

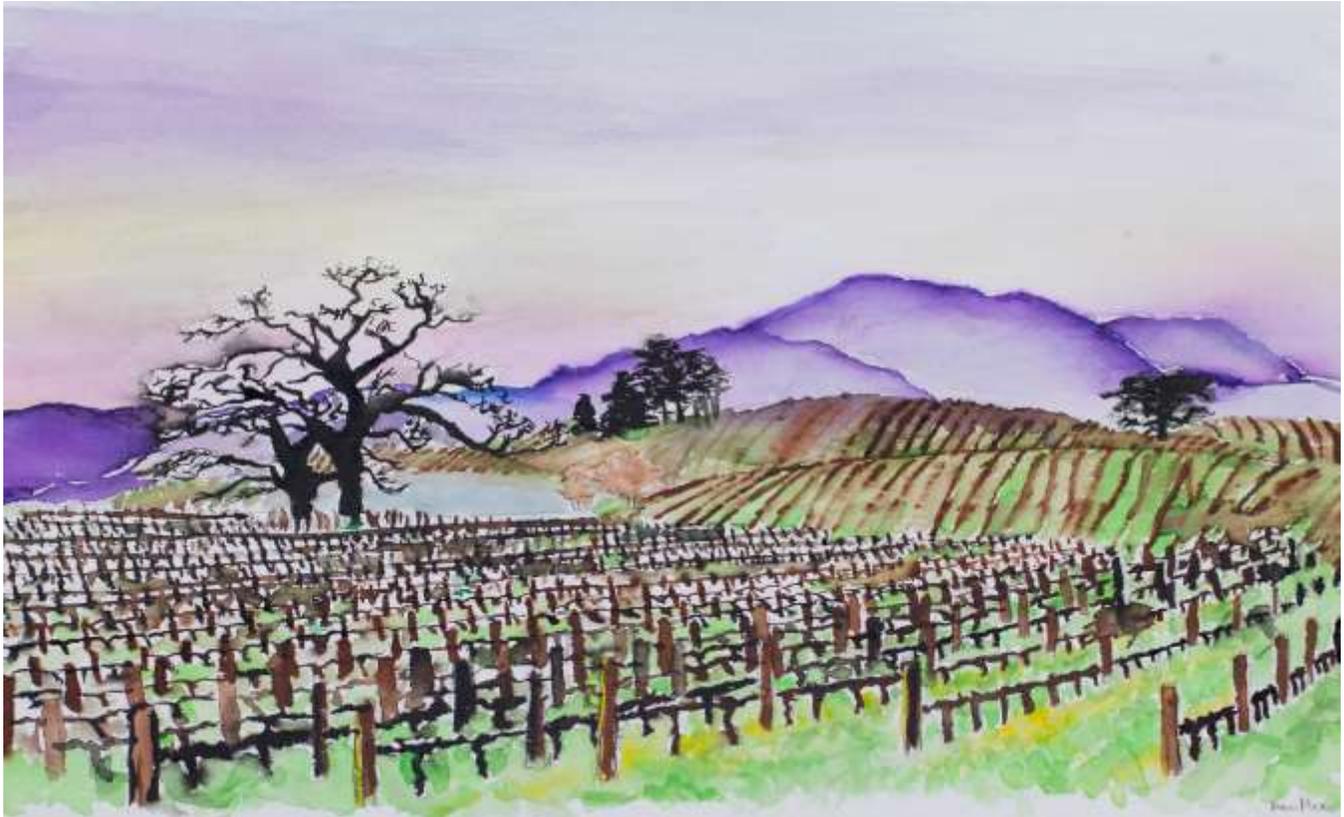


A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

NAPA COUNTY

2022 FEDERAL

Legislative and Regulatory Platform



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BRAD WAGENKNECHT

District 1

RYAN GREGORY

District 2

DIANE DILLON

District 3

ALFREDO PEDROZA

District 4

BELIA RAMOS

District 5

FEDERAL ADVOCATES

K&L Gates

1601 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
202 – 778 – 9100

Platinum Advisors, DC

800 Maine Ave, SW, Suite 200
Washington DC 200024
202 – 744 – 7247

COUNTY STAFF

Minh Tran | County Executive Officer

Becky Craig | Assistant County Executive Officer

Nelson Cortez | Staff Assistant, Board of Supervisors

707 – 299 - 4421

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on XX.XX.XXXX – NAPA COUNTY FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PLATFORM

v1 – **FINAL DRAFT** – 12-14-21

Art by Anna McIntyre, 2nd Place, Agricultural Commissioner Student Art Contest for the Crop Report, 2015

SYNOPSIS | PRIORITY 1 – NAPA COUNTY SPECIFIC

TRIBAL RECOGNITION/FEE TO TRUST: Oppose efforts to take Napa land into trust. Support legislative or regulatory changes to create a more clearly defined Fee to Trust process that would allow a role for impacted local governments.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT: Support increased federal investment in the County’s critical infrastructure including highways, bridges, airports, fire protection, libraries, Veteran’s hospitals and clinics, and NBRID, and LBRID.

