INLAND VALLEY NEWS
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Fontana Gala Honors Ray and Jeanette Allen, Supports Club's Holiday Program

- Aldon Stiles
- October 28, 2026



Community leaders, supporters and guests gather at Spaggi's Event Center for the masquerade-themed Mayor's Great Futures Gala benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Fontana and Bloomington. The annual celebration honored the late Ray and Jeanette Allen for their contributions to the organization and the Fontana community. / IVN Photo by Aldon Stiles

The proceeds from the Mayor's Great Futures Gala will help the Boys & Girls Club of Fontana and Bloomington provide holiday gifts and activities for more than 300 local children, the club's chief executive said at the Oct. 24 event.

The annual fundraiser, held at Spaggi's Event Center, brought together city and county officials, club supporters and families.

The masquerade themed gala also recognized the late Ray and Jeanette Allen for their support of the club and the Fontana community, Mayor Acquanetta Warren said.

“This is an important event of the year because this is where we thank the sponsors,” Warren said. “The sponsors are the people that we’re honoring tonight that have helped us this year.”

Terrie Schneider, the club’s CEO, said proceeds would help fund a Christmas celebration for children and families.

The club plans to provide children with backpacks of supplies and two to three gifts, along with a breakfast with Santa and a holiday carnival, she said.

“I don’t think a lot of people realize that for many of our kids and our families that this may be the only gift that they get,” Schneider said.

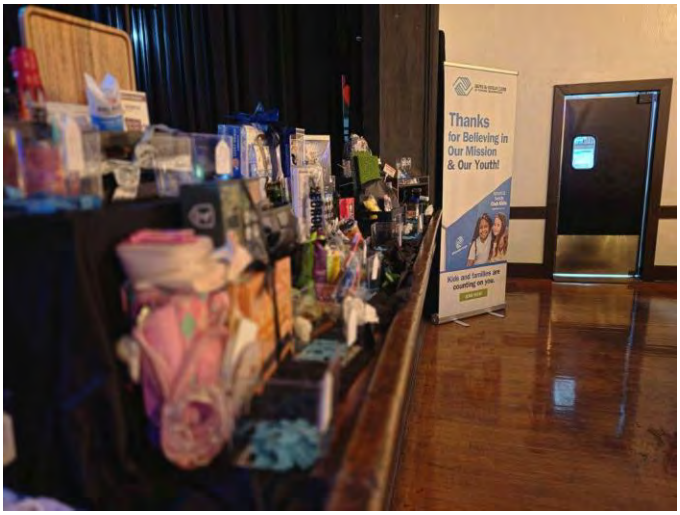
At the carnival, children can play games and choose prizes that include toys, shoes and jackets. Some children select items for siblings, even when the prizes are not their own size, Schneider said.

“When you ask them, ‘Why did you get that?’ ‘It’s not your size,’” she said. “‘My little sister needs that.’”

Schneider said families often face the strain of parents working multiple jobs to cover basic expenses.

The club’s holiday program, she said, is one way the organization and its supporters try to offer added help.

The gala has been held for more than 16 years, Schneider said. It began as the Mayor’s Gala under a previous mayor and continued under Warren.



An assortment of donated gifts and raffle prizes lines the display tables during the Mayor's Great Futures Gala on Oct. 24 at Spaggi's Event Center in Fontana. Proceeds from the annual fundraiser will help the Boys & Girls Club of Fontana and Bloomington provide holiday gifts and activities for more than 300 local children. / IVN Photo by Aldon Stiles

Warren recalled that earlier galas were held at the club, the library and the Jesse Turner Center. She said the event was reworked to keep costs down and direct more of the proceeds to the organization.

"The biggest amount we make is off the rafters," Warren said, describing the support and donations the event brings in.

The club's programs extend beyond academic assistance, Schneider said. A youth DJ program called All Hands on Deck teaches participants to use DJ equipment while building communication, music appreciation and entrepreneurship skills.

She said the curriculum also incorporates reading, writing and math.

