



2023 LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**JOEL ANDERSON
SUPERVISOR, DISTRICT 2**

Note From Joel

Dear Friends,

As your County Supervisor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you my 2023 Legislative Actions & Accomplishments report. This year has been filled with many victories and milestones, particularly in the areas of mental health and homelessness, public safety, fire safety, economic development, and housing.



On mental health and homelessness, we have taken significant steps to expand services and temporary shelters — getting people off the streets and back on their feet.

On public safety, we have allocated new resources to ensure that our communities are prepared for worst — empowering us with additional ambulances, funding for opioid enforcement, and more.

On economic development, we have worked tirelessly to support small businesses, non-profits, and community organizations through awarding over \$6 million in County grants.

Finally, on housing, we have removed barriers and cut red tape to encourage the development of desperately-needed new housing units throughout the County.

Thank you for your support, and I look forward to another successful year of making County government work for you.

It's an honor to serve you,

Joel Anderson

A handwritten signature of Joel Anderson in black ink.

How the County Serves You

The County makes important decisions that touch the lives of all San Diego County residents. Whether you live in one of the region's 18 cities or in an unincorporated community, the County provides a wide range of services.

Some of these include:

Health & Human Services

- Mental & Behavioral Health
- Homeless Solutions
- Public Health & Epidemiology
- In-Home Supportive Services
- Foster Care & Child Welfare

Public Safety

- Disaster Response
- Medical Examiner
- Public Defender
- Adult Protective Services
- Animal Services

Self-Sufficiency Services

- CalFresh
- CalWorks
- Medi-Cal
- Rental & Housing Assistance
- Veterans Services

Environmental Health

- Food & Community Event Permits
- Vector Control
- Land & Water Quality
- Restaurant Inspections

Supervisor Anderson represents District 2, which includes 4 cities and 39 unincorporated communities.

In addition to its wider role serving the entire region, the County also provides municipal services to areas without a city government, or **unincorporated communities**. The County is responsible for operating parks & libraries, maintaining roads, overseeing zoning and building, and providing law enforcement, fire, and paramedic services in these communities.





Creating Safer Communities

Public Safety Highlights

Supporting The Increase of Public Safety Officers

Supervisor Anderson supported the Jamul Indian Village Tribe's request to create their own law enforcement department, which would result in more public safety officers in the region through mutual aid.

Increasing Opioid Enforcement

Anderson successfully advocated for adding \$500,000 to the County's budget for the Sheriff Department's Opioid Enforcement program to address illegal fentanyl activities.

Proposed Ending Immigration Defense for Convicted Felons

Supervisor Anderson authored a board letter proposing to end County taxpayer funded immigration defense for convicted felons facing deportation.

Divesting Public Funds From The Islamic Republic of Iran

Supervisor Anderson authored a board letter to ensure that funds invested through the County's investment portfolios are not being invested in the Islamic Republic of Iran or companies doing business with them.

Honoring American Lives Lost in Israel

Anderson obtained unanimous board support to formally ask the President to order U.S. flags be lowered at half-staff to recognize the 32 U.S. lives lost in the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by the terrorist group Hamas.

Safeguarding Against Sexually Violent Predators

Protecting Homeschools

Supervisor Anderson urged the appellate court to prohibit the placement of Sexually Violent Predators within one-quarter mile of homeschools, providing the same protections afforded to public school students.

Protecting Native American Reservations

He also supported State legislation to prohibit the placement of Sexually Violent Predators within five miles of federal lands, including Native American reservations.

Increasing Transparency

The Supervisor urged the State auditor to review SVP policies for whether the rules SVPs must follow can be disclosed to the community members whose families are forced to live alongside them.

Fire Safety Highlights

Living in Harbison Canyon for more than 30 years, Supervisor Anderson has had his fair share of experiences with wildfires in San Diego County. He wants to ensure that our region is well prepared for whatever disasters may come in the future.

More Farmers Trained Through “Ag-Pass” Program

The “Ag-Pass” program, co-authored by Supervisor Anderson, allows trained and permitted individuals to access their farms during evacuation orders when safe to do so. The program entered its second phase in 2023.

Reimagining Ambulance Transportation Services for the County’s Rural Communities

Supervisor Anderson and the Board of Supervisors established the San Diego Fire Protection District Ground Ambulance Service Area, which provides paramedic-level ambulance transportation services to the rural parts of the County. This resulted in a net increase of two new ambulances.



Connecting With Communities

Awarding Community Grants to Non-Profits & Small Businesses

One of the ways that County funding makes its way to your community is through the County's grants programs. Each Supervisor manages County grant programs for their district. This includes the Community Enhancement Program, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Program, and local COVID-19 relief funds for non-profits and small businesses.