DISASTER RECOVERY, PREPAREDNESS & RESILIENCY: Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE/PLANNED POWER OUTAGES: Support efforts to assist in responding to planned outages including regulatory efforts to require cellular service providers to collaborate with local emergency services personnel.

COVID-19: Support legislation that provides funding for COVID-19 response and maximizes the County’s flexibility and discretion on the expenditure of funds; support relief and resources for vulnerable populations and small businesses, including the child care industry.

Board of Supervisors

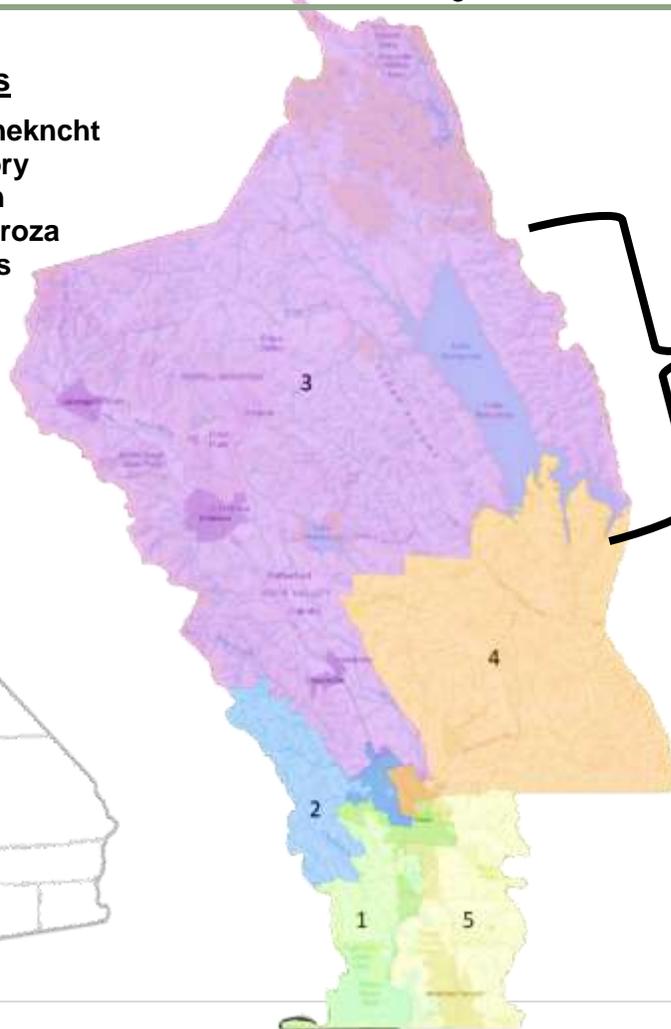
District 1 | Brad Wagenekncht

District 2 | Ryan Gregory

District 3 | Diane Dillon

District 4 | Alfredo Pedroza

District 5 | Belia Ramos



Lake Berryessa
Concessions|NBRID|LBRID

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PRINCIPLES AND GOALS

Legislative Principles

The primary goal of the County's elected representatives and employees is to serve and support the County's social and economic well-being and the health and safety of its citizens. Therefore, the Napa County Board of Supervisors has adopted the following principles:

- The County of Napa will encourage, seek and support legislation and policies that protect the County's quality of life, its diverse natural resources and preserve the County's essence, history, and agricultural heritage.
- The County of Napa will encourage, seek and support legislation and policies that facilitate orderly economic expansion and growth, oppose unfunded and/or unnecessary State mandates, and increase the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility.

Legislative Goals

Sustainable Growth

The Board of Supervisors seeks to preserve Napa County's agricultural heritage and economy by locating appropriate housing and development in the urban areas of the County. The Board supports State housing needs assessment reforms that provide flexibility and acknowledge the differences between rural and urban counties. The Board also supports legislation that would allow for the transfer of mandated County housing allocations to the incorporated areas within the County at any time during the housing cycle in exchange for the expenditure of County housing funds or the provision of County land. Rural counties lack adequate infrastructure and services necessary to support housing in less developed, unincorporated areas.

Preserving the Agricultural Economy

In 1968, the Napa County Board of Supervisors had the forethought to preserve open space and prevent future overdevelopment by creating the nation's first Agricultural Preserve. This designation has ensured that Napa Valley's limited resources are preserved for agriculture first and foremost. Napa County opposes efforts that would exempt real property, such as tribal land, from local land use

regulations, including provisions regulating the Agricultural Preserve, which ultimately could upset Napa County's vital agricultural economy.

