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Ventura County Government Center
Hall of Administration Building, Fourth Floor
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009-1940



HISTORY

Officially formed on Jan. 1, 1873, Ventura County has a rich and fascinating history that began far before its formation. More than 10,000 years ago, the Chumash people, known fishermen and maritime traders, inhabited the land that became Ventura County. Spanish explorers arrived in the 1500s with active occupation beginning in the 1700s. Mission San Buenaventura was founded in 1782, encouraging population growth in the surrounding area of San Buenaventura. Acres of land were given out to Mexican Californians, Californios, as payment for their service and to encourage land settlement. In the 1830s and 40s, these ranchos raised cattle and increased agriculture interest in what is now Ventura County.

Today, at **2,208 square miles**, the county is comprised of **10 cities** and numerous unincorporated communities represented by five supervisorial districts. Spanning **1.2 million acres**, Ventura County's coastline stretches a stunning 42 miles with the Los Padres National Forest accounting for 46% of the landmass in the northern portion of the county. The county's expansive landmass rises from sea level to 8,831 feet at Mt. Pinos in the Los Padres National Forest, and, at certain times of the year, it is possible to stand on the beach and see snow in the mountains. With fertile valleys in the southern half of the county, Ventura County is a leading agriculture producer. Together, the farmland and Los Padres National Forest occupy half of the county's acreage.

The county's economy is bolstered by its robust health care, technology and tourism sectors, in addition to the import and export of goods through the Port of Hueneme, the only deep water port between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Port Hueneme is also home to an active military presence with Naval Base Ventura County at the Port Hueneme, Point Mugu, and facilities on San Nicholas Island. With strength woven throughout a variety of sectors that intertwine to create a beautifully diverse community, Ventura County is proud to be called home by more than **830,000 residents** and over **17,000 businesses**.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The County of Ventura is a general law county, governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors, elected at-large for a staggered four-year term in their respective districts, and the chairmanship rotates annually. General law counties adhere to state law as to the number and duties of county elected officials. In the state of California, there are currently 45 general law counties and 13 charter counties.

Different from the County of Ventura, charter counties have a limited degree of "home rule" authority that may provide for the election, compensation, terms, removal, and salary of the governing board; for the election or appointment (except the sheriff, district attorney, and assessor who must be elected), compensation, terms, and removal of all county officers; for the powers and duties of all officers

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consolidation and segregation of county offices. A charter does not give county officials extra authority over local regulations, revenue-raising abilities, budgetary decisions, or intergovernmental relations.

A county may adopt, amend, or repeal a charter with majority vote approval. A new charter or the amendment or repeal of an existing charter may be proposed by the Board of Supervisors, a charter commission, or an initiative petition. The provisions of a charter are the law of the state and have the force and effect of legislative enactments.

As a general law county, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors is responsible for providing policy direction, approving the County budget, and representing the County in a number of areas including special districts. Board actions can apply countywide or only in unincorporated areas. Other County elected officials include the Auditor-Controller, Assessor, Clerk/Recorder, District Attorney, Treasurer-Tax Collector, and Sheriff. The County Executive Officer advises, assists, and acts as an agent for the Board of Supervisors in all matters under the Board's jurisdiction. Under the guidance of the Board of Supervisors, the approved County annual budget of more than \$3 billion serves to assist vulnerable adults and children, provide public safety, ensure justice, protect public health, and improve the quality of life for the county's residents.

In alignment with key focus areas established in the County Strategic Plan, services are provided to residents by over 10,000 dedicated public servants working in 25 different agencies, departments and special districts.

County Demographics

- » Census and Demographic Information (https://vcrma.org/census-and-demographic-information)
- » United States Census, State & County Quick Facts: Ventura County, California (https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/)

Types of Counties

- The California Constitution (http://ballotpedia.org/wiki/index.php/California) recognizes two types of counties:
- » General Law Counties
 - » Charter Counties

Other Links

- » County of Ventura Strategic Plan (https://vcportal.venturacounty.gov/CEO/County_Strategic-Plan_2024-2027_v20231)
- » Grow Your Business, Live Your Life (http://www.venturacountygrowsbusiness.com)

(https://venturacounty.gov/)

CONTACT INFO

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INFORMATION

211 Ventura (https://211ventura.org) County

Human Resources (https://hr.ventura.org)

Department / Agencies (https://venturacounty.gov)

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ADA Accessibility (https://venturacounty.gov/government/ada-accessibility/)

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