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Placer County, California

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Placer County (/ˈplæsər/ PLASS-ər), officially the **County of Placer**, is a county located in the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 348,432.[1] The county seat is Auburn.[2]

Placer County is included in the Greater Sacramento metropolitan area. It is in both the Sacramento Valley and Sierra Nevada regions, in what is known as the Gold Country. The county stretches roughly 65 miles from Sacramento's suburbs at Roseville to the Nevada border and the shore of Lake Tahoe.

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Clockwise from top: Lake Tahoe from Kings Beach, Gold Country, Auburn City Hall, Roseville skyline, Lake Tahoe at Kings Beach

Placer County, California

County of Placer

Map showing Placer County in California

Coordinates: 39.06°N 120.73°W

Country	United States
State	California
Region	Sacramento Valley, Sierra Nevada
Metro area	Greater Sacramento
Incorporated	April 25, 1851[3]
Named for	Placer, a reference to placer mining a center of the California Gold Rush
County seat	Auburn
Largest city	Roseville
Area[4]	
• Total	1,932 sq mi (5,004 km²)
• Land	1,407 sq mi (3,644 km²)
• Water	525 sq mi (1,359 km²) 27.2%
Highest elevation[5]	9,544 ft (2,757 m)
Population (Jan 1, 2021)	
• Total	348,432
• Estimate (2019)[6]	398,329
• Density	230/sq mi (89/km²)
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific Time Zone)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (Pacific Daylight Time)
Area codes	530, 916, 279
FIPS code	06-061
GNIS feature ID	277298 ⓘ
Website	www.placer.ca.gov ⓘ

Location in the State of California

The location of California within the contiguous United States

Gold specimen from the Eagle's Nest Mine, a source of specimen gold in Placer County

Etymology [edit]

The discovery of gold in 1848 brought tens of thousands of miners from around the world during the California Gold Rush. In addition, many more thousands came to provide goods and services to the miners. Only three years after the discovery of gold, the first prominent mining was formed from portions of Sutter and Yuba counties. The new mining district was named placer. Placer County took its name from the Spanish word for sand or gravel deposits containing gold. Miners washed away the gravel, leaving the heavier gold. In a process known as "placer mining".

History [edit]

Gold mining was a major industry through the 1880s, but gradually the new residents turned to farming the fertile foothill soil, harvesting timber and serving the Southern Pacific Railroad. Auburn was settled when Claude Chana discovered gold in Auburn Ravine in May 1848 and later became a shipping and supply center for the surrounding gold camps. The cornerstone of Placer's beautiful courthouse, which is clearly visible from Interstate 80 through Auburn, was laid on July 4, 1894. The building itself was renovated during the late 1980s and continues to serve the public today with courtrooms, a historic sheriff's office and the Placer County Museum. Roseville, once a small agricultural center, became a major railroad center and grew to the county's most populous city after Southern Pacific Railroad moved its railroad switching yards there in 1906.

Loomis and Newcastle began as mining towns, but soon became centers of a booming fruit-growing industry, supporting many local packing houses. Penryn was founded by a Welsh miner, Griffith Griffith, who turned from mining to establish a large granite quarry. Rocklin began as a limestone kiln and quarry. Lincoln developed as a center of agriculture. Lincoln and Sheridan continue to support ranching and farming. Lincoln also is the home of one of the country's oldest businesses, the Gladding, McBean terra cotta clay manufacturing plant, established in 1875.

The 1960 Winter Olympics were hosted in Squaw Valley, which is located in Placer County.