"It's just not about homework assistance," Schneider said. "It's about giving them true life skills that they need to become the really wonderful, great human beings that they're going to be."

The club's website describes programs in academic success, healthy lifestyles, character and leadership, arts and creativity and teen development.

Its listed Fontana and Bloomington locations include Almeria Middle School, Southridge Middle School, Dolores Huerta International Academy and Bloomington Grove.

Warren said she has seen several generations of families maintain ties to the club. Her daughter's first job was at the Boys & Girls Club, she said, and her grandchildren now attend.

"We've got kids in there now that are grown," Warren said. "It's just, we got generations in here."

She said the club's work also includes keeping children safe, making holidays special and preparing them for the future.

Warren praised Schneider and the staff, noting that some employees once attended the club themselves.

Schneider said the organization began with 25 children in a one-room building and has grown to serve more than 1,000 children a day across its sites, according to her account.

Many staff members, she said, began as club participants.

"It's not about a one-hit wonder," Schneider said. "It's about how we want to make an impact in the lives of these children and we want to make sure that we're giving them the tools."

In remarks at the gala, San Bernardino County Supervisor Jesse Armendarez also urged attendees to support the club's work.

He praised the people who contribute time and money and highlighted the role of staff in serving children.

"We can never forget that they were a vital part of this community," he said

The event's recognition of Ray and Jeanette Allen was personal for Warren. Ray served on the club's board and, she said, was deeply involved in the community.

Jeanette served on Fontana's planning commission and encouraged Warren to become more active in local affairs.

"She was my neighbor before they got married," Warren said. "Jeanette actually encouraged me to get more involved in Fontana, so I love her for that."

Schneider said the club aims to instill belonging, confidence and a commitment to giving back.

"We need to give back," Schneider said. "Let's make sure that we're always treating people with kindness, respect and dignity."

DAILY PRESS

LOCAL

AI drones ready to fight fires in San Bernardino County



Brian Day
Victorville Daily Press

Oct. 29, 2026, 3:06 a.m. PT

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is set to become the first fire agency in California to launch a fleet of automated, AI-powered, foam-spraying drones designed to attack flames in remote and inaccessible places before they get out of control.

A strike team of five of the "autonomous suppression aircraft" will soon take to the skies under a contract announced Wednesday, Oct. 28, by fire officials and Seneca, the company that built the unmanned aircraft. The drones will be accompanied by a "Mobile Air Operations Base"

"SBCoFD will be the first fire department in California to train with and deploy Seneca's system," Seneca representatives said in a written statement.

San Bernardino County Fire Chief Dan Munsey said the goal of the cutting-edge program is to extinguish 90% of fires before they reach more than 10 square feet in size.

"Seneca's aircraft give us a capability that has never before been possible: autonomous rapid initial attack," he said.

"We've been working closely with Seneca for over a year to develop a system that meets our needs. This product will help us to get more quickly to parts of the

County that are at the highest risk and help make those communities safer. It force-multiplies what our firefighters can do, and it keeps them safer while they do it."

The drones are expected to be ready for deployment in the first half of next year, ahead of the 2027 peak fire season, according to Seneca. Firefighters will begin training on the system ahead of delivery.

The drones take advantage of onboard AI to coordinate with one another and allow a single pilot to control multiple aircraft at the same time, the company said. Each can carry a mixture of water and concentrate that amounts to 100 gallons of finished firefighting foam.

"Seneca's five-aircraft strike team launches from anywhere, delivers more than 500 gallons of finished foam, and reaches a new start in 5–10 minutes or less," according to the statement. "SBCoFD will use the Seneca Strike Team as a force multiplier for its firefighters, engines, and existing aerial resources in situations that were previously unsafe, inefficient, or impossible."

More: San Bernardino Co. Fire Dept. to launch nation's first water-dropping drones

Seneca Founder and CEO Stuart Landesberg said he was proud to partner with San Bernardino County firefighters.

"San Bernardino County Fire Protection District is one of the most respected fire agencies in the world — a true all-hazard department that has a long history of embracing new technologies and approaches to firefighting," he said.

