

**City of Garden Grove**  
**WEEKLY CITY MANAGER'S MEMO**  
**September 5, 2024**

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members      FROM: Lisa Kim, City Manager

**I. DEPARTMENT ITEMS**

- A. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING  
Fair Housing Foundation Annual Report FY 2023-2024

**II. ITEMS FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS**

• **OTHER ITEMS**

- SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWSPAPER ARTICLES  
Copies of the week's social media posts and local newspaper articles are attached for your information.
  
- MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS  
Items of interest are included.



Lisa Kim  
City Manager

**City of Garden Grove**

**INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM**

To: Lisa L. Kim  
Dept: City Manager  
Subject: Fair Housing Foundation 2023-24 Annual Report

From: Ursula Luna-Reynosa  
Dept: Economic Development and Housing  
Date: September 5, 2024

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the Fair Housing Foundation and transmit Garden Grove's FY2023-24 Annual Report.

DISCUSSION

The Fair Housing Foundation (FHF) is committed to ensuring fair housing practices by addressing segregation and promoting integration across various protected classes. The FHF collaborates with the City and community organizations to offer a range of services, including landlord-tenant mediation, fair housing counseling, complaint resolution, education and training, public workshops, and advocacy to further fair housing and promote fair housing choices.

FHF conducts comprehensive audits and maintains detailed records in compliance with HUD standards. The organization provides fair housing services to 26 cities in Los Angeles and Orange County. Serving a diverse population across multiple racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds. FHF aims to educate all community members, including landlords, tenants, and organizations, through presentations and outreach.

The attached report addresses data from the FY2023-2024 highlighting direct client services, landlord/tenant counseling services, and outreach & education services. The report offers a detailed overview of each program, including a breakdown of the accomplishments, categorized into relevant demographics.



Ursula Luna-Reynosa  
Economic Development and Housing Director

By: Dana Yang, Program Specialist  
Attachment 1: Fair Housing Foundation's FY2023-2024 Annual Report

# 2023/2024 Annual Report

City of  
Garden Grove



The Annual Report serves as a tool that summarizes statistics, demographics, and achievements in meeting the 2023/2024 fiscal year goals and objectives for Fair Housing, Landlord/Tenant Counseling, and Education & Outreach.

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# Introduction

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The Fair Housing Foundation (FHF) provided fair housing services for the City of Garden Grove for the 2023/2024 fiscal year.

There is an ongoing local and regional segregation, with a great lack of integration based on a multitude of protected classes. FHF sets goals, with the program described below, in order to move forward with creating meaningful actions to achieve a material change that affirmatively furthers fair housing and promotes fair housing choice. FHF understands the importance of community participation. Therefore, we collaborate closely with the City and community-based organizations.

As an advocacy group, the objective of FHF is always to affirmatively further fair housing in the City through a program comprised of services formulated to address the issues specific to the City. Those components include but are not limited to:

- Landlord and Tenant counseling and mediations. As well as referrals for tenants, landlords, managers, and rental property owners.
- Fair Housing counseling, complaint intake, investigative process, and resolution.
- Audits of housing practices based on areas of impediments uncovered through counseling and/or testing.
- Targeting specific concerns. Educating and training to Housing Consumers, and Housing Providers; including low-income areas.
- Conducting workshops designed to educate the public on fair housing laws, issues and their housing rights.
- Providing presentations at city hall to local government officials. Along with local enforcement agencies and community-based organizations.
- Convening with Community Based Organizations to foster conversation regarding fair housing. Utilizing their services as referrals to the community.
- Establish booths and meetings, in the cities we service to reach the local population.
- Promoting media interest in housing violations and discrimination, housing segregation, and state and federal fair housing law.

We pride ourselves in our ability to maintain records and report according to The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards. FHF's database can recall a multitude of statistical information. FHF maintains both electronic and hard copy documentation for all of our outreach events and fair housing cases.

# Organizational Report

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The Fair Housing Foundation contracts and provides fair housing services directly with the following twenty-six (26) cities in both Los Angeles and Orange County.

FHF maintains one office in Long Beach at 3605 Long Beach Blvd., Suite 302, Long Beach, CA 90807, and a second office in Orange at 1855 W. Katella Ave., Suite 355, Orange, CA 92867. Both offices are open for business Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.

FHF's service area is large and extremely diverse, requiring FHF to provide services to a multiplicity of racial, ethnic groups, and socio-economic backgrounds, which include each of the protected classes. FHF takes pride in its ability to assist the needs of our low and very low-income clients. One FHF's main ambitions in to educate every member of the community: the owners, landlords, managers, neighbors, tenants, realtors, as well as community-based organizations. We personally reach out to organizations within the cities we service and ensure they understand our scope of services; by providing presentations and literature for reference.

In order to operate a well-organized and efficient organization that caters to each city within our service area. FHF staff consists of the Executive Director, a Program Manager, Community Engagement Liaison, a Fair Housing Specialist, Outreach Coordinators, a Case Analyst, and Housing Counselors. FHF Services are provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and ASL, as well as having multiple language interpreting and translation services available through a MOU with Certified Languages International.

FHF's success is due, in part, to maintaining staff's expertise of laws, regulations and court decisions by utilizing all appropriate resources available. Thus, keeping the staff apprised of new and changing issues. Staff training and continued education are invaluable assets to FHF, as well as the further development of existing staff's knowledge, expertise, and interest in fair housing issues.

# Direct Client Services

## Program Overview

The following represents a summary of demographic information for all ***unduplicated*** clients provided with direct client services of Fair Housing Allegations and Landlord/Tenant Counseling from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

	2023/2024 Goal	2023/2024 Accomplishment	% Accomplished	FHF Total	% of FHF Total
<b>DIRECT SERVICES</b>					
<b>Direct Client Services</b>					
Unduplicated Clients	190	255	134.21%	5700	4.47%

	Total	% of Clients
<b>LANGUAGE SPOKEN</b>		
English	191	74.90%
Korean	1	0.39%
Spanish	48	18.82%
Vietnamese	15	5.88%
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>				
Race	Latino	Non-Latino	Total	% of Clients
Asian	1	57	58	22.75%
Blk/Afr Am	0	6	6	2.35%
Other Multi-Racial	1	2	3	1.18%
White	136	52	188	73.73%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

	Total	% of Clients
<b>INCOME</b>		
Extremely Low	130	50.98%
Very Low	81	31.76%
Low	29	11.37%
Above Mod	15	5.88%
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

	Total	% of Clients
<b>SPECIAL GROUPS</b>		
Female Head of Household	102	40.00%
Senior	65	25.49%
Disabled	44	17.25%
Veteran	1	0.39%

	Total	% of Clients
<b>TYPE OF CALLER</b>		
Case/Social Worker	2	0.78%
City Staff	1	0.39%
Community Organization	13	5.10%
Friend/Family	3	1.18%
In-Place Tenant	203	79.61%
Landlord/Manager	11	4.31%
Management Company	1	0.39%
Property Owner	16	6.27%
Realtor	3	1.18%
Rental Homeseeker	2	0.78%
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

	Total	% of Clients
<b>SOURCE OF REFERRAL</b>		
City Department	121	47.45%
Community Organization	48	18.82%
Fair Housing Organization	1	0.39%
FHF Activity	27	10.59%
Friend/Family	21	8.24%
HUD	3	1.18%
Internet Search	33	12.94%
Social Media	1	0.39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Fair Housing Services

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## Program Overview

FHF approaches all discrimination inquiries and complaints in an expedient and compassionate manner. Fair Housing services are governed by both state and federal fair housing laws and includes the Civil Rights Act of 1866, Civil Rights Act of 1968 Title VIII, Fair Employment and Housing Act, and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. These laws prohibit discrimination in the sale, rental, lease, negotiation, or financing of housing based on a person's Age, Ancestry, Arbitrary reasons, Color, Familial Status, Gender, Marital Status, Mental Disability, National Origin, Physical Disability, Race, Religion, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity or Source of Income.

