

Choose a topic for your testimony from the Invest in San Diego Families Coalition's budget recommendations

1. Housing
2. County staffing and services
3. Protecting workers
4. Supporting immigrants and asylum-seekers
5. Budget transparency
6. Smart justice

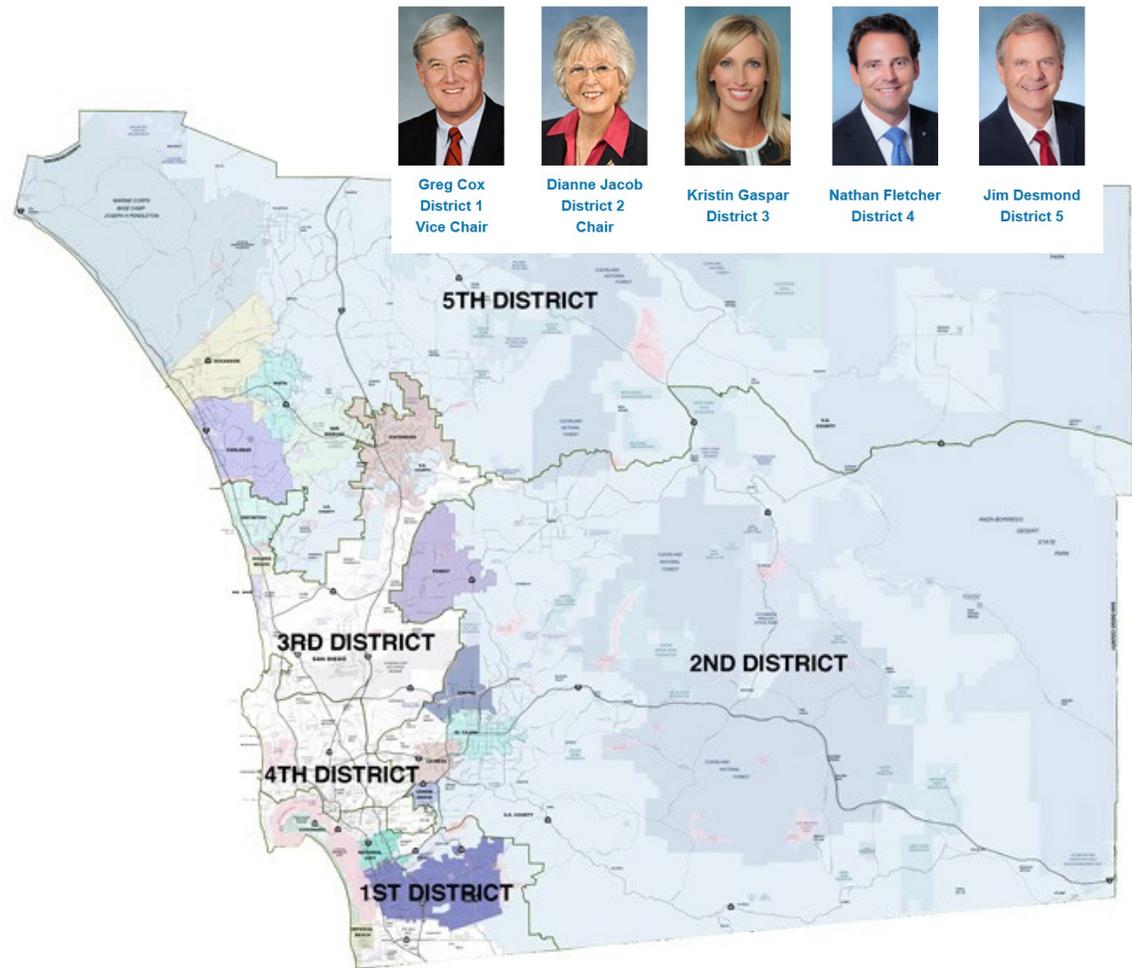
Some tips for public testimony

- You will probably have a minute. Practice with a friend and a timer.
- Speak honestly and remember that a few personal details can make your testimony more compelling.
- Even if they say your time is up, finish your final sentence. (Please invest in San Diego Families or please support investment in _____)

It is good to have a closing statement prepared, in case time runs out before you finish.

- If the original budget has something you like, thank the board and then talk about why we need more.
- If the proposed budget does not support your issue, focus on what you want the board to include in this budget.

NOTE: *There are some things the County is NOT responsible for, such as schools, roads, sidewalks, potholes, city police and city fire.*





HOUSING

Hello Supervisors, my name is _____ and I am a resident of District _____. I am here today with the Invest in San Diego Families coalition.

OPTIONAL - The coalition has been fighting for community-focused investments in the budget for four years. This year, we are happy to see the County working to develop permanent supportive housing, provide on-site services in Hillcrest and add to the Innovative Housing Trust Fund. However, this is not enough.

[INSERT personal story here – Why housing is an important issue to you or your community] _____

That is why I am asking the Supervisors to support the community and make these changes to the County budget:

- *[ADD what you would like to see in the County budget here]*
- Allocate \$5 million dollars to expand landlord incentive and engagement programs.
- Allocate \$25 million of County funds to make more rental assistance vouchers available to residents as soon as possible.
- Ensure that the County's housing development projects include units specifically set aside for low-income individuals and families, who are up to 30 percent of Area Median Income.

