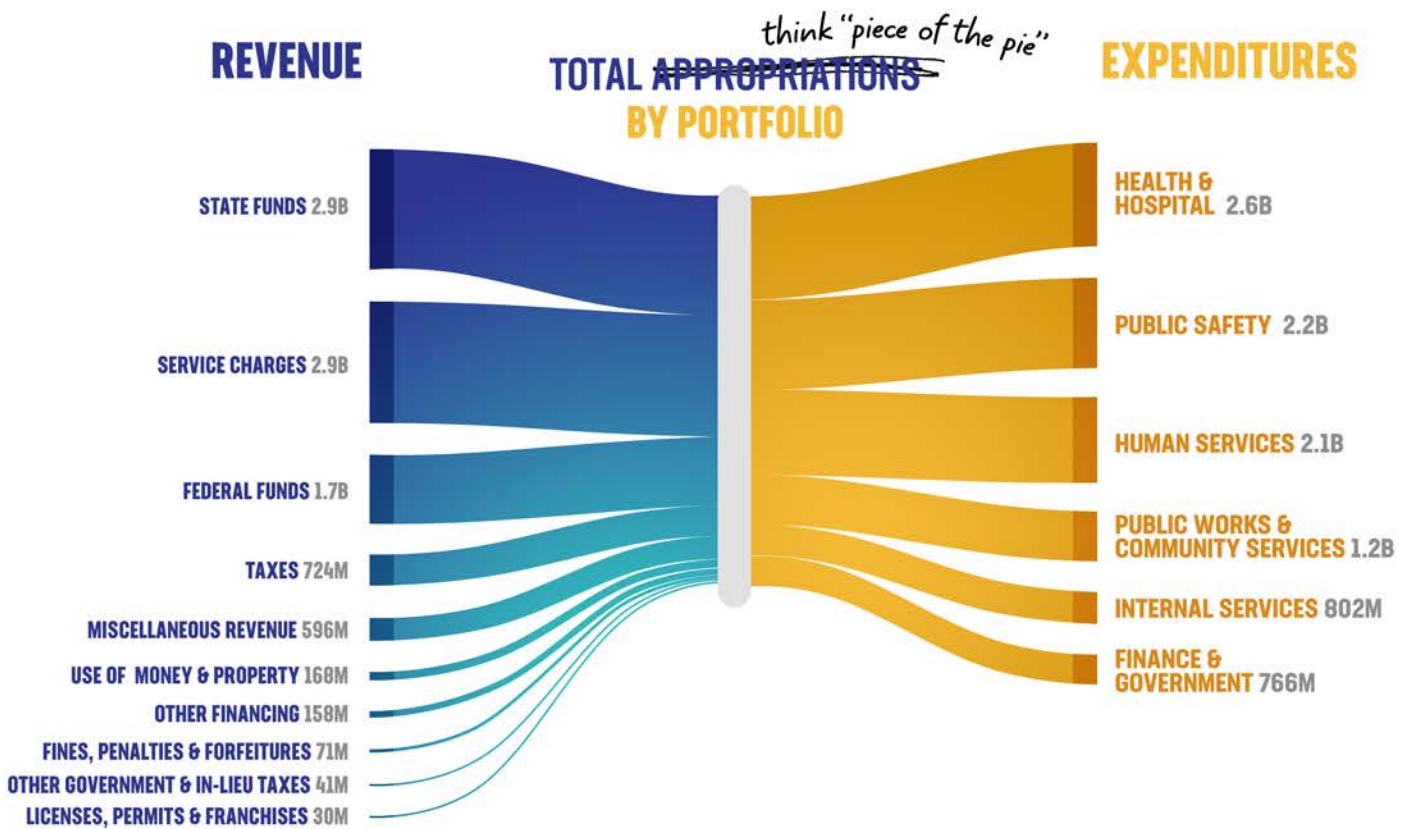
### ? Q: WHERE DOES THE MONEY SIT?

The county's bank is the county treasury. Much like your personal bank accounts, the treasury is subject to earning high interest when interest rates are high, and the opposite when interest rates are low. While the county's revenue is deposited into the treasury, the county funds that are withdrawn are all decided upon by the approved budget or budget appropriations throughout the year.