In 2023, Supervisor Anderson awarded a total of **\$6,488,535 across all grant programs to communities in his district.**

For more information on the grant programs, and to apply, please visit:
supervisorjoelanderson.com/grants



Above: Jamul Little League accepts a grant and proclamation from Supervisor Anderson.

Below: The East County Chamber of Commerce and Mi-Box San Diego hosted a Grant Recipient Appreciation Event to express their gratitude.





Community Events

One of Supervisor Anderson's greatest joys is being able to connect with members of the communities he represents. In 2023, the Supervisor hosted five Community Coffee Town Hall Meetings in Poway & Scripps Ranch, Santee, Japantul, Rancho Bernardo & 4S Ranch, and Navajo Canyon. These community meetings serve as an opportunity for constituents to discuss the issues that are most important to them and their families directly with Supervisor Anderson and his staff. Nearly 700 people packed these meetings, with hundreds more tuning into the live stream.

In addition to the Community Coffee Town Hall meetings, Supervisor Anderson co-hosted events throughout his district in 2023. These include the Shallow Rent Subsidy Webinar, Elder Scam and Abuse Prevention Workshop, Early Childhood Wellbeing Workshop, First-Time Homeowner Buyers Workshop, 9/11 Memorial Ceremony, California Heroes Month recognition ceremony, and more.

For more information on the town halls and events planned for 2024, please visit:

supervisorjoelanderson.com/events



Creating Healthier Communities

Meeting the Needs of Our Rural Residents and Supporting Those In Foster Care

Adding A Mobile Health Clinic For Rural Residents

Supervisor Anderson authored board action to add a mobile health clinic for rural residents. The rural mobile medical clinic will make it easier for people living in remote rural portions of San Diego County, including low-income families, seniors, and tribal communities, to get access to health care. It will be equipped with two private medical rooms, a bathroom for specimen collection, an intake area, a workspace for laboratory procedures, and other essential equipment.

Rural Health Post-Discharge Program

Data shows that rural residents are more likely to be re-hospitalized after discharge due to lack of follow up care. This puts patients at greater risk of serious complications and drives up health care costs. As a result of board action authored by Supervisor Anderson, Grossmont Healthcare District and the County of San Diego formed a partnership to reduce hospital readmissions for rural residents.

This pilot program will focus on proactively providing at-home check-ins with discharged patients living in rural zip codes, with a special focus on communities with the highest level of readmission rates. A County public health nurse will provide patient support while a firefighter/paramedic reviews living conditions and safety hazards in the residence and surrounding property and connects them to existing fire safety programs.

Supporting Our Foster Care Youth

Supervisor Anderson supported State legislation to improve the lives of foster youth in San Diego County. Assembly Bill 1512 (Bryan) requires counties to screen and apply for federal Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits when children enter foster care. Additionally, it requires that counties use the funds received from SSA in the child's best interest for unmet current needs, or to conserve the child's benefits for future use.



The Intersection of Healthcare and Homelessness

Shared Housing Program to Prevent Homelessness Among Older Adults

Older adults are the fastest growing demographic of homelessness. Many live alone, or on fixed incomes, with little to no savings and rent prices rising. Supervisor Anderson brought forward action to create a senior homeless prevention program for older adults that facilitates safe shared living arrangements.

Enhancing Capacity At Adult Residential Facilities

Adult Residential Facilities, also called “board and care”, provide licensed, 24-hour/day staffed residences with support for adults who are unable to live independently. Supervisor Anderson directed County staff to assess the board and care bed capacity Countywide to ensure we are able to adequately support these individuals with behavioral health conditions.



Addressing Homelessness

Addressing homelessness remains a top priority for Supervisor Anderson. He believes that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to solving the homelessness crisis—which is why he has placed an emphasis on preventing people from becoming homeless in the first place.

Support for Proposition 13

Supervisor Anderson brought forward action to fight for Proposition 13 in light of recent State legislation that has threatened the tenets of the law which keep homeowners' property taxes at no more than 1% of the assessed value. **Proposition 13 protects seniors on fixed incomes from losing their homes due to unlimited tax hikes.**



Supervisor Anderson (right) with Jojo (left), a homeless outreach advocate with Home Start, at the 2023 Point-In-Time Homeless Count

Establishing An Unsafe Camping Ordinance

The Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Anderson's proposal to have the County draft an unsafe camping ordinance, that would allow law enforcement to prohibit and abate illegal encampments that pose a threat to public safety due to fire and pollution. This board action also directed County staff to identify potential properties that could serve as regional homeless shelter solutions to ensure there is adequate shelter space to move those living in encampments and connect them with services and a path to permanent housing.

Launching Emergency Shelter Sleeping Cabins Program

The County recently launched a program to partner with organizations in the community to purchase and place sleeping cabins on their property as a way to expand temporary emergency housing options for those experiencing homelessness. This program was a result of Supervisor Anderson's board action to find quick and innovative solutions to expand shelter capacity in all areas of our County. Interested churches, nonprofits, and other organizations can receive more information and an application packet by emailing:

HSEC-OHS.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov

"The goal is to get people off the streets, not push them down the street."