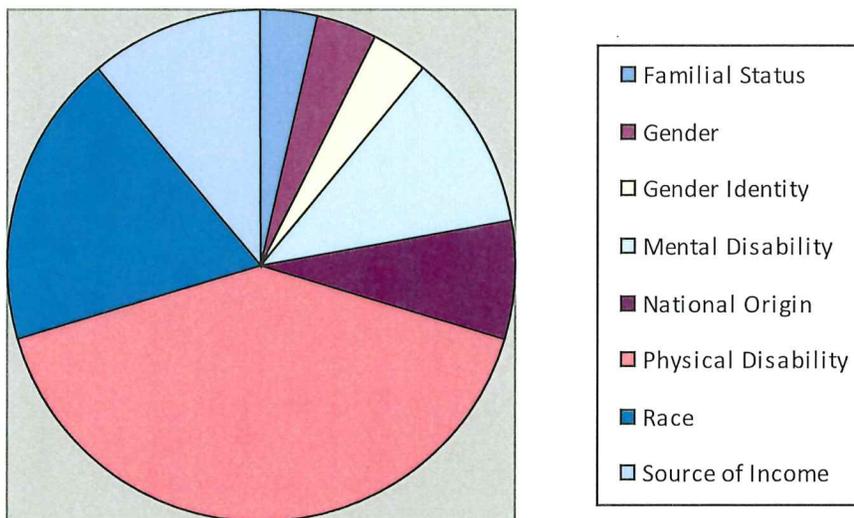
## Fair Housing Allegations

The majority of Fair Housing complaints originate from landlord and tenant issues making it imperative to delve beyond the surface to ensure that fair housing violation is not at the root of a problem. This can only be achieved thorough and detailed screening process that includes obtaining information on the treatment of other residents, the racial and/or ethnic composition of the property, and the reasons why services are denied or why individuals believe they are being treated differently. Such inquiries may reveal the true nature of the situation. Staff may also inquire about race, national, original, religion, gender, etc., to help identify possible barriers and prejudices.

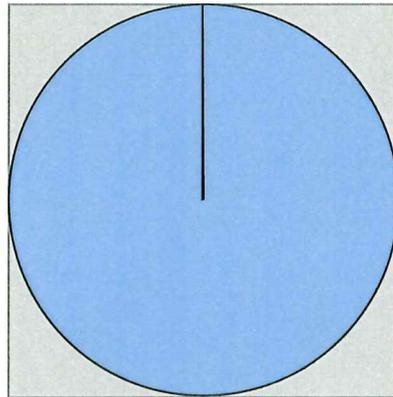
The following represents the statistical information for clients provided with fair housing counseling, mediation, training, education, and referrals from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

	2023/2024 Goal	2023/2024 Accomplishment	% Accomplished	FHF Total	% of FHF Total
<b>FAIR HOUSING ALLEGATIONS</b>					
Clients Assisted	8	27	337.50%	983	2.75%

	Total	% of Clients
<b>PROTECTED CLASSES</b>		
Familial Status	1	3.70%
Gender	1	3.70%
Gender Identity	1	3.70%
Mental Disability	3	11.11%
National Origin	2	7.41%
Physical Disability	11	40.74%
Race	5	18.52%
Source of Income	3	11.11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



	Total	% of Clients
<b>ALLEGATION RESOLUTION</b>		
Counseled/Resolved	27	100.00%
Referred	0	0.00%
Case Opened	0	0.00%
Mediation	0	0.00%
<b>Total Inquiries</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# Landlord/Tenant Counseling Services

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## Program Overview

FHF counsels' managers, owners, landlords, tenants, and rental home seekers, on their rights and responsibilities. The Housing Counselors counsel each client initially to determine if any fair housing violations seem to have occurred. Through various counseling sessions, the client receives thorough information on the resolutions available for their specific concerns.

Annually, FHF receives a high volume of what is categorized as "Landlord/Tenant" calls. In addition to being well versed on state and local ordinances, the counselors offer counseling and resolution, but also potential mediation.

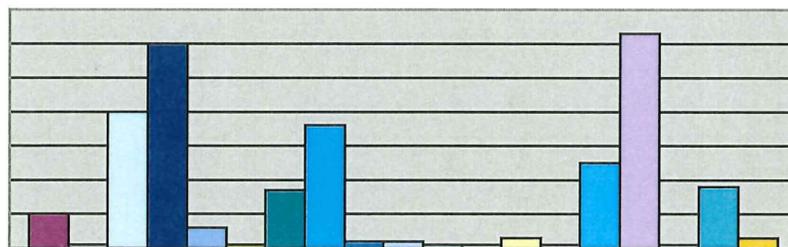
FHF resolves landlord and tenant inquiries through a variety of methods:

1. Counsel and Resolve: Well over 80% of all landlord/tenant calls are resolved without fair housing referral. Many client issues can be resolved through counseling. In many instances, clients only need to be informed of the law, civil codes, and remedies available.
2. Mediations: FHF can also use mediations to resolve disputes. In mediation, FHF staff acts as a neutral third party to facilitate dispute resolution between two disagreeing parties. In order to mediate, both parties must want the mediation and agree to enter into good faith resolution agreements.
3. Referrals: Many clients contact FHF for problems not related to fair housing or landlord and tenant housing issues or require services not provided by FHF such as on-site health department reviews. In these cases, FHF provides referrals to other resources for assistance. FHF maintains a massive referral list by jurisdiction for the wide variety of callers or walk-in clients who request assistance. The referrals list includes City and County housing departments, building and safety departments, health and sanitation departments, police departments, the County Assessor's office, and city council members' offices. Additionally, we often refer to legal aid offices, bar associations, tenant advocacy groups, apartment owner associations, civil rights organizations, housing authorities, and other resources.

