



SEPTEMBER 16-19TH

**2024  
WASHINGTON DC  
LEGISLATIVE  
ADVOCACY TRIP**

TRAVEL HANDBOOK

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:

**Disneyland**  
RESORT



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**EDISON**



POTOMAC  
PARTNERS DC

**FAUBEL**  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TABLE OF

# CONTENTS

1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2 LEGISLATIVE GUIDELINES

4 ISSUE BRIEFS

7 ITINERARY & INFO

10 MAP & KEY ADDRESSES

**Contacts:**

Kris Murray: 949-981-3743

Lauren Kline: 909-633-6890

Kathryn Morrison: 949-357-3342

Wendy Strack: 951-712-3173

Marlene Barraza: 714-882-0766



# 2024-25 ACC-OC Board of Directors



**Stephanie Klopfenstein**  
Garden Grove  
Council Member  
President



**Jamey Federico**  
Dana Point  
Mayor  
1st Vice President



**Tanya Doby**  
Los Alamitos  
Council Member  
2nd Vice President



**Rhonda Shader**  
Placentia  
Council Member  
Legislative & Regulatory  
Committee Chair



**Janine Heft**  
Laguna Hills  
Council Member  
Immediate Past  
President



**Bob Ruesch**  
Mission Viejo  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Large City  
Representative



**Farrah Khan**  
Irvine  
Mayor  
Large City  
Representative



**Will O'Neill**  
Newport Beach  
Mayor  
Large City  
Representative



**Gracey Van Der Mark**  
Huntington Beach  
Mayor  
1st District  
Representative



**Jessie Lopez**  
Santa Ana  
Mayor Pro Tem  
2nd District  
Representative



**Crystal Miles**  
Villa Park  
Council Member  
3rd District  
Representative



**Stephen Faessel**  
Anaheim  
Council Member  
4th District  
Representative



**Joshua Sweeney**  
Laguna Hills  
Council Member  
5th District  
Representative



**Veronica Carpenter**  
CalOptima Health



**Darrell Johnson**  
OCTA



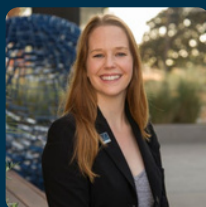
**Kelley Lee**  
Southern  
California Edison



**Grace Leung**  
OCCMA



**Ryan Chamberlain**  
TCA



**Christine Miller**  
Disneyland Resort



**Al Murray**  
Emeritus Chair



**Marnie Primmer**  
OCCOG



**Mal Richardson**  
Best, Best & Krieger



**Clarissa Serpas**  
SoCalGas



**Kris Murray**  
Executive Director  
ACC-OC

# ACC-OC LEGISLATIVE & POLICY GUIDELINES

## Housing, Homelessness and Land Use

SUPPORT	Efforts to preserve, strengthen and protect local control over land use, planning and zoning, and public right-of-way.
SUPPORT	Increased flexibility for and input on Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements.
SUPPORT	Funding for emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing, including ongoing costs.
SUPPORT	Sustainable and reliable funding sources for the production of housing in local communities.
SUPPORT	CEQA reform to reduce burdens, hurdles and costs for housing projects.
SUPPORT	Mitigation of the negative effects of implementation of Proposition 1 that includes clarity and maximum flexibility for local agencies to implement programs under this measure, particularly related to homelessness, behavioral health, and sober living homes.
SUPPORT	Maintaining local authority over housing and land use decisions throughout the CEQA process.
SUPPORT	A partnership with the State that values the expertise, input, and priorities of local government as we seek to meet joint goals.
OPPOSE	Policies that usurp local control or favor a one-size-fits-all approach.
OPPOSE	Policies that disincentivize the production of housing, including those that increase housing costs or limit housing stock.

## Budgetary and Fiscal Matters

SUPPORT	Legislation that helps cities address pension liability issues.
SUPPORT	Legislation that protects locally generated revenues or tax revenues allocated to cities.
SUPPORT	Efforts to secure a fair share of funding from SB 1 for local transportation projects.
SUPPORT	The retention of internet sales tax revenues in the jurisdiction where the purchase was made.
OPPOSE	The imposition of binding arbitration over labor issues at the local level.
OPPOSE	Any new state or federal mandates without an ongoing funding source for complying with the mandate.
OPPOSE	Efforts to balance the state budget using general or specific fund revenues traditionally allocated to local agencies.
OPPOSE	Legislation that borrows from, redirects, eliminates, or shifts locally generated revenues for other purposes.