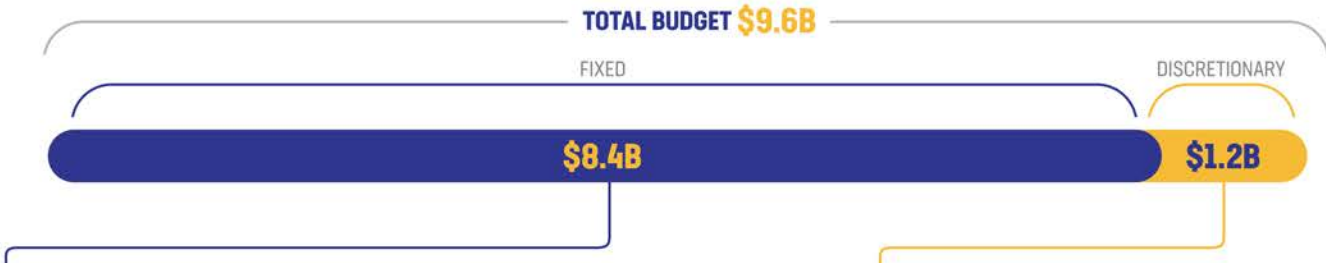
# WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM...AND WHERE IT GOES





# FIXED VS DISCRETIONARY

What makes the county's budget different from yours is *who* decides how the money is spent. While you control your own budget, the county answers to the state, federal government, and taxpayers. Because of this, the majority of the county's budget is locked in by rules about how it can be used. This is called the fixed or "non-discretionary" part of the budget. It includes money that must be spent in certain ways, as required by law or the restrictions on the grant. The rest, approximately one tenth of the budget, is the General Fund discretionary revenue, which the Board of Supervisors can decide how to use.



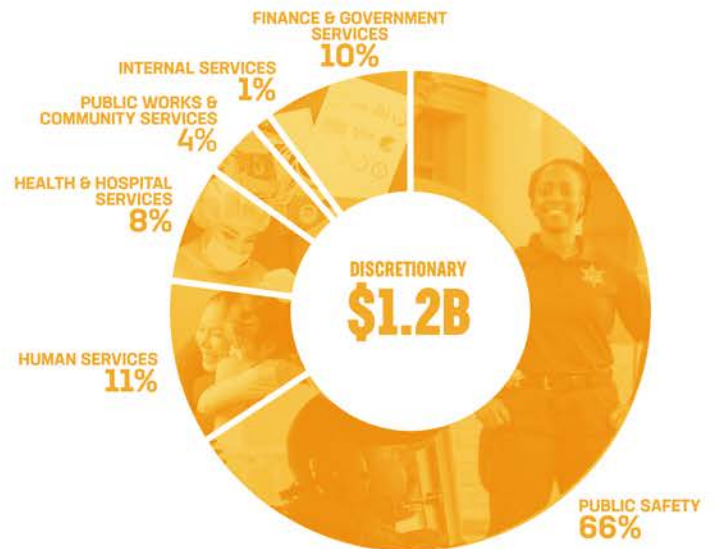
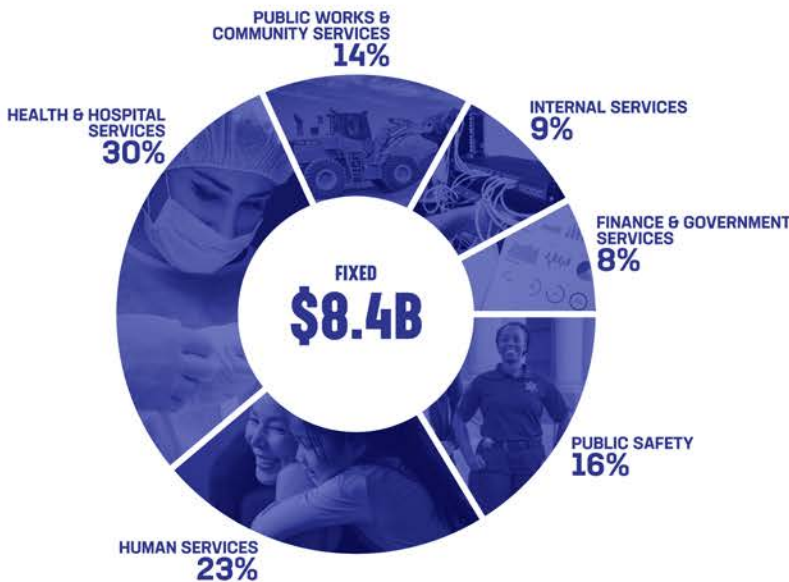
## FIXED

Earmarked money is decided by federal and state law written into grant guidelines. For example, the law might say that money must go to specific programs. The Board of Supervisors, CEO, or departments can't change how it's spent. This makes up a big part of the county's budget. But that doesn't mean we can't advocate for it. Since these laws are made by the state and federal government, the county can - and does - voice our position on laws that could benefit, or harm, Riverside County residents.

