

ACC-OC 2025 State Legislative Priorities

Association of California Cities
Orange County

ABOUT ACC-OC:

The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) represents the regional policy interests of Orange County cities and special districts, collectively serving up to 3.2 million residents. ACC-OC fosters collaboration across county borders on regional, state, and federal policy issues, advocating for solutions that enhance local governance and community well-being. The Association is committed to empowering our member agencies through educational programming, developing collaborative policies, and advancing service-driven advocacy. Its diverse membership—comprising cities, special districts, private businesses, nonprofits, and higher education institutions—works together to address Orange County’s evolving challenges and opportunities.

Budget

- **Safeguard local revenue sources from state budget reductions**, ensuring continued funding for local agencies to advance shared priorities in climate action, energy, housing, infrastructure, and water policy.
- **Preserve funding for the University of California and California State University systems** to maintain student access, support academic success, and strengthen California’s workforce development.

Energy, Environment and Water

- **Support modernization and comprehensive reforms to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** to streamline the development of critical energy, housing, transportation, and water infrastructure.
- **Expedite permitting and regulatory review processes** to accelerate the expansion of California’s electric grid and ensure the timely delivery of essential infrastructure.
- **Advocate for legislation that expands the use of renewable hydrogen** to advance California’s clean energy goals.

Housing and Homelessness

- **Collaborate with cities to incentivize increased housing production**, including reforms to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) process, CEQA modernization, and expanded access to tax credits and grants.
- **Sustain funding for the Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) program** to support city-led housing and planning initiatives.
- **Ensure counties and cities have maximum flexibility in utilizing Proposition 1 funds** to address homelessness, expand behavioral health services, and support sober living homes—while maintaining local oversight of for-profit providers.
- **Support legislation that strengthens oversight and regulation of sober living and recovery treatment facilities**, in response to the 2024 JLAC audit of DCHS, to enhance client and patient protections. Key bills include AB 3 (Dixon), AB 423 (Davies), AB 424 (Davies), AB 425 (Davies), AB 448 (Patel), AB 492 (Valencia), and SB 329 (Blakespear).

Economic Development & Tourism

- **Foster job growth and economic development** to enhance California’s competitiveness as a premier tourism destination.
- **Support workforce development initiatives** that provide specialized training for careers in healthcare, tourism, biotechnology, and high-tech industries.
- **Advance public safety reforms** to combat retail theft, address the fentanyl crisis, and support cities in managing rising criminal activity that impacts local economies, sales tax revenues, and public safety costs.

Transportation

- **Work with local transportation agencies** on proposed changes to funding priorities and project selection, while promoting a cooperative, partnership-based approach to SB 375 reforms.
- **Advocate for transportation funding and policies**—including national toll interoperability—to support essential multimodal mobility improvements and services.
- **Partner with cities to expand Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure** and secure funding to achieve the state’s zero-emission vehicle goals, with a focus on minimizing compliance costs associated with zero-emission mandates.

Healthcare and Community Services

- **Expand funding for veterans, seniors, and at-risk populations** to enhance access to healthcare, housing, and essential services.
- **Advance initiatives that improve access to mental healthcare, affordable housing, and workforce development** in Orange County.
- **Support integrated care models** that combine housing, healthcare, and support services, including transitional and permanent supportive housing solutions.