"We look for partners that combine excellence, a true service mentality, and a history of innovation," Landesberg said. "Chief Munsey and San Bernardino Fire embody all three. We are honored to deliver our first system in California to Chief Munsey and his team."

The Seneca system will join a previously announced fleet of five firefighting drones soon to be delivered to San Bernardino County by the company ponderosa.ai,

agency Robotics Program Manager Jeff Alexy said.

The announcement of a firefighting drone program in February was believed to be the first in the nation.

While the two systems are similar in concept, "each has its own little niche," Alexy said.

The slightly smaller FireSparrow Mk10 unmanned aerial suppression system is also expected to be ready for aerial duty next year.

Seneca and ponderosa.ai are both California-based companies, headquartered in Sausalito and Chico, respectively.

9 men linked to Sinaloa Cartel arrested for train cargo theft in San Bernardino County

Authorities said they recovered $339,00 worth of stolen goods, including Nike shoes and Victoria's Secret merchandise.

By **Helen Jeong** • Published October 28, 2026 • Updated on October 28, 2026 at 1:20 pm



San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

San Bernardino County authorities arrested nine men connected to the Sinaloa Cartel for stealing train cargo, which included hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of retail merchandise, officials announced Wednesday.

Investigators have suspected the cartel, one of Mexico's most prominent organized crime groups, may be responsible for burglaries targeting Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway trains, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department. The thefts have resulted in millions of dollars' worth of stolen property.

After identifying a “coordinated operation” involving some of the suspects and their vehicles, the sheriff’s department was able to serve a search warrant on Oct. 16 at a house on East 35th Street near Harrison Street and Lynwood Drive in San Bernardino.

Investigators arrested the suspects, all from Sinaloa, Mexico, on suspicion of organized train cargo theft and recovered $333,000 worth of stolen goods, including JBL speakers, Logitech computer hardware, Victoria’s Secret merchandise, Nike shoes, New Balance shoes and Husky tools, the department said.

Authorities also confiscated a large amount of cash, four semiautomatic handguns, a drone, tools that may have been used to access train cargo containers, as well as fentanyl suspected to be for sale.

The nine suspects are facing charges of conspiracy, theft of railroad property and possession of a controlled substance while armed.

Anyone with information about these crimes or those involved was encouraged to contact the Sheriff’s Department by calling or texting “REPORT” to We-Tip at 844-909-3006.

IE Gang Crackdown Leads To Assault Rifles, Ghost Guns Seized: Sheriff

Investigators served five search warrants and contacted suspects throughout the county, including in Redlands and Yucaipa, authorities said.

Corey Washington, Patch Staff

Posted Wed, Oct 28, 2026 at 10:23 am PT



Authorities seized 18 firearms, including three ghost guns, during an operation throughout San Bernardino County, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department announced on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2026. (San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department)

INLAND EMPIRE, CA — A weeklong law enforcement operation across San Bernardino County resulted in five felony arrests and the seizure of 18 firearms, including three ghost guns, authorities said.

The operation, conducted Oct. 19 through Oct. 25, involved investigators from the agency's Gangs/Narcotics Division, deputies from patrol stations and personnel from partner agencies, according to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department.

Investigators served five search warrants and contacted suspects throughout the county, including in Colton, Yucaipa, Adelanto, Chino Hills, Redlands, San Bernardino, Hesperia, Chino and Victorville, authorities said.

During the operation, investigators contacted gang members and people prohibited from possessing firearms, authorities said.

The San Bernardino Movement Against Street Hoodlums Street Enforcement Team also conducted proactive patrols in San Bernardino and surrounding areas.

Operation Consequences is funded through an allocation authorized by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to support countywide crime suppression efforts. The funding is intended to provide additional law enforcement services addressing quality-of-life issues affecting communities throughout the county.

The ongoing operation focuses on targeted crime suppression in the High Desert and areas under the sheriff’s jurisdiction surrounding San Bernardino.