## DISCRETIONARY

Discretionary funds may seem small compared to earmarked funds, but they're key to paying for important services. Each department handles its budget with both earmarked and discretionary money. When budget time comes, departments ask for money from the General Fund discretionary (GFD). Since the GFD is limited, departments need to make a strong case for why they should get some. Luckily, the CEO, Assistant CEOs, and budget team help make sure every department has a process to justify and advocate for their needs.

# APPROPRIATIONS BY PORTFOLIO



### Q: WHAT IS "NET COUNTY COST"?

You'll hear the term, net county cost. This means it's not covered by state or federal dollars, but entirely from the county's discretionary funds. Net county costs are ongoing costs to fund programs that don't receive outside funding sources. Every year, net county costs grow. This means discretionary revenue must also grow - or else decisions must be made on how to manage rising costs.



# THE BUDGET LIFECYCLE

## BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

Here's how the county budget process works:

In early fall, departments plan their budgets based on what the community needs. They meet to prioritize requests and by March, submit formal budget requests. County leaders review these in April.

By late May, a recommended budget is ready and open for public review by May 31 (state law requires this). Public hearings are held so residents can share their thoughts and give input. This year, we'll hold additional community workshops to explain the budget and listen to residents on their needs and priorities.

Typically, the Board of Supervisors approves a budget for the next fiscal year by June 30. However, there are some instances when state and federal revenue is unknown and the county will start the new fiscal year with last year's budget, then pass a new budget by October. Once approved, departments can start using the funds for the new fiscal year. The adopted budget is published for everyone to see how the county's money will be spent to support the community.

By the time the Board of Supervisors convenes the annual budget hearings in June, much of the budget has already been apportioned and is available for public review. However, there is an additional pool of money available to departments for new expenses or not currently known costs.

## AUGMENTATION FUND

The county typically sets aside \$20 million to cover additional funding requests that come up during budget discussions at the public Budget Hearing. The Board has the discretion to allocate these funds, and they typically do so before the final budget is approved.

## CONTINGENCY

The county also typically sets aside a separate \$20 million fund to cover unexpected expenses. This fund is used for urgent needs that come up throughout the year, such as emergency responses or new initiatives that cannot wait until the next year's budget. When these funds are eventually programmed, the Executive Office returns to the board in a quarterly update listing the department need and purpose.

## THE TIMELINE

● = OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENT FEEDBACK





## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DESIGNATION FUNDS

Community Improvement Designation Funds are funds the Board of Supervisors give to the community to improve the lives of residents. These dollars often go to private or nonprofit organizations working towards same or similar goals of the county.

## THE UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

We also set aside money every year just for special projects in the county's unincorporated areas. In 2020, we heard from residents on their top priorities in the unincorporated areas and we've invested millions, as well as partnered with others to leverage more millions, to get better services to our residents. One such project is the completion of a sewer line along Van Buren Boulevard. This partnership with a city is helping hundreds of residents and businesses get off the septic system. How's that for improving daily lives and the local economy at the same time?

# PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHTS

## SHOW YOUR WORK

As you've seen in the previous charts, one of the ways we count how money is spent is by portfolio. You've seen the data, now let's look at examples of what is actually going on within these portfolios. This is your money at work!

Our Assistant CEOs have collected a representative sample of their portfolio's recent expenses under the banner of "Strategic Initiatives." We've also included some basic statistics to give you an idea of where that portfolio and its departments fit within the budget.



## WHAT IS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT?

Over the next few pages, you'll see a section like this where we highlight capital improvement projects - or CIP. CIP are big projects, and they cost big dollars. These might mean new facilities, like improving the training center for public safety personnel, or it could mean constructing a wellness village in Mead Valley to meet residents' behavioral and healthcare needs.



