

2020

Legislative Platform



County of Nevada

950 Maidu Ave

Nevada City, CA 95959

www.MyNevadaCounty.com

Adopted per Resolution 20-284 As Amended

Introduction

The Nevada County Board of Supervisors, County Executive Office, and senior executives develop this Legislative Platform on an annual basis in order to prioritize and draw attention to legislative areas of interest to the County as a whole, as well as specific program or specific legislative efforts that affect the County's ability to deliver the best possible services to our residents.

The County Executive Office leads the effort to identify and assess the priorities, funding requests and initiatives described here by engaging the senior executive team, our contracted and organization-based legislative advocates, as well as the Board of Supervisors at their annual workshop, where the Board of Supervisors sets the Board Objectives for each year. Input is also solicited from the appointed and elected department heads regarding program specific issues as well as alignment with County planning documents such as the Capitol Facilities Plan, Health and Human Services Strategic Plan, etc.

This document is shared with our contracted legislative advocacy firm, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange, Inc. as well as the public on the County's website. It is used throughout the year by the Board of Supervisors, County Executive Office and Department Heads to assess legislative issues as they arise and determine if advocacy on a particular issue is in alignment with the County's Legislative Platform.

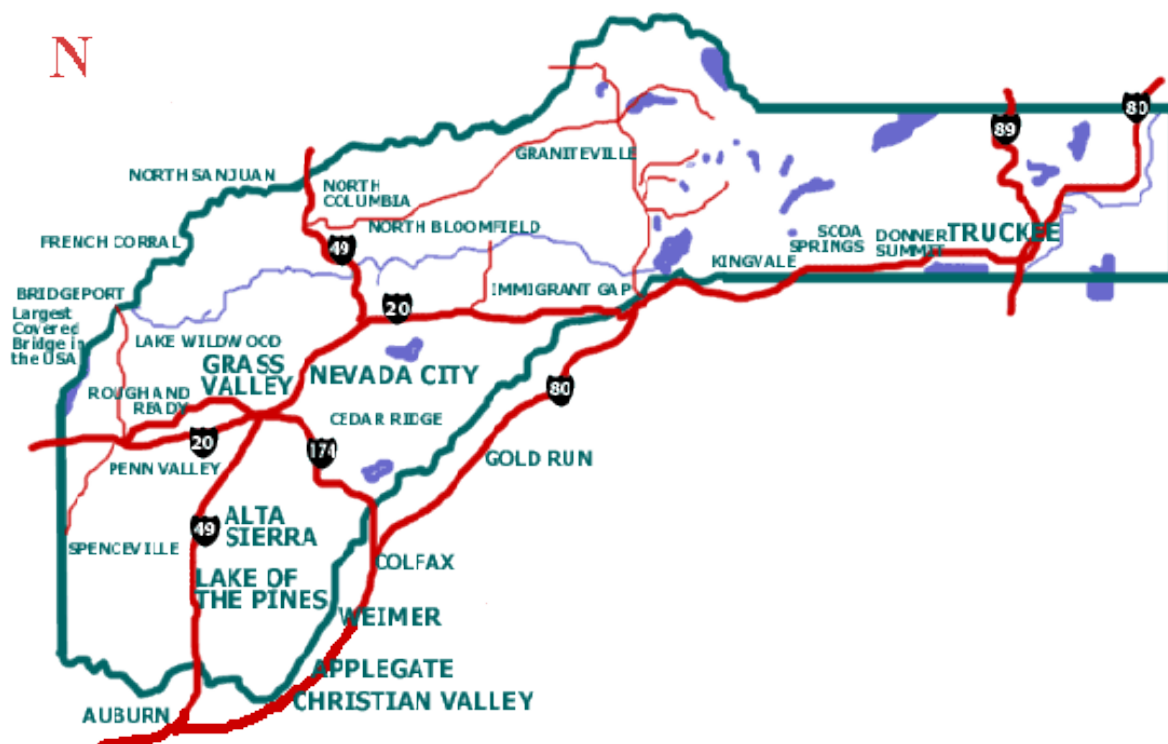


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2020 Board Objectives



Maintain the County's financial stability and core services.



Reduce the loss of life during a wildfire by improving evacuation routes and early warning systems; creating more defensible space around private properties and driveways, building a network of maintained fuel breaks, engaging residents in emergency preparedness and fire-safe stewardship, and enhancing critical infrastructure.