## Public Safety

SUPPORT	Increase funding for law enforcement training costs related to homelessness and mental health.
SUPPORT	Public Safety reforms that reduce the impacts of retail theft on local cities, help address the fentanyl crisis, and allow cities to respond to the impacts of homelessness – understanding and reflecting the impacts on local economic development, local sales tax revenues, and costs to respond.
OPPOSE	Legislation that impacts eligibility for disaster response and recovery assistance.

## Transportation

SUPPORT	Investments in infrastructure that leverage other funding sources and reward regions with local revenue matching abilities.
SUPPORT	CEQA/NEPA streamlining where appropriate and increased local authority over infrastructure projects and funding.
SUPPORT	Policies that provide local flexibility in meeting greenhouse gas reduction and other State environmental goals.
SUPPORT	The protection of all existing and new transportation funding sources, including locally generated sales taxes, from new conditions on the use or distribution of funds.
OPPOSE	Efforts to reduce or eliminate local decision making over priority setting and project selection for locally generated sales tax revenues for transportation.
OPPOSE	Policies that divert or reclassify transportation revenue sources for General Fund or Debt Service use.
OPPOSE	The use of CEQA lawsuits for purposes other than for legitimate environmental mitigation.

# ACC-OC LEGISLATIVE & POLICY GUIDELINES

## Environmental

SUPPORT	Federal legislation to provide long term storage solutions for nuclear waste.
SUPPORT	Policies that improve water quality, reliability, and affordability across the state by providing incentives, funding and support for local water agencies.
SUPPORT	Investments in existing and new water infrastructure and the development of new water supplies and storage facilities across the state.
SUPPORT	Regulations and rate structures that both allow utility companies to invest in infrastructure and system maintenance without creating overly burdensome rate increases for customers.

## AI/Technology

SUPPORT	Policies that provide reasonable protections for public safety and privacy while allowing technology to develop and thrive.
SUPPORT	Adequate funding for broadband infrastructure to support the future technology needs of the region.
SUPPORT	Policies that improve public broadband access and affordability.
SUPPORT	Education programs to help the public better understand how to use AI tools safely, understand AI-enabled technologies, and demonstrate future workforce needs.
SUPPORT	Adequate public disclosure when using AI automated systems and augmented critical decision processes.

## Economic Development/Tourism

SUPPORT	Legislation that would increase Orange County's competitiveness as a tourism destination.
SUPPORT	Efforts to promote job growth and economic development in the region.
SUPPORT	Economic development programs that consider current workforce trends, including emphasizing training for health care, tourism, and bio- and high-technology careers.
SUPPORT	New business creation and expansion of existing businesses through incentives and programs, including Opportunity Zones, California Competes Tax Credits, Manufacturing/R&D/Biotech Sales & Use Tax Exemption, and the New Employment Credit.
SUPPORT	Policies and practices that enhance Orange County as a globally competitive metropolitan region.
SUPPORT	Identification of new and ongoing funding sources for economic and workforce development centered on inclusive growth, support for small businesses, family-supporting jobs, access to capital, and entrepreneurship.
OPPOSE	Measures that increase costs or create new burdens on the tourism industry, which is still struggling to recover from pandemic-related losses.

# ACC-OC FEDERAL ISSUE BRIEFS AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## HOUSING AND LAND USE

Overview: Housing is a top priority in Orange County where the median home price is \$1.26 million and the demand for housing has outpaced supply. Cities and local officials know the needs of their communities best. To effectively address housing challenges, maintaining local land use authority and control is essential, while working with the private sector and the federal government on housing solutions. Although Orange County is more built out than other regions of Southern California, there are opportunities to create new options for affordable housing, renting, and home ownership in a way that complements our local communities' character and goals.

