

County of Solano 2010 Annual Report



To the Citizens of Solano County



John M. Vasquez

2010 has been a year of contrasts. A seemingly unending focus on the rippling effect of the economy on the County budget was offset by the implementation of innovative programming—from stimulating job growth to new ways of doing business—and national recognition for doing what we do best in providing important day-to-day core services. That can only happen when you have a dedicated team that understands what we do is more than a job, it's public service.

America's Promise Alliance recognized that characteristic in Solano County when they selected this community as one of America's 100 Best Communities for Young People. The award symbolizes our spirit of collaboration. We make Solano County a great place to live, learn, work and play by partnering with other government agencies, local non-profits and our business community.



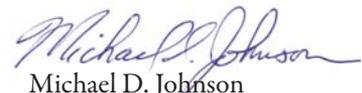
Michael D. Johnson

Moody's Investors Services appreciated our approach to problem solving when they affirmed the County's credit rating. Maintaining a desirable credit rating in this economy is a notable feat, and it was only possible with our long-term focus on the bigger picture. During the boom years, the County saved its windfall to cover us during the inevitable downturn. Nobody then could have predicted what we're experiencing now would be so much more than a down cycle. Still, we have been working hard to adjust our ongoing spending to reflect our new fiscal realities. Our proactive approach—meaning addressing these budget issues before they become a crisis—earned us Moody's continued confidence.

As always, we need to acknowledge that what we have achieved and what we hope to achieve in the future is only possible with the ongoing support of the citizens of Solano County. By focusing on our core priorities, we can continue making Solano County a model county for others to emulate.

Sincerely,


 John M. Vasquez, Chair
 Board of Supervisors


 Michael D. Johnson
 County Administrator

Our Vision

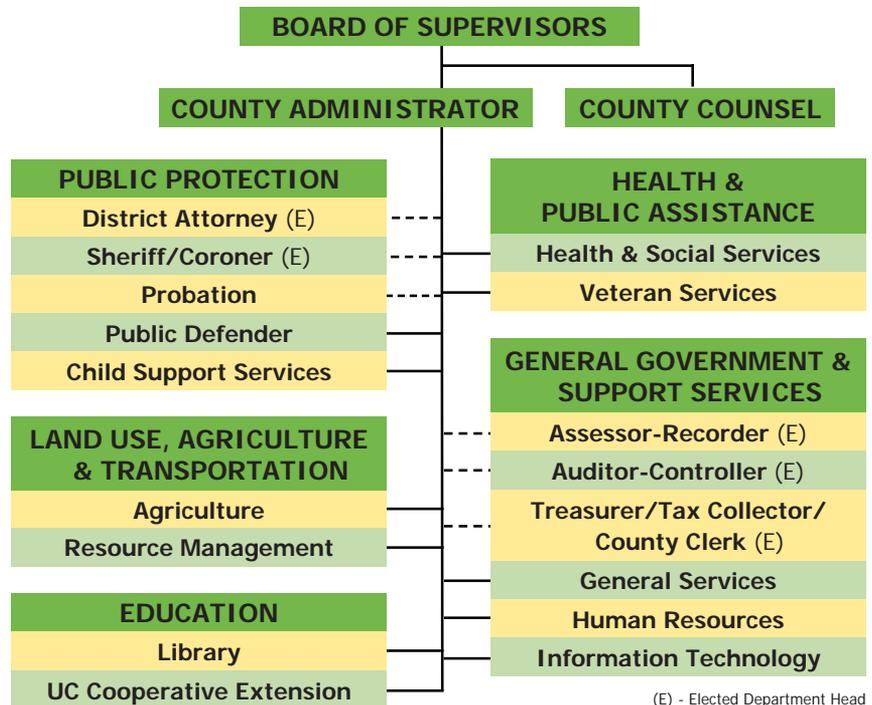
Locally and nationally recognized for its partnerships and leadership in providing innovative, effective and fiscally responsible services that result in the highest quality of life for its residents.

