

# County of Napa



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

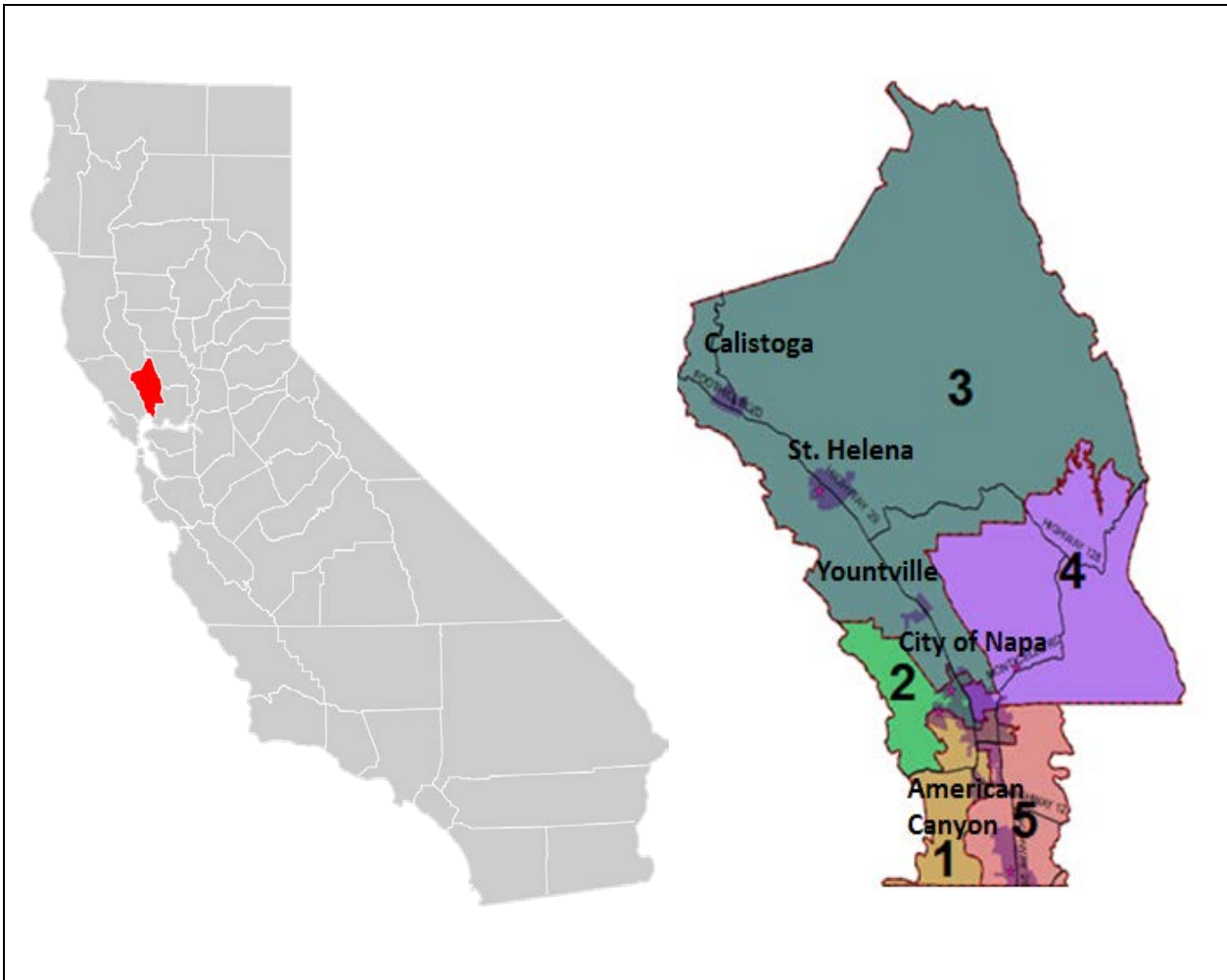
## Federal Legislative & Policy Platform 2018

# 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.
- **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 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 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 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), used by more than 7,000 individuals in Napa County, when Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill in 2018.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES &amp; GOALS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PRIORITY 1</b>	
<i>Napa Specific</i>	
Disaster Recovery.....	7
Lake Berryessa Recreation.....	7
Napa County Airport.....	8
Tribal Recognition/Fee to Trust.....	9
<b>PRIORITY 2</b>	
<i>General/Nationwide</i>	
Infrastructure Investment.....	10
Federal Tax Reform.....	10
Affordable Care Act.....	11
Access to Alcohol Drug Abuse and Prevention Patient Records.....	12
Older Americans Act and Elder Justice Act.....	13
Workforce Development and Retention.....	14
Farm Bill and SNAP.....	14

# 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:**

- Support maximum reimbursement for loss and damages for the County and for residents recovering from wildfires or natural disasters.

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### 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 and encourage Napa County to enter into a managing partner agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation for management of the Lake Berryessa Recreational Area.
  2. Oppose efforts to remove the designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain as a National Monument.
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**NAPA COUNTY AIRPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

**Issue:**

The Napa County Airport's main runway (Runway 18R-36L), as well as the entirety of the secondary runway (Runway 6-24), was constructed in the 1940s. Aside from some minor repair efforts, the pavement has not been rehabilitated since it was originally constructed nearly 70 years ago and is at the end of its useful life.