Provide community leadership to prepare for and minimize the impacts of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events on residents and local businesses by providing timely and accurate public information, prioritizing and advocating for the hardening of critical public safety and telecommunications infrastructure, and assisting people with disabilities and older adults.



Proactively support job-enhancing economic development by implementing business friendly data-driven policies, investing in broadband and infrastructure projects that enhance the quality of life for all Nevada County residents, and partner with private sector, non-profit, Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee leaders to collaboratively support local businesses and promote tourism.



Coordinate with local jurisdictions, developers and other partners to facilitate development of and access to affordable and workforce housing development.



Maintain and continue to improve the cannabis permitting and enforcement program to promote permitted cannabis activities while investigating options for additional supply chain license types and a compassionate use program.



In partnership with community providers and other jurisdictions, utilize housing first and continue efforts to prevent homelessness, provide emergency shelter, expand supportive services, secure housing, and enhance coordination to address the needs of the homeless population and to mitigate impacts on the community.

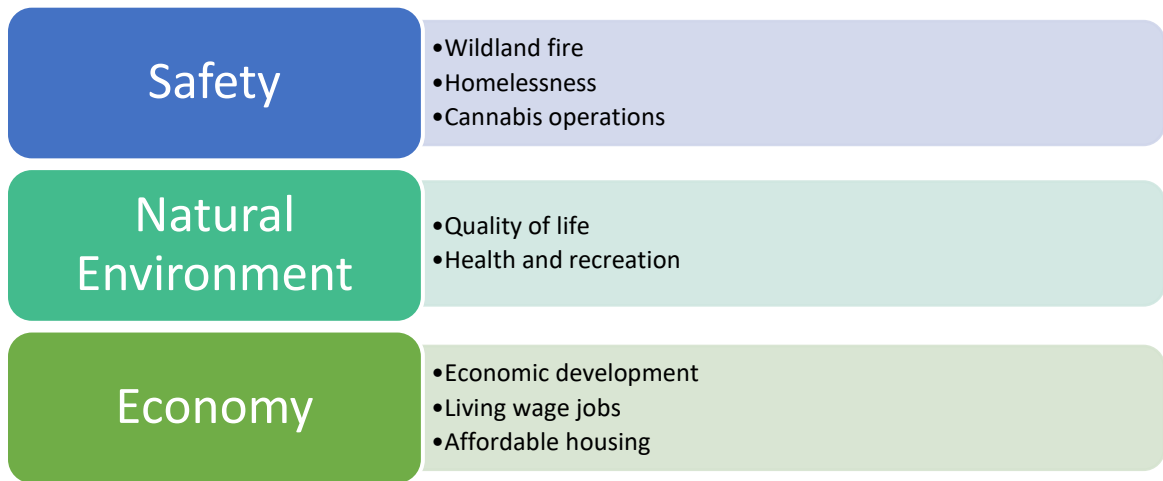


Promote community resiliency by implementing policies, cost-saving programs and best practices supported by the County's Energy Action Plan.

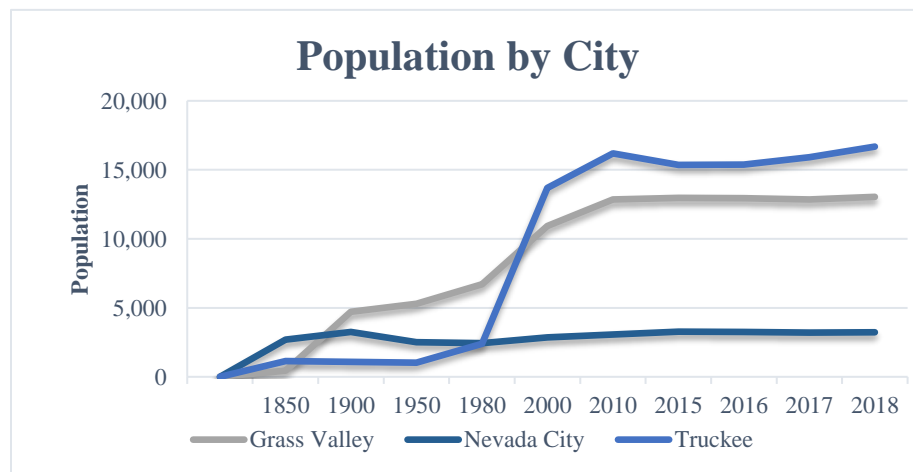
Community Description

Nevada County is a small rural county in Northern California. The County spans 958 square miles from the Sacramento Valley to the Sierra Mountains and borders the state of Nevada, near Reno. Nevada County is home to approximately 100,000 residents with three incorporated cities which include Grass Valley, Nevada City and the Town of Truckee. Generally, Nevada County residents are older, racially similar yet politically diverse, and well-educated. Nevada County's rich gold rush history, active arts and culture scene, and access to recreational activities attract tourists, retirees, and new residents to the area.