Our Mission

Serve the people and to provide a safe and healthy place to live, learn work and play

Our Goals

- *Improve the health and well-being of those who live and work here*
- *Ensure responsible & sustainable land use*
- *Maintain a safe community*
- *Invest in and for the future*



(E) - Elected Department Head
 ----- Personnel/Budgetary Controls Only

Solano County among 100 Best Communities for record 4th time

Solano County has been named one of America's 100 Best Communities for Young People by the America's Promise Alliance—the only California community to earn that distinction in every year of the competition. The 100 Best designation recognizes those communities that make youth a priority by implementing programs to help keep children in school and prepare them for college and the 21st century workforce.



PEAK partnership earns NACo award

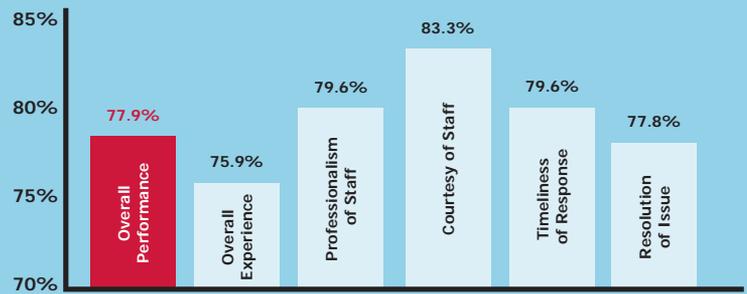
Once again a partnership in Solano County garnered national attention. This time it was the Partnership for Early Access for Kids (PEAK), a collaborative effort of 10 public and nonprofit partners including First 5 Solano and Health and Social Services, that earned a National Association of Counties' Achievement Award. Under the PEAK strategy, First 5 Solano and Mental Health Services Act dollars were used to create the PEAK initiative that linked the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment program with the early identification and treatment of mental and developmental health problems in young children.

First high-tech pest trapping effort

In the battle against the spread of the European grapevine moth, Solano County became the first in the state to deploy high-tech geo-referenced traps that allowed pest finds to be mapped in the field and analyzed for their impact to nearby crops. The high-tech traps are part of the Agriculture Department's three-prong approach to control and prevent exotic pests from impacting the local farm gate valued at \$252 million, according to the *2009 Solano County Crop and Livestock Report*. The No. 1 crop was tomatoes at \$39 million.

County investing in job creation

Solano County used American Reinvestment and Recovery Act resources to help expand local job opportunities. Accessing Recovery Zone bond program capital brought a \$9.2 million modernization investment to the Mariani Packing Co. in Vacaville; retaining nearly 400 jobs and adding 10 new jobs. The City of Dixon



Respondents reporting being satisfied or somewhat satisfied with County's overall performance and the customer service during their latest interaction as of November 2010.

Online survey tracks customer feedback

One of the many ways the County is working to maintain its high customer service standards is through seeking feedback from residents. An online survey launched in June gives residents a convenient way to let the County know how it is doing. The surveys capture information on the latest interaction with a department, which can be in person, on the phone, in writing, or over the Internet. Respondents are also asked to rate how they feel the County is performing overall. For more survey results go to solanocounty.com and click on "How are we doing?"

will use \$1.2 million in these bonds to improve its downtown core and bring water access to its 300-acre industrial area. Several small businesses received temporary subsidies to offset the cost of hiring 20 people who were on public assistance. The County established a technical assistance and loan program, in partnership with the Small Business Development Center, to help microenterprise businesses.

Helping former women convicts

The Solano County Re-entry Council is a grassroots movement supported by the Sheriff's Office, Probation, and Health and Social Services. Early strategic planning efforts attracted federal dollars to fund a \$700,000 program that has helped 160 women released from jail and prison to re-enter their communities, find employment and successfully re-unite with their families and children. Only 13 communities nationwide were selected for this demonstration project.