Participating agencies include the Sheriff’s Department's Gangs/Narcotics Division, Specialized Enforcement Division and patrol stations, along with the California Highway Patrol, San Bernardino Police Department, San Bernardino County Probation and Homeland Security Investigations.

Authorities said Operation Consequences will continue over the next several months, with the goal of reducing violent crime, disrupting and dismantling targeted criminal street gangs, and locating and arresting people suspected of illegally possessing, manufacturing or trafficking firearms.

Judge rejects DOJ's request to force California to segregate ballots of alleged noncitizen voters

Judge David O. Carter wrote that eroded trust in democracy 'is irreparable. … This Court declines to be a party to such process.'



A worker pushes a cart of received mail ballots at the L.A. County Ballot Processing Center in Industry, Calif., in this Nov. 4, 2025, file photo. (AP Photo/Ethan Swope, File)

By **LINH TAT** | ltat@scng.com | The Press-Enterprise

PUBLISHED: October 28, 2026 at 5:50 PM PDT | UPDATED: October 28, 2026 at 8:07 PM PDT

A federal judge has denied a request by the Trump administration to issue a temporary restraining order that would have forced California election officials to set aside the mail ballots of tens of thousands of alleged noncitizen voters.

Approving the request “would wreak havoc and disrupt the election that is already underway, create a chilling effect on election workers and voters alike, and discount the votes of United States citizens,” U.S. District Judge David O. Carter wrote in a 26-page order Wednesday, Oct. 28.

“Eroded trust in our democracy is irreparable. Once a vote is segregated, lasting harm has occurred,” Carter went on to say.

“If the Executive can discount votes and threaten an ongoing election due to unproven allegations, then our democracy is in danger. This Court declines to be a party to such process.”



U.S. District Judge David O. Carter, in a Jan. 23, 2024, file photo. (Photo by Mark Rightmire, Orange County Register/SCNG)

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Essayli, in a statement Wednesday night, said the Justice Department will seek an emergency appeal.

“Every day, more ballots are processed by election officials. This ongoing emergency disenfranchises American citizens through dilution. … We filed our Notice of Appeal and will immediately seek an emergency order from the Ninth Circuit,” Essayli said.

In the meantime, California Attorney General Rob Bonta touted Carter’s ruling as “yet another important victory for the rule of law and the right to vote.”

“But this fight is not over,” Bonta added. “We will keep fighting to protect California’s elections from unlawful federal interference and get this baseless lawsuit dismissed.”

Carter’s decision came one day after hearing oral arguments from both sides in a case that is being followed closely around the country because of its implications less than a week before Election Day.

The U.S. Department of Justice alleges there are 20,000 “likely” noncitizens on California’s voter rolls who are ineligible to cast ballots, though California Secretary of State Shirley Weber previously said the federal government hadn’t provided proof.

In mid-October, the Justice Department sent a letter to L.A. County Registrar Dean Logan and informed Weber’s office the state had 48 hours to review a list of about 20,000 names to confirm if the individuals are U.S. citizens.

After California officials failed to meet that deadline, according to the DOJ, the Justice Department sued the state, Weber and Logan and sought a temporary restraining order to stop election officials in the state from further processing the ballots in question – at least until the citizenship status of a voter is confirmed.

California sends a mail ballot to every registered voter. Most voters received their ballots in early October, and voting has begun.

As of Tuesday, over 4 million mail ballots had been returned to election offices statewide, including more than 767,000 in L.A. County alone, according to the California secretary of state.

During Tuesday's hearing, Essayli stressed the urgent need for a resolution, noting the massive number of marked ballots that local election offices have already received and, in many cases, started processing.

Essayli is the top U.S. prosecutor in L.A., though a federal judge ruled in a separate case Tuesday that the former Republican Assemblymember is serving in his current role illegally. Essayli disagreed, saying the president and U.S. attorney general "have every right to select supervisors within the Justice Department" and that he expected the U.S. Supreme Court to ultimately decide the issue.

"I look forward to serving in my current role until then," he said in a statement.