—Supervisor Joel Anderson



"No one should have to visit their children or grandchildren in another state because they cannot afford to live in San Diego County. When an estimated 40% of the cost to build a home is due to government regulation, we need to shake up the status quo."
—Supervisor Joel Anderson

Removing Barriers to Housing

As a result of a February 2023 motion made by Supervisor Anderson, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors adopted 22 promising actions at the May 24, 2023, Land Use Meeting designed to deliver different types of housing faster and easier.

The Board committed \$14.5 million in funding to carry out these efforts. Below is a snapshot of 2 of the 22 items and how they change the status quo.

Guaranteed Timelines

A consistent theme from home builders was simple: "Time is money." Instead of directing another "process improvement," Supervisor Anderson worked with County staff to set guaranteed timelines and to commit to it in writing. The result is a drastic reduction in the time it takes to review new housing applications.

Simplifying the Grading Ordinance

Grading is the construction process of reshaping the land to a new, desired topography. The County's existing Grading Ordinance requires new projects be individually reviewed. This can be very lengthy and add costs to housing projects.

In addition to the short-term simplification of the ordinance, the Board of Supervisors approved Supervisor Anderson's motion to initiate a long-term update of the Grading Ordinance that will reduce costs for home builders. Staff will prepare additional updates to the County Grading Ordinance to allow more permits to be issued efficiently rather than requiring lengthy, individual project reviews.



Advocating For A Better Budget

No budget is perfect, and the process of passing a budget often requires compromises, but Supervisor Anderson successfully advocated for additions to the budget that keeps the unique needs of his constituents in mind.

Overall Budget Highlights

These service areas and community projects saw an increase in their budgets:

- Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment – increase of \$100 million
- Homelessness and Housing – increase of \$40 million
- Department of Public Works Roads Fund – increase of \$25.4 million and added 7 Full-Time Employees for road paving
- Senior Shallow Rent Subsidy Program – increase of \$2 million to prevent seniors from falling into homelessness.
- CARE Court implementation – \$18.3 million in funding was provided, resulting in an increase of 55 Full-Time Employees to implement a pilot project to create court ordered mental health and substance abuse treatment plans.
- Design for intersection improvements (roundabouts) at Riverford Road and State Route 67 in Lakeside
- Family Reunification Pilot to reunite and relocate individuals experiencing homelessness with family members nationwide
- Woodside Ave Safety Pedestrian Improvements
- Alpine Local Park
- Stowe Trail
- East County Crisis Stabilization Unit and Recovery Bridge Center
- Edgemoor Psychiatric Unit
- Jacumba Fire Station
- Ramona Sheriff Station
- Cactus Park Refurbishment



Everything In Between

Supporting Our Military Members & Veterans

New Military and Veteran Reintegration Center in East County

With support from the San Diego Veterans Coalition, Veterans East County Alliance, and more, Supervisor Anderson earned support from the Board of Supervisors to direct County staff to establish a Center for Military and Veteran Reintegration in East County.

Creating Pilot Program to Keep Veterans and Their Families Together

With the support of the San Diego Unified School District, Supervisor Anderson authored board action directing County staff to develop a pilot program to assist

active-military members and veterans participating in the MIL-PIP program to ensure their family members can remain in the U.S. while they work towards obtaining their citizenship.

Additional Action

Protecting Ratepayers

Supervisor Anderson successfully secured board support for State Legislation to provide all San Diegans a vote on detachment decisions that could raise their water rates.

He also requested the California Public Utilities Commission to protect District 2 ratepayers from high power costs when the commission was facing a decision to alter electricity rates.

Working For You

Constituent Services

In addition to policymaking, Supervisor Anderson is focused on providing exceptional customer service and advocacy for constituents, helping them navigate local, state, and federal government departments.

Supervisor Anderson's office has quickly become known as one of the most responsive and efficient constituent services operations throughout San Diego County.

Jane's Story

When trying to secure a social worker for a loved one in San Diego, Jane spent months contacting multiple government agencies to no avail. At her wits end, Jane contacted Supervisor Anderson for assistance.

Anderson's office advocated on Jane's behalf and explained the situation to the County's Aging and Independence Services. The County soon connected her loved one with a social worker.

"After months of calling everywhere possible, you are the first person... that truly understood."

For the first time in months, I have been able to sleep without nightmares."



Carole's Story

What would you do if you made a \$3,000 tax payment, but then were told the payment was never received?

Carole found herself in this unfortunate situation when her tax payment was accidentally directed to the wrong parcel number.

Not sure where to go next, Carole reached out to Supervisor Anderson. Anderson's staff quickly jumped into action and referred her case to the Tax Collector's Office, who swiftly fixed the issue.

