



Why We Count



Dear Friends,

This week, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority resumed the annual [Homeless Count](#). Thousands of volunteers gathered in communities across Los Angeles County to help tally the number of unhoused people in their neighborhoods. [This data is important](#) because it enables us to see the homelessness crisis firsthand to gather data that ultimately helps Los Angeles County know exactly where to allocate supportive services for those in need. I was grateful to team up with residents in [Arcadia](#) to participate in the count. This effort

would not be possible without residents' willingness to get involved in the effort to find solutions to this crisis.

I will continue to push for [governance reform within our homeless services system](#), create opportunities to [develop and build new housing](#), and focus my legislative advocacy to rework mental health laws to [get individuals the treatment and care they deserve](#). I won't be able to do it alone and know how valuable partnerships are with residents, cities, and community partners. The Homeless Count is just the first step in working toward these goals.

Best wishes,



Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

Investing in Parks



This week, the Department of Parks and Recreation announced \$26 million in grant awards for park projects across Los Angeles County. In rural and urban communities alike, parks play an important role in enhancing physical and mental health. Here's a look at where the funds were awarded in the Fifth District:

\$920,000 for Griffith Park Riverside Drive Multi-Use Trail: Adding multi-use bike and pedestrian paths and trails to improve connectivity between Griffith Park Riverside Drive Recreation Area, the L.A. River, and L.A. River bike path and improving the path of travel, trailhead, wayfinding, parking lot, fencing, and other amenities.

\$1 million for John Anson Ford Theatres Hiking Trail: Developing a new one-mile ridgeline trail with viewpoints, interpretive elements, and trailheads at the northern and southern limits of the trail.

\$1 million for Amargosa Creek Trail: Enhancing trail and landscape, establishing trailheads, adding site beautification, and increasing user amenities such as tables, educational signage, fitness equipment, and bicycle repair infrastructure along Amargosa Creek in the City of Palmdale.

\$1 million for Marie Kerr Park Pool: Expanding facility deck to increase capacity and expand operations by moving existing fencing and facilitating additional ingress/egress routes, ADA compatibility, and connectivity to the adjacent recreation center.

\$1 million to Mather's Mine: Acquiring 479 acres east of Santa Clarita to protect habitat and nature access and contribute to a wildlife corridor, maintaining the property as open space with access via existing multi-use trails.

\$1 million to Temescal Ranch: Permanently protecting 3,604.81 acres of Temescal Ranch, an undeveloped property in unincorporated L.A. County adjacent to both the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests.

[Visit local parks and open space.](#)

[Learn about parks grants.](#)

Mask Mandate



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health announced that as of today, we're dropping mask requirements indoors for people who are vaccinated. This is a big step in the right direction. Additionally, I still believe we should completely align our guidelines with the State and our neighboring counties so we don't cause further frustration or confusion locally. The cities of Pasadena and Long Beach, who have their own health departments, have taken this step and it's time for the entire County to follow suit.

[Access the business toolkit for lifting masks.](#)

Transit Changes



Metro Los Angeles is making some temporary changes to bus and train service schedules. However, service will start and end at the same times and routes aren't changing. Make sure you're updated on the latest by downloading the [Transit](#) app. Learn more about how Metro is working to make service more predictable and reliable by streamlining service.

[Check out the new schedules.](#)

Fire Preparedness



On Sunday, Angeles National Forest and L.A. County Fire Department firefighters responded to a fire near Cobb Estate above Pasadena. Thankfully, the fire was put out quickly and no one was harmed, but it provides us with an important reminder that fires can start any time throughout the year. Make sure your family and home are protected by having a Wildfire Action Plan in place before an emergency or evacuation.

[Download the Ready! Set! Go! guide.](#)

Student Scholarships



The Los Angeles County Commission for Women wants to support young women who are pursuing their education and career goals! Applications for this year's Resilience Scholarship are now open. I encourage high school seniors, college students, and trade school students across the Fifth District to apply. Make sure to submit everything by the April 1 deadline.

[Apply for the scholarship.](#)

AV Career Pathways



Get involved in the effort to build career pathways in the Antelope Valley and across North L.A. County. Stakeholders in education, government, community-based organizations, employers, and any other local groups are invited to a stakeholder meeting on Wednesday, March 2 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event will cover community resources, innovative strategies, and educational and career development opportunities. Please join to share your valuable perspective!

[Register for the meeting.](#)

Grow a Garden



With spring just around the corner, it's time to grow! Come learn the basics of growing your own vegetables through the Grow L.A. Vegetable Garden Initiative, a series of four-week classes offered around Los Angeles County. This spring, these low-cost courses will be offered at 13 sites and online. Experienced UC Master Gardener volunteers lead the small classes where participants learn the ins-and-outs of soil preparation, irrigation, planting, pest management, and harvesting. In addition to learning the basics of successful gardening, participants meet other gardeners in their community and build a new network of friends.

[Get to gardening.](#)

Downtown:

500 W. Temple St. #869
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974-5555

Santa Clarita Valley:

27441 Tourney Rd. Suite 120
Santa Clarita, CA 91355
(661) 287-3657

Antelope Valley:

42455 10th Street West, Suite 104
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 726-3600

San Gabriel Valley:

215 N. Marengo Ave. Suite 120
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 356-5407

East San Gabriel Valley:

615 E. Foothill Bl. Suite A
San Dimas, CA 91773
(909) 394-2264

San Fernando Valley:

21943 Plummer St.
Chatsworth, CA 91311
(818) 993-5170