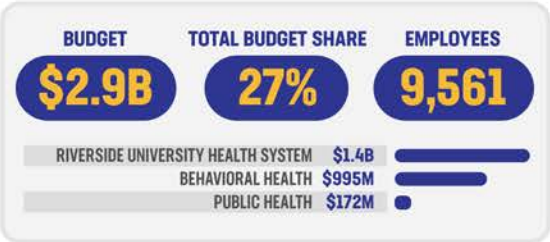




+ PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHT

# HEALTH & HOSPITAL SERVICES

Riverside University Health System (RUHS), the County's safety net healthcare provider, offers an integrated network of care through its Medical Center in Moreno Valley, 14 Community Health Centers, and the departments of Behavioral Health and Public Health. This unified structure is focused on providing the right care, at the right time, in the right setting, resulting in improved patient outcomes, cost control, and a healthy workforce for Riverside County.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### ACCESS

RUHS continues to increase timely access to care for Riverside County residents. Work on this initiative includes expanding Behavioral Health services and 24/7 mobile crisis response, opening six Express Care locations to treat non-emergency needs after hours and on weekends, utilizing community health workers to engage individuals disconnected from traditional health services, and creating Public Health data transparency to improve interventions and outcomes.

### INTEGRATED CARE

Providers work together to address a patient's physical, mental, and social needs. Behavioral Health and Public Health services are embedded at Community Health Centers; a CARES Line connects residents to mental health and wellness resources; and behavioral health navigators in the Emergency Department successfully connect people to appropriate care. Integrated care allows for seamless and continuous care throughout a person's healthcare journey, resulting in improved quality of life and service.

### QUALITY

RUHS strives to improve the health and well-being of patients and the community by delivering excellent and compassionate care, education, and research. This initiative focuses on the uninterrupted pursuit of superior care across the health system. RUHS will continue to gauge progress toward this goal through validation and accreditation, including hospital and clinic ratings by independent associations, patient volume, throughput measures, and physician satisfaction surveys.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



# MEAD VALLEY WELLNESS VILLAGE

DEPARTMENT: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$580M

Construction of the Wellness Village in Mead Valley, on 18 acres at Placentia Street and Harvill Avenue. This innovative project has five main buildings, totaling about 450,000 square feet, for outpatient and residential services for behavioral health and substance use disorders, primary healthcare, and behavioral health urgent care. The facility will serve children, youth, families, veterans, and others, and will offer the first behavioral health urgent care in Riverside County for children under 13. Completion is anticipated in 2026.



# 84-BED ADULT RESIDENTIAL FACILITY

ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$38M

RUHS has opened multiple new access points of care, including an 84-bed Adult Residential Facility in the City of Riverside. The facility will provide residential care, outpatient behavioral health services and short-term recuperative care to help individuals regain stability and transition toward independent living. In recent years, the system also has opened more than 500,000 square feet of outpatient services that include a surgery center and clinics offering primary and specialty care, diagnostic services, dental care, behavioral health and public health programs.

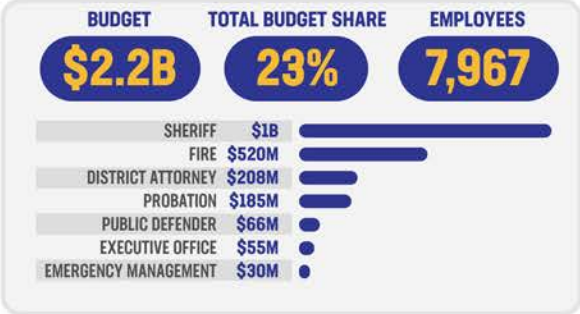




+ PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHT

# PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety refers to the protection and welfare of the whole community. More specifically, the Public Safety portfolio is focused on carrying out programs involving, directly or indirectly, the protection, safety, law enforcement activities, and criminal justice system of Riverside County.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

The Emergency Management Department is working to bring a mountaintop alert system to quickly notify residents and visitors on the San Jacinto Mountaintop areas from Anza to Idyllwild. Using \$8 million in grant dollars, \$800,000 in Unincorporated Communities Initiative funds and Contingency, the department purchased trailers to broadcast emergency alerts on the radio waves. Once completed, the project will include sirens and signs instructing residents to tune into the radio for instructions.



### DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The District Attorney's Office created a trial preparation unit, with teams of victim specialists, investigators, clerical and paralegal support, deputy district attorneys and IT specialists. The Board of Supervisors funded an expansion of the trial prep team for \$1 million. The department also expanded their regional cold case team with a \$2 million grant over three years, as well as \$200,000 from county funds. The cold case team identifies homicide victims with forensic genealogy to ensure victims get the dignity they deserve and those responsible are held accountable.

