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El Dorado County, California

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates: 38.78°N 120.53°W

For the California wine region, see El Dorado AVA.

El Dorado County, officially the **County of El Dorado**, is a county in the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 181,058.[3] The county seat is Placerville.[5]

El Dorado County is part of the Sacramento-Roseville-Arden-Arcade, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is located entirely in the Sierra Nevada, from the historic Gold Country in the western foothills to the High Sierra in the east.

El Dorado County's population has grown as Greater Sacramento has expanded into the region. In the county's Lake Tahoe area, environmental awareness and environmental protection initiatives have grown along with the population since the 1960 Winter Olympics, hosted at Squaw Valley Ski Resort in neighboring Placer County.

El Dorado County, California

County

County of El Dorado

Images, from top down, left to right: A barn in El Dorado County, the shore of Lake Tahoe in Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, the South Fork American River running through the El Dorado hills, Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park

Flag Seal

Location in the state of California

California's location in the United States

Country	United States
State	California
Regions	Northern California, Sierra Nevada, Gold Country
Metropolitan area	Greater Sacramento
Incorporated	February 18, 1850[1]
Named for	Spanish for "the golden" and El Dorado
County seat	Placerville
Largest city	El Dorado Hills
Area	
• **Total**	1,786 sq mi (4,630 km²)
• **Land**	1,708 sq mi (4,420 km²)
• **Water**	78 sq mi (200 km²)
Highest elevation[2]	10,886 ft (3,318 m)
Population (April 1, 2010)[3]	
• **Total**	181,058
• **Estimate** (2019)[4]	192,843
• **Density**	100/sq mi (39/km²)
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific Time Zone)
• **Summer (DST)**	UTC−7 (Pacific Daylight Time)
ZIP code	95762
Area code	530, 916, 279
FIPS code	06-017
GNIS feature ID	277273
Website	www.edcgov.us

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History [edit]

Main articles: Sutter's Mill and California Gold Rush

What is now known as El Dorado County has been home to the Maidu, Washoe, and Miwok Indigenous American nations for centuries. The region became famous for being the site of the 1848 gold discovery that sparked the California Gold Rush.[6] The County of El Dorado was one of California's original 27 counties created effective February 18, 1850 (the number has risen to 58 today). Its name is derived from the Spanish meaning "the gilded/golden".[7]

The final segments of the Pony Express mail route ran through El Dorado County until its replacement with the telegraph service in 1861; U.S. Highway 50 follows the Pony Express route today.

- Mother lode
- James W. Marshall
- California Mining and Mineral Museum

Local landmarks:

- Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park
- Confidence Hall
- Fountain-Tallman Soda Works
- John Pearson Soda Works
- Combellack-Blair House
- Rubicon Point Light

The *Placerville Mountain Democrat*, California's oldest surviving newspaper, serves El Dorado County.

Government and policing [edit]

Policing [edit]

The El Dorado County Sheriff provides court protection, county jail administration, and coroner service for all of the county and provides patrol and detective services for the unincorporated areas of the county. Placerville, population 11,000, has a municipal police department, as does South Lake Tahoe, population 22,000.

Sheriffs [edit]

- James Hume (18 Feb 1850- 7 Nov 1852)
- Steven Charles Austin (7 Nov 1852- 7 Nov 1856)
- William Tanner Henson (7 Nov 1856- 15 Sep 1859) - Resigned
- Walter J. Burwell (15 Sep 1859- 15 Aug 1863) - Resigned
- Henry Gooding (15 Aug 1863- 7 Nov 1867)
- Jacob Hart Neff (7 Nov 1867- 7 Nov 1871)
- Charles Benjamin Dunnam (7 Niv 1871- 7 Nov 1875)
- Jason McCormick (7 Nov 1875- 7 Nov 1881)
- George Burnham (7 Nov 1881- 7 Nov 1883)
- Thomas Augustus Galt (7 Nov 1883- 7 Nov 1887)
- George H. Hilbert (7 Nov 1887- 7 Nov 1898)
- Archie Speer Bosquit (7 Nov 1898- 7 Nov 1907)
- Gilbert Cook (7 Nov 1907- 9 May 1912) - Suicide
- Albert George Bradshaw (9 May 1912- 7 Nov 1914)
- Charles E. Hand (7 Nov 1914- 7 Nov 1925)
- Charles F. Woods (7 Nov 1925- 7 Nov 1931)
- George Martin Smith Sr. 7 Nov 1931- 7 Nov 1941)
- Lowell Fred West (7 Nov 1941- 7 Nov 1949)
- Rowland Lee Morris (7 Nov 1949- 7 Nov 1955)
- Ernie Carlson (7 Nov 1955- 7 Nov 1965)
- Robert Mitchum (7 Nov 1965- 7 Nov 1971)
- Ernie Carlson (7 Nov 1971- 7 Nov 1975)
- Al Coombs (7 Nov 1975-7 Nov 1977)
- Richard "Dick" Pacileo (7 Nov 1977- 7 Nov 2001)
- Jeff Neves (7 Nov 2001- 7 Nov 2010)'
- John D'Agostini (7 Nov 2010-)