Citizen priorities per the 2017 National Citizen Survey data:



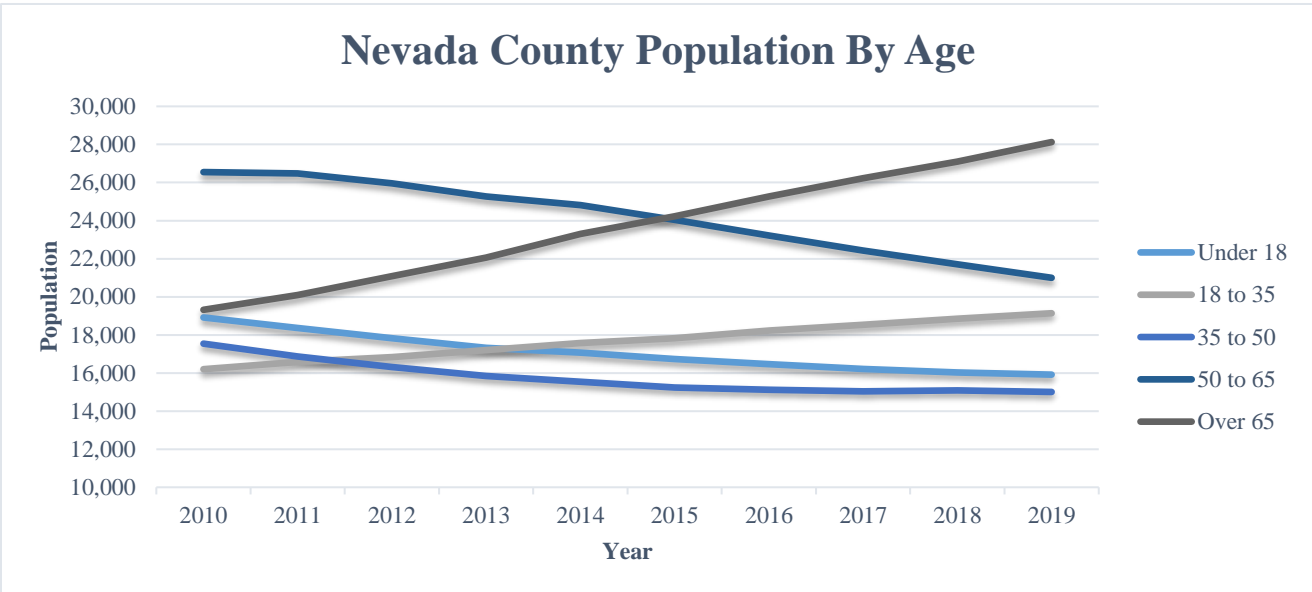
Nevada County is the 36th most populous county in California. The population grew from 92,053 in 2000 to 98,764 in 2010, and is estimated at 99,696 in 2018. Nevada County saw its highest growth between the 1950s and 1990s. The 2019 preliminary data indicates that the population will remain stable. In the last 18 years, the unincorporated portions of the County have seen the largest growth. The incorporated areas of the County are



home to 33% of the population, with 17% in Truckee, 13% in Grass Valley, and 3% in Nevada City, while 68% live in outlying unincorporated areas.

Compared to its surrounding counties, Nevada County has the highest percentage of residents over 65 years of age. There are fewer residents under the age of 30 in Nevada County (29%) than statewide (41%). With the recent

improvement in the County's unemployment and economic status, the attractiveness of this area as a great place for young families continues to increase.



