



2025 Impact REPORT

FROM THE OFFICE OF SUPERVISOR MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

As we transition into a new year, I am reflecting on 2025 as a year defined by both challenge and purpose. **Serving as your County Supervisor continues to be one of the greatest honors**, and this year has underscored the importance of steady, community-centered leadership.

We navigated significant transitions together. For half the year, we faced a vacant Supervisorial seat, alongside major federal shifts affecting Medi-Cal and CalFresh, all amid a tightening County budget. These realities demanded not only responsiveness, but responsibility, transparency, and a willingness to lead **with clarity and compassion**. **I'm proud of how we met the moment**.

Throughout 2025, our office championed policies and initiatives to protect essential services, strengthen safety net systems, and modernize County operations **so residents don't fall through the cracks**.

I'm also proud to have prioritized **investments in the next generation** by launching our Summer Youth Academy, providing internship opportunities throughout the year, and hosting our "Day in the Life of a Supervisor" program for young leaders. All of this reflects our **deep commitment to inspiring youth** to shape the future of our region.

It's been a busy year, and I am proud to share our 2025 Impact Report, highlighting the progress we made in our core priorities: **Housing & Homelessness, Clean & Healthy Communities, Economic Opportunity For All, and Reimagining Public Safety**. These wins reflect what is possible when we remain focused, collaborative, and unwavering in our values.

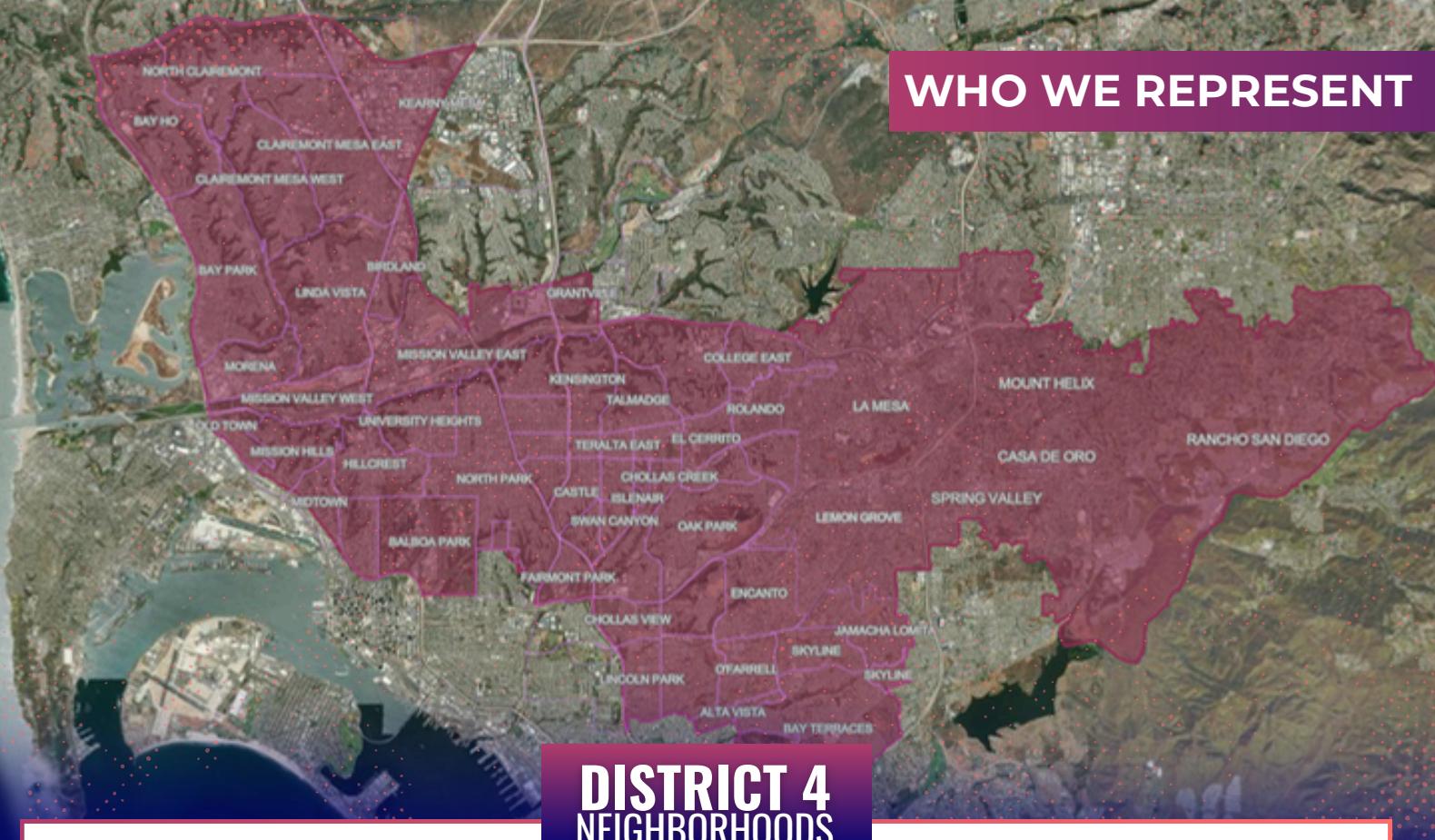
Despite the challenges, we have so much to be hopeful for. I look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.