Thank you for your time.



COUNTY STAFFING AND ITS IMPACT ON SERVICES

Hello Supervisors, my name is _____ and I am a resident of District _____. I am here today with the Invest in San Diego Families coalition.

OPTIONAL - The coalition has been fighting for community-focused investments in the budget for four years. This year, we are happy to see the County's working to increase staffing in Child Welfare Services, Behavioral Health, Public Health and Adult Protective Services. However, this is not enough.

[INSERT personal story here –Have services suffered because of inadequate staffing or competitive pay for County workers? Why this is an important issue to you or your community?] _____

That is why I am asking the Supervisors to support the community and make these changes to the County budget:

- *[ADD what you would like to see in the County budget here]*
- Increase staffing in the departments of Child Welfare Services, Behavioral Health, and Public Health.
- More investments in the County's outreach about CalWorks, CalFresh, MediCal and general relief.
- Expanded hours at the County's Live Well Centers.

Thank you for your time.



PROTECTING WORKING FAMILIES

Hello Supervisors, my name is _____ and I am a resident of District _____. I am here today with the Invest in San Diego Families coalition.

OPTIONAL - The coalition has been fighting for community-focused investments in the budget for four years. With the state's labor and wage standards rising, many of San Diego County workers are vulnerable to wage theft and mistreatment. These issues not only affect workers and their spending power, but also our entire region by depriving the economy of millions of dollars that could otherwise be circulating in local businesses.

[INSERT personal story here – How you or a friend or family member have been impacted by wage theft or mistreatment? Why this issue is important to you and your community] _____

That is why I am asking the Supervisors to support the community and make these changes to the County budget:

- *[ADD what you would like to see in the County budget here]*
- Create an Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement that would protect workers in San Diego and make sure employers are accountable.

Thank you for your time.

SUPPORTING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Hello Supervisors, my name is _____ and I am a resident of District _____. I am here today with the Invest in San Diego Families coalition.

OPTIONAL - The coalition has been fighting for community-focused investments in the budget for four years. This year, we are happy to see some progress in the budget, and the addition of three new staff positions dedicated to Refugee Services as well as continued support for medical screening and services at the temporary shelter. However, this is not enough. The County's current measures are only a temporary fix for a need that will continue to grow. Support for immigrant families and asylum seekers is a critical issue for the individuals arriving here, as well as for the broader public health of all County residents. The County should respond to the needs of this border region and the vulnerable populations that are arriving in San Diego.

[INSERT personal story here – Why support for immigrant families and asylum seekers is important to you and your community. If you've been working at the shelter, share details] _____

That is why I am asking the Supervisors to support the community and make these changes to the County budget:

- *[ADD what you would like to see in the County budget here]*
- Identify a site for a permanent shelter to support asylum seekers in San Diego.
- Fund new positions in the Public Defender's Office, which focus exclusively on supporting immigrants in the County.
- Create an Office of Immigrant Services, like those that have been created in other cities/counties across the nation.

Thank you for your time.

DEMOCRACY AND BUDGET TRANSPARENCY

Hello Supervisors, my name is _____ and I am a resident of District _____. I am here today with the Invest in San Diego Families coalition.

OPTIONAL - The coalition has been fighting for community-focused investments in the budget for four years. This year, we are happy to see some progress in the budget, and the County's efforts—especially led by Supervisor Fletcher's office—to make the budget process more open and inclusive. However, this is not enough. The County has historically done a poor job of involving community members in the budget process, and the County budget does not provide enough information on what the County is spending money on, especially when it comes to the County's multi-billion dollar reserves. Budget Transparency is a critical issue—without access to information on what the County is spending on, or without opportunities for the public to share their priorities—we are being deprived of our democratic rights.

[INSERT personal story here – why this issue is important for you and your community] _____

That is why I am asking the Supervisors to support the community and make these changes to the County budget:

- *[ADD what you would like to see in the County budget here]*
- Continue to work with ISDF to reform the budget development process, so that there are more opportunities for public input before the budget is released.
- Set aside funds for a participatory budgeting program that is focused on increasing youth education and engagement in the budget process.
- Fund a program for Supervisors to have yearly budget forums in their districts.

Thank you for your time.



SMART JUSTICE

Hello Supervisors, my name is _____ and I am a resident of District _____. I am here today with the Invest in San Diego Families coalition.

OPTIONAL - The coalition has been fighting for community-focused investments in the budget for four years. This year, we are happy to see some progress in the budget with one new attorney, four support staff and 12 public defenders to support the Fresh Start program to help reduce felony convictions to misdemeanors, to increase access and opportunity to help find employment, housing or education. However, this is not enough.

[INSERT personal story here – why this issue is important for you and your community] _____

That is why I am asking the Supervisors to support the community and make these changes to the County budget:

- *[ADD what you would like to see in the County budget here]*
- The County should commission a study to assess the staffing, resources and outreach that the County can do to identify who is eligible for reduced or waived sentences due to recent changes in state law.

Thank you.