Nevada County is a small, rural population and sits well below the overall California population density of 251 people per square mile. The assessed value of Nevada County real estate increased from \$4.2 billion in 1997 to a high of \$16.6 billion in 2016. Both assessed value per capita and average home value have increased since the last recession, reflecting the rebound in the real estate market. State law allows for temporary property tax reductions (Prop 8) when values decline, these reductions spiked to a peak of 31% of all properties in the County in 2010. An estimated 60% of all housing is in the unincorporated area of the County. According to Counting California Report (2000), 14% of housing units in Nevada County were second homes at that time, which continues to contribute to a lack of housing availability today. Second home ownership is especially prevalent in Truckee, a popular resort community in the Tahoe region. Total housing units is the number of single- and multiple-family dwellings, mobile homes, and other dwelling units situated within a given jurisdiction. The total number of housing units in Nevada County was 53,393 units in 2017, with a median sales price of \$391,750 placing Nevada County in the higher value range among comparison counties.

| Assessed Secured Property Values and Taxes | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Year | Total Assessed Value (\$Bill.) | Assessed Value per Capita \$ | Property Tax Per Capita \$ | % Parcels in Prop 8 Status | Avg Assessed Value of Home |
| 2012 | 15 | 154,420 | 1,859 | 26% | 292,488 |
| 2013 | 14.8 | 152,744 | 1,801 | 26% | 293,636 |
| 2014 | 14.9 | 153,833 | 1,871 | 23% | 309,783 |
| 2015 | 15.7 | 160,103 | 1,940 | 23% | 335,416 |
| 2016 | 16.6 | 168,735 | 2,049 | 20% | 275,381 |
| 2017 | 17.3 | 175,480 | 2,131 | 18% | 292,423 |
| 2018 | 15.7 | 157,659 | 2,124 | 13% | 287,556 |

Employment by sector paints a picture of economic health by industry in the County overall. The Service-Providing sector leads in the number of people employed (64.8%), followed by Government (20.7%), and Goods Producing (13.2%) sectors. Average weekly wages range from \$473 in Leisure and Hospitality to \$1,488 in Federal Government. This year, the number of jobs in the County increased from 31,380 to 32,840. However, with outbreak of the coronavirus, unemployment has dramatically risen across state and local levels. As of the date of this writing, estimates show approximately unemployment rates could be 15.5 percent across the state.

Nevada County’s vibrant community, abundant natural beauty, location and natural resources provide a competitive advantage for employee attraction. Nevada County’s top businesses include technology, ski-resort and other lodgings, grocery stores, schools, and other service providers.

| Industry | # Employed | % Employed |
|--|---------------|-------------|
| Education and Health Services | 5,390 | 17% |
| Retail Trade | 4,040 | 12% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 5,050 | 16% |
| Natural Resources, Mining, and Construction | 3,310 | 10% |
| Professional and Business Services | 2,260 | 7% |
| Manufacturing | 1,420 | 4% |
| Financial Activities | 1,320 | 4% |
| Other Services | 2,200 | 7% |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities | 480 | 2% |
| Wholesale Trade | 380 | 1% |
| Information | 310 | 1% |
| Farming | 100 | 0.3% |
| Government | 6,370 | 20% |
| Total | 32,630 | 100% |

Contacts

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Legislative Priorities

Policy Area: Administration of Justice (AOJ)

| Issue | Summary/Action Item | Department | Board Object. | Target |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|---|--------|
| Animal Control | Support legislation that increases flexibility for local animal control officers to administer vaccinations to prevent the spread of communicable disease by expanding exemptions of licensure and specified requirements on licensees when engaging in specified acts of veterinary care | Sheriff's Office | | State |
| County Jail Operations | Support funding for construction, modernization and staffing of adult criminal justice facilities that will meet the needs created by realignment and address long term sentences in county jails | Sheriff's Office |  | State |

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| Court Appointed Dependency Counsel Funding | Support legislation or administrative action to fully fund optimal caseloads for dependency attorneys | Public Defender |  | State |
| Juvenile Rehabilitation | Oppose legislation to amend Proposition 57 by requiring the court to find that a minor is not amenable to rehabilitation while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in order to find that the minor should be transferred to a court of criminal jurisdiction. | Sheriff's Office; Probation; Behavioral Health | | State |
| Public Safety Realignment | Support continued and protected funding for Public Safety Realignment | Sheriff's Office; Probation Department; Health and Human Services |  | State |

Policy Area: Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources (ANR)





| Issue | Summary/Action Item | Department | Board Object. | Target |
|--|---|---|---|---------|
| Bridgeport Bridge Restoration Project | Continue to pursue funding for the restoration of this historic landmark | Board of Supervisors |  | State |
| Cannabis Banking | Support legislation to reform federal banking regulations that prohibit a Federal banking regulator from penalizing a depository institution for providing banking services to a legitimate marijuana- or hemp-related business | Board of Supervisors; Treasurer Tax Collector; Auditor-Controller |  | Federal |




