



MARIN COUNTY 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW



Highlights of Board of Supervisors' Policy Actions

The mission of Marin County is to provide excellent services that support **healthy, safe and sustainable** communities; preserve Marin's unique **environmental heritage**; and encourage **meaningful participation** in the governance of the County by all.

The Marin County Board of Supervisors serves as the legislative and executive body of Marin County government. The Board generally meets every Tuesday in the Board Chambers of the Civic Center to discuss and vote on items necessary to operate County government and effect public policy. Twenty-two County departments make recommendations to the Board and implement its actions. The Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney and Assessor-Recorder-County Clerk are independently elected offices.

There were 34 Board of Supervisors meetings in 2014, and at each meeting dozens of items came to the Board for a vote; many did not require new policy discussion (these are called "consent" items). The public is welcome to attend Board meetings and invited to speak on any matter on the agenda. Below are highlights of a few of the major policy decisions made in 2014.

Organizational Goals – Customer service, thriving workforce, effective communication, high performance, and financial responsibility

- Adopted the County's first two-year budget without making service reductions. The new two-year budget was designed primarily to encourage longer-term planning and save staff work hours. It included line-item detail for both years, resulting in a more streamlined process for the second of the two years.
- Approved an agreement with a software vendor for a major project following an exhaustive research effort. The \$14 million Tyler Technologies system was chosen to support the County's administrative functions of business operations: payroll, accounting, budgeting, purchasing, and human resources management.
- Took actions to address public concerns about pensions and other liabilities. The Board took steps to further reduce unfunded retiree liabilities by \$98 million and allocated an additional \$14 million in the fiscal year 2014-15 budget to reduce pension and retiree health liabilities. Due to these efforts to reduce unfunded retiree liabilities, as well as the County's fiscal responsibility in maintaining a balanced budget since the 2007-2008 recession, all three independent bond rating agencies gave Marin County the highest rating of AAA.
- Hired several new department heads. Raul Rojas took over Public Works, Lynda Roberts assumed the helm in the Elections Office and Gabriella Calicchio was brought on to lead Cultural and Visitor Services.

Community Participation

- Introduced mobile websites and downloadable applications to modernize relations with the community. The Library launched one to allow residents to handle many tasks on their smartphones and gave access to the Hoopla content streaming service. Restaurant health records were made available on a mobile website, and the Elections Office made all content in its voter pamphlet smartphone-ready.
- Continued a public education campaign about sea-level rise. In conjunction with the Community Development Agency, the Board supported and promoted many public meetings to inform residents in Pacific and bay coastal communities about the effects of rising waters due to climate change.

Environmental Preservation

- Adopted a comprehensive road and trail plan for our County parks and open spaces to make them more environmentally sustainable, safe and fun. The plan was designed to improve visitor experience, establish and maintain a sustainable system of roads and trails that meets design and management standards, reduces the environmental impact on special status plant and animal species, sensitive resources, habitats and riparian areas.
- Sponsored and received legislative approval for a new law that reduced housing densities from a metropolitan to a suburban standard. AB 1537 lowered the default density of future housing developments from 30 units per acre to 20 to help maintain the small-town character of Marin's towns and cities.

Healthy and Learning Community

- Received voter approval to extend the Marin County Free Library parcel tax for another nine years. Measure A funding supplements the library's budget through an annual \$49 parcel tax and preserves key services most requested by patrons.



- Oversaw the County's initial implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The Board actively supported the Health and Human Services Department as it added eligibility workers, streamlined services, held dozens of meetings and public presentations to ensure access and eligibility to the new national health coverage plan.
- Voted to ban the sale of tobacco products at pharmacies located in unincorporated areas. The move was part of an effort to limit exposure of tobacco products to children and address the contradictory messaging of unhealthy products at locations best known for promoting and nurturing good health.

Safe Community (including advocacy for social justice policies)



- Completed the new public safety building on time and on budget. The Emergency Operations Facility in San Rafael, the new home of the Marin County Sheriff's Office and some other County offices, allows emergency response services to remain operational in the event of a major disaster.
- Received voter approval for a parcel tax to help build the next generation 911 system. The Marin Emergency Radio Authority, a joint powers authority co-governed by the County, narrowly earned a two-thirds majority vote on Measure A, a \$72 million bond measure over 20 years.
- Continued to make County facilities as accessible as possible for people with physical disabilities. The Supervisors approved renovations throughout the Civic Center, including a major redesign of the South Arch area, and approved preliminary plans for better access along Civic Center Drive near Marin Center.
- Increased the living wage to \$13 per hour. The policy requires County contractors and subcontractors to provide wages to their employees of at least \$11.40 per hour with health benefits or at least \$13 per hour if no health benefits are provided.

Sustainable Community

- Coordinated and organized a series of updates to address Marin's longstanding drought. The Board heard several reports from local water agencies and utility districts about actions taken to conserve water. The County does not have direct responsibilities for water supply, but accurate information from the County is essential when public anxiety may be rising.
- Promoted sustainable building by adopting new alternative 'green' codes. As a result, contractors looking to reduce carbon footprints have more freedom in Marin to embark on sustainably sensitive building projects using the newest technology while maintaining good standing with permit officials.
- Adopted a new comprehensive housing plan for the next eight years. The Housing Element update of the General Plan for 2015-2023 addressed housing needs for unincorporated areas of Marin and planned for 378 units at sites throughout the County.

About Marin County Government

Under California's Constitution and laws, the five members of the Board of Supervisors serve as the legislative and executive body of Marin County. The members are elected by district and they are required to live in the district they represent. Supervisor's terms are four years, and either two or three supervisors are elected every two years.

The supervisors also serve as the governing board for the Open Space District, County Free Library, Flood Control District, Lighting District, county service areas and sewer maintenance districts. Within limits prescribed by the state's Constitution and laws, the board enacts ordinances, determines policies, adopts annual budgets, fixes salaries, is responsible for ensuring that mandated functions are properly discharged, and supervises the activities of County departments.

Board of Supervisors 2015

- District 1
Supervisor Damon Connolly
- District 2
Supervisor Katie Rice
- District 3
Supervisor Kate Sears
- District 4
Supervisor Steve Kinsey
- District 5
Supervisor Judy Arnold



Information about Board Meetings



For all past and current agenda items before the Board of Supervisors, visit marincounty.org/depts/bs/meeting-archive.

For brief excerpts of the recent and upcoming meetings, visit marincounty.org/depts/bs/board-actions-meetings.

If you have questions about how to participate in a Board of Supervisors' meeting, how the meetings are conducted, or how to contact your Supervisor, you can watch a short video at our website. Go to the Board of Supervisors page and click on "Participating at a BOS meeting." Or visit marincounty.org/depts/bs/participating-at-a-bos-meeting.

Contact your Supervisor

3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 329, San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 473-7331.

You can also email any Supervisor directly from our website marincounty.org/bs and click on their district.

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