**928 constituent cases
successfully resolved
in 2023***

**Jan. 1 to Nov. 21, 2023*



Leapfrog Your Peers

Through An Internship With Supervisor Anderson

Supervisor Joel Anderson brought his award-winning internship program from the State Senate to the Board of Supervisors of San Diego County. Currently, he has a limited number of internship opportunities in his El Cajon District Office (ECDO) as well as the County Administration Center (CAC).

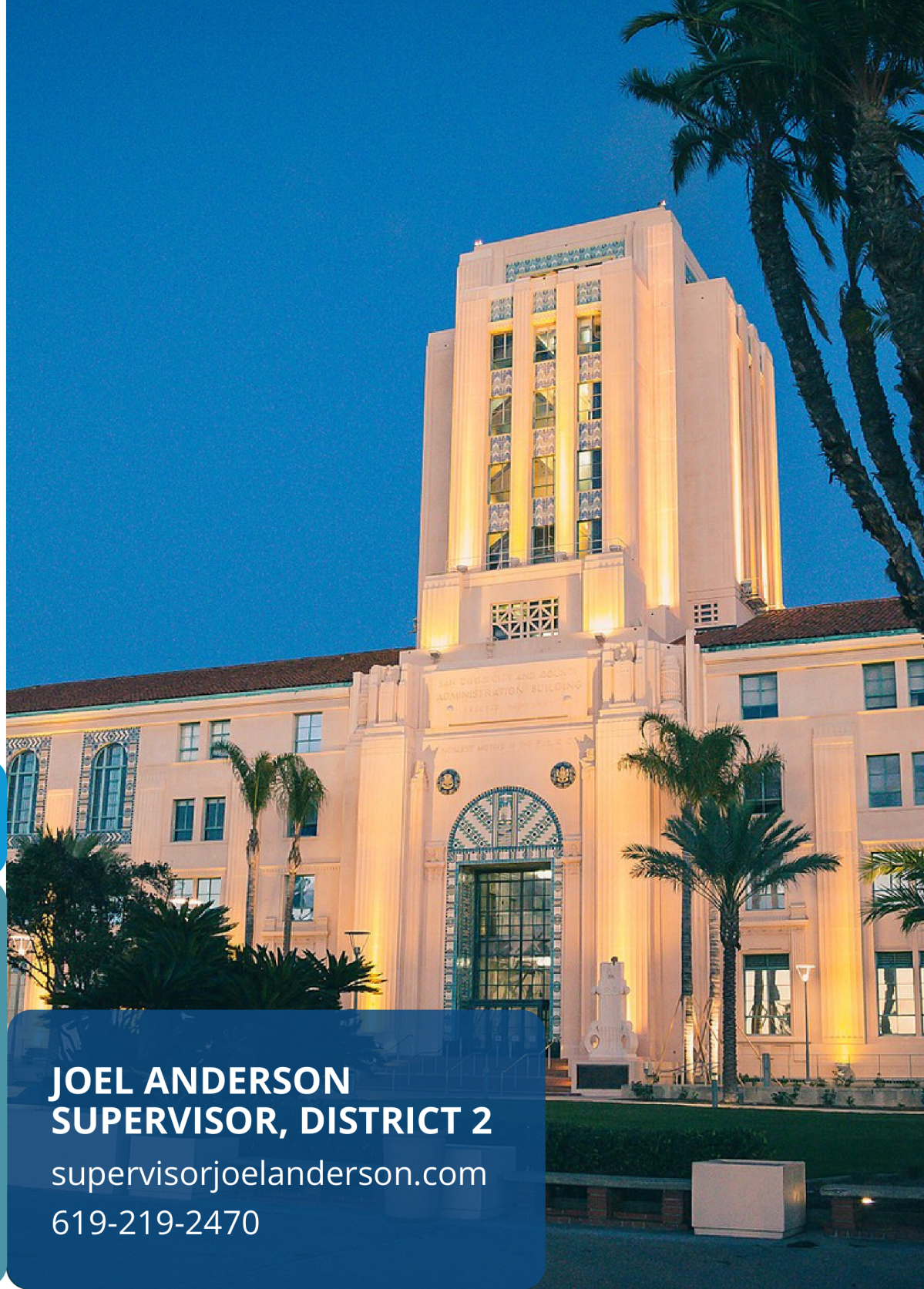


Why intern?

This is an opportunity for you or someone you know to get involved in the public policy process, develop job skills, and get a head-start on your career. In Supervisor Anderson's office, you will have the opportunity to work in a professional environment, build your resume, and network with elected officials and business leaders. Also, this opportunity may fulfill any community service or internship requirements.

Anderson's interns never fetch coffee, but instead learn real, transferrable skills that can be applied to any industry!

Learn more and apply at
supervisorjoelanderson.com/intern



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