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| Cannabis Regulation | Support legislative efforts to clarify consistent state regulation, protect local control of cannabis allowable activities, fund enforcement and public health activities | Community Development Agency; Sheriff's Office; Public Health |  | State |
| Cap and Trade Funds/SRA Fees for Rural Communities | Advocate for dedication of cap and trade revenue to rural communities through revising the definition of "disadvantaged communities" | Community Development Agency |  | State |
| Emergency Preparedness | Support fair and equitable funding to local health departments and emergency services for emergency preparedness programs | Office of Emergency Services; Public Health |  | State/ Federal |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency Funding | Advocate for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and other FEMA Grant Funds including timely award notification and fund distributions | Office of Emergency Services |  | Federal |
| Invasive Species Program | Support continued funding for effective pest management and eradication activities and to restore funding for agricultural border stations | Agricultural Commissioner |  | State/ Federal |
| Payments-in Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Funding | Support efforts to secure Payments-in-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Funding and oppose efforts to decrease or defund PILT and/or SRS | County Executive Office; Treasurer Tax Collector; Auditor-Controller |  | State/ Federal |

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| Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) | Support PSPS event legislation and rulemaking that ensures maximum communication between local Office of Emergency Services and Public Health Departments, notification to all impacted residents, special provisions for access and functional needs individuals, back-up generation to critical infrastructure and incorporated jurisdictions , and necessary reimbursement funding for PSPS related costs | Office of Emergency Services; Public Health, Adult Protective Services; Child Protective Services; County Executive Office |  | State |
| Residential and Commercial Wildfire Insurance | Support legislation that provides greater consumer protection, access to, and transparent and consistent risk modeling related to residential and commercial wildfire insurance that balance consumer protections and extreme risks faced by the insurance industry | Board of Supervisors; Office of Emergency Services |  | State/ Federal |
| South Yuba River State Park | Advocate for increasing resources dedicated to the South Yuba River State Park, Bureau of Land management, and USFS Tahoe National Park for public safety and environmental protection | Board of Supervisors | | State/ Federal |
| Trails | Support proposals to increase funding for multi-modal trails | Board of Supervisors |  | State |
| Tree Mortality and Fire Protection | Support proposals to secure funding and dedicate resources to address tree mortality on local, state, federal and private lands to reduce fire hazard and promote forest and watershed health | Office of Emergency Services |  | State/ Federal |
| Vegetation Management | Support easing of environmental review criteria for vegetation removal along public roads | Public Works |  | State/ Federal |



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| Williamson Act | Support legislation or budget proposals to fund the Williamson Act subventions to counties | Community Development Agency; Assessor | State |
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Policy Area: Government Finance and Administration (GFA)


| Issue | Summary/Action Item | Department | Board Object. | Target |
|---|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Animal Care Shelter | Support funding for regional animal shelter facility and programs | Sheriff's Office |  | State |
| Bonds & Funding Measures | Support an equitable disbursement of state and federal funding in all bond and funding measures affecting the County | County Executive Office |  | State/ Federal |
| Burdensome Regulatory Requirements | Support rulemaking that minimizes burdensome requirements and legal obstacles, takes into consideration the various environments of the state and minimizes duplication of regulations by multiple agencies | All Departments | | State/ Federal |
| County Revenue | Oppose efforts to decrease, restrict, eliminate or otherwise restrict local autonomy and control of local revenues | County Executive Office |  | State/ Federal |
| COVID-19 Cost Recovery | Advocate for funding related to COVID-19 cost recovery of local municipalities that includes direct funding allocations and provides maximum flexibility on spending discretion at the local level | County Executive Office; Board of Supervisors; Auditor-Controller; HHSA |  | State/ Federal |





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| Cyber Security and Open Data | Advocate for County Information Technology Directors’ review and input on all proposed bills related to cyber security and open data to identify the possible unique impacts on rural counties | Information and General Services | State |
| Elections & PSPS Events | Support legislation and advocate for increased coordination between Elections Officials and Investor Owned Utilities to ensure the continuation of operations during PSPS events and to secure necessary operational funding | Elections; Office of Emergency Services |  State |
| Employee/ Labor | Support full cost recovery for salary, benefits and administration for all employee relationships and protect and enhance flexibility and local control over employee and labor relations issues | Human Resources Department County Executive Office; Auditor-Controller |  State |
| Health Realignment | Advocate for maintaining sufficient health realignment funding to ensure adequate resources to obligations and fulfill statutory public health, behavioral health and indigent health care mandates | Public Health; Behavioral Health |  State |
| Preserve Local Control | Oppose legislation that does not recognize California’s diversity and the need for local government’s autonomy in addressing the problems and services of our residents | Board of Supervisors | State/ Federal |