COVID-19In March 2020, a worldwide pandemic caused by the coronavirus, COVID-19 dramatically changed the course of legislative affairs. Such changes included altering completely the legislative schedules, and creating extremely short deadlines for the public, including the County of Napa, to engage with the legislature on measures moving through the legislative process. Given this unprecedented time, the County of Napa, in addition to the platform policies, and aforementioned principles and goals, will also seek to support or oppose legislation and policies outside of this platform that directly impact the County of Napa through its Legislative Subcommittee, with approval by the CEO and County Counsel, and only when there is no opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to take action because of COVID-19.

PRIORITY 1 – NAPA COUNTY SPECIFIC

TRIBAL RECOGNITION/FEE TO TRUST

Issue

In 1968, the Napa County Board of Supervisors had the forethought to preserve open space and prevent further development of agricultural lands by enacting the nation's first agricultural preserve. Federally-recognized Native American tribes possess tribal sovereignty and are not subject to state or county laws. Trust land is exempt from local land use regulations and is eligible for casino operations. Hence, if Napa land were taken into trust, Napa County's agricultural preserve and its economic fabric would be impacted.

Action

1. Support efforts to ensure that land within Napa County's exterior boundaries are not taken into trust and thus become exempt from local land use regulations.
2. Support efforts to enact legislation and regulations to require any group seeking federal tribal recognition to follow established federal administrative procedures in proving tribal standing.

INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Issue

Congress may pass an infrastructure funding bill in the near future. Many in Congress have stated that rebuilding America's infrastructure is critical as it will create jobs and grow the U.S. economy. There is widespread recognition of the need for increased federal investment in the entire range of infrastructure projects, including large projects like roads, rails, ports, and airports, and water and sewer infrastructure.

Lake Berryessa

Napa Berryessa Resort Improvement District (NBRID) and Lake Berryessa Resort Improvement District (LBRID) provide water and sewer services to communities around Lake Berryessa. For years, the Districts have been in need of major improvements to the water and sewer systems. Recent wildfires burned 1/3 of NBRID homes, which led to fee increases, in addition to the County providing loans to ensure operations continues. The current systems and how they are funded are not sustainable and are in dire need of federal resources to make necessary improvements.

Action

1. Support increased federal investment in the County’s critical infrastructure including highways, bridges, airports, fire protection, libraries, Veteran’s hospitals and clinics, and NBRID and LBRID.
2. Aggressively pursue funding opportunities such as grants, and earmarks.

DISASTER RECOVERY, PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY

Issue

Extreme weather events and natural disasters are occurring more frequently and becoming more severe. Among other challenges, California, including Napa County, has been confronted with persistent drought conditions, warming temperatures, all of which have led to an unprecedented tree mortality crisis. Dead and dying trees, among others, have been identified as key factors in the devastating fire seasons in recent years and will continue to increase the likelihood of more severe wildfires in the future. On the heels of historic wildfires, Napa County has also confronted severe winter storms, mudslides, and earthquakes in recent history.

Since October 2017, Napa County has suffered multiple federally-declared major disasters, with the most recent wildfires being in 2020, the LNU Lightning Complex (Hennessy Fire) and the Glass Fire. The LNU Lightning Complex, LNU Lightning Complex, scorched over 360,000 acres and destroying over 320 homes in Napa County, alone. Coupled with the Glass Fire, Napa County lost 744 residences in 2020, for a total of 1,407 since 2017.

XX% of Napa County’s unincorporated land is federally owned. While Napa County has been diligently investing and working to manage vegetation and forests, more must be done by the US Forest Service to ensure fuels are mitigated and vegetation maintained.

Action

1. Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.
2. Support implementation of new requirements that limit “funding clawbacks” and oppose efforts to withhold disaster recovery payments to Napa County.

3. Support efforts that fund/support local and state disaster resiliency programs, including vegetation and forest management.
4. Support development of climate-smart buildings, facilities, and infrastructure, and build community resilience focusing on food, transportation, waste, and water issues.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE/POWER OUTAGES

Issue

Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS). Since October 2018, Napa County has experienced virtually all proactive power shutoffs or PSPS conducted by PG&E, the County’s main distributor of electricity. In 2019 alone, Napa County experienced six PSPS events, the largest of which impacted approximately 18,800 meters or about 56,000 people. PSPS are efforts by investor-owned utilities (IOUs) to de-energize an electrical line or circuit in order to prevent the line from igniting on fire during certain conditions, especially high wind forecasts in areas that experience high wildfire threat. PSPS are intended to be temporary but potentially endure for multiple days, as the power is not restored until conditions that triggered the shutoff have subsided, and the electric lines are visually inspected to ensure there is no damage to the line that can spark a fire. In some instances, like the City of Calistoga in 2018, the line itself may not pose a fire risk, but if it is fed by lines that do, then customers receiving power from downstream lines can also lose power.

