



2020 Proposed Federal Platform

Contra Costa County

Website: www.contracosta.ca.gov



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INTRODUCTION

County Profile

Contra Costa County is home to more than one million residents and was one of the original 27 counties established in California in 1850. It is the ninth most populous county in the state. Contra Costa is large - over 733 square miles and extends from the northeastern shore of the San Francisco Bay easterly about 50 miles to San Joaquin County. The County is bordered on the south and west by Alameda County and on the north by the Suisun and San Pablo Bays.

The western and northern shorelines are highly industrialized, while the interior sections are suburban/residential, commercial and light industrial. About 40 percent of the county is under the jurisdiction of 19 incorporated cities and towns, and large portions of the remaining unincorporated area are part of public park systems. Contra Costa County is also very diverse, with communities that range from small agricultural towns like Byron, with a population density of about 200 people per square mile, to urban population centers like Contra Costa Centre, a bustling transit village with a population density of 8,400 people per square mile.



Demographic Highlights

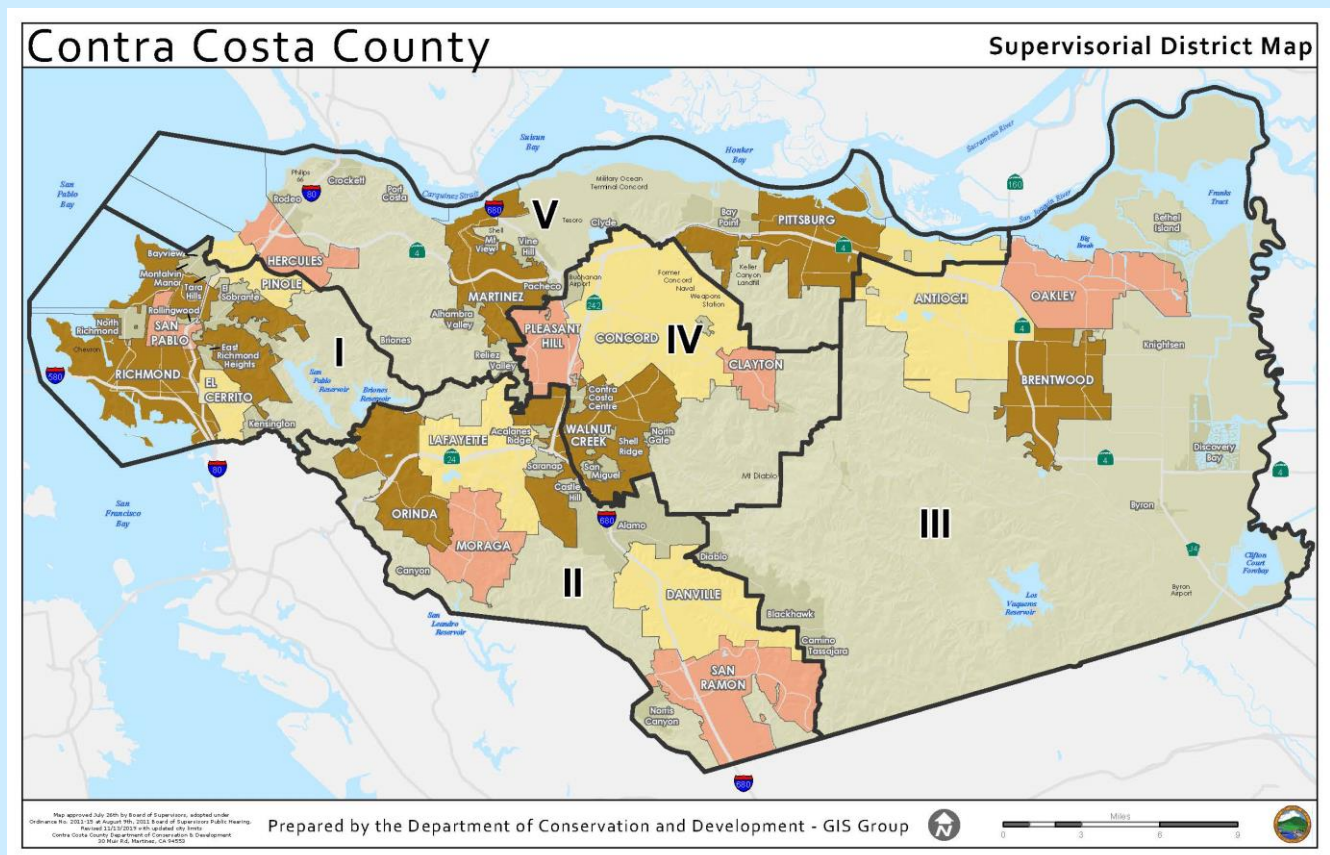
Approximately 1.1 million people live in Contra Costa County but only 15%, or about 172,080 people, reside in the unincorporated areas of the county. Most of the population is consolidated along the major transportation corridors--Interstates 80 and 680, Highways 4 and 24, and the BART lines. The median age of Contra Costa County residents is 39 years old. Seniors over age 60 as a percentage of our population are expected to expand from 13% in 2020 to 25% in 2020, making this age group our fastest-growing population. The majority (57%) of County residents are white, with significant proportions of Asian (17%) and African American (8%) people. The Census tracks Latinx ethnicity separately from other populations; in total, the Hispanic/Latino population makes up approximately one-quarter of the total population.