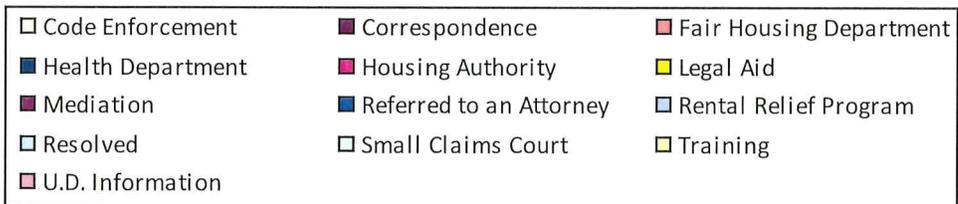
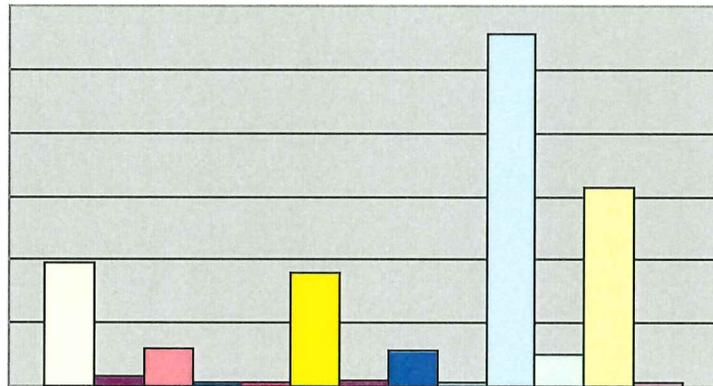
The following represents the statistical and demographic information for clients provided with general housing counseling, mediation, UD assistance and referral services from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

	2023/2024 Goal	2023/2024 Accomplishment	% Accomplished	FHF Total	% of FHF Total
<b>Landlord &amp; Tenant Counseling</b>					
Clients Assisted	182	291	159.89%	7188	4.05%

	Total	% of Clients
<b>HOUSING ISSUE</b>		
Accommodation/Modification	10	3.44%
Commercial Property	1	0.34%
Eviction	40	13.75%
Habitability	60	20.62%
Harassment	6	2.06%
Illegal Entry	1	0.34%
Lease Terms	17	5.84%
Notices	36	12.37%
Nuisance	2	0.69%
Parking	2	0.69%
Pets	1	0.34%
Property for Sale	1	0.34%
Refusal to Rent	3	1.03%
Relocation	1	0.34%
Rent Increase	25	8.59%
Right & Responsibilities	63	21.65%
Section 8 Information	1	0.34%
Security Deposit	18	6.19%
Utilities	3	1.03%
<b>Total</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



	Total	% of Clients
<b>HOUSING RESOLUTIONS</b>		
Code Enforcement	39	13.40%
Correspondence	3	1.03%
Fair Housing Department	12	4.12%
Health Department	1	0.34%
Housing Authority	1	0.34%
Legal Aid	36	12.37%
Mediation	2	0.69%
Referred to Attorney	11	3.78%
Rental Relief Program	1	0.34%
Resolved	111	38.14%
Small Claims Court	10	3.44%
Training	63	21.65%
U.D. Information	1	0.34%
<b>Total</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# Outreach & Education Services

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## Program Overview

FHF's main objective is to educate individuals on their rights and responsibilities, with the belief that greater awareness can reduce instances of discrimination and illegal housing practices. Our outreach efforts are focused on educating property managers, tenants, landlords, owners, realtors and property management companies about fair housing laws, promoting media and consumer engagement, and fostering grassroots participation within communities. FHF provides a hybrid model with both virtual and in-person activities to ensure accessibility. FHF directs its outreach primarily towards individuals and protected groups most vulnerable to housing discrimination.

FHF's education and outreach activities specifically within the City limits to include:

1. Fair Housing Workshops - A two-hour training geared toward tenants and landlords, providing an overview of the Fair Housing laws, leases and notices, rules & regulations, tenant's and landlord's obligations, the rental process, guidelines regarding security deposits, rent increase, and termination. They are always free and open to the public and are offered in-person and virtual.
2. Booths – FHF staffs booths and provides fair housing literature at every opportunity available. Typically, fair housing booths are staffed at community centers, fairs, festivals, youth centers, colleges, trade shows, and food distribution events.
3. Presentations – A scheduled, 20–40-minute synopsis of FHF's services and highlights a housing trend to staff and/or employees of a city or a community-based organization followed by a question-and-answer session.

FHF continuously develops innovative ways to better inform the public of fair housing laws and their rights and responsibilities through:

1. Literature Distribution - FHF has developed brochures that focus on specific trends including discrimination against people with disabilities, sexual orientation, families with children, and sexual harassment. These brochures are distributed at locations and agencies where members of the protected groups can find them. Social service agencies, libraries, government offices, real estate offices, rental offices, and similar locations are prime targets for brochure distribution. To better target underserved populations FHF also distributes brochures to childcare centers, women's shelters, the gay and lesbian centers, at organizations that serve people with disabilities, and at immigrant rights organizations. FHF has partnered with USPS to distribute door-to-door mailers targeting low-income zip codes. All FHF's announcements and literature are available in various languages.
2. Media -The FHF website has been upgraded for easy use and provides language translations and instant chat. Additionally, FHF has increased our social media presence on all social media platforms. We post on a weekly basis. Additionally, we have increased our mailing list and send out via email press releases and workshop invitations. Additionally, we send out public service announcements to the location television stations.
3. Fair Housing Newsletter - FHF publishes and distributes a quarterly newsletter to Community Based Organizations, City department staff, and fair housing advocates. The newsletter includes trends, client stories, a calendar for upcoming activities, and statistics.
4. Annual Poster Contest and Reception – One of the most exciting things FHF does every year is the Poster Contest. It is an excellent opportunity to educate local children to recognize the need to be free of discrimination. Every year a new theme is developed, and posters are received based on that theme. Posters are judged and prizes are awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners at our annual Reception.

Additionally, FHF conducts regularly scheduled "All Area Activities" that directly benefit our entire service area.

The following represents each type of activity FHF conducts, the contractual requirement for each type of activity for the city, the actual accomplishments for each activity conducted within the city limits, the percent completed for each activity and the number of activities conducted that affect FHF's entire service area.

	2023/2024 Goal	2023/2024 Accomplished	% Completed
<b>Within City Limits</b>			
<b>Number of Persons in Attendance</b>	0	1,294	N/A
<b>Advertising:</b>			
PSA's – City Cable Channel	4	5	125.00%
<b>Booths</b>	3	4	133.33%
<b>Community Relations:</b>			
Agency Contacts	5	6	120.00%
Community Presentations	5	5	100.00%
Community Meetings	4	6	150.00%
<b>Literature Distributions</b>	5,500	6,309	114.71%
<b>Workshops:</b>			
Fair Housing	4	4	100.00%
City Staff	1	0	0.00%
<b>All Area Activities</b>			
<b>Media:</b>			
Newsletter	4	4	100.00%
Press Releases	4	4	100.00%
Facebook	0	21,316	N/A
Instagram	0	37,105	N/A
X/Twitter	0	8,647	N/A
Website	0	43,034	N/A
<b>Special Events:</b>			
FHF Annual Event	1	1	100.00%
FHF Annual Poster Contest	1	1	100.00%

**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**  
**September 5, 2024**

1. Calendar of Events
2. Agenda for the September 9, 2024 Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission NICC Meeting
3. Agenda for the September 12, 2024 Garden Grove Zoning Administrator Meeting
4. League of California Cities articles from August 30, 2024 to September 5, 2024.
5. OCFA Monthly Bulletin, August 2024
6. Orange County Elections Newsletter



## AGENDA

### NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

#### REGULAR MEETING

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Monday, September 9, 2024

Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Avenue  
Garden Grove, CA 92840

#### REGULAR SESSION - 6:30 P.M. – Council Chamber

**Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Commission, in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing [timothyt@ggcity.org](mailto:timothyt@ggcity.org) no later than 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Commission as part of the meeting record.**

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except Public Hearings, must do so during Oral Communications at the beginning of the meeting. Each speaker shall fill out a card stating name and address, to be presented to the Recording Secretary, and shall be limited to five (5) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services due to a disability should contact the Neighborhood Improvement Office at (714) 741-5140 to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2)

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to all or a majority of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commissioners within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Neighborhood Improvement Office during normal business hours; and (2) at the Council Chamber at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission may take legislative action it deems appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.



