

County of Napa



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

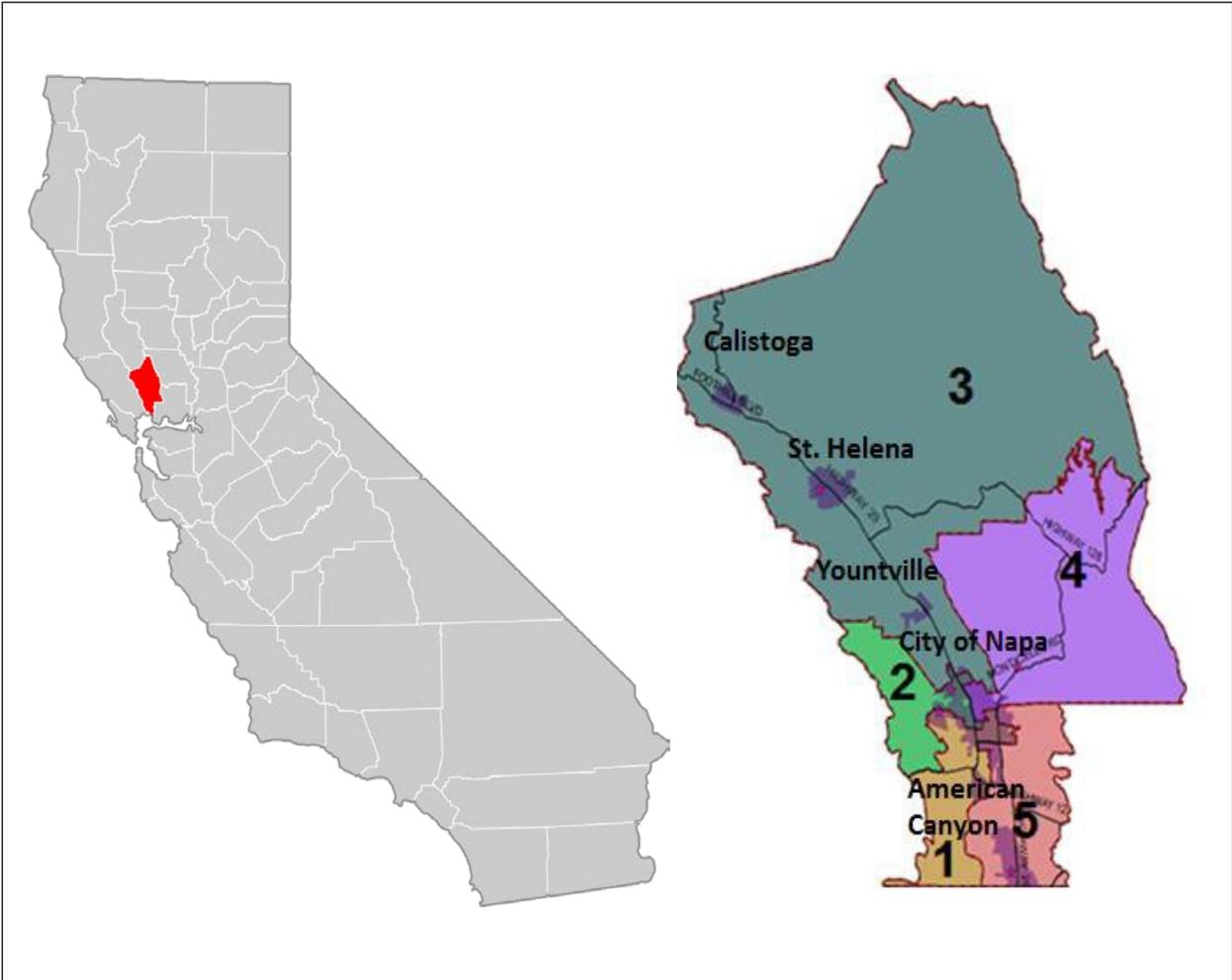
Federal Legislative & Policy Platform 2020

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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PRIORITIES

The Board of Supervisors unanimously
endorses the following priorities:

PRIORITY 1

Napa Specific

- **Disaster Recovery:** Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for 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.
- **Lake Berryessa Recreation:** Support efforts to ease guidelines and regulations supporting Napa County's efforts to assume management authority of the Lake Berryessa Recreation Area under a managing partner agreement. Oppose efforts to remove the designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain as a National Monument.
- **Napa County Airport:** Support legislation and annual funding for the Federal Aviation Administration to issue infrastructure investment grants to general aviation airports. Promote Napa County Airport activities and highlight its importance as a resource to the region.
- **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.

PRIORITY 2

General/Nationwide

- **Infrastructure Investment:** Support increased federal investment in the County's critical infrastructure including highways, bridges, airports, fire protection, libraries, veteran's clinics, and universal broadband connection and access to rural and remote communities.
- **Federal Tax Reform:** Preserve federal tax incentives for home ownership, including the full deductibility on the interest of home mortgages. Support efforts to retain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, the full deductibility of state and local property and income taxes, and the preservation of private activity bonds, which help reduce the cost of the County's infrastructure investment.
- **Affordable Care Act:** Oppose legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Work to preserve and expand the number of citizens currently receiving health insurance. 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.