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 1,932 square miles (1,890 km²), of which 1,407 square miles (3,640 km²) is land and 95 square miles (250 km²) (6.4%) is water.[7] Watercourses in Placer County include the American River and Bunch Creek. Lake Tahoe has about 40.8% of its surface area in Placer County, more than in any of the four other counties in the lake basin.[8]

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Nevada County - north
- Washoe County, Nevada - northeast
- Carson City, Nevada - east
- Douglas County, Nevada - southeast
- El Dorado County - south
- Sacramento County - southwest
- Sutter County - west
- Yuba County - northwest

National protected areas [edit]

- Eldorado National Forest in part
- Tahoe National Forest in part

Demographics [edit]

2011 [edit]

Population, race, and income [show]

Places by population, race, and income [show]

Places by population and race [show]

Places by population and income [show]

2010 [edit]

The 2010 United States Census reported that Placer County had a population of 348,432. The racial makeup of Placer County was 290,977 (83.5%) White, 4,751 (1.4%) African American, 3,011 (0.9%) Native American, 20,435 (5.9%) Asian, 779 (0.2%) Pacific Islander, 13,375 (3.8%) from other races, and 14,104 (4.1%) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 44,710 persons (12.8%).[10]

Population reported at 2010 United States Census [show]

2000 [edit]

As of the census[11] of 2000, there were 248,399 people, 93,382 households, and 67,701 families residing in the county. The population density was 177 people per square mile (68/km²). There were 107,302 housing units at an average density of 76 per square mile (29/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 88.6% White, 0.8% Black or African American, 0.9% Native American, 3.0% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 3.4% from other races, and 3.2% from two or more races. 9.7% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 15.5% were of German, 12.3% English, 9.8% Irish, 7.1% Italian and 7.0% American ancestry according to Census 2000. 89.7% spoke only English at home, 6.0% spoke Spanish.

There were 93,382 households, out of which 35.3% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.4% were married couples living together, 9.2% had a female householder with no husband present, and 27.5% were non-families. 21.3% of all households were made up of individuals, and 8.1% 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 3.06.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 26.5% under the age of 18, 6.9% from 18 to 24, 29.0% from 25 to 44, 24.5% from 45 to 64, and 13.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 38 years. For every 100 females, there were 96.4 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 94.8 males.

The median income for a household in the county was $57,535, and the median income for a family was $65,858 (these figures had risen to $68,453 and $80,587 respectively as of a 2007 estimate[12]). Males had a median income of $55,433 versus $33,763 for females. The per capita income for the county was $27,963. About 3.9% of families and 5.8% of the population were below the poverty line, including 8.3% of those under age 18 and 3.3% of those age 65 or over. Unemployment in the county is just under 7% which is considerably lower than the state's average.

Politics, government, and policing [edit]

Government [edit]

County government is by a five-person four-year term elected board of supervisors with a board-appointed county manager and his/her department administrators.

Law enforcement [edit]

The Placer County Sheriff's Office provides court protection, jail administration, and coroner services for all of Placer County. It provides patrol, detective, and other police services for the unincorporated areas of the county plus by contract to the city of Colfax and the town of Loomis.

Politics [edit]

Voter registration [edit]

Population and registered voters [show]

Cities by population and voter registration [show]

Overview [edit]

In its early history Placer County was solidly Republican. It voted Republican in every election between 1892 and 1952, when Bull Moose nominee Theodore Roosevelt was California's official Republican nominee.[13] Between 1916 and 1976, however, the county voted Republican only in three landslide elections of 1920, 1952 and 1972 – in all of which its GOP margins were much smaller than for the state or nation. Since the "Reagan Revolution" Placer County has become and remained a stronghold of the Republican Party; it consistently elects Republican public officials and has voted for presidential candidates from the party in every election since 1980.

Presidential elections results [show]

In the United States House of Representatives, Placer County is split between the 1st and 4th congressional districts,[14] represented by Doug LaMalfa (R-Richvale) and Tom McClintock (R-Elk Grove), respectively.[15]

In the California State Senate, Placer County is split between the 1st and 4th districts,[16] represented by Brian Dahle and Jim Nielsen, respectively.

In the California State Assembly, the county is split between the 1st, 5th, and 6th districts,[17] represented by Megan Dahle, Frank Bigelow, and Kevin Kiley, respectively.