Fouts Springs adds ag experience

The Fouts Springs Youth Facility established an onsite camp vegetable garden for the wards to learn about agriculture as well as enhance their meals with "home-grown" vegetables. The wards grew squash, zucchini, string peas, bell peppers, chili peppers, tomatoes and a variety of herbs. Fall and winter crops will be grown to provide a year-round vegetable garden. The wards also harvest an existing apple orchard.

- **\$950,000** in grants secured to launch a Solano Family Justice Center
- **110** non-custodial parents got their suspended drivers licenses re-instated by getting back on track with child support payments
- **13** seconds for average call wait time in Child Support Services, down from 8 minutes with no increases in staff
- **16** contaminated sites cleaned from leaky underground storage tanks
- **299** babies born to high-risk moms served by BabyFirst Solano were full-term and at a healthy birthweight

Sheriff teams intercede drug traffic

The Solano County Sheriff's Office Cal-MMET (California Multi-jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team) and the Sol-NET (Solano County Narcotics Enforcement Team) made 78 arrests and confiscated a variety of drugs with a street value in excess of \$750,000, including 18 pounds of methamphetamine, 48 pounds of processed marijuana, and 55,000 marijuana plants. They also recovered 49 weapons and five children were removed from unsafe environments.

Solano County Events Center opens

The 79-year-old library building on Texas Street reopened in September as the Solano County Events Center to provide additional meeting space for the County and the community. The historical features, including the fireplace and hand-painted roof trusses, were retained. First 5 Solano relocated from leased space in Fairfield to the second floor of the building, giving First 5 more space and saving over \$73,000 annually.

Building consolidated campuses

The opening in early January of the new Health and Social Services campus on Tuolumne Street in Vallejo made helping the increased number of people seeking assistance a little easier. The "one-stop shopping" concept of consolidated services saw a 6% increase in productivity and 15% increase in the number of client visits. That same month the County learned it was receiving \$2.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment funds to add a dental clinic to the William J. Carroll Government Center building under design in Vacaville. When complete in 2012, this project will provide one-stop service to residents in the northern part of the county.

BEST® connects business to kids

First 5 Solano launched a long-term Business Engagement Strategy Team approach in partnership with Solano Economic Development Corporation to enlist support for expanding the quality of the future workforce by supporting early childhood education and development programs, as well as addressing young children's and family issues in the current workforce.

Workforce wellness pilot program

Kaiser Permanente Health chose the County as their Northern California pilot for an innovative workforce wellness program, focusing on improving early identification and management of diabetes.

County expands use of technology

Access to more County services and programs became a click or two away with an expanded use of technology, including:

- Acceptance of online payments for a variety of services ranging from Library late fees to property taxes;
- Launching SolanoHelps to guide residents through a series of questions to identify potential eligibility for federal, state and local health and social services programs (solanocounty.com/SolanoHelps);
- Online applications for Food Stamps and Medi-Cal benefits and ongoing reporting requirements;
- An interactive phone service providing timely answers to common questions on CalWORKs, Food Stamps and Medi-Cal;
- Video conferencing at the Health and Social Services campus in Fairfield bringing staff closer to home-bound clients, reducing travel time, and increasing time serving clients; and
- Scanning birth and death records into an online document repository making the records easily available and reducing office and mailing expenses by 50%.

Public Health, Forensic labs open

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in January officially opened a Public Health Laboratory and Clinic and a District Attorney Forensics Laboratory on Courage Drive in Fairfield. The first floor clinic provides behavioral health care and primary care in the service delivery model that earned the County a 2008 California State Association of Counties award. The Public Health Lab in Vallejo was relocated to the second floor along with the new Forensics Lab. A new Bureau of Forensic Services was established and began the comprehensive certification process for the Forensics Lab. By August the lab was fully accredited; it has processed over 1,800 samples.