As for the DOJ's case against California over the 20,000 mail ballots, Essayli said in court Tuesday the federal government was making "a very narrow request" to temporarily set aside the ballots of "those suspected to be noncitizens."

"We have not asked to void any ballots … (or) to cancel any ballots," Essayli said.

"What we are doing is seeking to enforce" federal laws prohibiting voting by noncitizens, he added.

"We're not telling California what they have to do. We're telling (the state) what they can't do. … What they cannot do is count these ballots once they've been informed of these prospective noncitizen ballots," Essayli said.

But Michael Cohen, an attorney representing the state of California, said the Trump administration used data "known to be unreliable" in compiling their list of alleged noncitizens.

The state's legal team also said that in July, the Trump administration alleged there might be more than 190,000 noncitizens on the state's voter rolls, but by October, that number had dropped to 20,000, further questioning the data's credibility.

Attorneys for the state also said segregating out the 20,000 ballots would disenfranchise voters.

“What we are talking about is stripping voting rights of thousands of people,” until their innocence is proven, said Anne Bellows, an attorney for the state.

Logan, the L.A. County registrar, said in a statement last week that the county conducted a preliminary review of records after receiving the DOJ’s mid-October letter requesting the county verify the citizenship status of voters that the Trump administration suspected of being noncitizens.

Of the 20,930 records the DOJ submitted, Logan said, 7,035 (33.6%) had L.A. County addresses. And out of 200 names that the registrar’s office used as part of a sample pool, about 43% of the individuals had canceled voter registrations and more than 70% had no voting history, Logan said.

“Our office takes voter eligibility seriously, and any credible evidence of unlawful voting or attempts at disrupting elections warrants appropriate review,” Logan said, adding, “Claims of unlawful voting must be supported by verifiable evidence, not assumptions.”

In recent days, registrar offices in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties have also received similar letters from the Justice Department seeking their cooperation in verifying the citizenship status of voters.

Although Carter did not rule immediately following Tuesday’s hearing on whether to grant a temporary restraining order as the Justice Department had requested, it was widely perceived that he would deny it.

Earlier this year, Carter dismissed a DOJ request that would have forced California officials to hand over the state’s full voter registration list to the federal government.

And during this week’s hearing, he questioned the need for an emergency temporary restraining order on the latest matter, saying the federal government could still indict people who voted illegally after the election since results aren’t certified until December.

The judge also appeared to reprimand members of the Trump administration, saying threats against election workers should end immediately. In recent weeks, federal prosecutors have implied that election workers who process ballots they’ve been told may have been cast by a noncitizen could be held criminally liable.

“This court believes it would be wise that any threats to state and county elected employees cease immediately. Good night,” Carter said before exiting the courtroom Tuesday.

Now the case heads back to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Earlier this week, a panel of judges from the 9th Circuit, citing the fact that Carter hadn't yet had a chance to consider the matter, declined to rule on the case after taking the rare step of holding a weekend session to hear arguments from the attorneys. The federal government had asked for the session because it wanted a decision earlier than their scheduled hearing before Carter.

But even before the appellate judges decided not to rule on the case, one of the judges during Sunday's proceeding cast doubt on the Justice Department's request for a temporary restraining order.

"It seems to me you want us to issue an injunction that is entirely inconsistent with the law the California Legislature has adopted," Judge Mark Bennett, a Trump appointee, said at that appellate hearing. "How can we do that?"

"Congress and the California Legislature have said non-citizens can't vote," Bennett added. "This lawsuit is about, 'We don't like the way you're sorting citizens from non-citizens.' I just don't see (federal law) telling California how to do the sorting."

City News Service contributed reporting.

California enacts data center laws giving communities more control over facilities

By Carlos E. Castañeda | CBS San Francisco

Updated on: September 21, 2026 / 11:17 PM PDT /

California placed new restrictions on data centers as Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday signed a slate of bills giving local communities more control over the electricity, land and water usage by the facilities.