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 [show]

Economy [edit]

Top employers [edit]

According to the county's 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report,[18] the top employers in the county are:

#	Employer	# of Employees
1	Kaiser Permanente	3,064
2	Hewlett-Packard	2,500
3	Placer County	2,400
4	Union Pacific Railroad	2,200
5	Sutter Health	1,983
6	Northstar at Tahoe	1,500
7	Thunder Valley Casino Resort	1,412
8	City of Roseville	1,282
9	PRIDE Industries	1,135
10	Raley's Supermarkets	1,006

mPOWER Placer [edit]

mPOWER Placer is Placer County's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program. It provides financing to commercial, industrial, agricultural and multifamily property owners to install energy efficiency, water conservation and renewable energy retrofits. The program, administered by the Placer County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office of, was approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 9, 2010, and launched on March 22, 2010, and is open to eligible Placer County property owners.

Transportation [edit]

See also: Transportation in the Sacramento metropolitan area

Major highways [edit]

- Interstate 80
- State Route 28
- State Route 49
- State Route 65
- State Route 89
- State Route 174
- State Route 267

Public transportation [edit]

- Placer County Transit provides basic bus service primarily along the I-80 corridor between Alta and the Walt Ave. Sacramento Regional Transit light rail station. PCT also runs commuter service to Downtown Sacramento.
- The cities of Auburn, Lincoln, and Roseville have their own local transit service. The city of Roseville also offers a commuter service to Sacramento.
- Gold Country Stage (Nevada County) provides a connection between Auburn and Grass Valley.
- Tahoe Truckee Area Regional Transit, operated by Placer County and the City of Truckee, operates in Truckee (Nevada County), Tahoe City and along the North Shore of Lake Tahoe to Incline Village, Nevada.
- Greyhound and Amtrak provide long-distance intercity service.

Airports [edit]

There are three general aviation airports in Placer County:

- Lincoln Regional Airport
- Auburn Airport
- Truckee-Tahoe Airport

The closest commercial airport is Sacramento International Airport in Sacramento.

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit]

- Auburn (county seat)
- Colfax
- Lincoln
- Rocklin
- Roseville

Towns [edit]

- Loomis

Census-designated places [edit]

- Alta
- Carnelian Bay
- Dollar Point
- Dutch Flat
- Foresthill
- Granite Bay
- Kings Beach
- Kingvale
- Meadow Vista
- Newcastle
- North Auburn
- Penryn
- Sheridan
- Sunnyside-Tahoe City
- Tahoe Vista
- Tahoma

Other communities [edit]

- Applegate
- Baxter
- Northstar
- Ophir
- Olympic Valley
- Weimar
- Emigrant Gap
- Blue Canyon

Ghost town [edit]

- Iowa Hill

Population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of Placer County.[19]

† county seat

Rank	CityTownetc.	Municipal type	Population (2010 Census)
1	Roseville	City	118,788
2	Rocklin	City	56,974
3	Lincoln	City	42,819
4	Granite Bay	CDP	28,402
5	† Auburn	City	13,330
6	North Auburn	CDP	13,022
7	Loomis	Town	6,430
8	Kings Beach	CDP	3,796
9	Meadow Vista	CDP	3,217
10	Colfax	City	1,963
11	Sunnyside-Tahoe City	CDP	1,587
12	Foresthill	CDP	1,483
13	Tahoe Vista	CDP	1,433
14	Sheridan	CDP	1,238
15	Newcastle	CDP	1,224
16	Dollar Point	CDP	1,215
17	Tahoma (partially in El Dorado County)	CDP	1,191
18	Penryn	CDP	831
19	Alta	CDP	610
20	Carnelian Bay	CDP	524
21	Dutch Flat	CDP	160
22	Kingvale (mostly in Nevada County)	CDP	143
23	Auburn-Ranchester[20]	AHM	0

See also [edit]

- Hiking trails in Placer County
- List of school districts in Placer County, California
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Placer County, California

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. ^ ↑ Percentage of registered voters with respect to total population. Percentages of party members with respect to registered voters follow.

References [edit]

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8. ^ ^ ^