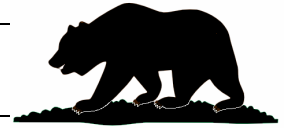




# COUNTY FACT SHEET

-- Senate Local Government Committee, August 2009 --



**California has 58 counties**, including San Francisco which is both a city and a county. California created 27 original counties in 1850 and last formed a new county in 1907, when Imperial County seceded from San Diego County.

## Population (Source: Dept. of Finance, 1/1/09) *California population: 38.3 million*

<b>Largest</b>	<small>(% of state population)</small>	<b>Smallest</b>	<b>Fastest Growing 2008-09</b>
Los Angeles	10.4 million (27.1%)	Alpine 1,201	Imperial +2.1%
San Diego	3.2 million (8.3%)	Sierra 3,358	Tulare +1.8%
Orange	3.1 million (8.2%)	Modoc 9,698	Placer +1.7%

## Area (in square miles) *California area: 155,959*

<b>Largest</b>		<b>Smallest</b>	
San Bernardino	20,052	San Francisco	47
Inyo	10,203	Santa Cruz	445
Kern	8,141	San Mateo	449

## Cities in Counties *California cities: 480*

<b>The most cities</b>		<b>The fewest cities</b>		<b>The highest % of county population in cities</b>
Los Angeles	88	Alpine	0	San Francisco 100%
Orange	34	Mariposa	0	Orange 96%
Riverside	26	Trinity	0	Santa Clara & Solano 95%

There are about 2,000 unincorporated communities located throughout the state.

**Governance** - The California Constitution requires **all counties** to elect a **sheriff, district attorney, assessor, and board of supervisors**. State law requires each county to have a **five-member board of supervisors** although charter counties can increase this number. All counties elect or appoint additional county officials. There are 14 charter counties and 44 general law counties.

**Services** - All counties provide three levels of service.

- **As agents of the State:** social services and health services.
- **Countywide services** such as: jails, probation, district attorney, assessor, elections, clerk, recorder, and animal control.
- **Municipal-type services** in their unincorporated areas such as: fire protection, sheriff patrol, libraries, parks and recreation, roads, and planning. In some counties, special districts provide these services.

# County Fact Sheet Continued

-- Senate Local Government Committee, August 2009 --

## 2006-07 County Revenues and Expenditures

(excluding San Francisco; Source: State Controller)

### Total county revenues = \$48.2 billion

**State transfers = \$16.3 billion**

*(e.g. public assistance, VLF)*

**Federal transfers = \$9 billion**

*(e.g. public assistance, disaster relief)*

**Property taxes = \$10.5 billion**

**Service charges = \$5.5 billion**

*(e.g. building permits, recording fees)*

**Other revenues = \$6.9 billion**

*(e.g. sales & use taxes, fines)*

State transfers 33.7%
Federal transfers 18.7%
Property taxes 21.9%
Service charges 11.4%
Other revenues 14.3%

### Total county expenditures = \$44.9 billion

**Public protection = \$14.5 billion**

*(e.g. sheriff, jails, courts, DA)*

**Public assistance = \$13.7 billion**

*(e.g. welfare, social services)*

**Health & sanitation = \$7.8 billion**

*(e.g. public & mental health, waste disposal)*

**General government = \$4.6 billion**

*(e.g. elections, assessor, treasurer)*

**Other expenditures = \$4.3 billion**

Public protection 32.3%
Public assistance 30.5%
Health & sanitation 17.5%
General government 10.2%
Other expenditures 9.6%