Newsom signed seven bills mandating that data centers provide transparency about the use of local resources so local officials and residents can better determine the economic costs and benefits of such projects, the Governor's Office said.

The bills, sponsored by Democratic legislators, are designed to protect local residents from increased costs of utilities, through requirements such as having tech companies cover costs of energy grid upgrades and compelling strict water usage standards under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Supporters of the bills characterize them as an essential framwork that would shield consumers from data center rate spikes, grid instability, and localized droughts from excess water usage. Local communities will also have expanded oversight over site selections and zoning variances, and any proposed facilities will require a land-use permitting and environmental review process.

"While the Trump administration moves toward deregulation, communities are left to deal with the consequences - higher electricity demand, grid constraints, water use, and pollution. Today we are once again laying the groundwork for a stronger approach, because we know that we don't have to sell out Californians or sacrifice our well-being to innovate and succeed," Newsom said in a prepared statement.
"With these laws, we are ensuring that Californians remain in the driver's seat - and that those profiting from data centers aren't doing so at our expense"

Opponents of the bills argued that such regulatory burdens will jeopardize California's position as a global tech capital and drive investments and jobs to other states. Industry groups also maintain that singling out data center infrastructure over other industries' using large amounts of electricity and water is based on anti-AI sentiment and sets a harmful precedent.

The bills Newsom signed on Monday are:

- AB 1577 by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda). Data centers: reporting
- AB 2383 by Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (D-Hollywood) - Electricity: data centers
- AB 2469 by Assemblymember Diane Papan (D-San Mateo) - Data centers: water use disclosures
- AB 2619 by Assemblymember Diane Papan (D-San Mateo) - Water resources: data center
- SB 886 by Sen. Steve Padilla (D-San Diego) and Senator Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) - California Technology Innovation and Ratepayer Protection Act
- SB 887 by Sen. Steve Padilla (D-San Diego) - California Environmental Quality Act: environmental leadership development projects: data centers: geothermal power plant projects
- SB 1168 by Sen. Jerry McNerney (D-Pleasanton) - Data centers: Rate structures

In December 2025, President Trump issued an executive order to fast-track federal data center permitting and try to limit regulations in an effort to bolster infrastructure in the AI race.

A recent CBS News/YouGov poll shows that more Americans oppose than favor having a new data center built in their area by over a two-to-one margin, with the lack of familiarity with data centers contributing to their unease about having one in their local area.

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

L.A. city and county fend off a court battle over homeless services



A homeless encampment sits along the 101 Freeway, just blocks away from Los Angeles City Hall. (Christina House/Los Angeles Times)



By Doug Smith
Senior Writer | Follow

Oct. 29, 2026 3 AM PT

- Los Angeles city officials have long complained that L.A. is forced to accept residents from outside the city into housing it has created for homeless people.
- An agreement between the city and county would give L.A. control over who gets placed in city shelters and housing.
- ‘For the first time, the city of Los Angeles will finally be able to house people from our own streets, not from other cities,’ Mayor Karen Bass said.

Staving off a battle over control of homeless services, Los Angeles County has agreed in principle to let the city of Los Angeles control who gets placed in city shelters and housing.

The agreement, approved by the county Board of Supervisors on Tuesday after City Council approval Friday, settled a long-standing complaint from the city that it is cut out of information about homeless people within its borders and is forced to accept residents from outside the city into housing it has created.

The agreement also will give the city access to the homelessness database. Both systems has been run by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, a city-county joint powers agency in the process of being dismantled.

It also cleared the way for the county to take over operation of the matching system and the homelessness database managed by LAHSA.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass announced the agreement Tuesday as “a historic opportunity for the city of Los Angeles to be completely in control of building a system that can end street homelessness.”

“For the first time, the city of Los Angeles will finally be able to house people from our own streets, not from other cities,” Bass said. “City taxpayers think they were paying to house people from the city of L.A. without realizing that they were paying to house people from cities all over the county.”

The evisceration of the joint powers agency, created more than 30 years ago to settle a dispute between the city and county over federal homelessness dollars, began last year when the supervisors created a new Homeless Services and Housing Department and pulled its more than $300-million contribution from LAHSA’s annual budget.