Vulnerable Populations. The impact of PSPS events to Napa County and its residents are significant. The need to protect the health and safety of residents who are medically vulnerable come with associated costs of conducting outreach and response, and providing care and shelter. These costs are largely uncompensated since disaster response funds are not always available to counties. However, these are costs nevertheless borne by counties, including Napa, as we take actions to prevent negative impacts to the health and safety of our residents. Similarly, PSPS events create the need to purchase generators to support critical public infrastructure.

Communications & Notices. Shutting off electricity affects Counties’ critical infrastructure, such as radio tower communications, water and fuel pumps, hospitals, and camera networks. De-energization also impacts resources and communication channels for first responders, tactical situational awareness, and the Counties’ ability to effectively communicate with residents through alerts and warning systems. The length of a PSPS event will almost always exceed the battery backup capabilities of cell towers and generators, which increases public safety risks for both residents and first responders.

Unplanned Power Shutoffs

In 2021, PG&E began implementing new technology, which has resulted in unplanned power shutoffs throughout the unincorporated areas of Napa County. The County has been working hard to ensure a PSPS has limited impact on residents, especially vulnerable populations. However, when unplanned power shutoffs occur, the processes and communication procedures in place for PSPS are not relevant creating major challenges for local governments to ensure vulnerable populations are receiving critical information and support.

Action

1. Support efforts to provide federal funds related to local government response to ensure the health and safety of its residents when planned, or unplanned, power outages are initiated by our public utility.
2. Support efforts to provide funding for generators for powering critical public infrastructure to enhance Napa County's resilience in the face of planned power outages initiated by our public utility.
3. Support legislative and regulatory efforts to require cellular service providers to work with local Office of Emergency Services officials during PSPS by providing real-time information needed to respond and/or provide critical messaging to County residents.
4. Support for adequate backup power for cell towers located in high-risk areas in Napa County.

COVID-19

Issue:

In early 2020, the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) began responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a new coronavirus that was first detected in China in December 2019 and has now been detected worldwide. The disease name has been abbreviated to COVID-19. As of March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic. On March 12, 2020, following a state of emergency proclamation by the Governor, the Napa County Public Health Officer proclaimed the existence of a local health emergency due to the imminent and proximate threat to the public health from the introduction of COVID-19 in Napa County. The local and statewide Shelter at Home order had major impacts to Napa County and its residents.

Budget. Like all California, Napa County experienced a mandatory Shelter at Home order and continued to operate under restrictions until June 15, 2021 . As a tourism economy, much tax revenue is generated from tourism based revenue like transient occupancy tax and sales tax. As tourism remains below average, the County’s budget may be impacted significantly in upcoming years.

Jobs. The unemployment rate in Napa County hit a 30-year high of 16.1% in April 2020. The food service and beverage industry were hit the hardest – in May alone, a combined approximate 6,000 jobs in these sectors were lost. This led to unprecedented numbers of Napa residents applying for unemployment benefits.

Housing. With the unemployment rate at a record high, housing stability becomes a challenge for families. Housing stability presents its own health and welfare concerns. It is in the best interest of the community to keep families housed through the pandemic.

Action

1. Support legislation that provides solutions to housing stability issues including but not limited to protections for both tenants and landlords.
2. Support legislation that provides funding for COVID-19 response and maximizes the County’s flexibility and discretion on the expenditure of funds.
3. Support legislation that provides for dedicated health and social services programs including COVID-19 funding to offset program revenue losses due to staff being redirected to COVID-response work.
4. Support legislation that provides for funding for health and social services programs that enable safety net programs to be innovative in their care delivery systems during this unprecedented pandemic.
5. Oppose legislation that creates unfunded mandates or fiscal requirements for COVID-19 response.
6. Support legislation that limits health and financial impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations, including low income workers and immigrants.
7. Support legislation that provides financial relief and resources for small businesses, including the child care industry.

PRIORITY 2

** In no particular order**

RURAL BROADBAND AND RESILIENCY

Issue

In 2021, the Governor of California signed the largest investment in history for broadband deployment in California. While the State will be responsible for building an open access middle-mile network, local governments and providers will continue to be responsible for expanding service in rural areas, also known as last-mile. The Pandemic spotlighted how limited broadband service is, especially in rural areas. Additionally, recent wildfires have proven that broadband in Napa County is not resilient to withstand major disasters, like wildfires.