AGENDA

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT  
AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

COMMUNITY MEETING CENTER  
11300 STANFORD AVENUE  
GARDEN GROVE, CA 92840

REGULAR SESSION - 6:30 P.M. – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

ROLL CALL: COMMISSIONERS BELL, BLACKMUN, DE LA O, KEARNEY, KESTER,  
RUBIN, TRAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

- A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS – PUBLIC
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MARCH 4, 2024
- C. MATTERS FROM STAFF
  - 1. PUBLIC HEARING – PRESENTATION OF THE FY 2023-24 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) BY SENIOR PROGRAM SPECIALIST, TIMOTHY THRONE
- D. MATTERS FROM COMMISSIONERS
- E. ADJOURNMENT

The next Meeting of the Neighborhood Improvement and Conservation Commission will be a Regular Meeting on **Monday, December 2, 2024**, at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chamber of the Community Meeting Center, 11300 Stanford Avenue, Garden Grove, CA.



AGENDA

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR MEETING

Garden Grove Community Meeting Center  
11300 Stanford Avenue

Thursday, September 12, 2024

9:00 a.m.

**Members of the public who wish to comment on matters before the Zoning Administrator, in lieu of doing so in person, may submit comments by emailing [public-comment@ggcity.org](mailto:public-comment@ggcity.org) no later than 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. The comments will be provided to the Zoning Administrator as part of the meeting record.**

Members of the public desiring to speak on any item of public interest, including any item on the agenda except public hearings, must do so during Comments by the Public. Each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes. Members of the public wishing to address public hearing items shall do so at the time of the public hearing.

Meeting Assistance: Any person requiring auxiliary aids and services, due to a disability, should contact the Community Development Department at (714) 741-5312 or email [planning@ggcity.org](mailto:planning@ggcity.org) 72 hours prior to the meeting to arrange for special accommodations. (Government Code §5494.3.2).

All revised or additional documents and writings related to any items on the agenda, which are distributed to the Zoning Administrator within 72 hours of a meeting, shall be available for public inspection (1) at the Planning Services Division during normal business hours; and (2) at the Community Meeting Center at the time of the meeting.

Agenda item descriptions are intended to give a brief, general description of the item to advise the public of the item's general nature. The Zoning Administrator may take legislative action deemed appropriate with respect to the item and is not limited to the recommended action indicated in staff reports or the agenda.

1. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM(S):

a. [CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP-266-2024](#)

APPLICANT: Saul de Santiago  
LOCATION: 12781 Harbor Boulevard

REQUEST: A request for Conditional Use Permit approval to allow the operation of a new, 2,900 square foot, arcade, located within an existing multi-tenant commercial shopping

center. The site is in the Planned Unit Development No. PUD-121-98 zone. In conjunction with the request, the Zoning Administrator will also consider a determination that the project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

2. COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC
3. ADJOURNMENT



# What happened in the last, chaotic days of the legislative session?

Sep 4, 2024

*By Brian Hendershot, Cal Cities Advocate managing editor. Additional contributions by the Cal Cities Advocacy Team*

It might be more appropriate to ask what didn't happen last week. The fact that legislators had hundreds of measures left to pass is not unusual — that's just politics. But instead of the usual last-minute dash, the final week was dominated by gamesmanship, sudden proposals, and close votes. And it all came to a head on Saturday.

Senate President Pro Tem Mike McGuire [batted down a special session](#) on gas prices, [high-profile bills](#) stalled, and legislators in both houses literally held measures hostage. When it became clear that there wasn't enough time to pass every item, Democratic leaders limited debate — much to the [anger of their Republican colleagues](#).

In many ways, it was a fitting end to what has been an [unusually chaotic year](#), punctuated with [Hail Mary attempts](#) on big policy shifts. Here are six key lessons for city leaders from the waning hours of the 2024 session.

## Warehouse bill passes, but not without a fight

Mere days before the session ended, lawmakers proposed [major restrictions](#) to new warehouses and warehousing expansions in the form of [AB 98 \(Carillo, Juan and Reyes\)](#). The bill drew fierce opposition from Cal Cities, other local government associations, manufacturers, agricultural organizations, business groups, and even local chambers of commerce. Many legislative staff urged their bosses to vote no.

This last-minute rally forced those who negotiated the deal on the bill to hire even more lobbyists to get the measure out of both houses. Many lawmakers expressed concerns about the bill, citing the need for greater local flexibility, but few wanted to push back against a leadership priority.

In the end, AB 98 is emblematic of policymakers' worst instincts: Ram through a big policy change with almost no vetting through the full, transparent legislative process. The final Senate votes were won based on the promise that clean-up legislation the following year would smooth things over. However, the fight is far from over, as Cal Cities and many others are requesting a veto from Gov. Gavin Newsom.

## City advocacy pays off

Lawmakers also resurrected [AB 1082 \(Kalra\)](#) in the final days of the session. The measure would have removed cities' ability to enforce parking rules and made it cheaper for people to accrue tickets than pay for parking. The bill drew wide opposition from cities and others, prompting key senators to change their votes to no.

Although AB 1082 ultimately died, lawmakers did pass [AB 1777 \(Ting\)](#). The bill would have treated driverless cars as if there was a real person behind the wheel if it [violated traffic laws](#). However, [last-minute amendments](#) mean the bill would now effectively prohibit law enforcement from ticketing reckless driving. Despite robust opposition, the bill squeaked off the Assembly Floor and onto the Governor's desk.

Several other notable transportation measures made it out of the Legislature. The Cal Cities-opposed [SB 1418 \(Archuleta\)](#) would force all cities to expedite permits for hydrogen applications. Two measures that would make it easier for cities to comply with the state's [Advance Clean Fleet](#) rule, [AB 3179 \(Carrillo\)](#) and [AB 637 \(Jackson\)](#), also passed. Cal Cities is requesting the Governor sign both AB 3179 and AB 637.

### [Labor and housing measures passed by tighter-than-expected votes](#)

Key labor and housing measures faced tighter votes than usual, although that might be more [reflective of budget concerns](#) and shifting priorities from Democratic leadership than anything else.

Sen. Aisha Wahab designed [SB 399](#) to protect workers from adverse action if they refuse to attend a meeting about politics or religion. Although not directed at cities, the bill's broad definition of "political matter" would treat many routine government functions as political matters, interfere with basic government operations, and create new legal risks for cities.

[AB 2561 \(McKinnor\)](#), a measure aimed at reducing vacancy rates, also passed. The measure would impose expensive and unnecessary requirements that would detract from efforts to recruit and retain workers. Notably, the final version would require all local agencies to have a vacancy rate hearing regardless of the vacancies in their cities.

On the housing side, [SB 1037 \(Wiener\)](#) passed, as did [AB 2023 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#). SB 1037 would allow the attorney general to seek new legal penalties if a city fails to plan for enough housing. AB 2023 would make it harder for a city to challenge claims that its housing element is out of compliance and reset the public review period for any new amendments requested by the state for a draft housing element.

