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Alameda County thanks more than 1,300 volunteers for participating in biennial homelessness count

Overwhelming show of community involvement a highlight of federally mandated Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

Alameda County, CA—More than 1,300 volunteers brought energy and enthusiasm early this morning to Alameda County’s Point-in-Time Count (PIT Count), a biennial countywide data collection effort that helps the County and cities ensure investments in homelessness solutions go where they are most needed. The critical community activity is led by Alameda County Health, Housing and Homelessness Services (AC Health H&H) and the Oakland-Berkeley-Alameda County Continuum of Care (CoC).

“We are incredibly fortunate to work in a community that is so committed to helping their fellow neighbors,” said Jonathan Russell, director of AC Health H&H. “To have more than 1,300 people come out at 5 in the morning to canvas the streets is simply amazing. It’s clear that Alameda County residents understand the value of this initiative and it’s also clear that they care deeply about supporting solutions for their unhoused neighbors. This shows the compassion, empathy, and care of our community—I couldn’t be more proud.”

Federally mandated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the PIT Count is a one-day snapshot effort to count people who are sheltered (living in emergency shelters or transitional housing) and unsheltered (staying outdoors or places not designed for habitation including vehicles, streets, parks, and abandoned buildings).

Today’s PIT Count started at 5 a.m. in every jurisdiction throughout Alameda County. Among the more than 1,300 volunteers were Alameda County Supervisors Elisa Márquez and Nikki Fortunato Bas, Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee, Hayward Mayor Mark Salinas, San Leandro Mayor Juan Gonzalez, and other County and city leaders.

“The strength of Alameda County has always been our community’s willingness to show up for one another, and seeing over 1,300 volunteers rise before dawn to participate in this year’s PIT Count is truly inspiring,” said District 5 Supervisor Nikki Fortunato Bas. “This massive, coordinated effort provides us with more than just numbers; it gives us the essential data needed to advocate for resources and to enhance our local housing and



health strategies. I am deeply grateful to every resident who lent their time and heart to this effort.”

“I am incredibly moved by the dedication of my fellow elected leaders and tireless county and city staff who joined us in the field to ensure every member of our community is accounted for,” said District 2 Supervisor Elisa Márquez. “This collaborative effort reflects our deep-seated commitment to understanding the lived realities of our unhoused neighbors. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our staff, whose expertise and compassion make this vital data collection possible. Together, we are building a more responsive and equitable system of care for all of Alameda County.”

Results from the PIT Count are used to inform funding and policy decisions across the homelessness system of care. Those targeted investments have proven to be effective—the 2024 PIT Count revealed that overall homelessness dropped by three percent in Alameda County, with the number of unsheltered residents decreasing by 11 percent from 2022.

The 2026 PIT Count will help guide Alameda County’s implementation of the Home Together 2030 Plan and Measure W Home Together Fund. The Home Together Plan is a comprehensive countywide approach to reducing homelessness by prioritizing homelessness prevention, expanding shelter and housing, and improving system access and coordination. The Home Together Fund is a significant investment made by the County in July 2025, when the Board of Supervisors designated 80% of annual revenues from Measure W, a half-cent sales tax passed in 2020, toward advancing the goals of the Home Together Plan. The County has committed more than \$105M in Measure W/Home Together Fund investments to date to expand permanent supportive and shelter/interim sites, with more procurements and expanded investments continuing in the coming months. Learn more [here](#).

View photos (and photo credits) from the 2026 PIT Count [here](#).

Learn more about Alameda County Health at Health.AlamedaCountyCA.gov.

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