The County has been working on an action plan and road map to identify broadband projects across the region with two primary goals – expand broadband in areas that are unserved/underserved, and make the entire network more resilient. While the County is not interested in owning assets/providing direct service, it is interested in working with regional partners to advance these goals. As such, the County has joined a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with 15 other counties led by the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) and continues to work regionally with the North Bay/North Coast Broadband Consortium.

To implement the aforementioned action plan, Napa County is working with consultants to identify and apply for grant funding to fund projects.

High-speed broadband and cellular access are essential to education, economic development, public safety, and a vibrant quality of life. California libraries with broadband capability can connect millions of library cardholders in the State to access collective online library resources, including children's programs such as homework help and foreign language programs. Broadband access can attract high-tech businesses to the area that can create synergy with existing local businesses and help grow the economy. Broadband and cellular service are critical to connecting local safety and law enforcement officials to the public to better communicate, prepare and respond to natural disasters that may affect multiple jurisdictions, as well as state and federal agencies. Broadband and cellular service can allow citizens and businesses to utilize online technologies more, leading to less travel on congested roadways. Bringing greater access to remote communities and supporting the adoption of new

technology should be a cornerstone of our national infrastructure policy and a chief element of rural economic development.

The wireless industry has shifted the focus of new investment towards deploying wireless facilities such as small cells and distributed antenna systems with many facilities proposed for installation in the public rights-of-way. This is driven in large part by the industry's desire to create additional capacity to meet the growing demand for broadband and data services. While access to cellular service and broadband is important, local governments should continue to play a role in the permitting process.

In counties and cities in California, cell towers must go through the discretionary permitting process. The proposals must be publicly reviewed and approved. In recent years, legislative attempts have been made to change the permitting process for new "small cell" towers, including limiting local control.

Action

1. Support legislation that funds universal resilient broadband access to residents, businesses, and visitors and closes the broadband gap in rural and remote communities.
2. Oppose legislation and regulations that would preempt local zoning or regulatory authority regarding the placement of cell towers, including small cells and distributed antenna systems.
3. Oppose legislation and regulations that would limit compensation for the use of poles, rights of way, and other taxpayer-funded property.
4. Seek grant opportunities that compliment and support Napa County's local and regional goals and action plan.

LAKE BERRYESSA

Issue

In 2020, the Board of Supervisors entered in to a Managing Partner Agreement for management of at least three of the concession areas at Lake Berryessa. The Lake Berryessa area recently experienced damage from the LNU Lightning Complex Fire and recovery of the federally run areas will also be key to continuing recreation at Lake Berryessa.

After many years of negotiations with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR,) which has federal jurisdiction over Lake Berryessa, including its concessions, Napa County has gone into contract to take over the management of concessions. In 2021, Napa County went into negotiations with a major developer that is proposing over \$250 million investment to develop the concession areas at the Lake.

Action

1. Oppose efforts to remove the designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain as a National Monument.
2. Support efforts that expedite fire clean-up and related watershed management of federally managed areas around Lake Berryessa.
3. Oppose any efforts to limit local authority in negotiations and development of Lake Berryessa's Concession areas.
4. Oppose any efforts that could slow and/or impede the development of concessions at Lake Berryessa.

FEDERAL TAX REFORM

Issue

In 2017, the President signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The bill followed a year of work by House leaders to craft a comprehensive tax reform package that attempted to alter nearly every portion of the U.S. tax code, including provisions that impact Napa County and other local governments across the county.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduced individual and corporate tax rates. To make up revenue lost by lowering rates and to simplify the code, the package eliminated or capped dozens of tax deductions and credits.

The sweeping tax law retained the deduction for property taxes, capped at \$10,000 per tax filer. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act adversely affected counties because eliminating or capping the SALT deduction represents a significant revenue shift from state and local governments to the federal government. Homeowners and families are particularly hit hard by limiting the SALT deduction since they are the most likely to see their tax rates increase.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act retained the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds. The municipal market and tax-exempt municipal bonds are the backbone of state and local government finance and key components in a vibrant federal economy. The tax law also preserved private activity bonds. Private activity bonds are tax-exempt bonds issued by or on behalf of a local government for the purpose of providing special financing benefits for qualified projects.

Action

1. Support efforts that reinstate the full deductibility for state and local income and sales taxes.
2. Support efforts to provide tax incentives for increasing affordable housing stock and general homeownership.
3. Support efforts to maintain the longstanding tax deduction for uninsured property loss caused by fire.
4. Support efforts to preserve the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and reinstate the advance refunding of tax-exempt bonds.
5. Support efforts to preserve private activity bonds, which help reduce the cost of the County's infrastructure investment.