In June, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development suspended LAHSA, citing audits and media coverage of mismanagement and conflicts of interest.

The suspension meant the agency could no longer perform four federally mandated duties: managing the homeless database and matching system, conducting the annual homeless count and submitting applications for federal funding on behalf of the region’s service providers. HUD told those service providers to submit their applications directly to the federal government.

LAHSA filed suit in federal court, and U.S. District Judge David O. Carter stayed the suspension for 60 days to give time for an orderly transition of LAHSA’s duties to the city and county. In a hearing Tuesday, First Assistant U.S. Atty. Bill Essayli agreed in principle to the new arrangement between the city and county.

Carter extended the stay to Nov. 13 for the parties to work out a few remaining details to conclude the lawsuit.

Supervisor Kathryn Barger, who negotiated the power-sharing agreement with Bass, put out a statement saying the decision transferring the federal functions to the county reflects that “regional leadership requires collaboration.”

“Today’s vote is a positive step toward a more coordinated and accountable regional response to homelessness,” Barger said.

Times staff writer David Zahniser contributed to this report.

Orange County Teamsters set to resume strike Thursday

The announcement marks a swift turn in negotiations between the two sides, which seemed to be showing progress after the Teamsters halted a weeklong strike earlier this month



Members of Teamsters Local 952 picket on the entrance road to the Bowerman Landfill in Irvine on Tuesday, October 13, 2026. Trucks were let through a few at a time. (Photo by Paul Bersebach, Orange County Register/SCNG)



By **CLAIRE WANG** | cwang@scng.com | OC Register

PUBLISHED: October 28, 2026 at 1:42 PM PDT | UPDATED: October 29, 2026 at 7:01 AM PDT

Hundreds of Orange County employees represented by Teamsters Local 952 will go back on strike Thursday at 5 a.m., the union said Wednesday evening.

The union had said earlier in the day that it would resume the strike if a deal was not reached by midnight. But later Wednesday evening, the union said the strike would be on.

“No offer was presented by the county,” said Teamsters spokesperson Christian Castro. “A negotiation meeting was scheduled for tomorrow, but without an offer, our members will be going back on the picket line.”

“This strike has been sanctioned by the Teamsters Joint Council 42, which means that UPS trucks, Teamsters sanitation trucks and other Teamsters will not be crossing the picket lines. No deliveries and no trash pickups for county locations,” said Castro.

Earlier Wednesday, Eric Jimenez, secretary-treasurer of Teamsters Local 952, said: “We are outraged that the Orange County Board of Supervisors has once again failed the workers who keep this county running. We paused our strike and returned to work in good faith, giving the county every opportunity to reach a fair agreement.”

“Yet, we have still not received an improved offer that addresses our members’ concerns, including the county’s refusal to provide retroactive pay after months of dragging out negotiations,” Jimenez said.

The announcement marked a swift turn in negotiations between the two sides, which seemed to be showing progress after the Teamsters halted a weeklong strike on Oct. 21.

But union members “overwhelmingly rejected” the county’s latest contract proposal, which bumped a one-time raise from 3% to 4% but still did not include any back pay, according to Castro.

County spokesperson Molly Nichelson said in a statement Tuesday that the county will continue to implement contingency plans to minimize disruptions in service.

“The county respects the rights of our dedicated employees to engage in lawful strike activity under California law,” Nichelson said.

More than 400 workers with OC Public Works, OC Waste & Recycling and OC Community Resources first walked off the job on Oct. 13 after months of failed contract talks over pay increases.

The picketing blocked access to landfills and other county facilities, causing major service disruptions that led county leadership to seek an injunction from the state labor board. In the complaint, the county alleged that the union engaged in “unfair practices” by failing to provide sufficient notice of the strike and physically blocking vehicle access to the county facilities.

hoodline
SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO COUNTY SUPERVISORS ADVANCE TWO-YEAR LOBBYING BAN, CRACK DOWN ON INSIDER BETTING

By Jacob Smith

Published on October 28, 2026

San Diego County supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday to advance an anti-corruption measure that would bar former county staff from lobbying their old offices for two years and crack down on employees using inside information to bet on prediction-market apps like Kalshi and Polymarket. The vote directs staff to draft formal policy language, with county officials expected to return in December with the details.

