

Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer

Administration Highlights 2014 – 2020

ONE SAN DIEGO

Investments in Every Community

- ✓ **Neighborhoods first:** Made infrastructure a budget priority with more than \$3 billion in neighborhood improvements across the city, and expanded library and recreation center operating hours longer than ever before
- ✓ **Road repair milestone after milestone:** Pledged to repair 500 miles of roads in five years then doubled-down by committing to repair 1,000 miles; after completing this goal ahead of schedule, went on to fix half of San Diego's street network in just six years, blowing past any previous records and becoming the only big city in America to achieve this goal (City fixed 24 miles a year in 2006; now crews repair on-average 24 miles a month)
- ✓ **Supporting education and career advancement:** Started first City-run afterschool program in libraries throughout San Diego – focused in areas working to increase student achievement – and launched an online program for San Diegans to earn their degree
- ✓ **Bringing equity to economic opportunity:** Secured federal Promise Zone designation to encourage economic revitalization in historically underserved neighborhoods
- ✓ **Strong budgets mean strong communities:** Directed 50 percent of all new General Fund revenue growth to infrastructure and neighborhood investments – every year in office
- ✓ **First new libraries in a decade:** Replaced some of San Diego's oldest and out-of-date libraries with new ones in Skyline Hills, San Ysidro and Mission Hills-Hillcrest
- ✓ **Parks for all:** Over 100 new and upgraded parks across San Diego, and launched major upgrades to Mission Bay Park and Balboa Park (such as the Palisades public plaza) thanks in part to 2016's Measure J

✓ Achievement ✓ Achievement that fulfilled campaign pledge

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GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU

Efficiency, Effectiveness and Reform

- ✓ **Strong city finances:** Proposed and signed seven structurally balanced budgets, putting an end to fiscal gimmicks used under some previous administrations, and expanded reserves and kept credit ratings healthy.
- ✓ **Modernized city government:** Worked to create a city government as innovative as the people it represents:
 - ✓ Designed an award-winning website that puts customer experience first, where people can get a permit, report a pothole, track City spending, and more.
 - ✓ Created City's first Performance and Analytics Department, an internationally-recognized team that works to modernize government operations and improve efficiencies across the organization
 - ✓ Launched the award-winning Get It Done app to put the power to improve our city in the hands of every San Diegan
- ✓ **A transparent City Hall:** Embraced an "open data" approach to public information, launched an online system to request and see public records online, and maintained a robust record retention policy that reversed a decision to delete millions of government emails
- ✓ **San Diego getting its fair share:** Established a robust Government Affairs Department to advocate for San Diego and secure funding and grants from Sacramento and Washington, D.C. (e.g. securing state emergency homeless funding directly for cities and federal grants for the Mid-Coast trolley project)

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YES IN MY BACKYARD

Treating Housing as Essential

- ✓ **Making it faster and easier to build:** Passed legislation and enacted reforms to cut red tape and speed up the housing approval process:
 - ✓ Implemented affordable housing density bonus
 - ✓ Eliminated costly parking requirement that increased construction costs
 - ✓ Made it easier to construct accessible dwelling units, i.e. granny flats
 - ✓ Waived fees for low-income and homeless housing
 - ✓ Adopted new policies to encourage smaller & more affordable housing units
- ✓ **Permit it and they will build:** Increased citywide housing capacity by about 100,000 units by completing 16 community plan updates – more than any administration in City history
- ✓ **A new paradigm where more housing means better communities:** Adopted Complete Communities, the most comprehensive housing policy in California:
 - ✓ Allows unlimited height and density when developers provide community benefits and amenities such as affordable housing
 - ✓ Encourages growth near major job and transportation centers by making it easier to build close to transit
 - ✓ Invests half of all new program revenue into traditionally underserved neighborhoods
 - ✓ 75 percent of new funds will be used to preserve existing affordable housing and neighborhood amenities in historically underserved communities

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DECREASING HOMELESSNESS

Leading on California's Biggest Crisis

- ✓ **Only big city with fewer people on the streets:** Combination of aggressive policies and strong executive leadership has resulted in San Diego becoming the only large county in the state where homelessness has declined two years in a row, with 12 percent fewer people on the streets in the city of San Diego compared to 2019
- ✓ **Acknowledging the street is not a home:** Launching a regional and statewide campaign to say “yes” to homeless solutions, stand up to obstructionists, and not let perfect be the enemy of the good when it comes to helping people off the streets
- ✓ **Shelter instead of sidewalks:** Expanded safe parking lots for people living out of cars and RVs, and opened four new bridge shelters that have become a model for agencies across the country – attracting attention from dozens of cities and the U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- ✓ **Removing clutter from public spaces:** Tripled storage capacity for people experiencing homelessness to keep their belongings while they go to school, work or access services
- ✓ **Compassionate action:** Established Neighborhood Policing Division to provide a consistent approach across SDPD that is compassionate yet firm when responding to quality-of-life issues related to homelessness in the community
- ✓ **Reducing encampments:** Worked with San Diego River Park Foundation and other partners to reduce homeless encampments by 90 percent and clean up the riverbed
- ✓ **Bold and creative leadership:** Launched Operation Shelter to Home at Convention Center, providing safe and sanitary shelter for thousands, with more than 1,100 people set to be permanently housed by the end of 2020
- ✓ **More housing for homeless individuals:** Made unused City properties available for housing development and spearheaded the purchase of two hotels that will house an additional 400 people experiencing homelessness