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 1,786 square miles (4,630 km²), of which 1,708 square miles (4,420 km²) is land and 78 square miles (200 km²) (4.4%) is water.[8]

The county, owing to its location in the Sierra Nevada, consists of rolling hills and mountainous terrain. The northeast corner is in the Lake Tahoe Basin (part of the Great Basin), including a portion of the lake itself. Across the Sierra crest to the west lies the majority of the county, referred to as the "western slope." A portion of Folsom Lake is in the northwest corner of the county.

Much of the county is public land. The Eldorado National Forest comprises a significant portion (approximately 43%) of the county's land area, primarily on the western slope. The Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, formerly part of the Eldorado and two other National Forests, manages much of the land east of the crest. The Pacific Crest Trail runs through the eastern part of the county, along or roughly paralleling the Sierra crest. The county is home to the Desolation Wilderness, a popular destination for hiking, backpacking, and fishing.

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Placer County - north
- Douglas County, Nevada - northeast
- Alpine County - southeast
- Amador County - south
- Sacramento County - southwest

Geographic features [edit]

- American River
- Carson Range
- Crystal Range
- Echo Lake
- Fallen Leaf Lake
- Folsom Lake
- Francis Lake
- Freel Peak[9] as its highest point at 10,886 feet (3,318 m)
- Gilmore Lake
- Green Springs Ranch
- Lake Tahoe
- Loon Lake
- Lost Lake
- Mount Price
- Mount Tallac
- Pyramid Lake
- Sierra Nevada
- Silver Peak
- Talking Mountain
- Union Valley Reservoir
- Waca Lake

Recreation [edit]

Parks [edit]

- D. L. Bliss State Park
- Desolation Wilderness
- Eagle Falls trailhead
- Eldorado National Forest
- Emerald Bay State Park
- Folsom Lake State Recreation Area
- Glen Alpine Springs trailhead
- Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park
- Pine Hill Ecological Reserve
- Tahoe National Forest

Skiing [edit]

- Heavenly Ski Resort
- Sierra-At-Tahoe Ski Resort

Racing [edit]

- Placerville Speedway

Wineries [edit]

- California Shenandoah Valley AVA
- El Dorado AVA
- Fair Play AVA
- Nello Olivo
- Sierra Foothills AVA
- https://eldoradowines.org/wineries.php

Demographics [edit]

2011 [edit]

Population, race, and income [show]

Places by population, race, and income [edit]

Places by population and race [show]

Places by population and income [show]

2010 [edit]

The 2010 United States Census reported that El Dorado County had a population of 181,058. The racial makeup of El Dorado County was 156,793 (86.6%) White, 1,409 (0.8%) African American, 2,070 (1.1%) Native American, 6,297 (3.5%) Asian, 294 (0.2%) Pacific Islander, 7,278 (4.0%) from other races, and 6,917 (3.8%) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 21,875 persons (12.1%).[21] The largest growth in the county has come in El Dorado Hills where the population grew by 24,092 residents to a total of 42,108 since 2000.[21]

Population reported at 2010 United States Census [show]