Governance

A five-member Board of Supervisors, each elected to four-year terms, serves as the legislative body of the County, which has a general law form of government. Also elected are the County Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney, Sheriff-Coroner and Treasurer-Tax Collector. The County Administrator, David Twa, is appointed by the Board and is responsible for running the day-to-day business of the County.

Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors:

- District 1: John M. Gioia
- District II: Candace Andersen
- District III: Diane Burgis
- District IV: Karen Mitchoff
- District V: Federal D. Glover



Legislative Platform Purpose

The Legislative Platform establishes the priorities, principles, and policy statements of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and establishes the basis for its advocacy efforts, alerting our legislative partners of the greatest needs of our residents and where we need additional help¹. The Platform also provides general direction to County departments and agencies, legislative advocates, delegation members, and the public on our positions on key policy matters that would impact the way the County does business.

Contra Costa County has also adopted a *Delta Water Platform*² to identify and promote activities and policy positions that support the creation of a healthy Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Contra Costa County uses this Delta Water Platform to guide its actions and advocacy regarding the future of the Delta.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Contra Costa County has adopted the following Mission, Vision and Values statement:



The graphic features the Contra Costa County seal in the top left corner. The title "Contra Costa County" is prominently displayed in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, the text is organized into three columns: Mission, Vision, and Values. The bottom of the graphic is a collage of diverse people in various professional and community roles, including a firefighter, a woman with a dog, a construction worker, a man with a keyboard, a woman with books, a woman with a child, a nurse, a police officer, and a man with a tool.

Mission
Contra Costa County is dedicated to providing public services which improve the **quality of life** of our residents and the economic viability of our businesses.

Vision
Contra Costa County is recognized as a **world-class service organization** where innovation and partnerships merge to enable our residents to enjoy a safe, healthy and prosperous life.

Values
Contra Costa County **serves people,** businesses and communities. Our organization and each one of our employees value:

- Clients and communities
- Partnerships
- Quality Services
- Accountability
- Fiscal prudence
- Organizational excellence

¹ Note that until the 2021-2022 Platform is adopted, the 2019 Adopted Platform policies are considered a component of this Platform.

² The Delta Water Platform is available at: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2273/Delta-Water-Platform?bidId=>.

FEDERAL FUNDING NEEDS: **PROJECT SPECIFIC**

1. Secure funding for the Army Corps' *annual maintenance dredging of the federal channels* along the County's borders that maintain the ship channel to the authorized depth of -35 feet.
2. Advocate for and support the *San Francisco to Stockton Navigation Improvement Project* that proposes to deepen the ship channel to realize transportation efficiencies.
3. *Mount Diablo Mercury Mine*. Support legislation in the Water Resources Development Act that would give authority to the Army Corps of Engineers to build remediation projects in the Remediation of Abandoned Mine Sites program.
4. *Buchanan Field and Byron Airports*: Secure funding for Master Plan/Business Plan Implementation.