Both housing measures had tighter votes than expected due to Cal Cities' advocacy during the last week of session, but the measures still passed and are now headed to the Governor's desk. Cal Cities is requesting a veto on all four measures.

### [Builder's remedy measures advance, as do Cal Cities' arguments](#)

Two measures aimed at clarifying the builder's remedy also moved to the Governor's desk. [AB 1886 \(Alvarez\)](#) would ban cities from self-certifying housing plans that are "in substantial compliance with housing element law." [AB 1893 \(Wicks\)](#) would prohibit objective standards on builder's remedy projects and limit cities' ability to reject some development projects.

Cal Cities is requesting a veto on both measures, in part because they set cities up to fail — even those acting in good faith. In its opposition, Cal Cities noted that the housing element process is broken: New laws often conflict with old ones, cities frequently receive unclear (or little) guidance, and many streamlining provisions are ambiguous at best.

This barrage of ambiguity creates uncertainty for developers and local agencies alike. Although it's not clear if legislators will have the appetite to change this process next year, those arguments are starting to take hold.

### Retail theft wrapped up ... for now

The two houses also passed [AB 1960 \(Rivas, Robert\)](#), a bill that would impose stiffer penalties for property loss or damage that occurred during a felony. Cal Cities supports the measure. Earlier this year, Rivas elected to hold the measure, noting that it would duplicate other policies and conflict with this November's Proposition 36. Asm. Esmeralda Soria previously carried the bill but [removed her name](#) in response to an ill-fated attempt to block [Prop. 36](#).

### Election security reform moves to Newsom's desk (again)

Last, but not least for many elected officials: Lawmakers approved [AB 2041 \(Bonta, Mia\)](#), which would make it easier to use campaign funds for security expenses. [Asm. Mia Bonta](#) [told KQED](#) she introduced the bill due to the harassment she faced when running for office, [a sentiment shared](#) by many current and former local elected officials.

Although Gov. Gavin Newsom axed a similar proposal last year — also supported by Cal Cities — the measure has taken on clarifying amendments to address concerns raised in last year's veto message.

### What's next?

Gov. Gavin Newsom has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto any measures. This year, watch out for three factors. First, of course, is the election. Newsom [leans to the center](#) on economic and public safety issues, often to the chagrin of his progressive allies. And although California is a solidly blue state, the national political conversation will no doubt influence his actions. Second, the Governor [has readily and frequently](#) vetoed bills with big price tags, citing the state's economic misfortunes. Expect that trend to continue again this year. Perhaps most importantly: Legislators are [growing frustrated](#) with Newsom's last-minute legislative proposals. For more information about the remaining priority bills, sign up for Cal Cities' [Sept. 9 webinar](#) on the top measures pending before the Governor.



# CalPERS to consider further adjustments to the discount rate

Sep 4, 2024

Cities can offer testimony during a Sept. 17 board meeting

*By Johnnie Pina, legislative affairs lobbyist*

The California Public Employees' Retirement System's investment returns for the fiscal year [outpaced its discount rate](#), triggering an automatic review of the benchmark. The discount rate is comparable to an assumed rate of return and serves as a policy marker for the CalPERS Board of Administration.

CalPERS' preliminary net return for the 12-month period ending June 30 was at 9.3% in July, outpacing the discount rate of 6.8%. Assets as of that date were valued at \$502.9 billion. The overall estimated funded status of the Public Employees' Retirement Fund stands at 75%.

The CalPERS Finance and Administration Committee will discuss any possible lowering of the rate on Tuesday, Sept. 17. Cal Cities will submit a comment letter when the meeting agenda is released. Cal Cities has historically opposed any reduction to the discount rate based on the financial impact it would have on cities.

Local officials can share how further discount reductions or increased pension costs would affect their city by calling (800) 259-4105 during the meeting. Participants should call a few minutes early, enter the queue, and provide their name, title, and city. The board meeting is available on the [CalPERS Board Webcast webpage](#).

Under the CalPERS Funding Risk Mitigation Policy, the CalPERS Board must review whether to lower the discount rate for future years if returns exceed expectations. At the urging of Cal Cities and other stakeholders, CalPERS [recently amended](#) its policy to prompt a discussion, rather than an automatic reduction.

The [full Board agenda](#) and analysis is scheduled to go on the CalPERS website by Friday.



## State launches website to track local progress on behavioral health initiatives

Sep 4, 2024

[Mentalhealth.ca.gov](https://www.mentalhealth.ca.gov) includes a slate of accountability tools to track implementation

*By Caroline Grinder, legislative affairs lobbyist*

Last week, Gov. Gavin Newsom launched a new [webpage](#) to track how counties are implementing California's "behavioral health transformation." This includes information about county implementation of the Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act and conservatorship reform.

Cal Cities and over 70 cities across the state supported the [CARE Act](#) in 2022 as a way to connect unsheltered individuals experiencing acute behavioral health needs with community-oriented care. Cal Cities also supported [SB 43 \(Eggman\)](#) in 2023, which updated California's conservatorship law to include conditions that result in a substantial risk of serious harm to an individual's physical or mental health. Together, these initiatives expand access to behavioral health services, especially for California's unhoused residents.

The new webpage also tracks the state's progress in building new behavioral health housing funded through Proposition 1 (2024). The [Cal Cities-supported ballot](#) measure directed billions in new funding to behavioral health housing for people experiencing homelessness. The tracker provides insight for both members and local officials into the state's outpatient treatment capacity, inpatient bed openings, and new homeless housing.

The Governor's Office also released a [guide for local leaders](#) and residents who want to learn more about Prop. 1 implementation progress and other programs in their county, as well as what questions they should ask.

With the state [fast-tracking](#) its implementation of Prop. 1, *now* is the time for city leaders to work with their county counterparts to understand what funding and service opportunities to support residents exist and how these investments will benefit their region.



# Cal Cities-sponsored recovery housing bills now on the Governor's desk

Sep 4, 2024

AB 2081 (Davies) and AB 2574 (Valencia) passed out of the Senate unanimously

By Caroline Grinder, *legislative affairs lobbyist*

Two recovery housing bills sponsored by Cal Cities are now in Gov. Gavin Newsom's hands.

Cal Cities is urging the Governor to [sign both measures](#).

Residential recovery housing provides a wide range of benefits to some of California's most vulnerable residents. However, some operators have [put profits over people](#). The two measures — originally two of a four-part package — would provide much-needed transparency and hold providers accountable for high-quality treatment and care.

[What would these bills do?](#)

[AB 2081 \(Davies\)](#) would require licensed treatment facilities to share resources about their licensure status with potential patients. The legislation would enable patients to make informed decisions about their care and connect them to other available [licensing and certification resources](#).

Sen. Janet Nguyen presented AB 2081 on the Senate Floor, noting it would “be greatly beneficial to patients by empowering them to look deeper into which government agency oversees these facilities ... [and] learn more about treatment options and protections.” She emphasized that cities across the state support the measure and urged her colleagues to do so too.

The other measure, [AB 2574 \(Valencia\)](#), would improve oversight of sober living homes operating as an integral part of a licensed treatment facility located elsewhere in the community. This measure would provide much-needed transparency to ensure that if a recovery residence is operated as a business with a licensed treatment facility, it is regulated like a business, not a residential home.