Historical population

Census	Pop.	%±
1850	20,057	—
1860	20,562	2.5%
1870	10,309	−49.9%
1880	10,683	3.6%
1890	9,232	−13.6%
1900	8,986	−2.7%
1910	7,492	−16.6%
1920	6,426	−14.2%
1930	8,325	29.6%
1940	13,229	58.9%
1950	16,207	22.5%
1960	29,390	81.3%
1970	43,833	49.1%
1980	85,812	95.8%
1990	125,955	46.8%
2000	156,299	24.1%
2010	181,058	15.8%
2019 (est.)	192,843 [4]	6.5%

U.S. Decennial Census[17]
1790–1960[18] 1900–1990[19]
1990–2000[20] 2010–2015[3]

2000 [edit]

As of the census[22] of 2000, there were 156,299 people, 58,939 households, and 43,025 families residing in the county. The population density was 91 people per square mile (35/km²). There were 71,278 housing units at an average density of 42 per square mile (16/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 89.7% White, 0.5% Black or African American, 1.0% Native American, 2.1% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 3.6% from other races, and 3.0% from two or more races. 9.3% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 14.9% were of German, 13.4% English, 10.3% Irish, 6.6% Italian and 6.6% American ancestry according to Census 2000. 90.5% spoke English and 6.5% Spanish as their first language.

There were 58,939 households, out of which 34.2% had youngsters under the age of 18 living with them, 60.1% were married couples living together, 8.9% had a female householder with no husband present, and 27.0% were non-families. 20.1% of all households were made up of individuals, and 7.3% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.63 and the average family size was 3.04.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 26.1% under the age of 18, 6.8% from 18 to 24, 27.8% from 25 to 44, 26.9% from 45 to 64, and 12.4% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39 years. For every 100 females, there were 99.5 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 97.3 males.

The 2000 census also states that the median income for a household in the county was $51,484, and the median income for a family was $60,250. Males had a median income of $46,373 versus $31,537 for females. The per capita income for the county was $25,560. About 5.0% of families and 7.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 7.6% of those under age 18 and 5.0% of those age 65 or over.

Politics [edit]

Voter registration statistics [edit]

Population and registered voters [show]

Cities by population and voter registration [edit]

Cities by population and voter registration [show]

Overview [edit]

El Dorado is a predominantly Republican county in presidential and congressional elections. However, from 1880 until 1952, the county was a Democratic stronghold, with Theodore Roosevelt and Warren Harding being the only two Republicans to carry the county. Since 1952, however, El Dorado has gone Democratic only three times: in 1960 narrowly for John F. Kennedy, in 1964 in a landslide for Lyndon Johnson, and in 1976 narrowly for Jimmy Carter.

Presidential election results [show]

Election results from statewide races

Year	Office	Results
2010	Governor	Whitman 56.2 - 38.6%
	Lieutenant Governor	Maldonado 55.6 - 32.8%
	Secretary of State	Dunn 53.5 - 37.4%
	Controller	Chiang 46.1 - 45.7%
	Treasurer	Walters 51.3 - 41.0%
	Attorney General	Cooley 60.4 - 29.4%
	Insurance Commissioner	Villines 53.6 - 33.8%

The county is noted as a center of political concern with the United Nations non-binding sustainable development plan Agenda 21, which was on the County Board of Supervisors meeting Agenda on May 15, 2012. Concerns included the threat of U.S. Forest Service road closures and traffic roundabouts.[25] On February 19, 2013, 14 members of the El Dorado County Grand Jury resigned, forcing Supervising Judge Steven Bailey to dissolve it.[26]

El Dorado County is in California's 4th congressional district, represented by Republican Tom McClintock.[27] In the State Assembly, the county is split between the 5th Assembly District, represented by Republican Frank Bigelow and the 6th Assembly District, represented by Republican Kevin Kiley.[28] In the State Senate, it is in the 1st Senate District, represented by Republican Brian Dahle.[29]

Crime [edit]

The following table includes the number of incidents reported and the rate per 1,000 persons for each type of offense.

Population and crime rates [show]

Cities by population and crime rates [edit]

Cities by population and crime rates [show]

Transportation [edit]

See also: Transportation in the Sacramento metropolitan area

Major highways [edit]

- 50 U.S. Route 50
- 49 State Route 49
- 89 State Route 89
- 193 State Route 193
- Luther Pass

Map of El Dorado County in Northern California

Public transportation [edit]

- El Dorado Transit[33] runs local service in Placerville and surrounding areas (as far east as Pollock Pines). Commuter service into Sacramento and Folsom is also provided.
- Tahoe Transportation District http://tahoetransportation.org/ is the transit operator for the South Lake Tahoe area. Service also runs into the state of Nevada.