Surface Transportation Funding Needs

- ✓ Vasco Road Safety Improvements: Project components (barriers, shoulders, passing facilities) will eliminate cross median collisions, wildlife undercrossing/overcrossing will preserve migration patterns.
- ✓ North Richmond Community Supportive Transportation Improvements: Alternate truck route/regulations, trail/school access improvements to address community safety, public health and livability needs, and general transportation improvements to support job growth and priority development area access.
- ✓ Eastern Contra Costa Multi-use Trail Network: Active mode access improvements for planned and existing mass transit stations, schools, and activity centers.
- ✓ Brentwood Intermodal Transit Center: Multimodal station access improvements and the extension of mass transit from the Antioch BART station.

- ✓ Iron Horse Corridor Enhancement Program: Improvements to trail access (to/from activity center and other regional trails), additional facilities for different active modes, overcrossings, at grade intersection improvements.
- ✓ State Route 4 / Old River Bridge Study: The existing structure is narrow, improvements would address safety and traffic flow.
- ✓ West Contra Costa High Capacity Transit: Implementation of the WCCTAC High Capacity Transit Study.
- ✓ Kirker Pass Truck Climbing Lane (southbound) and Turn Channelization: Needed for improved traffic flow and safety.
- ✓ Vasco Road - Byron Highway Connector: Connection between two major arterials improving connectivity while removing through/truck traffic from the Byron community.



FEDERAL FUNDING NEEDS: **PROGRAM SPECIFIC**

1. Housing: Support funding for economic development and affordable housing for local agencies engaged in building stronger, more economically viable communities.
2. Local Cost Share. Support legislation that would give the Army Corps of Engineers the authority to reduce the project cost share in disadvantaged communities to 10% local match.
3. Multimodal National Freight Network: Support increases in funding for National Freight Strategic Plan implementation specifically to fulfill the goals of the Northern Waterfront initiative and to address congestion in the I-680 Corridor.
4. Rail Safety: Support initiatives to increase safety by addressing trespass fatalities and relative to rail service to oil refineries.
5. Rural Road Funding Program: Support the creation of a new program to modernize rural roads consistent with emerging safety, complete streets, active mode policies.
6. Stormwater Program Funding: Support additional funding through the EPA to enable compliance with the Clean Water Act.
7. Surface Transportation Program/Increases in Highway (road/rail) Bridge Funding: Regulation changes are needed that allow for direct funding to qualified local jurisdictions to expedite economic benefits, increase purchasing power, and bolster travel, business and economic growth.
8. Transportation Funding for Disabled, Low-income, and Elderly Persons: Support increased capital and operations funding, in addition to funding and policy changes that would address local, state, and federally identified needs for coordination improvements.

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENTS

Climate Change

- SUPPORT legislative and administrative efforts that: address the impacts of climate change; support climate adaptation and resilience efforts; address the disproportionate impacts that some communities bear because they are located near large industrial facilities; reduce exposure to toxic air pollutants and reduce greenhouse gases; and study and recognize the health impacts of global and regional climate change.
- SUPPORT the concept of establishing a national price on carbon-based fuels to address the costs to society of emissions from those fuels.

Criminal Justice and Mental Health

- SUPPORT policies and approaches that would enhance the ability of county officials and our partners to prevent and treat mental health and substance use disorders, both in the community and within the confines of the criminal justice system.
- SUPPORT policies and programs that divert non-violent individuals struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from local jails into more appropriate treatment programs.
- SUPPORT legislation and regulations that would amend the federal Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP) and allow non-convicted individuals to have continued access to necessary treatment through federal health benefits such as Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP and VA health benefits.

The Delta

- SUPPORT protection and restoration of a healthy sustainable Delta ecosystem including adequate water quality, inflow and outflow, and water supply, to support fisheries, wildlife and habitat in perpetuity and managing or eradicating invasive species.
- SAFEGUARD Delta Counties' responsibilities related to land use, water resources, flood management, tax revenues, public health and safety, economic development, agricultural stability, recreation, and environmental protection in any projects, policies, or operations.
- SUPPORT rehabilitation, improvement, and maintenance of levees throughout the Delta.
- SUPPORT the Delta pool concept, in which the common resource provides quality freshwater supply to all Delta users, requiring mutual responsibility to maintain, restore, and protect the common resource.

- REPRESENT and include local government in any governance structures for the Delta.
- OPPOSE isolated conveyance.