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| Privacy/ Security | Support efforts to protect non-public information that is collected electronically by the County in compliance with various state and federal laws and local ordinances | All Departments | State/ Federal |
| Property Tax Refunds | Oppose legislation that would provide property tax refunds to owners of commercial properties by making available mid-year property assessment reductions based on disaster relief for economic losses absent physical damage | Auditor-Controller; Assessor's Office; Treasurer Tax Collector; Clerk of the Board; County Executive Office |  State |
| Public Records Retention of Electronic Mail | Oppose legislation to increase retention period requirements of public records that includes electronic mail unless adequate funding is included | Clerk of the Board; Information general Services Agency; County Counsel | State |
| Special Elections | Advocate for State Funding of Elections for special elections | Elections | State |
| Split-Roll Initiatives | Oppose "split-roll initiatives" that generally would require regular reassessment of Commercial and Industrial property at current market value, and would eliminate Proposition 13 protections for significant numbers of those properties | Auditor-Controller; Assessor's Office; County Executive Office | State |


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| State & Federal Mandates | Support full funding to ensure that state and federal mandates are cost-neutral to the County and pursue revisions to streamline the process for local government | Auditor-Controller; County Executive Office |  | State/ Federal |
| State Realignment & Cost Shifts | Oppose proposals to restructure, realign or otherwise shift the cost of state programs to local government without commensurate compensation | County Executive Office |  | State |
| Tele-communication Legislation | Advocate to protect the rights of local government to control location and permitting process of telecommunications infrastructure | Information and General Services | | State/ Federal |


Policy Area: Health and Human Services (HHS)


| Issue | Summary/Action Item | Department | Board Object. | Target |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Affordable Care Act | Support continuation of the Affordable Care Act for the 1 in 5 Nevada County residents currently enrolled | Social Services |  | State/ Federal |
| Child Custody and Visitation | Support legislation to allow child support workers to assist families with child custody and visitation orders | Child Support Services | | State |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Dental Services for Low Income Californians | Increase funding to expand access to dental health treatment and prevention services for low-income Californians through increasing Denti-Cal reimbursement levels to qualified dentists and expanding public education and awareness | Health and Human Services | State |
| Emergency Medical Services | Support legislation and funding that will enhance emergency and/or trauma services, including operations, equipment, infrastructure, ancillary services, public health interventions, and physician reimbursements | Office of Emergency Services; Public Health |  State/ Federal |
| Health in our Community | Support legislation and funding for individual and community health programs delivered by counties through public health, behavioral health and social services. Further support legislation that encourages coordination of physical and mental health services to patients as well as innovative practices to improve the health and wellbeing of Californians. | Health and Human Services |  State/ Federal |
| Homelessness Program Funding | Support proposals to increase funding for shelter and coordination of services for homeless people in rural communities | Health and Human Services |  State/ Federal |
| In-Home Supportive Services MOE | Advocate for equitable County IHSS MOE and collective bargaining that ensures sustainable funding that does not jeopardize other necessary funding sources including Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds | Health and Human Services Agency; Behavioral health, Social Services; County executive Office |  State |


| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| Mental Health Services | Support legislation that shifts the payment structure of mental health services away from “per minute” to a method that supports efficient and effective care. End the IMD exclusion for Medi-Cal billing | Behavioral Health |  | State/ Federal |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|




| | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| Realignment Funding | Advocate for State General Fund back-fill of loss revenues of 1991 Realignment and 2011 Realignment to ensure the provisions of core services | HHSA; Behavioral Health; Social Services; Sheriff's Office; County Executive Office |  | State |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|-------|






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|---|--|--|--|-------|
| Rehabilitation and Treatment for Inmates | Seek funding to support both in-custody programming and facilities in order to enhance the County’s rehabilitation and treatment programs for inmates with mental health and substance use disorders | Behavioral Health; Sheriff’s Office |  | State |
|---|--|--|--|-------|