Napa County staff have been working with the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) regional San Francisco Airport District Office to develop a capital project that will rehabilitate all of Runway 18R-36L, a significant portion of Runway 6-24, and will include a rehabilitation of Runway 18L-36L. A grant for the design and engineering work for this project has already been granted to the County and design is underway. A grant application to the FAA for nearly \$15 million is expected to be submitted in early 2018 for all construction phase costs of the project. This project is critical for the safety of airport users. Rehabilitated runways will assist with the continued success and growth of the Napa County Airport as a resource for local community members and a gateway into the Napa Valley for visitors. Without the project, continued degradation of the pavement could render them inoperable.

**Action:**

1. Support legislation and annual funding to the Federal Aviation Administration to issue grants to general aviation airports for needed infrastructure improvement.
  2. Promote Napa County Airport activities to the Congressional Delegation, Administration Officials, and FAA Administrators both regionally and nationally 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 2018. The President has stated that rebuilding America's infrastructure is a critical pillar of his agenda to promote job creation and grow the U.S. economy. The President's plan will focus the entire range of infrastructure projects, including large projects like roads, rails, ports, and airports.

**Rural Broadband Access.** One of the infrastructure projects may include high-speed broadband access. Building more broadband infrastructure, including extending access to rural and remote areas, is essential for improving education, economic development, public safety, and a vibrant quality of life. Broadband access can attract high-tech businesses to the area that can create synergy with existing local businesses and help grow the economy. Broadband can connect local safety and law enforcement officials to better communicate and respond to natural disasters that may affect multiple jurisdictions, as well as state and federal agencies.

**Action:**

- Support increased federal investment in the County's critical infrastructure including highways, bridges, airports, fire protection, libraries, Veteran's hospitals and clinics, and universal broadband access to rural and remote communities.

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### FEDERAL TAX REFORM

**Issue:**

On November 2, 2017, House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas) introduced H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The introduction of the bill follows a year of work by House leaders to craft a comprehensive tax reform package that seeks to alter nearly every portion of the U.S. tax code, including provisions that will likely impact Napa County and other local governments across the county.

H.R. 1 lowers individual and corporate tax rates. To make up revenue lost by lowering rates and to simplify the code, the package eliminates or caps dozens of tax deductions and credits.

The bill will retain the deduction for property taxes, capped at \$10,000 per tax filer, and would fully eliminate the deductions for state and local income and sales taxes (SALT). Under current federal law, any individual or family who itemizes their tax returns may deduct either state and local income taxes or state and local sales taxes paid. Any taxpayer who itemizes can also deduct property taxes paid. H.R. 1 will affect counties because eliminating or capping the SALT deduction represents a significant revenue shift from state and local governments to the federal government. Additionally, any changes open the door to further cuts and caps by Congress. Homeowners and families are particularly hit hard by the proposal to limit the SALT deduction, since they are the most likely to see their tax rates increase. Additionally, the proposal could remove many home ownership incentives, potentially resulting in a decline in home values and leading to less local revenue generated through property tax assessments. Finally, the bill develops a double standard by denying the SALT deduction to individuals while retaining it for businesses.

H.R. 1 retains 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.

**Action:**

1. Support efforts that retain deductions 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 retain the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds.
5. Support efforts to preserve private activity bonds, which help reduce the cost of the County's infrastructure investment.

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## **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:**

- 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.

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**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:**

- 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.

Support continued reauthorization of and increased funding for the Older Americans Act, and support funding and appropriate measures to implement fully the Elder Justice Act.

### **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 and continuance of the Maintenance of Effort funding structure.
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## 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 Workforce Alliance of the North Bay (WANB) that includes the counties of Napa, Marin and Lake, utilizes WIOA funds, helping place many Napa County residents in jobs every year since WIOA and its predecessor, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, were enacted. Job training must be paired with job retention programs to effectively grow and maintain the local workforce, particularly in the area of health and human services.

### **Action:**

1. Support legislation that establishes incentives in the education and public employment sector that will attract and/or support qualified candidates who show an interest and willingness to study and train for positions in the health and human services field, and incentivize current employees to pursue higher levels of education, training and licensure; leading to the retention of existing staff.
  2. Support funding for the development and expansion of training facilities of dislocated workers and workers with limited skills to reduce unemployment and to increase the earning capacity of workers in Napa County.
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## FARM BILL & SNAP

### **Issue:**

Congress is expected to reauthorize the Farm Bill in 2018. The bill reauthorizes subsidies for crop producers and nutrition aid for the needy. Congressional leaders are focusing on reforming the Supplemental Nutrition Assistant Program (SNAP), also known as the food stamp program, claiming that a measure of fraud exists in the program. Leaders assert that some states have manipulated reporting of the funds in an effort to gain more federal SNAP money. In fiscal year 2017, more than 41 million individuals received food stamp payments, including 7,000 individuals in Napa County.

### **Action:**

- Oppose efforts to reduce the SNAP program when Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill in 2018.
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