Health Care

- SUPPORT full funding of the Federal Medicaid program. OPPOSE federal efforts to reduce Medicaid funding or restrict access to Medicaid benefits and services.
- OPPOSE federal legislation and administrative efforts to privatize Medicaid and/or to impose work requirements as a condition of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) eligibility.

OPPOSE efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act or to replace it with any proposals that represent significant, permanent structural alterations to current subsidized segments of the health care system.

- OPPOSE new block-granting proposals, harsh cuts, or proposals that will significantly and/or permanently shift the structure of health and human service funding and programming that would lead to the restriction or elimination of safety-net programs.
- OPPOSE efforts to eliminate or reduce funding for essential public health services, inclusive of funding for immunization, HIV/Ryan White, Communicable Disease and Tuberculosis Control, Hansen's Disease, Teen Pregnancy, Public Health Preparedness and Maternal Child Health Funding.
- OPPOSE changes to Title X Family Planning Program, enacted in 1970, dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services.
- OPPOSE efforts to impose work requirement as a condition of Medicaid (Medi-Cal) eligibility.
- SUPPORT Medicaid (Medi-Cal) funding for same day mental health appointments
- SUPPORT reauthorization of funding for HIV/Ryan White Care, Maternal Child Health Funding including Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program).
- SUPPORT legislation and administrative changes that will enhance counties' ability to provide comprehensive Behavioral Health Services.
- PROTECT funding for core local public health and prevention efforts.

Homeless Services

- PROTECT SUPPORT the continuation and expansion of funding for affordable housing, homelessness assistance and prevention programs, and strategic local and regional responses to homelessness, including resources that support the County's compliance with federal and state anti-homelessness and anti-poverty initiatives and requirements.
- SUPPORT increasing and maintaining affordable housing stock and housing stability by way of supporting funding, policy, or regulations that promote housing for the most vulnerable low, very low, and extremely low-income households, including the production and preservation of various housing types and the protection of stable housing for vulnerable persons experiencing homelessness.
- SUPPORT removal of barriers in planning processes, regulatory frameworks, funding programs, healthcare access, and policy to promote increased innovation and data-driven approaches to addressing homelessness and housing affordability, with the goal of eliminating discrimination or arbitrary treatment of individuals based on housing status, income, or other household characteristics.
- SUPPORT wide variety of housing types and formats, for all persons regardless of personal characteristic or status, and the equitable distribution and access to affordable units and holistic services, particularly for vulnerable individuals, in line with evidence-based practices.

Human Services

Older Adults and Aging

- OPPOSE elimination or cuts to funding for older adult programs and services. SUPPORT funding for programs that support older adults, veterans, disabled individuals, the homeless, and low-income individuals.
- SUPPORT funding and policies to provide older adults with holistic services that support well-being, health, and mental health.

Safety Net Programs

- SUPPORT funding for entitlement programs that help low-income families reach self-sufficiency.
- OPPOSE actions that would result in cost shifts on federal entitlement programs to state and localities or which would result in greater dependency on county-funded programs.

- SUPPORT efforts to increase SNAP benefit amounts to better meet recipients' nutritional needs, adjust SNAP eligibility requirements to include populations with significant need, and remove current federal barriers that prevent some nutrition programs from employing EBT technology.
- OPPOSE efforts to eliminate states' flexibility in taking high cost of living into eligibility determinations; OPPOSE restoration of asset tests for SNAP.
- OPPOSE funding cuts or block granting benefit programs, including SNAP and Medicaid.
- SUPPORT efforts that allow people to apply for benefits while incarcerated. OPPOSE efforts to limit eligibility for individuals with certain criminal records or to impose work requirements on them for benefit programs, including SNAP and Medicaid.
- SUPPORT efforts to create reasonable time limits for TANF recipients and provide families who are working with modest cash assistance grants to supplement low earnings.
- SUPPORT reauthorization and increase the TANF Block Grant. OPPOSE changes to TANF that will require counties to invest new funds to administer the program.
- OPPOSE efforts to restrict allowable state maintenance-of-effort expenditures and end federal efforts to impose a national TANF error rate.
- SUPPORT federal and state financial assistance to aid county and local government efforts to meet unfunded federal mandates.
- OPPOSE elimination and reduction in funding for programs that help low-income families pay their heating bills and reduce energy bills by making homes more energy efficient.