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Issue

Napa County is concerned about the potentially dire effects of repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) without a suitable comprehensive replacement that ensures market and delivery system stability and continued coverage for more than 14 million Californians.

California's counties stand to lose billions of dollars if the ACA is repealed without a simultaneous, suitable, comprehensive replacement for providing critical Medicaid services to the millions of Medicaid-eligible people in California. In the absence of an immediate and appropriate replacement plan, the State's uncompensated care costs will skyrocket, destabilizing our health care systems. Those who lose their Medicaid or Covered California coverage in the absence of the ACA will again have to wait until a health issue becomes an emergency to seek care – care that is the most expensive and with the poorest health outcomes.

Action

1. Oppose legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Work to preserve and expand the number of citizens currently receiving health insurance.
2. Oppose efforts to reduce benefits and block grants or other actions that would shift the current federal/state cost and responsibility to the states and counties.
3. Oppose efforts to decrease provider reimbursements.
4. Increase pharmaceutical affordability and protect the 340B drug pricing program.

HEALTH CARE COVERAGE AND ACCESS TO FOOD AND HOUSING

Issue

In order for Napa County to work toward achieving population health, it is critical that federally-funded benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is implemented in California through Medi-Cal and CalFresh, continue to be accessible for all of its residents. It is also critical that Section 8 voucher funding and other supportive housing programs that come from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) be funded to meet the needs of the lower-wage workforce. If all residents are not able to access critical federally funded safety-net benefits, they will end up seeking care downstream when both the human and economic costs to the County are higher. Similarly, any curtailing of federally funded housing programs for residents exacerbates the housing crisis faced throughout the region and increases the likelihood those residents become homeless. Early interventions through federally funded benefits help the County to achieve improved health outcomes for all and helps ensure the County does not end up shouldering the costs to do so alone.

Action

1. Support efforts to expand access to federally funded public benefits related to health care coverage and food.
2. Support efforts to increase the number of residents served by housing programs including, but not limited to, Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, Permanent Supportive Housing Funds, Shelter Plus Care Vouchers, and other federal grant programs.
3. Support legislation that provides flexible housing funds to allow local jurisdictions to make decisions on the best programming for their community.
4. Oppose efforts to limit access to federally funded public benefits related to health care coverage, food, and housing.
5. Support federal funding for local food banks.

ACCESS TO ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PATIENT RECORDS, RELATED SERVICES

Issue

For nearly 50 years, substance dependency and abuse have been recognized as diseases best addressed through a continuum of evidence-based prevention and treatment services. The scientific basis for this approach has been strengthened recently by research indicating the existence of a genetic predisposition to addiction. Since treatment for substance abuse disorders is still associated with discrimination, there may be potentially serious civil and criminal consequences for the disclosure of personal information beyond the health care context. This restriction makes it difficult for health care organizations including health information exchange organizations (HIEs), Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and others to share substance abuse treatment information due to the restrictions of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records (42 CFR Part 2). A number of organizations across the country are excluding substance abuse treatment data due to the difficulty and expense of implementing the functionality and workflow changes necessary to comply with current regulations.

The U.S. health care system is changing, and more substance abuse treatment is occurring in general health care and integrated care settings that are typically not covered under the current regulations. Redefining the regulatory requirements associated with information exchange in these new models to reduce burdens associated with specific consent requirements would help support the coordination of care.

Action

1. Pursue improved reimbursement mechanisms for substance abuse treatment services, and support legislative/regulatory changes that would accomplish redefining the applicability of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records (42 CFR Part 2) to facilitate information exchange while still respecting legitimate privacy concerns of clients.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND ELDER JUSTICE ACT

Issue

Napa County has a higher percentage of older adults in its population than most California counties. This percentage and the service needs of older adults are expected to grow in the coming years. The Board of Supervisors has made services to our vulnerable adult and senior population a priority.

Action

1. Support measures that establish a continuous appropriation (partial or full) from the Federal Trust Fund to the California Department of Aging for the Area Agency on Aging in any year in which the State budget is not enacted by July 1.
2. Support measures to expand background checks to include people that provide care for an older or vulnerable adult.
3. Reauthorize the federal Older Americans Act and support funding and appropriate measures to implement the Elder Justice Act fully.
4. Support measures to ensure adequate funding for the Adult Protective Services program.
5. Support measures to provide county governments flexibility in utilizing benefits, particularly those available under the federal Affordable Care Act, and measures that provide adequate State or federal funding for such benefits.
6. Oppose measures that would reduce support for such benefits or shift responsibility for such costs to local government.
7. Support measures that establish full and continued State and federal funding of the IHSS program.
8. Support measures to create universal Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) benefits.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION

Issue

The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of 2014 provides the means for linking workforce, education, and business services initiatives under the One-Stop Career Center System. The WIOA legislation is designed to strengthen and improve our public workforce system to help individuals with significant barriers, including youth, to employment. Job training and employment programs must be paired with job retention programs to effectively grow and maintain the local workforce, particularly in the area of health and human services, medical field, hospitality, and construction trades.

