



VENTURA COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT CARD

Investigate, Advocate, & Inform



## The Breakfast Club: Monthly Meetings Addressing Taxpayer Topics!

These recurring breakfast events bring in guest speakers to discuss taxpayer related topics.

These events are networking opportunities that help drive new memberships to VCTA.

The 2023 Breakfast Club is sponsored by Southern California Edison.



## Increased Membership: Membership increased 73% in 2023!

Our members receive complementary access to our Breakfast Club and discounted tickets to our Annual Meeting.



## Oxnard POB Lawsuit: Oxnard Pension Obligation Bond

VCTA Joined the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA) and Aaron Starr, a citizen of Oxnard, as Defendants against the City of Oxnard's Pension Obligation Bond (POB). The initial lawsuit was dismissed and is currently pending appeal.



## Investigating VCMS: VCTA partnered with VCTF to investigate the Ventura County Medical System (VCMS).

We continue to question Ventura County Medical System's (VCMS) lack of transparency on the unrestricted advance from the county's General Fund. The investigation is ongoing, and we will be meeting with the Supervisors for next steps.



### VCMS Deficits Soar by 22% Amid Neglect of Budgetary Policy

Which is worse: the County Medical system administration that ignores the County Supervisors' budgetary policy or a Board of Supervisors that fails to enforce its fiscal policy?

The Ventura County Medical System (VCMS) seems uninterested in its long-term sustainability. Repeatedly, the management has disregarded the Board of Supervisors' policy to focus on reducing operating deficits. Despite the Board's unanimous vote in 2019 directing VCMS management to "focus on the annual operating deficit as the priority," the deficits have increased by 22%. And it forces the taxpayers to pay for the escalating deficits.



## VCTA Members on Committees:

VCTA successfully placed candidates onto boards and committees throughout the county to monitor key taxpayer-related issues.

VCTA also submitted candidates to represent as *bona fide taxpayer association members* for School Bond Measures throughout Ventura County, including:

- Measure E - Ventura Unified School District
- Measure G - Fillmore Unified School District
- Measure I - Oxnard School District

VCTA successfully placed a candidate onto the Ventura County Employee's Retirement Board (VCERA).



## Newsletters and Website Traffic:

In September, we hit a landmark of 1 MILLION newsletter views in a 12-month period!

We have ~41,000 newsletter subscribers. Our Newsletters have an average open rate of 49%, which is 6% above the industry average. In that same 12-month period, our VCTA website saw ~13,600 visitors.



## VCTA Positions on County and State Issues:

We advocated on 25 issues between January and September of 2023!

We fought the Ventura Unified School Districts on School Bond issues, we opposed Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) at the City of Oxnard, VUSD, and the County of Ventura, we endorsed the Howard Jarvis "Taxpayer Accountability Act", we fought against ACA 1 & ACA 13—meant to fundamentally change Proposition 13, we supported Ventura County's decision regarding the 2040 general plan to breakout the contested language about agriculture and oil production, and much, much more.



VCTA will continue to grow our advocacy reach throughout 2024. We plan to take on new, more robust issues on behalf of the taxpayers next year. We will continue to monitor government actions to protect tax dollars. We will increase our educational outreach with our Breakfast Club and our Annual Membership Meeting. Finally, we will continue to build coalitions with other groups, both local and statewide, to further our goal of promoting the wise use of taxpayer funds.

It is time for YOU to become a member. Your Membership will directly support VCTA in our continued goal of maintaining and advancing meaningful action on behalf of the taxpayers of Ventura County.

**BECOME A MEMBER**  
[www.VCTA.org/membership](http://www.VCTA.org/membership)