“Cal Cities is proud to sponsor AB 2574, commonsense transparency legislation that protects residents and holds recovery housing facilities accountable for maintaining high-quality treatment,” said Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman. “AB 2574 is good for the community, good for the neighbors, and most importantly, good for those who are receiving care.”

[What about the other recovery housing bills?](#)

Following a [Board directive](#) last December, Cal Cities began pursuing legislation to address concerns about recovery housing facilities in residential areas. Cal Cities [sponsored four bills](#) this session to ensure those facilities follow state regulations and provide high-quality treatment. The legislative package sought to address longstanding challenges facing many cities by creating more oversight and transparency that protects residents and holds bad actors accountable.

While Cal Cities has sponsored [similar measures](#) in the past, the Legislature and Governor have yet to pass comprehensive legislation that addresses these concerns. Lawmakers held two of this year's sponsored bills, [AB 2121 \(Dixon\)](#) and [SB 913 \(Umberg\)](#) — yet another move in a decades-long failure to pass comprehensive reform.

### [Next steps](#)

The Governor has until Sept. 30 to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature. Sample signature request letters [are available online](#).

Looking ahead, Asm. Diane Dixon requested an [audit](#) of facilities licensed and regulated by the Department of Health Care Services last year. Cal Cities anticipates the state will release the audit's results in the coming months. This data should provide critical information on the state's efforts to regulate these facilities and drive future attempts at reform.



# Make cents out of city budgets at the Municipal Finance Institute

Sep 4, 2024

The Municipal Finance Institute is open for registration through Dec 4

*By Cal Cities Education Staff*

Even without high interest rates and [emerging issues](#), managing city budgets can be challenging. Join fellow municipal finance officers in Napa, Dec. 11-12, to learn how to better budget for the benefit of your community.

Designed for finance directors and others involved in city fiscal planning, the [Municipal Finance Institute](#) connects municipal finance professionals with the essential information they need for their jobs, as well as opportunities to learn from each other. Topics for this year include cybersecurity, sales tax, and city budgets.

## [Registration and hotel information](#)

[Registration](#) for the full conference starts at \$500 for city officials from any Cal Cities member city. Registration includes admission to all educational sessions, institute meals, and access to all program materials. The deadline to register online is Wednesday, Dec. 4. After that, officials may register on-site if space is available.

The 2024 Municipal Finance Institute will be at the Meritage Resort in Napa. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a reduced rate for conference attendees who register before Thursday, Nov. 14. Discounted hotel rooms often sell out early, so advance registration is encouraged.

Cal Cities' health and safety protocols — which are subject to change — are available [online](#). For more information, including registration details, visit the [Municipal Finance Institute](#) webpage.

For registration questions, contact [Megan Dunn](#). To sponsor the conference, please email [Amy Wade](#). For all other questions, please contact [Erin Wylder](#).



# Join us for the Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar in December

Sep 4, 2024

The Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar is open for registration through Dec. 4

*By Cal Cities Education Staff*

A warmer climate, evolving workplace expectations, and other challenges are all changing the fire service profession. Join fellow fire chiefs in Napa this Dec. 11-12 to meet other leaders, hear engaging keynote speakers, and discover new approaches to everyday challenges from expert panelists.

The Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar is open to fire chiefs, chief officers, union leadership, and others working in fire response services throughout California. This year's sessions cover topics such as leadership, mental health, and collaboration across municipal departments.

## Registration and hotel information

Registration for the full seminar starts at \$450 for city officials from any Cal Cities member city. Registration includes admission to all educational sessions, seminar meals, and access to all program materials. The deadline to register online is Wednesday, Dec. 4. After that, officials may register on-site if space is available.

The 2024 Fire Chiefs Seminar will be at the Meritage Resort in Napa. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a reduced rate for conference attendees who register before Thursday, Nov. 14. Discounted hotel rooms often sell out early, so advance registration is encouraged.

Cal Cities' health and safety protocols — which are subject to change — are available [online](#). For more information, including registration details, visit the [Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar](#) webpage.

For registration questions, contact [Megan Dunn](#). To sponsor the conference, please email [Amy Wade](#). For all other questions, please contact [Erin Wylder](#).



# City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar

## registration open

Sep 4, 2024

*By Cal Cities Education Staff*

From overseeing public records to election administration, city clerks form and protect the bedrock of the democratic process. But what was once a routine, unassuming job has become anything but for many city clerks.

The [City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar](#) — Dec. 11-13 in Napa — equips city clerks with the tools needed to respond to emerging challenges and conduct routine business. The seminar provides numerous opportunities to learn from other colleagues and policy experts, as well as form invaluable support networks.

This year's seminar will cover a range of topics, including preparing requests for proposals, council member onboarding, new election laws, and [CPRA compliance](#). The seminar will also include a fireside chat with California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. More information is available in the "schedule at a glance" section of the [seminar webpage](#).

### Registration and hotel information

Registration for the full seminar starts at \$550 for city officials from any Cal Cities member city. Seminar registration includes admission to all educational sessions, the Wednesday evening reception, Thursday breakfast and lunch, Friday breakfast, and access to all program materials.

The deadline to register is Dec. 4. Afterward, officials must register on-site if space is available.

This year, the City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar will be at the Meritage in Napa. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a reduced rate for seminar attendees. The deadline to reserve a discounted hotel room is Nov. 14, 2024. Discounted rooms often sell out before the deadline, so register early!

For more information, visit the City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar [webpage](#). For registration questions, contact Conference Registrar [Megan Dunn](#). To sponsor the conference, please email [Amy Wade](#). For all other questions, please contact [Kayla Boutros](#).



## From the Fire Chief

Dear OCFA Family:

For many, if not most Orange Countians, summer is a time for beach days and bonfires, family trips and friend-filled gatherings, coastal hikes and catching rays.

And while I am confident and hopeful that all of you found time to indulge in these seasonal traditions, I also know the fire service comes with added summertime responsibilities — from out-of-county strike team deployments (and the force hiring it triggers here at home) to an uptick in drowning incidents (and the community education events necessary to prevent them).

Even with these and the infinite other added OCFA summer obligations, all of you — our dedicated firefighters and professional staff — continue to respond to our more than 500 calls a day in a way that upholds and enhances the core tenets of our Statement: "Courage, compassion, and competency."

Case in point, a few weeks ago, the B-shift crew of Engine 84 responded to a medical aid for a small child at a Garden Grove preschool. As a father and a firefighter, I have felt the anguish and anxiety that comes with these calls, and I have been on enough of them to know that all of us, whether we are parents or not, inevitably think the same thing: *What if this were my child?*

As much anguish as that hypothetical question may provoke, it is precisely what the parents in our communities want from us — to treat their children as if they are our children, and that is exactly what E84 did. Rather than accept my account of that truth, I am proud to share the words of the young patient's mother.

*"My son had a seizure, and by all accounts from the school staff, the firefighters responded incredibly fast and had fantastic bedside manner. The school director said that one firefighter, in particular, appeared to be a father himself and knew exactly how to treat my son... I was not present and couldn't be by my son's side, (and) it provides me and my husband great comfort to know he was treated with immediate care and tenderness."*

When pressed, I know that this crew (Captain Rich Sandford, FAE Tom McDaniel, FF/PM Trevor Lima, FF Franco Petruzzella) will do what all our crews do when faced with one of the many hundreds of glowing letters we receive regarding their level of courage, compassion, and care: Deflect all praise and say they were "just doing their jobs."