In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monica Montgomery Steppe".

Monica Montgomery Steppe
Vice Chair representing District Four



DISTRICT 4 NEIGHBORHOODS

INCORPORATED CITIES:

- LEMON GROVE
- LA MESA
- SAN DIEGO

UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES:

- SPRING VALLEY
- CASA DE ORO-MT.HELIX
- RANCHO SAN DIEGO

NEIGHBORHOODS IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO:

• BALBOA PARK	• HILLCREST	• OAK PARK
• BANKERS HILL	• JAMACHA	• O'FARRELL
• BAY TERRACES	• KEARNY MESA	• OLD TOWN
• BIRDLAND	• KENSINGTON-	• PARADISE HILLS
• BROADWAY	• TALMADGE	• REDWOOD VILLAGE
HEIGHTS	• LINCOLN PARK	• RIDGEVIEW
• CHOLLAS VIEW	• LINDA VISTA	• ROLANDO PARK
• CITY HEIGHTS	• LOMITA	• ROLANDO VILLAGE
• CLAIREMONT MESA	• MISSION HILLS	• SKYLINE
• COLLEGE AREA	• MISSION VALLEY	• UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
• EMERALD HILLS	• NORMAL HEIGHTS	• VALENCIA PARK
• ENCANTO	• NORTH PARK	• WEBSTER

ZIP CODES:

FULL REPRESENTATION- 91941, 91942, 91945, 92103, 92104, 92105, 92108, 92115, 92116, 92117, 92139
PARTIAL REPRESENTATION- 91977, 91978, 92019, 92020, 92101, 92110, 92123

OUR PILLARS OF GOVERNANCE



TACKLING HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS



SAFETY NET BRIDGE PROGRAM

Shifts in federal policy, including the implementation of H.R. 1, are creating **new barriers for our neighbors seeking access to benefits** like Medicaid and food assistance.

My office championed the Safety Net Bridge program to explore how the County can **protect residents who are at risk of losing these benefits**. This program would establish a network of community-based organizations and County resources to help residents maintain access to essential healthcare, food and social services.



MAKING HOUSING MORE TRANSPARENT AND AFFORDABLE

San Diego County has some of the highest rent in the nation, and various landlord-imposed fees increase the cost burden for countless families. This burden includes tacking on tenant screening fees, rental application fees, and “junk fees” such as late fees, pet rent, and trash valet.



In partnership with Supervisor Paloma Aguirre, I proposed that we draft an ordinance focused on transparency and capping junk fees at no more than a set percentage of the monthly rent. These actions will strengthen and enforce tenants' rights while increasing housing opportunities for underserved communities.

SHIELDING VITAL SERVICES WITH FISCAL PLANNING SUBCOMMITTEE

The County faces significant cuts due to the passage of H.R. 1, which **slashes funding for the critical services thousands of our neighbors rely on**. In response to federal funding cuts, which could create over **\$300 million in annual fiscal risks**, my office collaborated with Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer to form an Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning. This Subcommittee will develop strategies to **protect essential services and vulnerable residents**, assess fiscal risks, and explore local funding options.

Working with experts and stakeholders, I look forward to supporting the creation of a **long-term plan** to maintain the County's financial stability and service delivery.



ADDRESSING FOOD JUSTICE

Across San Diego, 1 in 4 residents are food insecure, meaning they don't have enough to eat or don't know where their next meal may come from. This year, the Board of Supervisors passed my joint proposal with Supervisor Joel Anderson to allocate **\$750,000 to the San Diego Food Bank and SunCoast Market Co-op**. This investment supports our commitment to provide true food justice with access to healthy, nutritious food.



EXPANDING EMERGENCY RESERVES TO SAFEGUARD SAN DIEGO

In partnership with Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, we passed a proposal that strengthens San Diego's ability to protect vital services by updating the County's reserves policy. This policy expands recognized emergency reserves **from \$692 million to \$1.327 billion**, aligning with national best practices and creating a **smarter, more transparent standard with strict guardrails**.

These funds can only be used in the event of federal or state funding cuts or during a declared economic recession, and **no more than 25% could be spent in a single year**.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL



Expanding Contracting Opportunities for Small Businesses and Nonprofits



Local businesses currently represent **less than 1% of all County contracts**, and we must do better. In 2024, my office championed an initiative that led the Board of Supervisors **to adopt a goal of directing 25% of the County's annual procurement to local small businesses.**

This policy has now been finalized and is actively working to build a **stronger pipeline of local businesses and nonprofits** able to compete for County contracts, supported by comprehensive technical assistance and clearer access to information.



REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

PROPOSAL TO CREATE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

I'm also proud to have championed a historic step toward strengthening **accountability and transparency** within the San Diego County Sheriff's Office by proposing that the County evaluate the creation of an **independent Office of Inspector General (OIG)**.

Next year, we will receive a comprehensive feasibility study outlining what it would take to establish the OIG. This office would operate independently from the Sheriff's Department and **report directly to the Board of Supervisors**, ensuring stronger oversight and higher standards of accountability.

JUSTICE WITH CARE: ADDRESSING FORCE AND SUPPORTING YOUTH

I'm proud to have authored a **comprehensive juvenile justice reform package** that expands protections for young people and brings **trauma-informed practices** to our juvenile detention facilities.

This package requires a plan to **phase out the use of chemical agents**—such as law enforcement grade pepper spray and tear gas—and introduces new requirements for the Probation Department to **increase transparency and accountability in how youth are treated in our facilities**.



The package also creates a new **Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice** to drive stronger oversight within the Probation Department, ensuring this reform work delivers **real change for our youth**.

This major step forward comes in direct response to community concerns about excessive force and the use of harmful chemical agents on detained youth. **We listened, and we acted.**

COMMUNITY GRANTS



GRANT FUNDING

The District Four office successfully allocated a total of **\$3,117,692** in Fiscal Year 24-25 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program and Community Enhancement Grant funding.

ALLOCATIONS BY CATEGORY

ARTS/CULTURE \$557,992

YOUTH SUPPORT \$650,532

CDC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT \$581,096

HEALTH/WELLNESS \$110,500

FOOD SUPPORT \$286,000

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT \$278,016

SENIOR SUPPORT \$60,000

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS \$145,200

LGBTQ SUPPORT \$95,000

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE \$18,500

VETERANS \$100,156

3000000

2000000

1000000

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Community
Enhancement

\$1,057,372

CE

Neighborhood
Reinvestment
Program

\$2,060,320

NRP



INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Through our internship program, we introduced **6 young people** to policy-making, community engagement, and outreach opportunities at the County. These internships serve as a pipeline for **emerging leaders**, ensuring County solutions reflect the voices, ideas, and lived experiences of the next generation.



2025 SUMMER YOUTH ACADEMY

My office was excited to launch the **Summer Youth Academy**, which offered 10 students an **immersive two-week experience** exploring County operations, meeting with experts, and learning how policy impacts everyday life.

Through field visits, workshops, and mentorship, participants gained confidence in their ability to effect change. This program is building a **stronger, more informed generation of future leaders**.



DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SUPERVISOR

The “**Day in the Life of a Supervisor**” program gave 14 high school students an **up-close look** at County leadership through meeting observations, policy discussions, and direct engagement with decision-making processes.

The program promotes **transparency** and **empowers young people** to see themselves as **active participants** in local government.

By opening our doors, we’re encouraging young residents to see themselves as civic actors with the power to lead, advocate, and contribute to their communities.



SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

In the spirit of Youth Impact, my office championed a **\$4.3 million emergency allocation** to preserve First 5 Healthy Development Services through Fiscal Year 25–26, protecting access to **critical early childhood screenings, therapies, and family supports**.

This investment safeguards essential services during a crucial developmental period and ensures families continue receiving care when they need it most.



NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

MOCHAS WITH MONICA

I was thrilled to launch our ***Mochas with Monica*** series—an informal gathering where residents can connect with me over a warm cup of coffee.

My office was proud to connect with **more than 70 residents in Casa de Oro and Linda Vista**, creating open lines of communication that truly reflect the values of our district. These casual meetups are designed to **bring our community together**, share important updates, and give District 4 neighbors a chance to ask questions, raise concerns, or simply say hello.



OLDER ADULT RESOURCE FAIR

In 2025, we hosted our very first **Older Adult Resource Fair**, a free event aimed at equipping adults aged 50 and older with the tools and knowledge they need to stay safe, prepared and empowered. The fair featured presentations on the County's aging support programs, tips to avoid scams and protect one's identity, how to create wills, powers of attorney, and more.



NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

SERVING OUR UNSHELTERED NEIGHBORS

2025 kicked off a series of our Homelessness Resource Fairs to bring critical services directly to residents in need, all in one accessible location.

Together, we helped more than 300 unsheltered neighbors connect with housing navigation, behavioral health support, benefits enrollment, identification services, and on-site outreach teams.

These resource fairs reflect our commitment to meeting people where they are and expanding pathways toward stability and long-term housing solutions.



BCC MIXER

We hosted a Boards, Commissions, and Committees (BCC) Mixer that brought together **District 4 appointees** who are eager to serve and help shape the future of our region. By demystifying the appointment process and showcasing the impact of public service, we empowered **more diverse voices** to step into decision-making spaces.

This gathering marked another step toward building a county government that **truly reflects the communities it serves**.

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