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|-------|
| Workforce Training | Enhance and expand employment and training programs to non-custodial parents | Child Support Services; Social Services |  | State |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|-------|

Policy Area: Housing, Land Use and Transportation (HLUT)

| Issue | Summary/Action Item | Department | Board Object. | Target |
|---------------------------|---|--|---|--------|
| Affordable Housing | Support legislative efforts to encourage affordable/workforce/ senior housing developments in rural communities | Community Development Agency; Health and Human Services |  | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Amend Streets and Highway Code to allow for Emergency Access | Support legislation to amend Streets and Highway Code that provide clarification allowing the issuance of encroachment permits on any State highway or freeway for emergency access where access is limited in moderate, high and very high Fire Severity Zones (as determined by Cal FIRE) | Public Works; Sheriff | State |
| Bridges | Advocate for continuing funding of HBP funds to replace aging bridges throughout the County | Public Works | Federal |
| Broadband Infrastructure Development | Seek funding to support the expansion of rural broadband infrastructure development, and implementing a Dig Once Policy | Public Works; Information General Services; Board of Supervisors; County Executive Office |  Federal/ State |
| CSBG/CDBG/ Housing Choice Programs | Advocate for continuing funding of CSBG/CDBG/HC programs which are vital to local government for infrastructure, development and housing programs | Health and Human Services |  State/ Federal |
| Economic Growth and Development | Support efforts of job growth and economic development | County Executive Office |  State/ Federal |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--------------|
| Fund/Reform CASF Broadband Infrastructure Development Program | <p>Advocate for the continuation and expansion of the California Advanced Services Fund’s rural broadband specific funding allocation and for the CPUC to reform the grant application, challenge and approval processes that includes the ability for local jurisdictions to apply</p> | <p>Information and General Services</p> |  | <p>State</p> |
| Hwy 49 Safety Improvements | <p>Advocate for planning, funding and implementation of safety improvements to the Hwy 49 corridor between Grass Valley and Auburn</p> | <p>Board of Supervisors</p> | | <p>State</p> |
| Impact and Development Fees | <p>Oppose legislation that caps, removes or alters Impact and Development fees without local control or summarily creates an unfunded mandate through deferral or other development incentive programs</p> | <p>Public Works; Planning; Building; Community Development Agency</p> |  | <p>State</p> |
| Land Use: Housing Element Flexibility for Rural Counties | <p>Advocate for proposals that provide for flexibility in how rural counties designate parcels for specific zoning in order to meet housing development requirements</p> | <p>Planning Department</p> |  | <p>State</p> |
| Organic Waste and Recycling | <p>Advocate for flexible rule making that factors economies of scales for organic waste diversion and processing infrastructure capacity and funding solutions that address declining recyclable markets</p> | <p>Public Works; Solid Waste</p> |  | <p>State</p> |
| Protect Rule 20A | <p>Oppose legislation that threatens Rule 20A for overhead/underground conversion project funding</p> | <p>Public Works</p> |  | <p>State</p> |

**Reform CA
Transportation
Development Act**

Support legislation to reform the California Transportation Development Act (TDA) that a) eliminates the financial penalty for transit agencies not in compliance with farebox recovery requirements, without requiring an entirely new system for all operators; and b) modify guidelines and procedures that negatively impact rural counties

Auditor-
Controller;
Public Works;
Transit



State

**Reform NEPA for
broader
exclusions of
public safety and
increase local
control**

Support legislation and regulatory rules that support a) the broader use of categorical exclusions (CE) under NEPA to address threats to communities or watersheds, reduce the risk of catastrophic events and ensure the timely construction and maintenance of critical transportation and water infrastructure, and b) revising NEPA in order to strengthen the involvement of local governments in the federal decision-making process, including clarifying the cooperating agency definition, and to expedite project analyses that deliver final decisions in a more timely and effective manner

Public Works;
Planning

Federal

Roads Funding

Support proposals to increase and back-fill lost revenues for transportation funding and repay existing transportation fund loans

Public Works



State

**Subdivision Map
Act**

Oppose legislation to reform the California Subdivisions Map Act that removes or decreases local control and conditional use requirements

Public Works;
Planning



State

**Vegetation
Management
along Public
Roadways**

Seek funding to support sustainable funding for vegetation management along public roadways and programs that support efforts to for vegetation management along private roadways

Public Works;
Office of
Emergency
Services



State/
Federal