- **Access to Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Patient Records; Related Services:** Support legislative/regulatory funding for alcohol and drug abuse programs and changes that would facilitate the information exchange of alcohol and drug abuse patient records (42 CFR Part 2), while still respecting legitimate privacy concerns of clients.
- **Older Americans Act/Elder Justice Act:** Support reauthorization of the Older American Act and full funding of and appropriate measures to implement fully the Elder Justice Act, including funding for the Adult Protective Services Program.
- **Workforce Development and Retention:** Support funding for job training and retention programs and the development and expansion of training facilities for dislocated and limited-skill workers to rejoin the workforce, reduce unemployment, and increase the earning capacity of workers in Napa County.
- **Farm Bill and SNAP:** Oppose efforts to reduce or limit the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), used by more than 7,000 individuals in Napa County, when Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill.
- **Cannabis Enforcement:** Support legislation that adds protections to state-legal medical and adult use cannabis laws and that would ensure greater access to banking for cannabis-related businesses.
- **Rural Broadband and Cellular Infrastructure Investment:** Support legislation that funds universal resilient broadband and cellular access. Oppose legislation and regulations that would preempt local zoning or regulatory authority or limit compensation for use of public rights of way and other tax payer funded property.
- **Veterans Services:** Support legislation that augments federal revenue in support of the County Veterans Service Office and ensures the needs of local veterans are being met. Support increasing the number of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers made available to Napa County.
- **Quality and Affordable Child Care:** Support legislation that further the accessibility to high quality childcare and the supporting administrative systems.
- **Glassy Winged-Sharpshooter/Pest Control Funding:** Support continued federal funding of pest control and eradication activities; and early pest detection programs.

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LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES & 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 federal mandates, and increase the opportunity for discretionary revenues and programmatic and financial flexibility.

Legislative Goals

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.

Sustainable Growth

The Board of Supervisors supports legislation and policies that provides appropriate funding for infrastructure, energy, and communication technology projects, health and human services programs, land preservation policies, and other programs and projects that ensure a safe, orderly, sustainable growth of the County and provide a better quality of life for its citizens.

PRIORITY 1

Napa Specific

DISASTER RECOVERY

Issue:

In October 2017, Napa County suffered its most devastating wildfires in its history.

According to the Insurance Information Institute, a national industry trade group that compiles claims data, the Napa-Sonoma wildfires are the costliest in United States history in terms of property loss. The wildfires covered nearly a quarter of a million acres, destroyed nearly 8,800 personal and commercial structures, and forced 100,000 people to evacuate. Forty-three individuals lost their lives.

Napa County and its residents will need federal assistance to help recover from this tragedy.

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.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE/PLANNED POWER OUTAGES

Issue:

Public Safety Power Shut Off (PSPS). Since October 2018, Napa County has experienced 10 proactive power shutoffs or PSPS by PG&E. 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.

Action:

1. Support efforts to provide federal funds related to local government response to ensure the health and safety of its residents when planned 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 officials during PSPS by providing real-time information needed to respond and/or provide critical messaging to County residents.

LAKE BERRYESSA RECREATION

Issue:

Lake Berryessa residents and businesses in Napa County depend on the sound management of Lake Berryessa's recreational facilities (located on federal land) to attract visitors and support the local economy. Under Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) management, residents and businesses have suffered a declining number of visitors over a period of years that has resulted in loss of income and jobs.

The Board believes that new management of the federally held Lake Berryessa recreational areas is needed to develop and implement a redevelopment plan that will encourage investment in and attract new businesses to the Lake Berryessa area. The Board is exploring the assuming of responsibilities of managing one or more of the recreational areas at Lake Berryessa under a managing partner agreement.

Action:

1. Support efforts to enact legislation, regulations and guidance that ease the burden on Napa County as discussions about a managing partner agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for management of the Lake Berryessa Recreational Area continue.
2. Oppose efforts to remove the designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain as a National Monument.

NAPA COUNTY AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Issue:

Although Napa County has been awarded sincerely appreciates the nearly \$15M of FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funds to rehabilitate its primary runway in 2019, Napa County Airport staff continues to work to improve its overall pavement conditions. To that end, the County is with working with FAA regional San Francisco Airport District Office staff to leverage AIP discretionary funds for much needed future infrastructure improvement projects. Available discretionary grant funds to small general aviation reliever airports such as Napa are very competitive, which many times results in airports waiting years to fund large capital projects.

Action:

1. Support legislation to increase annual funding to the Federal Aviation Administration (e.g., adjust the Passenger Facility Charge cap) to facilitate more grant dollars to general aviation airports for needed infrastructure improvements. Encourage and support the granting of available AIP discretionary funds to the Napa County Airport.
 2. Promote Napa County Airport activities to the Congressional Delegation, Administration Officials, and FAA Administrators both regionally and nationally and continue to build relationships and highlight the importance of the Airport to members of the local community and as a resource to promote tourism to the region.
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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.
-

PRIORITY 2

General/Nationwide

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.

Action:

1. Support increased federal investment in the County's critical infrastructure including highways, bridges, airports, fire protection, libraries, and Veteran's hospitals and clinics.

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 home ownership.
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 potential 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.

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 helps the County to achieve improved health outcomes for all, and helps to ensure the County does not end up shouldering the costs to do so alone.

Action:

1. Support efforts to expand that increase 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.

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 potential 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.
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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 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 for funding and appropriate measures to implement fully the Elder Justice Act.
 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.
-

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, 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 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 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 remains a federal crime, 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 further 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.
-

RURAL BROADBAND AND CELLULAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Issue:

High-speed broadband and cellular access is 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 is critical to connect 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 business to utilize online technologies more, leading to less travel on congested roadways. Bringing greater access to remote communities and supporting 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 close 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 use of poles, rights of way and other taxpayer-funded property.

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 11,000 (2010 Census data).

Assuming an equal number of dependents, this brings the total number of people eligible for service to 22,000. The County annually receives approximately \$45,000 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.

In 2018, Napa County created a Veterans Commission to address the local needs of veterans beyond the defined scope 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 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 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 NETURALITY

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 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 for 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.