No Cooling-Off Period Existed Before

The proposal, unveiled by Board of Supervisors Chair Terra Lawson-Remer in August, targets what she calls San Diego County's revolving door between government service and paid lobbying. As reported by The San Diego Union-Tribune, the county currently has no duration-based ban preventing former employees from lobbying their former offices — unlike the city of San Diego, which bars former staffers from lobbying the city for one year, or Los Angeles County, which imposes a two-year ban on former staff lobbying the agency or department where they worked. Current California state law

imposes only a one-year paid-lobbying ban on a limited group of county officials after they leave office, according to Lawson-Remer's office.

“You shouldn't be able to leave government on Friday and get paid to lobby your former coworkers on Monday,” Lawson-Remer said, according to a statement posted on her official site. As of June, 10 former county employees were registered as lobbyists, and seven of them began lobbying the county within two years of leaving its employ, the

Betting Apps Draw Scrutiny After High-Profile Cases

The second half of the proposal addresses prediction markets, the betting-style platforms where users wager on real-world outcomes. Lawson-Remer has pointed to a U.S. Army soldier who was arrested for allegedly making more than $400,000 on Polymarket using classified government information, and to nine Polymarket accounts that reportedly made $2.4 million betting on recent U.S. military action in Iran. She has also cited a White House teleprompter operator who allegedly used advance access to President Donald Trump's speeches to bet on what he would say, making more than $100,000 before federal regulators ordered the operator to forfeit profits, pay a $65,000

penalty and stop trading for three years.

“You shouldn't be able to learn something confidential because you work for the public — then use that information to place a bet and make yourself richer,” Lawson-Remer said, per her office's statement. She added that public service should never become a private payday.

Per inewsource, the county is not aware of any officials placing bets using nonpublic or sensitive information. The outlet reports that Chief Administrative Officer Ebony Shelton is expected to return with a formal plan within 60 days of being directed to amend the county's conflict-of-interest code.

What the Policy Would Cover

According to Lawson-Remer's office, the proposed policy would prohibit former employees from trading on matters they personally worked on for two years after leaving, require disclosure of potential conflicts, and cover trades made through certain family accounts. The prediction-market restrictions would begin with unclassified county employees and ultimately extend to all county workers, with classified employees added after required labor negotiations.

Comparable restrictions have spread quickly across government this year. The U.S. Senate barred senators and Senate employees from participating in prediction markets, a move that followed reports that users won hundreds of thousands of dollars by anticipating U.S. military action, as detailed by The New York Times. At least 16 prediction-market accounts made more than $100,000 after correctly forecasting a February strike on Iran shortly before a U.S. and Israeli attack, the Times reported. The U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform has also investigated potential insider trading on prediction-market platforms, and Gov. Gavin Newsom banned state gubernatorial appointees from using confidential information to profit on the same markets.

Election Offices and Other Counties Moving Too

San Diego County is not alone among local governments racing to close this gap. Maricopa County adopted a resolution banning about 13,000 county employees from trading on nonpublic information, covering topics from weather events to elections to court hearings, according to CNBC. Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs signed an executive order banning state workers from insider trading on prediction markets, and an election office in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, banned roughly 2,200 employees from trading on election-related prediction-market contracts. Election officials nationwide have said the restriction is the tightest measure available to ensure employees with access to ballots cannot trade on nonpublic information, per the same CNBC report.

San Diego County lobbyists currently must register with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Office before contacting officials, or within five calendar days afterward, according to the county's own rules. Supervisors are expected to take up a formal lobbying-ban policy and the first phase of prediction-market restrictions on December 8, when county staff return with completed language, as first reported by KPBS.