Recommendations include:

- Increased collaboration between cities and the U.S. Housing & Urban Development Department to support cities and protect local control while achieving housing goals.
- Include robust funding for the following housing programs: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) in the FY24 appropriations package and create new tools to confront the housing crisis. In addition, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit should be expanded.
- Support legislation to increase the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) percentage to help finance construction and preservation of affordable homes nationwide.
- Support direct funding for local governments to accelerate housing development including CDBG, HOME, and the Housing Trust Fund.
- Support housing stability programs for residents in distress including Housing Choice Vouchers, Emergency Solutions Grants Program, Rural Housing Programs; and enact the Eviction Crisis Act.
- Make cities and towns of all sizes eligible for capacity building, technical assistance, and pre-development programs like the Thriving Communities initiative and the "Yes In My Backyard" competitive grant program.
- Support grants and tax-credits for affordable and public housing improvements including cost-saving energy efficiency improvements and expanded access to broadband.



## WATER SOLUTIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

Overview: Supporting Orange County's population and economy requires a reliable and sustainable source of water and natural resources. At the same time, overly burdensome environmental regulations often result in unfunded mandates that make compliance difficult for many cities.

Recommendations include:

- State and federal cooperation, funding and policy adoption to ensure balanced implementation of a modernized Delta Conveyance to achieve the co-equal goals of Delta ecosystem restoration and improved water supply reliability.
- Federal funding for the development of local and regional projects that will improve water reliability through transfers, desalination, water use efficiency, storage and water recycling.
- A sustainable solution for the Colorado River water supply resource.
- Support the long-term reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.
- Cooperation from the federal government to ensure environmental regulations do not impose unnecessary burdens or unintended consequences on local governments or communities.





## UTILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, ENERGY

Overview: Orange County has historically made significant investments in its energy, telecommunications, environmental, transportation, and water infrastructure, but continued support from the federal government to maintain these investments is crucial. Cities are at the intersection of local, regional, state, and federal infrastructure networks and play a critical role in ensuring the right systems are in place to best serve their communities.

Recommendations include:

- Support continued rollout of broadband infrastructure, access, and affordability programs and federal funding (e.g. Affordable Connectivity Program).
- As nationwide goals for renewable energy advance, cities need adequate support from the state and federal government and public/private utilities to ensure reliability and affordability.
- Support reauthorization and full annual funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.
- Implementation of federal Infrastructure Legislation that provides for equitable distribution of funds, maintaining or increasing funding levels for critical programs, prioritizes local discretion in programming and allocation decisions, and rewards regions with local revenue matching abilities.
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act provided significant investments for addressing climate change, supporting clean energy and making communities more resilient in the face of extreme weather events and natural disasters.
- Include funding for battery storage to ensure system resiliency.



## HOMELESSNESS & MENTAL HEALTH

Overview: Homelessness is a growing crisis across California and impacts cities of all sizes, geographic locations, and socioeconomic levels, including Orange County. Homelessness is both a housing and mental health challenge. Local governments are on the front line of addressing homelessness, and support from the federal government is critical to solutions.

Recommendations include:

- Efforts to develop sustainable and ongoing funding sources for the creation of permanent supportive housing and affordable housing in local communities, including tax increment tools.
- Increased federal appropriations for key housing and homeless assistance grant programs and legislative initiatives that authorize funding for comprehensive services and care coordination, including housing stabilization services funding paired with housing subsidies.
- Increased funding for federal programs, including but not limited to, the Housing Choice Voucher Program, Community Development Block Grant Program, and Emergency Solutions Grants; and advocate for increased resources to meet the increasing demand for disability compensation, health care related claims, and the housing needs of its growing veteran population.
- Sufficient resources and flexibility to implement federal initiatives, as well as advance federal, state, and local partnerships to provide evidence-based treatment to youth and adults experiencing homelessness with mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Funding and federal support for innovative solutions to mental health services.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Overview: Cities are drivers of economic development in their communities, everything from implementing major capital improvement and infrastructure projects, to attracting and retaining business ventures, to providing critical public services. Cities constantly navigate the challenge of growing their economies while complying with state and federal mandates, many of which are unfunded. Development of our future workforce is also just as crucial to Orange County's economic vitality.