Airports [edit]

General aviation airports include Placerville Airport, Georgetown Airport, Cameron Park airport and Lake Tahoe Airport.

Asbestos [edit]

Portions of El Dorado County are known to contain natural asbestos formations near the surface.[34] The USGS studied amphiboles in rock and soil in the area in response to an EPA sampling study and subsequent criticism of the EPA study. The study found that many amphibole particles in the area meet the counting rule criteria used by the EPA for chemical and morphological limits, but do not meet morphological requirements for commercial-grade-asbestos. The executive summary pointed out that even particles that do not meet requirements for commercial-grade-asbestos may be a health threat and suggested a collaborative research effort to assess health risks associated with naturally occurring asbestos.[35]

In 2003 after construction of the Oak Ridge High School (El Dorado Hills) soccer field, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry found that some student athletes, coaches and school workers had received substantial exposures. The inside of the school needed to be cleaned of dust.[34]

Sister relationships [edit]

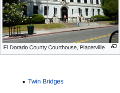
- ● Warabi, Saitama Prefecture, Japan is a sister municipality to El Dorado County, California on 26 March 1975.

[36]

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit]

- Placerville (county seat)
- South Lake Tahoe



El Dorado County Courthouse, Placerville

Census-designated places [edit]

- Auburn Lake Trails
- Cameron Park
- Camino
- Cold Springs
- Coloma
- Diamond Springs
- El Dorado Hills
- Georgetown
- Grizzly Flats
- Pollock Pines
- Shingle Springs
- Tahoma

Other unincorporated communities [edit]

- Camp Richardson
- Camp Sacramento
- Cool
- Echo Lake
- El Dorado
- Fair Play
- Garden Valley
- Greenwood
- Happy Valley
- Kyburz
- Meyers
- Omo Ranch
- Outingdale
- Phillips
- Pilot Hill
- Rescue
- Somerset
- Strawberry
- Twin Bridges

Population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of El Dorado County.[37]

† *county seat*

Rank	City/town/etc.	Municipal type	Population (2010 Census)
1	**El Dorado Hills**	CDP	42,108
2	**South Lake Tahoe**	City	21,403
3	**Cameron Park**	CDP	18,228
4	**Diamond Springs**	CDP	11,037
5	**† Placerville**	City	10,389
6	**Pollock Pines**	CDP	6,871
7	**Shingle Springs**	CDP	4,432
8	**Auburn Lake Trails**	CDP	3,426
9	**Georgetown**	CDP	2,367
10	**Camino**	CDP	1,750
11	**Tahoma** (*partially in Placer County*)	CDP	1,191
12	**Grizzly Flats**	CDP	1,066
13	**Coloma**	CDP	529
14	**Cold Springs**	CDP	446
15	**Shingle Springs Rancheria**[38]	AIAN	102

See also [edit]

- National Register of Historic Places listings in El Dorado County, California
- Hiking trails in El Dorado County
- *Placerville Mountain Democrat*

Notes [edit]

1. ^ Other = Some other race + Two or more races
2. ^ Native American = Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander + American Indian or Alaska Native
3. ^ a b Percentage of registered voters with respect to total population. Percentages of party members with respect to registered voters follow.

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External links [edit]

- Official website
- El Dorado County Deeds, 1873-1930.
- official El Dorado County Historical Museum website
- El Dorado Environmental air quality management - naturally occurring asbestos information
- El Dorado County Weather
- El Dorado County Visitors Authority
- Sierra Community Access Television
- El Dorado Western Railway Foundation blog - The railway is restoring the Diamond & Caldor No. 4 Shay locomotive at the El Dorado County Historical Museum.

Wikimedia Commons has media related to *El Dorado County, California*.

Places adjacent to El Dorado County, California [show]
V • T • E Municipalities and communities of El Dorado County, California, United States [show]
V • T • E Greater Sacramento [show]
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Categories: El Dorado County, California | California counties | Counties in the Sacramento metropolitan area | Sierra Nevada (U.S.) | 1850 establishments in California | Populated places established in 1850

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