Action

1. Support legislation that incentivizes public and private employers to hire and retrain people facing barriers to employment, including the long-term unemployed and under-employed, veterans, people with criminal records, dislocated workers, and homeless individuals.
2. Support legislation that provides funding for public and private subsidized employment programs, which help workers access training and support services to ensure income stability, and income mobility, and their long-term success in the job market.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANT PROGRAM (SNAP)

Issue

The federal administration is proposing eligibility changes to the food stamp program, also known as SNAP. A comment period on the proposal ended earlier this year. Officials want to limit automatic eligibility for families that already receive other federal public assistance. The federal SNAP income limit is 130% above the poverty line or \$33,475 for a family of four. The proposed changes could deepen food insecurity for people who now qualify for food stamps. Any reforms to SNAP should advance financial access to healthy food which is a problem for low-income residents. Any such proposed change in the eligibility criteria only exacerbates the problem. In Napa County, approximately 5,400 individuals receive food stamp payments.

Action

1. Oppose efforts to reduce or limit access to the SNAP program through changes to eligibility for the program.

CANNABIS ENFORCEMENT

Issue

While 28 states and the District of Columbia have legalized the use of cannabis for medical or adult recreational use purposes, it is still classified as a Schedule 1 narcotic under the Controlled Substances Act. As a result, the use, possession, and sale of cannabis remain federal crimes, setting a conflict for counties in states implementing legalized cannabis use.

Action

1. Support legislation that expressly prohibits the Department of Justice from using federal resources to prosecute individuals or businesses that are acting in compliance with State medical and adult recreational cannabis laws.
2. Support legislation that adds furthers protections to states with legal medical and adult recreational cannabis use laws.
3. Support legislation that would ensure greater access to banking for cannabis-related businesses and allow proper medical research on the effects of cannabis use.

VETERANS SERVICES

Issue

The County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) provides direct advocacy, claims assistance, and information and referral assistance to Napa County veterans and their families. Napa County has a veteran and active military population of approximately 7,200 (2020 Census data), including the Yountville Veterans Home.

Assuming an equal number of dependents, this brings the total number of people eligible for service to 14,400. The County annually receives approximately \$65,000 in State and federal fiscal support for the CVSO from subvention funding, Medi-Cal cost avoidance, and license plate fees. Subvention funds are distributed to each county on a workload basis.

State and federal revenue for the CVSO has not kept pace with the need for services and is less than the funding level required by State law. To meet demand without compromising service, it has become necessary to augment the small amount of federal and State revenue with increasing amounts of County general funds. Although the State has increased the amount of subvention funds available to CVSOs with the 2021/2022 budget, the funding still falls far short of local costs to provide these services.

In 2018, Napa County created a Veterans Commission to address the local needs of veterans beyond the defined scoped of the CVSO. The county supports legislative and other efforts that will ensure the needs of local veterans are being met.

Action

1. Support legislation that augments federal revenue in support of CVSO operations and keeps pace with the cost of providing these services.

2. Support legislation and other efforts that ensure the needs of local veterans are being met, including local veteran’s clinics, transportation to regional facilities, and expanded services.
3. Support legislation and/or efforts to increase the number of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers made available to Napa County.

QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

Issue

Childcare is essential for working families, but quality child care does more than support parents who must work or go to school: it also provides important early learning opportunities that can contribute to school readiness, short and long term physical health, and positive social and emotional development. Childcare costs are often a barrier to accessing high-quality care, and childcare costs can rival family’s expenditures on housing, transportation, and food. Currently, in Napa County, only 21% of children 0-12 years old with parents in the labor force have access to a licensed childcare slot. The annual cost of full-time infant care in a center is \$14,289 (based on the 2016 Market Rate Survey from the California Resources and Referral Network). The cost to have an infant at a licensed family childcare home is \$9,733. For many working families, childcare is unattainable and inaccessible.

Action

1. Support legislation that further the accessibility and funding of childcare and simplify the administrative requirement of the corresponding supporting systems.
2. Support legislation that promotes the economic benefits of high-quality early care and education programs and increases the accessibility of high-quality childcare and education programs for all young children.

GLASSY-WINGED SHARPSHOOTER/PEST CONTROL FUNDING

Issue

Pests present a huge threat to the State of California’s and Napa County’s agricultural economy. Sudden Oak Death and invasive weeds also pose a significant threat to the County’s agriculture and natural resources. Continued funding of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and other pests, disease, and invasive species control programs are critical. Funding for early pest detection and surveillance programs should be pursued as needed.