### PROBATION

The Probation Department is bringing play back to the yard at Indio Juvenile Hall. Once completed, the Recreation Yard Project will provide more opportunities for physical exercise and daily activities by transforming an empty field into a pickleball court and synthetic turf field with shade structures and landscaping. This project was made possible with \$540,000 in state funds.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



# FIRE STATION REPLACEMENTS & RENOVATIONS

DEPARTMENT: FIRE ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$28M

The Fire Department has been busy breaking ground on a \$13 million replacement station in Lake Tamarisk, as well as a \$1 million replacement fire station project in El Cariso. In addition, the department invested \$14 million for renovation plans to eight stations in Winchester, Lake Hills, and other areas of the county. These capital improvements are part of the department's strategic plan to upgrade stations and provide enhanced fire protection and response to Riverside County residents.



# PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING HUB

DEPARTMENT: SHERIFF ESTIMATED BUDGET: TO BE DETERMINED

The Sheriff's Department is bringing a state-of-the-art regional law enforcement and emergency operations training center to Riverside. Transforming the current Ben Clark Training Center from modular classrooms into the goal state of a permanent regional hub for local and regional first responders to train on effective response tools and techniques. The initial phases of the public, private partnership revitalization project included a needs assessment, scope of work and site feasibility study for \$7.1 million.

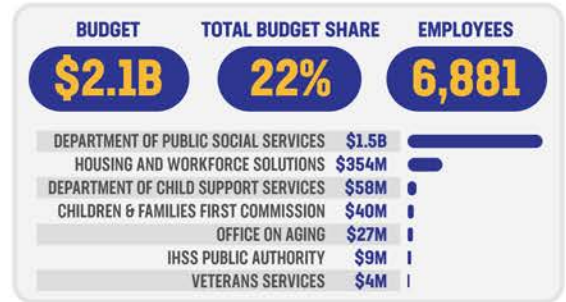




+ PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHT

# HUMAN SERVICES

The Human Services (HS) portfolio consists of six departments that protect and support the safety, health, economic and social well-being of vulnerable families and individuals by providing a range of essential integrated services and benefits in partnership with other county departments and community organizations.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### OFFICE OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

The Department of Public Social Services Office of Child Abuse Prevention uses evidence-based strategies to prevent abuse through collaboration with other disciplines. The Safety Through Early Perinatal Solutions program supports at-risk mothers with services to enhance stabilization and positive parenting. By addressing risk factors and fostering community pathways, the program aims to reduce abuse, minimize system strain, and improve the well-being of children and families in Riverside County.

### STRENGTHENING OUR WORKFORCE & IMPROVING RETENTION

The Department of Public Social Services continues to focus on workforce development and retention to build a stable, high-performing organization. Strategies include enhancing leadership skills, fostering a supportive culture, and reducing turnover to improve productivity and institutional memory. Priorities involve increasing employee engagement by offering coaching and mentoring programs. By improving hiring processes and emphasizing employee health and wellness, the department aims to be an employer of choice while ensuring excellent services for its community.

### JUSTICE INVOLVED VETERANS

The Veteran Services Department is supporting justice involved veterans who often face unique challenges, including mental health struggles, difficulty securing employment, and a lack of stable housing. This program provides support to justice-involved veterans by offering comprehensive services that facilitate successful re-entry into society. By addressing the root causes of their involvement in the justice system and providing essential resources, this program works to reduce recidivism and promote long-term stability.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



# MULBERRY GARDENS SENIOR & FAMILY APARTMENTS

**DEPARTMENT: HOUSING & WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$136M**

Expanding affordable housing in our region, Mulberry Gardens is a 209-unit development providing homes for families, seniors, and individuals experiencing homelessness. The County contributed \$1.3 million from the Housing Homeless Incentive Program, \$2 million from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and 51 Project-Based Housing Choice Vouchers. Leveraging this investment, the developer secured \$135.69 million in financing from local, state, and private partners to bring the project to life. Leasing is expected to begin in June 2027.



# HARMONY HAVEN CHILDREN & YOUTH CENTER

**DEPARTMENT: DEPART OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$7.3M**

Harmony Haven Children and Youth Center is Riverside County's first 24-hour transitional shelter that provides trauma-informed care to more than 700 foster youth annually. The 123-acre campus and 48-bed facility is supported by social workers with the Department of Public Social Services and other service partners to provide care, services, educational programs, and life-skills workshops. The County purchased the property in 2023, with an additional \$7.3 million in investments to upgrade safety, security, and environment.



+ PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHT

# PUBLIC WORKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Public Works and Community Services Portfolio departments are focused on infrastructure, facilities, and critical services, which are essential to the quality of life, safety, well-being, and public health of Riverside County residents.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### THE HOMELESS SOLUTIONS COLLABORATIVE (HSC) INITIATIVE

This project bridges services from the Public Works and Community Services teams with more traditional homeless service providers. This partnership addresses the needs of unhoused individuals in the Santa Ana River Bottom, as well as restoring the river to make it safer for the community. Examples include providing direct services, responding to weather and fire related emergencies, and collaborating on flood control, water quality and access.

### THE SHORT TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Following community concerns over short term rentals (STRs) and their impact on local neighborhoods, the Board of Supervisors required a County response. Planning and Code Enforcement crafted a balanced ordinance that establishes strict certification requirements, occupancy limits, and operational guidelines to ensure that STRs operate responsibly. In addition, a dedicated STR code enforcement team was created to focus exclusively on inspections, investigating complaints, and ensuring adherence to county ordinances.

### LANDFILL GAS UTILIZATION FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Department of Waste Resources turns landfill gas (LFG) - a byproduct of waste decomposition - into renewable energy! Currently, LFG is converted into electricity at three closed landfills, including Coachella, Edom Hill and Highgrove. Plans to transform LFG at active Badlands and Lamb Canyon landfills into Renewable Natural Gas are on the horizon. By reducing greenhouse gas emissions and generating clean energy, we all benefit from cleaner air and less reliance on fossil fuels.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### JURUPA VALLEY GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT

**ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$185M (FUNDED BY SB 132 AND MEASURE A)**

This road project eliminates an existing railroad crossing at Jurupa Road, providing an underpass below Van Buren Boulevard and the Union Pacific Railroad. Separating train traffic from vehicles creates a safe route with no stops required for the daily trains. This will also improve traffic circulation for everyone on one of Jurupa Valley's most heavily traveled streets. A new pedestrian path also provides room for walkers and cyclists. Expect this project finished in December 2026.

### LAKELAND VILLAGE STORM DRAIN PROJECT

**ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$13.5M (FUNDED BY FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FROM FEMA)**

The Lakeland Village "Line H" Storm Drain Project significantly reduced flood risk in the area between Maiden Lane and Adelfa Street. More than 100 homes were successfully removed from the FEMA-mapped floodplain, providing increased safety and security. Additionally, the project involved collaboration with the Transportation Department to pave a portion of Maiden Lane. Furthermore, large rocks excavated during the project were repurposed to address drainage issues at nearby Perret Park, stretching our flood control efforts.







+ PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHT

# INTERNAL SERVICES

The County's Internal Services portfolio provides an essential method by which to deliver general services internally to other departments. These departments offer other county departments the resources and subject matter experts necessary to operate effectively and ultimately serve the residents of the county.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### THE INTEGRATED WORKPLACE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Riverside County Facilities Management Integrated Workplace Management System (IWMS) implementation will streamline facility management by combining real estate, maintenance, space planning, and asset management into a single platform. Our agency will improve efficiency, reduce costs, and enhance workplace productivity through automation, real-time data insights, and optimized resource utilization. IWMS will simplify compliance, enhance sustainability efforts, and support better decision-making, empowering our organization to create smarter, more agile workplaces.

### RIVCO ONE: INTEGRATED SERVICES DELIVERY

This initiative aims to incorporate the work, service provision, and data of multiple County departments and various community-based organizations into an integrated system aimed at serving vulnerable, high-need residents. The initial plan associated with this effort is to create a data lake, identity resolution, data sharing across existing systems, the development of a common user interface, and provide an environment for data analytics and performance reporting. Cross-department coordination and data sharing are necessary to improve clients' well-being and self-sufficiency outcomes and to operationalize and institutionalize a client-centered care delivery model for all services.

### COUNTYWIDE MENTORING PILOT

This is a new initiative designed to empower individuals to achieve their full professional potential by establishing a mentorship program that cultivates a culture of continuous learning, inclusivity, and strategic career development. The program aims to provide participants with tailored guidance, foster meaningful connections, and contribute to the overall success and diversity of the County of Riverside.



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



# RCIC DATA CENTER

DEPARTMENTS: RCIT, FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$12M

Remodel approximately 6,000-square-foot interior space within the RCIC building located in Riverside to accommodate the relocation of RCIT's RC3 data center. The scope of work for the RCIT Data Center TI Project includes but is not limited to: mechanical, electrical, and plumbing equipment & infrastructure, uninterrupted power supply system, telecommunications equipment & infrastructure, data equipment & infrastructure, emergency power generator(s) system, redundant building & equipment cooling system, electronic security system, fire suppression system, data warehouse interior and or exterior security mantrap(s), Telco closet, receiving area, and UPS room.