That may be true, but I believe we "just do our jobs" as well as any agency in the nation, and I know that our bedside manner transcends pediatrics — we treat adult patients as if they are our parents; we attack structure fires as if our home was burning; we cut firefighters as if our neighborhood was in the path of destruction; and on and on.

So, as we enter a new season, one that could be even busier with Santa Ana wind-driven fires, I pause here to express my gratitude for your summertime services and share my hope that you found at least some time to rest and rejuvenate with friends and family these past three months.

You certainly earned it, and as this Bulletin indicates, your achievements continue to fuel our ascension toward becoming a national model of fire service excellence — every day (and season) of the year.

Sincerely,

Brian Fennessy  
Fire Chief

## MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT - EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

**Ask the Chief - August 2024**

In this month's Ask the Chief, Chief Fennessy visits and congratulates our Investigations team for their tremendous work in the investigation and arrest of an arsonist who is suspected of setting multiple vegetation fires in San Juan Capistrano. Next, this month's host, Captain PIO Sean Doran, discusses several items with the Fire Chief — from security at RFOTC and the City of Irvine's potential review of OCFA services to our new apparatus timeline.



Want to "Ask the Chief" a question? Click below to get your question into the next Ask the Chief!

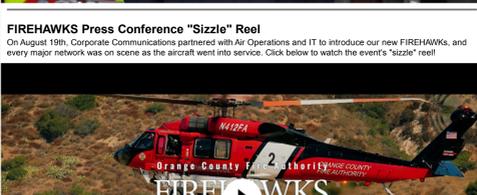
[Submit Question Here!](#)

## Quarterly Size Up - May, June, July 2024



**Uniform Panel Discussion Video**

In August, Chiefs McGovern and Perkins sat down with Presidents Hamm and Maulle for what they collectively hope is the first of many "panel discussions" aimed at improving services, safety standards, and professionalism. One of the topics centered around what it means to have pride in wearing the OCFA uniform, a conversation that was punctuated with the below video.



**FIREHAWKS Press Conference "Sizzle" Reel**

On August 19th, Corporate Communications partnered with Air Operations and IT to introduce our new FIREHAWKS, and every major network was on scene as the aircraft went into service. Click below to watch the event's "sizzle" reel!

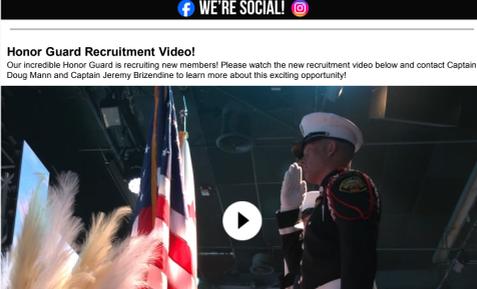


[Click for Photos of the Press Conference](#)

[Click for AERIAL FIRE Magazine article!](#)

## New Secondary Social Media Accounts!

On August 27, after much preparation and training, the OCFA launched its first official "secondary accounts" on social media. Please take the time to follow each of the new accounts on Instagram (and a few on FB), all of which are listed below!



## Honor Guard Recruitment Video!

Our incredible Honor Guard is recruiting new members! Please watch the new recruitment video below and contact Captain Doug Mann and Captain Jeremy Brizendine to learn more about this exciting opportunity!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

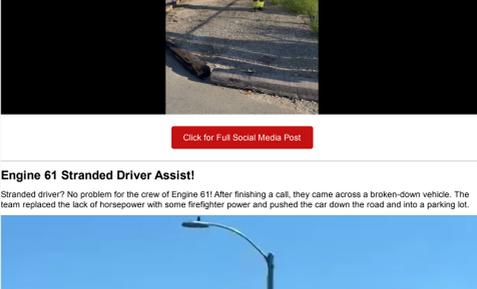
**9/11 Ceremony**

**Girls Empowerment Camp**

**Tivoli Helopod Press Conference**

## Battery Storage Fire in Santa Ana

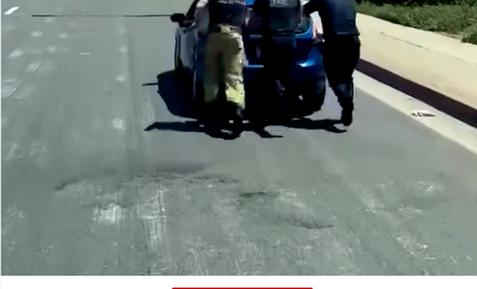
Firefighters responded to smoke from a container at an outdoor battery energy storage system facility in the 1300 block of East Warner Avenue in Santa Ana today at 4:28 p.m. Approximately 60 firefighters worked together as part of the hazardous materials response to cool the container with large volumes of water and prevent the fire from spreading to adjacent containers.



[Click for Full Social Media Post](#)

## Engine 61 Stranded Driver Assist!

Stranded driver? No problem for the crew of Engine 61! After finishing a call, they came across a broken-down vehicle. The team replaced the lack of horsepower with some firefighter power and pushed the car down the road and into a parking lot.



[Click for Full Social Media Post](#)

## Honoring the Life & Service of CA-TF5 Canine Sadie Van Iwaarden

Last month, we lost one of our beloved CA-TF5 Canines, Sadie. Partnered with veteran handler, Captain Doug Van Iwaarden since 2016, Sadie was deployed on several incidents in her career, serving with distinction, courage, and grace.



[Click Here for Social Media Post](#)