Recommendations include:

- Support funding for the RECOMPETE Pilot Program, which will provide funding to persistently distressed communities to develop and implement 10-year economic development strategies and create jobs.
- Support and invest in sector partnerships to connect local workers to careers in local industries that have significant hiring needs and expected growth.
- Support investments in direct workforce funding, including the reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and National Apprenticeship Act.
- Maintain stability of government operations to minimize disruptions in local governance by preserving local funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act.



## TRANSPORTATION

Overview: Seamless mobility is essential to the quality of life of Orange County cities. Effective transportation networks reduce congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and provide essential connectivity for residents and workers. Orange County is a self-help county with a dedicated half cent sales tax committed to funding vital transportation systems. Our cities work in partnership with our transportation agencies, as well as federal agencies to fund multi-modal transportation programs and projects. ACC-OC requests the following:

Recommendations include:

- Ensure Orange County receives its fair share of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) funds.
- Maximize federal transportation funding programs that are formula-based to ensure predictability and to quickly obligate them to ready-to-go projects.
- Ensure implementation of Build America, Buy America requirements, specifically those related to construction materials, are done in a feasible manner to ensure that materials are adequately available for purchase within the United States.
- Seek funding opportunities, and coordination with federal partners, including the Federal Rail Administration, on impacts to intercity rail from coastal erosion.
- Maintain flexibility for regions to direct federal funds to priority projects.
- Ensure adequate funding is provided to all areas of the region that are hosting events for the 2028 Olympics, including transportation security funding.
- Continue to fund first and last mile connection projects as part of building a seamless transportation network.
- Begin conversations with transportation stakeholders early to facilitate an on-time adoption of the next transportation reauthorization.





# ITINERARY AND INFORMATION

## MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH

6:00 - 8:00

Delegation Arrives at Phoenix Park Hotel

Delegation Welcome Reception & Orientation

*The Dubliner Restaurant - Located at the Phoenix Park Hotel  
520 North Capitol St NE, Washington, DC 20001*

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

8:00 - 9:00

Breakfast Served in the Georgian Room at the Phoenix Park Hotel

8:30 - 9:00

### **Day 1 Briefing**

- Opening Remarks from Kris Murray, ACC-OC Executive Director
- Welcome from Trip Title Sponsor, Carrie Nocella and Christine Miller, Disneyland Resort

9:00 - 9:30

### **Government Accountability Oversight Office Briefing**

**Frank Rusco, Director of Natural Resources and Environment**

*Phoenix Park Hotel - Georgian Room*

9:30 - 9:50

### **Office of Senator Alex Padilla**

*Policy Advisors: Adrienne Epstein, Angela Ebiner, and Jacob Huls  
331 Hart*

9:30 - 10:00

Drive to US Chamber of Commerce, Check In

*1615 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20065*

10:15 - 11:15

### **US Chamber of Commerce Briefing**

- *Small Business Policy Update: Michael Chirico, Executive Director of Government Affairs*
- *Federal Legislative Update/Policy Outlook: Jack Howard, SVP of Strategic Advocacy*

11:15 - 11:50

Drive to White House, Check In

*Utilize Visitor Entrance at 17th St NW and State Place NW (1701 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20005).*

12:00 - 1:00

### **White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Briefing**

1:00 - 1:15

**Drive Back to Phoenix Park Hotel**

1:15 - 2:00

**Lunch Available at Phoenix Park Hotel**

2:00 - 2:30

**Walk to U.S. Capitol Building for Meetings**

2:30 - 3:00

**U.S. Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA), District CA-38**

2428 Rayburn

House Ways and Means Committee

- Subcommittee on Trade
- Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures
- Subcommittee on Social Security

3:00 - 3:20

**U.S. Representative Young Kim (R-CA), District CA-40**

1306 Longworth

House Foreign Affairs Committee

- Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific, Chair
- Subcommittee on Africa

House Financial Services Committee

- Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions, Vice Chair
- Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Monetary Policy