From top: Sheriff seizes marijuana plants; 2010 State Fair Craftsman Award winner; Automatic fee payment at the Library; Newest exhibit at the Solano County Fair; Historic library opens as Solano Events Center.

- Over **3,000** residents learned from UC Cooperative Extension how to turn household waste into compost
- **15%** increase in Library volunteer hours over last year
- Veteran Services aided over **5,900** clients, leading to 2,700-plus claims and \$5 million in new or increased benefits
- Over **1,400** job seekers used Live Career Help at the Library
- **78%** of foster youth who completed a new financial literacy program opened and maintained a savings account
- **21,277** H1N1 vaccinations administered by Public Health
- **62%** of eligible voters cast a ballot in the Nov. 2 election; **59%** of them voted by mail
- **64,000** properties on temporary reduced assessed values (Prop. 8) equals \$1.5 billion, 3.6% decrease from the 2009/10 roll
- **73%** of citizens mailed back their 2010 Census questionnaire by the April deadline



A new Grizzly Island Road bridge at Hill Slough was built adjacent to the old one-lane timber bridge that was converted to a fishing pier.

Guided tours at Lake Solano Park

The County Parks and Recreation Division partnered with Solano Resource Conservation District (SRCD) to tap local volunteers and launch a new community outreach effort to showcase the Lake Solano watershed, including its wildlife, history and recreational opportunities. SRCD trained volunteers to kickoff the twice monthly hikes in March, which continued through early fall.

Solano Grown promotes local products, growers

The Solano Grown project began in February when the Solano County Agriculture Department and University of California Cooperative Extension began working with a representative group of local growers. The effort was in response to a need identified in the Solano County Agricultural Futures Project completed in 2008 that encouraged the development of a local brand to help market products produced in Solano County. The brand was launched in October.



Nut Tree Airport improvements

The selection of Mountain West Aviation as the fixed base operator and Wings Flight School to provide flight training enhanced the current operations of the historic airport. Looking to the future, the County embarked on an update of the Nut Tree Airport Master Plan. Over the course of four community workshops the public learned

about potential options for the airport over the next 20 years. Find updates on the project's progress at solanocounty.com/airportmasterplan.

Spray Safe initiative protects public

Partnering with its counterparts in Yolo County and the Farm Bureau in both counties, the Solano County Agriculture Department launched a "Spray Safe" initiative. This grower-based program proactively addresses safe pesticide use practices to protect the community and the environment.

Middle Green Valley Specific Plan

The Board adopted the Middle Green Valley Specific Plan, a required implementation program of the 2008 General Plan, that establishes a land use and circulation layout. The plan also creates some land use tools—such as development clustering, a transfer of development rights program, and use of conservation easements—to limit the effects of residential development on the rural character of the valley, and on its view sheds, wildlife habitat, wildlife movement corridors and agricultural activities.

Public Works invests in local roads

The Resource Management Public Works Engineering and Operations Divisions constructed nine public works improvement projects, investing \$6.7 million into 51 miles of road across the county, and partnered with the Solano Transportation Authority and the City of Fairfield on the construction of a new four-lane parkway (North Connector).

Acting now to preserve resources

The economic story for 2010 has been a convergence of high unemployment, waning property values and sluggish retail sales activity. This collision has meant an increased demand for services at a time when revenues continued to decline. In June the Board adopted a balanced \$793 million budget with the expectation that additional reductions would be made throughout the year to further align ongoing expenses with ongoing revenues. This proactive approach included several budget workshops that examined the mandatory and discretionary services provided by the County. Over \$4 million in reductions came from employee concessions, early retirements, elimination of positions as result of reductions in levels of service as well as reorganizations of the Library, Assessor-Recorder and Health and Social Services. These reduction efforts will continue into 2011. More than \$5 million in additional reductions will be incorporated into the FY2011/12 Recommended Budget.