## Orange County Fire Authority In the News

- Authorities seeking information on staffing of San Juan Capistrano vegetation fires**  
The Orange County Register - Jul 1, 2024
- An uphill battle as Southern California cities try to combat illegal Fourth of July fireworks**  
The Orange County Register - Jul 2, 2024
- Mission Viejo House Fire Held To Attic, Blaze Under Investigation**  
Patch.com - Jul 2, 2024
- House Fire Exits Access OC Independence Day: Firefighters Save Dog**  
Patch.com - Jul 8, 2024
- Brush Fire Erupts Near South OC Beach Friday: OCFA**  
Patch.com - Jul 5, 2024
- Fireworks spark small vegetation fire in Dana Point Harbor**  
CBS News - Jul 5, 2024
- 3 kids, 2 adults on bicycles struck by hit-and-run driver in Orange County**  
Yahoo! News - Jul 7, 2024
- Hit-and-run driver flees scene after crashing into 2 adults, 3 children in Garden Grove**  
CBS News - Jul 7, 2024
- Public Urged To Attend Fire Safety Meeting In RSM**  
Patch.com - Jul 8, 2024
- DUI suspect in custody after plowing into family of 6 in Orange County**  
Yahoo! News - Jul 8, 2024
- Man, 41, accused of decapitating elderly parents, their dog in Orange County**  
Yahoo! News - Jul 10, 2024
- Deputies identify victims and suspect in gruesome San Juan Capistrano killings**  
CBS News - Jul 10, 2024
- Check out our OC photographers' favorite images from June 2024**  
The Orange County Register - Jul 11, 2024
- Calif. Couple and Their Dog Are Found Decapitated in 'Horrific' Scene, Son Arrested After Chase**  
PEOPLE - Jul 12, 2024
- 'BIP' Star's Heartfelt Reunion With Firefighter Who Delivered Son**  
TV Shows/ACB - Jul 14, 2024
- 19-year-old arrested for deadly Santa Ana shooting in 2022**  
CBS News - Jul 15, 2024
- Fire at energy storage facility, prompts temporary evacuations in industrial area of Santa Ana**  
The Orange County Register - Jul 17, 2024
- 28-year-old suspected of setting several brush fires in San Juan Capistrano arrested**  
The Orange County Register - Jul 17, 2024
- Investigators arrest 28-year-old for allegedly starting several fires in San Juan Capistrano**  
CBS News - Jul 17, 2024
- Man Who Set Brush Fires In South OC Arrested, OC Sheriff Says**  
Patch.com - Jul 18, 2024
- Man Ran Down By Car in Orange County: Police**  
Patch.com - Jul 18, 2024
- Southland Recovering From Massive Tech Outage**  
Patch.com - Jul 21, 2024
- 1 Simple Act Saved Lake Forest Home From Being Destroyed In Fire**  
Patch.com - Jul 25, 2024
- Fire Damages Lake Forest Home**  
Patch.com - Jul 25, 2024
- First responders prep RVs for Motorhome Madness at the O.C. fairsgrounds**  
Los Angeles Times - Jul 27, 2024
- 4-alarm fire with heavy smoke breaks out inside Orange County mall**  
Yahoo! News - Jul 28, 2024
- Man Remains Hospitalized After Being Rescued From Ocean in Seal Beach**  
Patch.com - Jul 29, 2024
- Fire at Buena Park amusement center may have started in ball pit, prompts partial mall closure**  
The Orange County Register - Jul 29, 2024
- Here's what several Orange County cities plan for National Night Out**  
The Orange County Register - Jul 29, 2024
- 4 Alarm Fire Ignites In OC Shopping Center, Prompts Evacuations**  
Patch.com - Jul 29, 2024
- Search Suspended for Boy, 15, Who Vanished While Swimming with Friends Off Calif. Beach, 'Our Hearts Ache'**  
PEOPLE - Jul 30, 2024
- Orange County Fire Authority uses special equipment for a cat rescue**  
CBS News - Jul 30, 2024
- Orange County firefighters rescue kitten whose head got stuck in a tire**  
CBS News - Jul 30, 2024
- Search suspended for 15-year-old swimmer who went missing off Huntington Beach**  
Yahoo! News - Jul 30, 2024
- Soap couldn't free trapped kitten from tire rim. So rescuers use spoon — and a saw**  
Miami Herald - Jul 31, 2024

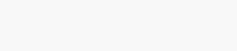
## Promotions

- Dave McVey, Information Technology Manager
- Dawn Spoto, Management Analyst
- Jonathan Summers, Fire Communications Supervisor



## Retirements

- Ryan Humphrey, Fire Apparatus Engineer



# ORANGE COUNTY ELECTIONS NEWSLETTER



[Home](#) | [Voting](#) | [Results](#) | [About](#)

## Candidate List Certified and Ballot Creation Begun

The California Secretary of State published the certified list of candidates for federal and state offices up for election in the [November 5, 2024](#) Presidential General Election on the evening of [Thursday, August 29](#).

The certified list can be viewed on the Secretary of State's web page for this election at [sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/general-election-nov-5-2024](https://sos.ca.gov/elections/upcoming-elections/general-election-nov-5-2024) under Candidate Information.

The Orange County Registrar of Voters then started to create the ballots for the election on [Friday, August 30](#), worked over the Labor Day holiday weekend, and continues to work on the ballots.

Nearly 600 individual ballot styles comprised of 171 contests, 409 candidates, and 40 local measures must be created.

Every contest, candidate, candidate's ballot designation, candidate's party, candidate rotation, and measure question must be verified. We must also verify that the correct ballot styles contain the correct contests.

Once the English ballots are approved, we then translate every ballot style into Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Ballots also are translated into Farsi, Gujarati, Hindi, Japanese, and Tagalog for precincts in which at least 3% of the adults living there primarily speak one of those languages. Those translated ballots are also proofed and verified.



Ballot printing is scheduled to start [Friday, September 6](#).

Ballots must be issued to military and overseas voters between [September 6](#) and [Saturday, September 21](#), and mailed to more than 1.8 million Orange County voters on [Monday, October 7](#).

Bob Page  
Registrar of Voters

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### Current Tweet

[View Tweet](#)

The public observation schedule for the [November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election](#) is now available.

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## Observation Calendar Published

The public is invited to observe as the Orange County Registrar of Voters conducts the [November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election](#).

All ballot processing, counting, testing and audits will take place at the Orange County Registrar of Voters' office, 1300 S. Grand Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92705.

Observers are also welcome to visit Vote Center and ballot drop box locations throughout the county to observe daily operations.

The start dates for significant election activities can be found on the recently published Election

Observation Schedule Public Notice on the Registrar of Voters website at [ocvote.gov/observe](http://ocvote.gov/observe).



## Registering to Vote

If you need to register to vote for the first time or update your address, name, or political party, it's easy and can be completed online.

Register to vote or update your registration [today](http://ocvote.gov/register) by visiting [ocvote.gov/register](http://ocvote.gov/register).

You may also use a paper Voter Registration Form that can be found at the OC Registrar of Voters, public libraries, city and county offices, California Department of Motor Vehicles offices, and at U.S. Post Offices.

Check your registration status at [ocvote.gov/verify](http://ocvote.gov/verify) and make any necessary updates before the **October 21** registration deadline.

On that web page, you can also review your voter history, and after you cast your ballot, you can check your ballot status.



## Military and Overseas Voter Information

If you are a U.S. military or overseas voter, we have resources to help you prepare for the 2024 Presidential General Election. If you're already designated as a military or overseas voter, you can access your ballot electronically. You can also receive your ballot by mail if you prefer. To make sure your voted ballot has enough time to arrive to your county elections official, we recommend you send it back by:

- On a ship at sea [October 1, 2024](#)
- Outside the U.S. [October 6, 2024](#)
- Stateside [October 25, 2024](#)

If you would like to receive your ballot information as soon as possible, make sure you are registered as an overseas voter by [September 6, 2024](#).

Learn more: [ocvote.gov/overseas](https://ocvote.gov/overseas).

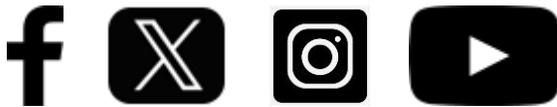


## Will Vote Centers Have Enough Ballot Paper?

Prior to the opening of Vote Centers on [October 26](#), all voters in Orange County will have been mailed a paper ballot, which they can return by mail, ballot drop box, and in-person at a Vote Center.

In addition, based on voting behavior in prior elections, the Registrar of Voters supplies enough ballot paper to each Vote Center to exceed the expected turnout by a large margin should a significant number of voters vote in-person.

The Registrar of Voters monitors the paper supplies of Vote Centers while they are open and maintains extra ballot paper stock at regional supply hubs throughout the county in case an individual Vote Center begins to run low on ballot paper. We also can print even more ballot paper from our central office and deploy it to any Vote Center.



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**Current Voter Registration**  
1,830,579



  
**VOTE EASY.  
VOTE SECURE.**  
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

**Bob Page**  
Registrar of Voters

