

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT

What does the San Diego County Board of Supervisors do?

QUESTION: How does the County government impact a typical San Diegan?

ANSWER: The County controls social services for poor San Diegans, protects our environment, and plays a huge role in homelessness, supporting children and senior citizens, and public safety issues like criminal prosecution, probation, and support to get one's life turned around.

QUESTION: What is the role of the County Government's Board of Supervisors?

ANSWER: The County's Board of Supervisors is like the Board of Directors of a company. They set the policy direction so the chief executive can work with her staff (over 17,000 in the County) to implement that direction. The job of a Supervisor involves making decisions about new policies that focus on key areas that impact our quality of life. These areas range from public health and the environment to protecting children, supporting seniors, running our court system and many others.

**LISTEN TO THE PODCAST: WHAT DOES THE COUNTY DO?
(www.omarpassons.com/podcasts)**

QUESTION: What types of programs and services does the County Government control or impact?

ANSWER: The County Government has a \$6 Billion budget and controls many areas. Here are key examples:

Social Safety Net/Public Health. The County administers most social programs like food stamps, cash assistance like welfare, health care for the poor, educational support for some children, and other safety net programs;

Land Use/Building Outside Cities. The County reviews and approves permits for buildings and business, much like what city governments do within their borders;

Regional Issues. The County takes leadership positions and provides money for regional issues like economic growth, transportation needs, air quality, and the quality and safety of our beaches and bays;

Public Safety/Justice System. The County runs the court system, the probation system, and prosecutes and defends people involved in the criminal justice system for serious crimes. It also is largely responsible for regional responses to major emergencies like wildfires and earthquakes, and regional security.

To read more of what the County government COULD do, visit omarpassons.com