# BUILDING IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

DEPARTMENT: FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$11M

Board-approved Deferred Maintenance Projects seek to deliver multiple and necessary upgrades to County-owned and occupied facilities that are in dire need of repairs. The projects encompass 11 County-wide facilities and include HVAC, roofing and parking lot asphalt improvements.

County Administrative Center  
Riverside Centre  
Riverside Juvenile Court

Gateway Building  
Riverside Health Administration  
Blythe County Administrative Center

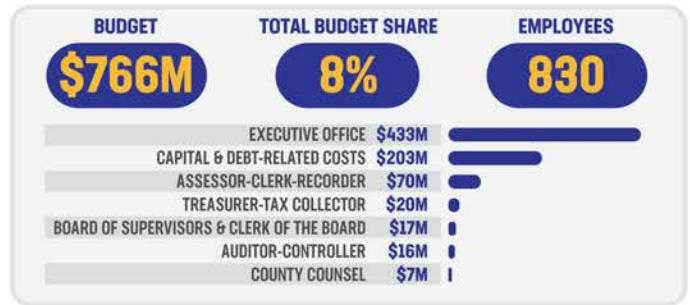
Banning County Administrative Center  
Washington Center



+ PORTFOLIO HIGHLIGHT

# FINANCE & GOVERNMENT

The Finance and Government Services portfolio is committed to providing effective, efficient, and transparent governance and administrative oversight for the County of Riverside. They are committed to providing the Board of Supervisors and the public with the information they need to make informed decisions about county governance and administration.



## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### C3AI ASSESSMENT MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Accurate property assessments ensure consistency and fairness in property taxation. The Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder has implemented AI-assisted property assessments through C3AI, becoming the first county in California to integrate this technology into the assessment process. Since its launch, the system has significantly improved direct enrollment for residential properties through machine-learning-based valuations and streamlined Proposition 8 processing. This data-driven approach enhances assessment accuracy while optimizing the workload for property appraisers and analysts.

### IMPLEMENTATION OF PAYMENT KIOSKS

The Treasurer-Tax Collector is introducing self-service payment kiosks at the County Administrative Center in downtown Riverside and are anticipated to be fully operational by April 2025. Additional plans include installing a kiosk in the 4th-floor lobby and one at each of two satellite locations, Temecula and Palm Desert. These kiosks will accept cash, checks, and credit cards, providing accessible and streamlined payment options enhancing taxpayer convenience and efficiency in property tax collections.



### REDESIGNED PUBLIC SERVICE

Efficient customer service is essential for ensuring timely access to government resources. The Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder has implemented enhancements to the Public Service Call Center and appointment system, significantly reducing call wait times and improving response efficiency. These updates allow staff to manage complex inquiries more effectively while ensuring routine questions are addressed promptly. As a result, the department has increased monthly appointment availability by over 60%, significantly improving customer experience and optimizing office efficiency.

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

### THE ARCHIVES MODERNIZATION PROJECT

DEPARTMENT: ASSESSOR-CLERK-RECORDER ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$3M

Access to historical records is an essential function of local government which supports transparency and legal processes. The Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder's new Robert J. Fitch Archives facility has been relocated to a remodeled space on the 2nd floor of the County Administrative Center in downtown Riverside. This modern public repository ensures the long-term preservation of the County's historical records while improving access and efficiency. The new location features a climate-controlled records storage area, an upgraded fire and security system, and modern research desks that accommodate more visitors.



### TEMECULA SATELLITE OFFICE RELOCATION

DEPARTMENT: TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR ESTIMATED BUDGET: \$1.2M

The Treasurer-Tax Collector is relocating the Temecula Satellite Office to a new 4,352 square-foot facility at 40810 County Center Drive, Suite 110, and will include essential tenant improvements. With improved infrastructure and resources, the relocation will streamline tax collection processes, ensuring timely and accurate revenue management. Designed to better serve an expanding customer base, the new facility reflects the department's ongoing commitment to responsive, effective, and transparent public service.





# YOUR VOICE

## THE BUDGET PRIORITIES SURVEY

We really want to hear from you about our budget, because in no small way, it's your budget too. New this year, the County of Riverside launched a budget priorities survey. You, your family and your neighbors were invited to provide input into how county taxpayer dollars are spent across county departments and services for the upcoming fiscal year. The online survey was available in both English and Spanish. Participants identified services of greater need in their areas, as well as picked categories of spending to receive more or less funding.



## COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS & HEARINGS

We created more opportunities to hear directly from you. Chances are, you're reading this booklet at a newly created budget workshop. If not, wow - you get an extra credit point. We're hosting five budget workshops throughout the county to ensure everyone who wants to attend and provide input into the budget process, has a meaningful opportunity to do so. These workshops, will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the budget process, share their perspectives, and offer input ahead of the annual budget hearings in June.

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS

No need to wait until budget time to connect with us. The Board of Supervisors meets on Tuesdays. This is where the board conducts the county's business. Departments requesting to use some of their budget on large contracts go before the board, and the board votes on policy matters affecting all county departments or legislative advocacy. All county residents, visitors and business operators are invited to attend.

### WATCH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING

#### LIVE

##### CLERK OF THE BOARD WEBSITE

[www.rivcocob.org](http://www.rivcocob.org)

Archived meetings are available at this website.

##### CLERK OF THE BOARD FACEBOOK



##### RIVCO TV

[www.rivcotv.org](http://www.rivcotv.org)

AT&T Channel 99

Frontier Channel 36

Spectrum Channels 188 and 1300

YouTube in Spanish

#### IN-PERSON

##### COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER BOARD CHAMBERS

4080 Lemon St.

Riverside, California 92501

Tuesdays at 9:30 AM

Please check the schedule at the Clerk of the Board website for dates & agendas.

Agendas are posted Thursdays before meetings.

Revised agendas posted on Fridays.

If you wish to speak at a board meeting, grab a speaker card by the door and submit to the Clerk of the Board.

Spanish interpretation & assisted hearing are available.

#### REMOTE

If you wish to speak at a board meeting, but can't get there in person, fill out an online speaker card at [rivcocob.org](http://rivcocob.org). You'll be given instructions on how to log in virtually.





# LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

## WHAT IS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY?

We don't exist in a vacuum. We are dependent on our relationships with state and federal legislators. Why? Because much of our budget comes from the state and federal government. We've mentioned this a few times already, but it can't be overstated. We make our voices known with our elected representatives in the state houses, congress and senate. We have found we have shared interests - to serve the same population - you!

## A PLATFORM WITHOUT POLITICS

Regardless of your political affiliation - whether a Republican or a Democrat, progressive or conservative - elected officials work to improve the quality of life for those we serve. This guiding principle delivers results for the people of Riverside County, a population that is shared between the County, cities, tribal nations, Sacramento and Washington D.C.

*or other!*

The County's Legislative Platform is used to develop solutions to the challenges our community faces. We believe that by stating our goals in a platform, we have the chance to implement a plan to achieve them. Our objectives are to drive policy, impact the process, and lead partnerships. The following policy pillars and priorities makeup our roadmap to get there. If you're looking for an extra credit assignment, read our entire Legislative Platform online at [rivco.org/legislative-advocacy](http://rivco.org/legislative-advocacy).

## POLICY PILLARS



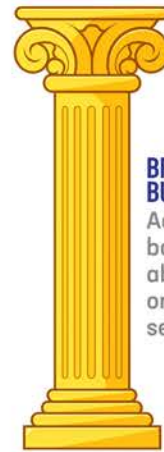
### FAIR AND EQUITABLE FUNDING

Advocate for full funding that meets the needs of Riverside County's growing and diverse communities



### LOCAL GOVERNANCE REQUIRES LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Advocate for policies and initiatives that enhance local discretion in delivering services and resources



### BREAKING BARRIERS & BUILDING BRIDGES

Advocate for removing barriers that limit the County's ability to innovate and focus on constituent-centered service delivery

## LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING  
LOCATED IN WASHINGTON, D.C.



CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LOCATED IN SACRAMENTO, CA



# NOTES





# CLASS DISMISSED!

## HAPPY TRAILS

You stayed with us! The pop quiz will be on Monday, when you pump gas, look at the sales tax on a receipt, or when you pay property taxes. Our goal is that you no longer ask yourself "Where do my taxes go?" Thanks for reading! Now, take a walk along a trail, drive down a paved road and eat at a restaurant. You'll see how your county government works for you. Just look for us - our services are all around you.



### STAY IN TOUCH

Let's still keep in touch! Follow us, but also comment, on our social media handles. You'll see what's happening now, new topics, new tools and new work.



FACEBOOK



INSTAGRAM



X



YOUTUBE

@rivconow



SANTA ROSA MOUNTAINS OVERLOOKING LA QUINTA





PREPARED BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE