



MELISSA WILK

ALAMEDA COUNTY

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Message from Melissa

Dear Alameda County,

Spring is here and summer is around the corner! I hope that you are enjoying the warmer weather, scenic views, and the many natural treasures throughout Alameda County. This is such a wonderful time of year to enjoy the outdoors.

April was a month of celebration of the environment, arts, and culture. April 22 was the annual worldwide celebration of Earth Day, and right here in Alameda County the day was met with festivals, workshops, volunteer cleanups, greening activities and more. April was also Arts, Culture and Creativity Month in Alameda County and throughout the state of California. On April 2nd, the **Alameda County Board of Supervisors** and **Board President Nate Miley** proclaimed April as Arts, Culture and Creativity month at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Events and celebrations in honor of Cinco de Mayo and Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month reminded me of how fortunate we are to have so many opportunities that allow us to experience our County's amazing culture and diversity. I hope that you are able to get out and enjoy all that our County has to offer this Spring.

In March, voters re-elected three County Supervisors to continue their service to Alameda County. I am pleased to congratulate County Supervisors David Haubert (District 1), Elisa Márquez (District 2), and Nate Miley (District 4). And, I look forward to working with the County Supervisor who is elected to represent District 5 in the November election.

March through June is peak budget season for Alameda County, and many other cities and counties throughout the state. I am honored to work in partnership with the County Administrator's Office during this process, and applaud the collaboration with the Board of Supervisors, 21 County departments, and community stakeholders who are all committed to a



thoughtful and fiscally responsible County budget that prioritizes the needs of our diverse communities.

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This is also a very busy time of the year for the Auditor-Controller staff as they close out financial matters for the current fiscal year. Our Agency and County departments are working together to ensure that all revenues and expenditures are accounted for prior to closing the “books” in June for Fiscal Year 2023-24.

I invite you to learn more about County events and programs such as the 2024 Women's Hall of Fame by reading below.

In closing, I wish you and your family a very happy and safe Memorial Day weekend, and as always, thank you for your interest in our Agency and for reading our 2024 Spring Newsletter. Please see our [website](#) for more information about our services, and as always, don't hesitate to contact us at ACCR.info@acgov.org.

Best,

Melissa Wilk

Alameda County's Budgeting Process

This is the time of the year that County leadership works together on next year's budget. In April, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors heard public budget presentations from County departments and began to hold budget work sessions to help inform the development of the County's Fiscal Year 2024-25 Proposed Budget. The County's budget will determine how billions of taxpayer dollars in the next Fiscal Year, July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, will be spent in five main areas – health care services, public assistance programs, public protection, general government, and capital projects. These five areas make up nearly 90% of the county's budget of over four billion dollars.



Alameda County is committed to an open and transparent budget process to ensure inclusiveness, accountability and trust. In the ensuing weeks, the Board of Supervisors, County

Administrator, County Agency and Department heads, labor representatives, and various community stakeholders will meet to discuss budget policy impacts and reconcile their needs with available resources.

A critical aspect of this process includes the County Administrator's analysis of the proposed budgets submitted by County Departments and Agencies, and determining any Fiscal Year 2024-2025 funding gap. The funding gap is the difference between the cost of maintaining current services and available financing. For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the current Alameda County budget gap is estimated to be \$68 million. This funding gap is targeted for budget balancing through the collaborative effort among all of the stakeholders identified above.

Another critical aspect of this process involves an analysis of how State and Federal funding and policy decisions will impact Alameda County residents and possibly the estimated funding gap. This analysis will be conveyed through reports that will be included in the Proposed and Final Budget documents.

In May and June, County departments will make any necessary adjustments to their initial proposals for final consideration by the Board of Supervisors. The Proposed Budget is scheduled to be presented to the Board in early June.

The Board will subsequently hold hearings for the public to offer comments to the Proposed Budget. This will be an important opportunity for Alameda County residents, businesses, and organizations to share their thoughts and feedback. The County anticipates receiving input and insights on how the Proposed Budget will impact significant issues affecting Alameda County and its safety net services and programs. After several public hearings, the Board will vote to adopt the balanced Final Budget no later than June 30, 2024. To find out more about the budget process and view related budget documents, please visit Alameda County's [budget website](#).

Implementation of ID E-Verification System



I am pleased to announce that our office has implemented a new online system to verify user identification to expedite ordering copies of birth, death and marriage certificates online. On April 9, and pursuant to Assembly Bill 751, our Agency's Clerk-Recorder's Office began using this system and we have received positive feedback from community members. Prior to this service, customers either had to submit a notarized authorization statement or pick up the

order in person, presenting identification during the pickup. The ID e-verification system streamlines the process for both staff and customers by reducing the need for manual ID verification. Now, customers can verify their identity online when requesting unrestricted copies of birth, death, or marriage records. This service offers a significant benefit to customers by decreasing wait and travel times, notary costs and other expenses. We estimate that it will collectively provide a savings to our customers of approximately \$800,000 per year!

Become a Volunteer Marriage Commissioner!

Are you passionate about love, commitment, and celebrating unions? Do you want to play a meaningful role in one of life's most cherished moments? Look no further! Consider becoming a Volunteer Deputy Marriage Commissioner at the Alameda County Clerk-Recorder's Office! Volunteer Marriage Commissioners are deputized by the County to legally officiate marriage ceremonies at the Clerk-Recorder's Office in Oakland. Many of our Marriage Commissioners also officiate marriages for their family members and friends which adds a meaningful personal touch to the couple's ceremony. For more information, please visit our [website](#).



Our Agency is Hiring Calling All Job-Seekers and Interns!



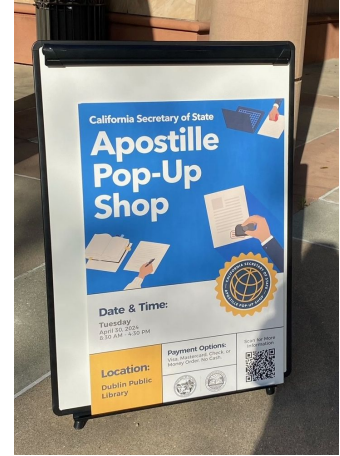
Our recruitment team has been hard at work this season. They have attended several career fairs to connect with local job seekers. Our team attended the St. Mary's College Spring Career & Hiring Fair on February 28 and the California State University, East Bay (CSUEB) Spring Business, Communication & Engineering Career Fair on March 7. They also participated in the Las Positas College Spring Career and Resource Fair on March 27. At these events, they met with upcoming spring graduates and current students looking for careers that give back to the Alameda County community. Our team also shared information about upcoming career opportunities and the ongoing internship program with our Agency.

Currently we're hiring Auditors and Auditor Associates. These positions are critical to our mission of providing the highest degree of accountability and service when administering public funds and in the protection of public records. To learn more about these and more current County openings, visit the [Alameda County Human Resource Services website](#).

Apostille Pop-Up Shop

On April 30th, the Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder

Agency, together with the California Secretary of State's Office, hosted an incredibly successful Apostille Pop-Up Shop at the Dublin Public Library – about a mile away from the Clerk-Recorder's Tri-Valley Office located at 7600 Dublin Blvd. An Apostille is a certificate that authenticates the signature of a public official on a document for use in another country.



The turnout was impressive with nearly 600 Californians attending, many travelling to Alameda County from neighboring counties such as San Joaquin, Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties. “Partnering with Alameda County for the Apostille Pop-Up Shop event exemplifies our dedication to serving Californians, wherever they may be,” said California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D. Even though the event did not open until 8:30am, people were already lined up as early as 7:00am!

Despite the tremendous turnout, which was unexpected, attendees remained patient and appreciative. They all were just happy to receive Apostille services without having to make the long trip to Sacramento. Many who attended inquired about future events and expressed delight that their tax dollars were being put to good use. Additionally, attendees praised the convenient location and free parking provided by the Dublin Public Library.

Information about other Apostille Pop-Up Shops can be found on the [California Secretary of State's website](#), and we hope to host another event here in Alameda County later this year.

County Auditors Convene at State Conference



I was very pleased to be able to attend the annual [State Association of County Auditors Conference](#) in April. This 114th annual conference brings together representatives from all of the 58 counties in California and was hosted by Placer County.

This semi-annual forum serves as an important opportunity for county elected and appointed officials tasked with overseeing billions of dollars in public funds to learn and share information and resources. The conference delved into topics including California's economic outlook,

updates from General Accounting Standard Boards, and tax system quality controls. We were also honored to hear from **State Controller Malia M. Cohen** as she provided an update on state-wide financial issues. Our collective work throughout the state of California ensures that public funds are disbursed in accordance with local and state regulations. Laws and rules constantly evolve and best practices change, and this conference equips us with the necessary resources to perform our duties effectively.

The Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency is committed to the continued professional development of our team and to building peer relationships so that we can continue to perform our work to the highest standards.

Arts, Culture and Creativity Month



This April was the **6th Annual California Arts, Culture and Creativity Month**. This statewide month-long event was first established by the California legislature in 2019 and is led by **CA for the Arts**.

On April 2, **President Nate Miley** and the **Alameda County Board of Supervisors** proclaimed April as Arts, Culture and Creativity month in Alameda County and presented a proclamation to the **Office of the Alameda County Arts Commission** which is a division of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency. Arts, culture and creativity are essential to every thriving community. They inspire discovery, create connections, encourage understanding, strengthen community, and spark innovation and positive change.

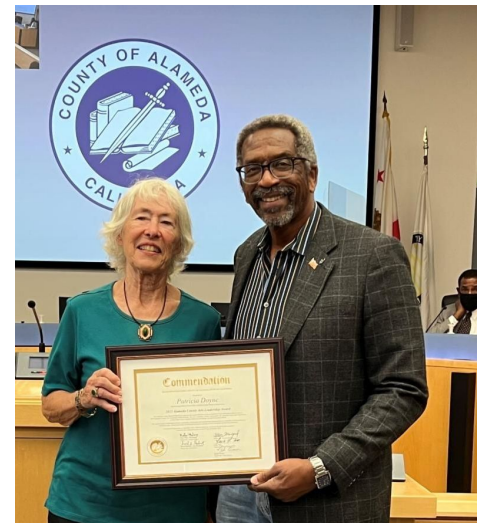
The Arts Commission's arts education program is **CREATE Alameda County**. In honor of Arts, Culture and Creativity Month, through the CREATE Alameda County program the Arts Commission is distributing 35,000 arts education advocacy activity sheets and paint brushes with partners throughout the County. The sheets have watercolor paint embedded in the paper, so all that is needed is a little water. Major supporters are the **Alameda County Board of**



Supervisors and the **Alameda County Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency**. Partners include **Alameda County Library, Alameda County Community Food Bank, First 5 Alameda County, Oakland Vet Center, CREATE CA CA for the Arts** and more.

Submit a Nomination to the Annual Arts Leadership Awards

Submit a nomination by June 12! Each year, the Alameda County Arts Commission invites County residents to submit nominations for the Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards. This annual program enables the Alameda County Arts Commission to recognize five individuals, one from each of the five districts of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, for their outstanding achievements and contributions impacting the arts community and the residents of Alameda County. For complete details, please review the links to the [Nomination Instructions](#), [List of Past Award Recipients](#), and [Online Nomination Platform](#). Image of 2023 award recipient Pay Doyne with Alameda County President of the Board Nate Miley.



Alameda County Library Summer Adventure



Make your summer sensational! Alameda County Library invites everyone to participate in their 2024 Summer Adventure. Members will join the Library on an adventure of the senses—from the physical to a unique sense of humor, pride, and curiosity! Complete engaging activities to receive a book gift and prize drawing entries. Pick-up an Adventure Guide at any AC Library location (including the mobile library stops) starting June 1 or download a guide from the [Alameda County Library website](#).

New Inductees to the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame



March was Women's History Month and Alameda County hosted its **29th Annual Women's Hall of Fame** Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on May 4 in Pleasanton. The Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1993 to celebrate local women making a difference in the diverse communities of Alameda County and to preserve their stories in the County archives.

Our Agency was excited to be one of the sponsors of this event and participate in the celebration of the new inductees. This year's event was a huge success and was attended by nearly 500 guests. In attendance were the nine inductees, guests and many community leaders including four Members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors: President Nate Miley, Vice President David Haubert, Keith Carson and Elisa Márquez. This year's Women's Hall of Fame inductees join over 270 previous inductees.

Every year, inductees are chosen to represent their area of expertise. The 2024 Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame inductees are "Bakesale Betty" Alison Barakat, Co-Founder of Bakesale Betty (Business & Professions Category); Dee Johnson, Founder & Executive Director of Lend A Hand Foundation (Community Service Category); Dianne Fukami, Producer & Director of Bridge Media, Inc. (Culture & Art Category); Dr. Kyla Johnson-Trammell, Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District (Education Category); Dominique Mellion, Executive Director of Families United for Equity (Emerging Leaders Category); Dr. Noha Aboelata, CEO of Roots Community Health (Health Category); Elaine Brown, Founder & CEO of Oakland and the World Enterprises (Justice Category); Courtenay Carr Heuer, Co-Founder & Executive Director of Scientific Adventures for Girls (Science-Tech-Engineering Category); Bethany Zummo, Sitting Volleyball Athlete for USA Volleyball Sitting Team (Sports & Athletics Category).

Additionally, four Alameda County high school students were awarded scholarships at the event through the Women's Hall of Fame's Mary V. King/Wilma Chan Youth Scholarship Fund. The youth award recipients are Daisy Fountaine, Oakland Technical High School in Oakland; Sesina Haile, Encinal Junior/Senior High School in Alameda; Elizabeth Melendez Santos, Mt.

Eden High School in Hayward; and Moragaut Souet-Samounn, San Leandro High School in San Leandro.

You are invited to [learn more and see the event photos!](#) The Women's Hall of Fame encourages community members to submit nominations for consideration for next year's award program!

2024 East Bay Innovation Awardees



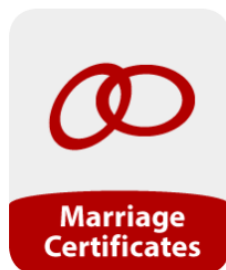
On March 28th, the **East Bay Economic Development Alliance** hosted the 11th Annual East Bay Innovation Awards presented by Sutter Health at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center. The event and awards program showcase the region's spirit of innovation and celebrates remarkable organizations and people that contribute to the East Bay's legacy of pioneering advancements. Read more about this year's East Bay

Innovators on the [East Bay EDA blog](#) and [watch the 7-minute video](#). Congratulations to all the awardees and nominees!

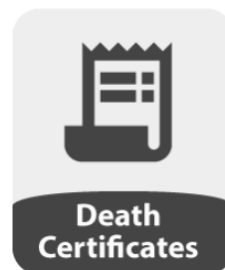
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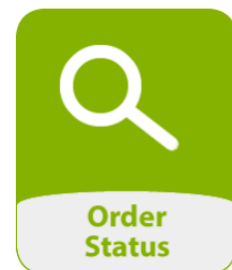
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Need a birth, marriage, or death certificate? Save yourself time and order online! Select our pick-up option, and we can typically turn around your order within a few days.

Once you've submitted your order, you can check the status of your request online. You can then request the document be mailed to you, or you can pick it up from our Office.

It's just that easy!

QUESTIONS FOR OUR AGENCY?

Are there upcoming community events that you would like us to attend? Do you have a specific question you would like to ask? Is your community or organization interested in a presentation about the services provided by the County and the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency?



Email us at ACCR.info@acgov.org to let us know what questions we can answer and how we can support your efforts.

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