3:30 - 4:00

**Office of U.S. Representative Sam Graves: Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (R-MO), District MO-06**

1135 Longworth

3:30 - 4:00

**Suhail Khan**

**Director of External Affairs, Microsoft Corporation**

Georgian Room - Phoenix Park Hotel

4:00 - 5:00

**Break**

5:00

**Meet in Phoenix Park Lobby to Travel to Top of the Town**

Shuttle Service Provided

5:30 - 7:00

**Reception at Top of The Town**

1400 14th St N, Arlington, VA 22209

7:30 - 8:30

**Optional National Mall Nighttime Walk**

Shuttle Service back to Hotel Provided

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

8:00 - 9:00

Breakfast Served in the Georgian Room at the Phoenix Park Hotel

9:00 - 9:30

**Day 2 Briefing**

- Welcome Remarks from Kris Murray, ACC-OC Executive Director

9:30 - 10:30

**U.S. Department of Energy Briefing**

Phoenix Park Hotel

- Robert Siefert, Director - Infrastructure Disposition and Regulatory Policy
- Christian Bato, Senior Regional Advisor - Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs

10:30 - 11:00

**Travel to U.S. Department of Commerce, Check In**

11:00 - 12:00

**U.S. Department of Commerce Briefing**

10:30 - 11:00

**Walk to U.S. Capitol Building**

10:30 - 11:00

**Office of U.S. Representative Mike Levin (D-CA), District CA-49**

*Ali Feinswog, Legislative Director*

*2352 Rayburn*

*House Committee on Veterans' Affairs*

- *Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity (Ranking Member)*
- *Subcommittee on Health*

*The House Committee on Natural Resources*

- *Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries*
- *Subcommittee on Federal Lands*

12:00 - 1:00

**Lunch Available at Phoenix Park Hotel**

12:30 - 1:00

**U.S. Representative Lou Correa (D-CA), District CA-46**

*2301 Rayburn*

*House Committee on Homeland Security*

- *Subcommittee on Border Security & Enforcement (Ranking Member)*
- *Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, & Intelligence*

1:30 - 2:00

**U.S. Department of Health and Human Services**

*Bertha Alisia Guerrero, Director of Intergovernmental and External Affairs*

*Humphry Building 200 Independence Avenue S.W. Washington, D.C., 20201*

1:30 - 2:00

**U.S. Representative Michelle Steel (R-CA), District CA-45**

*1127 Longworth*

*House Committee on Ways and Means*

- *Subcommittee on Health*
- *Subcommittee on Work and Welfare*

*House Committee on Education and the Workforce*

- *Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education*
- *Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions*

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party*  
*Congressional-Executive Commission on China*

2:15 - 3:30

**Optional Capitol Tour**

*Meet at Rep. Young Kim's Office at 2:15 for 2:30-3:30 Tour*

*Longworth 1306*

3:00 - 3:30

**Office of Senator Laphonza Butler**

*Maria Martirosyan, Water and Infrastructure Policy Advisor*

*112 Hart*

3:45

**Group Photo on Capitol Steps**

*Meet at West Capitol Steps on Senate Side*

4:00 - 5:00

**Break**

5:00

**Meet in Phoenix Park Lobby to travel to ABC News**

*Shuttle Service Provided*

5:30 - 7:00

**Delegation Reception hosted by the Disneyland Resort at ABC News**

*1717 DeSales St. NW Washington D.C. 20036*

*7th Floor - Conference Room #707*

# THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH

8:00 - 9:00

Breakfast Served in the Georgian Room at the Phoenix Park Hotel

Delegation Departs - *safe travels!*

## MAP & ADDRESSES

### Phoenix Park Hotel

520 North Capitol St NE,  
Washington, DC 20001

### US Chamber of Commerce

1615 H Street NW, Washington,  
DC 20065

### White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

Utilize Visitor Entrance at 17th St  
NW and State Place NW  
1701 New York Ave NW,  
Washington, DC 20005

### US Department of Commerce

1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington, DC 20230

### Top of the Town

1400 14th St N,  
Arlington, VA 22209

### ABC News

1717 DeSales St. NW  
Washington D.C. 20036



### Contacts:

Kris Murray: 949-981-3743

Lauren Kline: 909-633-6890

Kathryn Morrison: 949-357-3342

Wendy Strack: 951-712-3173

Marlene Barraza: 714-882-0766

## Education. Policy. Advocacy.