Action

1. Support continued federal and state funding of pest control and eradication activities and funding as needed for specific threats, such as the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter, Vine Mealy Bug, Light Brown Apple Moth, and European Grapevine Moth.
2. Support federal and state legislative and administrative proposals that provide resources for the state and counties to perform early pest detection, surveillance activities and management of invasive species.

OPEN E-COMMERCE AND NET NEUTRALITY

Issue

Major publishers have introduced severe restrictions to e-book and e-audiobook lending for public libraries, including embargoes on the sales of new titles and prices that are as much as five times what an individual consumer would pay, which far exceed the prices offered for print books. As a result, libraries will be unable to fulfill their core functions in building educated, literate communities. These restrictions will be most harmful to populations who already face significant barriers to equitable knowledge and information access in our communities.

Action

1. Support federal actions to encourage open and accessible internet content, including e-books and e-audiobooks.

CYBERSECURITY

Issue

There has been a substantial increase in the number of successful cyber-attacks against local government agencies in recent years. Much of the increase can be attributed to local agencies lacking a formal information security program and having limited fiscal resources to support ongoing monitoring and improvements to prevent attacks. The most destructive type of attack has been with the use of ransomware, of which two-thirds were targeted at state and local governments. Ransomware takes information hostage unless and until a ransom has been paid to the perpetrator. Local government agencies are not equipped to manage and respond to these types of acts, which can cripple a government's ability to serve its constituency for hours or days.

Action

1. Encourage Administration-led efforts to define minimum cybersecurity standards for local government agencies.
2. Seek and support direct federal funding to local government agencies to meet and maintain these minimum standards for cybersecurity.
3. Seek federal-led action to establish an annual evaluation or survey of defined minimum standards and identify and implement improvements to continually improve security to prevent new cyber-based attacks on local governments.

CLIMATE ACTION

Issue

Napa County recognizes that climate change is a global problem, that decisive action is needed to prevent further impacts and that we must work together with other jurisdictions, local to international, on addressing this existential issue. To this end, on June 18, 2019, the County and every city and town in the County passed a proclamation affirming the “Countywide Commitment to Address Climate Change.” The Board reaffirmed their commitment to the proclamation by appropriating \$100,000 to jumpstart regional efforts to address climate change; later in 2019, the County led efforts to establish the Climate Action Committee composed of two elected officials from each incorporated area and the County, which met for the first time in late 2019.

Napa County hopes to adopt its Climate Action Plan within the future regional framework, which provides a comprehensive roadmap to address the challenges of climate change in unincorporated Napa County. In anticipation of that adoption, the list below is consistent with the proposals in the draft CAP which has as goals, reducing GHG emissions 40 percent below 2014 levels by 2030 and 77 percent by 2050 – consistent with the most recent guidance provided by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Action

1. Support legislation, including efforts that accelerates meeting climate goals, and that reduce climate impacts, increases funding for climate mitigation infrastructures, technologies and projects, including legislation that:
 - a. Supports renewable energy, including streamlining and funding micro-grid systems while maintaining local control

- b. Improves building energy efficiency, funds energy efficiency retrofits, and provides job training for transitioning to renewable energy
 - c. Reduces vehicle emissions and vehicle miles traveled
 - d. Protects and restores natural lands
 - e. Reduces the use of High-GWP (global warming potential) gasses including, prioritizing elimination of short-lived climate pollutants.
 - f. Expands and improves water storage and treatment facilities
2. Support legislation that provides funding for planning and improvements to promote community resiliency in response to climate uncertainty.
 3. Support legislation that provides funding for improving carbon sequestration on natural and working lands and that supports environmental farming incentives.
 4. Support legislation that provides funding for making forests and wildlands less susceptible to wildfires.
 5. Support legislation that provides funding for waste-to-energy infrastructure projects.

IMMIGRATION

Issue

It is the laws, policies, and regulations of the federal government that govern how legal immigrants, refugees, undocumented individuals, and others enter and remain in the United States. As a result, a heavy fiscal burden is often placed on state and local governments, especially since counties traditionally provide health, self-sufficiency, and social services to all persons residing within their boundaries, regardless of immigration status. Since immigration is a federal responsibility, Napa County shall engage with its partners at the National Association of Counties and/or the California State Association of Counties to monitor and develop effective strategies that ensure that:

Action

1. Comprehensive immigration reform should include the establishment of clear paths to citizenship that do not place a financial or administrative burden on local governments.
2. No unfunded mandates or administrative burden is placed on states and counties as a result of immigration policies.
3. National strategies include coordination from states and agencies that represent local government agencies and authorities.