County retains strong credit ratings

Strong financial management and proactive steps taken to adjust to the prevailing economic conditions are among the reasons Solano County retained its current credit rating by Moody's Investor Services. The rating agency reviewed the County's financial position in November, and Moody's affirmed the County's Aa2 Issuer rating, Aa3 Pension Bond rating, and A1 Certificates of Participation rating. These ratings were initially assigned to the County in April 2008. Moody's cited in its April 2008 report that the County's General Fund position, proactive budget monitoring, manageable debt level, rapid repayment of outstanding long-term debt and overall healthy financial operations in assigning their ratings. The County has maintained the rating agency's confidence in all of these areas.

Final budget for FY2010/11

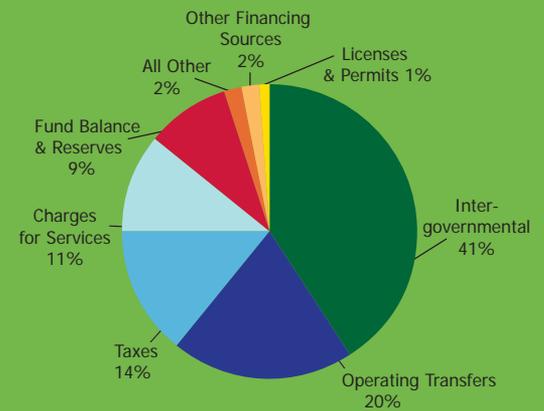
The Revenues by Source chart describes the sources of funding used to finance the FY2010/11 budget. The County's single largest revenue source is intergovernmental revenue, which is generally restricted to fund the County's implementation of State and Federal programs. The Discretionary Revenue chart provides information on the use of General Fund dollars to finance County operations, including property taxes and intergovernmental revenue that come to the County without restrictions. The Spending Plan by Function chart shows where the County allocates its budget. Public Protection represents the single largest category of expenditures in both the total budget and Discretionary Spending.

Awards in budget development, financial reporting

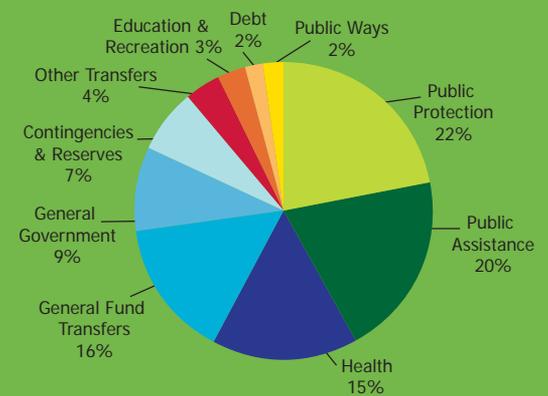
The Government Finance Officers Association awarded the County its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the FY2009/10 budget document and its Certificate of Achievement in Financial Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. This was the eighth year in a row the Auditor-Controller's Office received the certificate of excellence.

FY2010/11 ADOPTED BUDGET

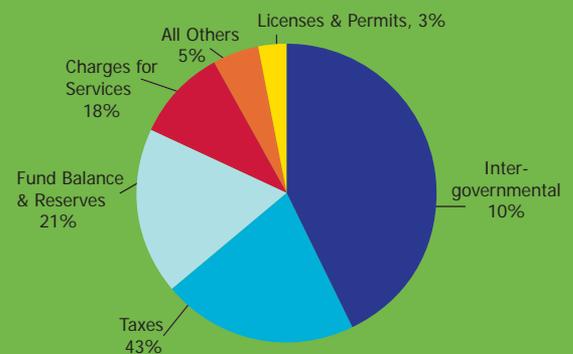
REVENUES BY SOURCE: \$793.2 million



SPENDING PLAN BY FUNCTION: \$793.2 million



DISCRETIONARY REVENUE: \$228.3 million



DISCRETIONARY SPENDING: \$228.3 million