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HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

Common Sense Climate Action

- ✓ **Real action on climate change:** The city has cut nearly a quarter of its greenhouse gasses after earning bipartisan and unanimous support for its pioneering Climate Action Plan to slash greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2035 in half by 2035 — without raising taxes
- ✓ **San Diego leading:** The first big city in the U.S. to move toward 100 percent renewable power
- ✓ **Largest U.S. city to bring competition to energy market:** Built a coalition to launch a regional Community Choice Energy program to reach citywide goal of 100 percent green energy, lower power costs for ratepayers, and provide an alternative and cheaper choice for energy
- ✓ **A historic investment in reliable water:** Brought the Pure Water project to the finish line, the largest infrastructure project in San Diego history:
 - ✓ Secured approvals and funding, and held together business and environmental coalition
 - ✓ This water recycling project will provide one-third of City's water supply when fully built out in 2035
- ✓ **Clean SD:** Launched a 24/7 cleanup program that has removed more than 7,000 tons of trash and debris from neighborhoods and open spaces

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Safest Big City in America

- ✓ **Keeping crime low:** San Diego consistently ranked as the safest, or one of the safest, big cities in the U.S.
- ✓ **Rebuilding police department's dwindling ranks:** SDPD is nearly fully staffed for the first time in a decade – with the most officers since 2011 – after successfully gaining approval for the most-sweeping SDPD recruitment and retention program in City history
- ✓ **Statewide reform:** Ordered the elimination of the carotid restraint by SDPD, setting in motion similar actions by other law enforcement agencies which culminated in the ban becoming California law
- ✓ **Addressing community priorities:** Created SDPD's Neighborhood Policing Division to address quality of life issues
- ✓ **Fixing a broken system:** Resolved 9-1-1 dispatch issues, with 96.5 percent of all 9-1-1 calls now answered in less than 15 seconds
- ✓ **Wildfire preparedness:** Invested in 33 new fire engines, trucks and other apparatus, including a new Firehawk helicopter
- ✓ **Help when you need it, regardless of zip code:** Implemented Fire-Rescue Fast Response Squads in historically underserved neighborhoods to improve response times, and opened 10 new or improved fire stations

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TWO NATIONS, ONE REGION

Historic Binational Achievements

- ✓ **Protecting local jobs:** Helped lead bipartisan push for modernized trading rules realized through new U.S.-Mexico-Canada (USMCA) trade agreement, and strengthened binational and international ties to grow San Diego's position as a trade hub and destination for investment
- ✓ **Real progress on the border's worse environmental crisis:** Successfully urged federal leaders in the U.S. and Mexico to take action to protect California's environment from sewage overflows in the Tijuana River Valley through \$300 million set aside in USMCA, coupled with new pumps and waste diversion on Tijuana side of the border
- ✓ **Safe and secure border:** Secured staffing and infrastructure improvements at ports of entry
- ✓ **Cross border leadership:** Served as co-chair of the U.S.-Mexico Border Mayors Association and for a trilateral group of mayors dubbed the "Alliance on Trade in the Americas," and fostered collaboration between the cities of San Diego and Tijuana on public safety, the arts, and more

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BUILDING OUR BETTER FUTURE

Regional Vision and Leadership

- ✓ **A new vision for transportation and housing:** Furthered reform at the region's transit and planning agency to make it more effective, transparent and accountable to the public
- ✓ **A fair deal for Mission Valley:** Fulfilled commitment following the 2018 election to negotiate a fair agreement for SDSU to build a new stadium and create a world-class river park
- ✓ **Connecting the trolley to the airport:** Brought together regional agencies to avoid a bureaucratic battle and instead create the first real plan to link transit to San Diego International Airport
- ✓ **Breathing life into the Midway District:** Struck a celebrated agreement with the U.S. Navy to partner on revitalizing the NAVWAR site and explore a central mobility hub, initiated a public-private partnership to create a world-class sports arena and entertainment district, and supported the historic and successful effort to eliminate the height limit in the Midway District

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RELIEF AND RECOVERY

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

- ✓ **Relief to San Diegans:** Provided more than \$20 million in rent relief, supported a moratorium on residential and commercial evictions, and funded childcare for essential workers
- ✓ **Small Business Relief Fund:** Provided more than \$20 million in grants to over 2,000 businesses, supporting roughly 10,000 full-time jobs
- ✓ **Creative solutions to keep businesses open and safe:** Encouraged outdoor dining and street retail – known as “Streateries” and “Streetail” – by streamlining and eliminating fees and regulations to allow businesses to expand to sidewalks, parking spaces, parks and more
- ✓ **All hands on deck:** Designated all City employees as disaster workers, created an online platform to donate personal protective equipment for essential workers, and repurposed city operations to assist the medical response effort – such as offering City property for hospitals during a potential surge in cases, and repurposing 3-D printers at the Central Library to produce face shields for first responders in San Diego and Baja California
- ✓ **Leading based on science:** Led efforts to create and enact a safe reopening plan for the region’s beaches and bays, and continues to be a strong advocate for the safe return to in-classroom learning based on the latest scientific information