Child Welfare Services

- SUPPORT legislation that increases and protects the safety and well-being of children at risk of abuse, neglect and exploitation.
- OPPOSE the elimination or cuts to funding streams for child welfare programs.
- SUPPORT increasing prevention dollars to help children who are victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation remain safely in their own homes or family-based settings and provide support to their caregivers.
- SUPPORT efforts to provide states with financial incentives, as opposed to monetary penalties, and minimize the significant administrative burden associated with child welfare review processes.

Early Childhood Development

- SUPPORT efforts that ensure all children have access to quality care by expanding high quality learning opportunities for children, expanding subsidized childcare and tax credits, increasing new childcare slots, increasing access to home visiting programs, and making funding available for First 5 commissions, increasing wages and supporting infrastructure of ECE programs.
- SUPPORT policies that increase or align eligibility guidelines to ensure more access of services for low income working families to programs such as Head Start.
- OPPOSE actions that would reduce funding for early childhood education, including Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

Immigration

- OPPOSE actions to repeal DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) as well as legislation and administrative efforts that negatively target immigrants.
- OPPOSE actions which discourage or prevent immigrant populations from accessing public benefits and housing, including proposed changes to the Public Charge rule.
- OPPOSE any efforts that would restrict a full Census count.
- SUPPORT efforts to fully canvas hard-to-count communities.

Violence Prevention

- SUPPORT efforts to prevent, interrupt and end child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and human trafficking.
- OPPOSE any elimination and cuts to grant programs for violence prevention, human/labor trafficking, victim services, and federal grants related to the Violence Against Women Act.
- SUPPORT efforts that increase access to cultural responsiveness and language support for victims of crime;
- SUPPORT efforts to protect housing access and employment rights for victims of harassment and survivors of interpersonal violence.
- SUPPORT programs and actions that address suicide, injury and violence prevention.

- SUPPORT efforts aimed at reducing health disparities and inequities associated with violence against women, communities of color, and the LGBT community.

Workforce Development

- SUPPORT policies that meet the needs of serving businesses, workers, job seekers, and youth under the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) that preserve local decision-making relative to spending, direction of work, and other functions of local workforce boards.
- SUPPORT additional funding for WIOA programs and activities including education, training, apprenticeships, job seeker support, and job placements.
- SUPPORT policies that increase access to training and education for social workers and staff in Aging, including programs that assist students in obtaining a social work degree.

Library Services

- SUPPORT funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the primary source of federal support for the nation's approximately 120,000 libraries and 35,000 museums and related organizations.
- SUPPORT the reauthorization and funding for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) including the Museum and Library Services Act.

Natural Resources/Permit Streamlining

- SUPPORT locally-controlled resource permitting to streamline economic development activities and conserve and recover species and the habitats upon which they depend, natural resources, watersheds and open space.

Telecommunications and Broadband

- SUPPORT the expansion of broadband (high speed internet service) and the deployment of emergency technologies, such as small cell 5G, to drive economic development and job opportunities, support county service delivery, and improve health, education and public safety outcomes for residents.
- SUPPORT the restoration of net neutrality to ensure open and nondiscriminatory access to online information.

- SUPPORT preservation of local government ownership and control of the local public rights-of-way and ensure reasonable compensation for their use.
- OPPOSE Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rulemaking that would reduce franchise fee obligations which fund community television operations and the General Fund.
- ENSURE nondiscriminatory treatment of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) channels by cable system operators. SUPPORT continued funding for PEG channels.
- SUPPORT local decision-making and accountability of local elected officials and OPPOSE any actions that would preempt or limit the zoning and siting authority of local governments.

Transportation/Mobility Management and Coordination

- SUPPORT and seek opportunities to streamline the regulatory process as well as encourage the development of regulations that are appropriate and flexible
- SUPPORT policies, programs and funding increases that enable new technologies, practices, and services to improve mobility to vulnerable populations.

Veterans

- SUPPORT legislation to increase availability, accessibility, and utilization of Veterans Benefits.
- SUPPORT legislation to provide America's veterans organizations with resources to make necessary repairs to or replacement of their meeting halls and facilities.