Solano County, California

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Coordinates: 38°17'N 121°34'W

Solano County is a county located in the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 413,344.[1] The county seat is Fairfield.[2]

Solano County comprises the **Vallejo–Fairfield, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area**, which is also included in the San Jose–San Francisco–Oakland, CA Combined Statistical Area.[3] Solano County is the northeastern county in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area region.

A portion of the South Campus at the University of California, Davis is in Solano County.

Solano County, California

County

County of Solano

Images, from top down, left to right: The Solano County Courthouse in downtown Fairfield, Benicia Capitol State Historic Park, Suisun City, Marina, Military C-5 Aircraft based at Travis Air Force Base, Vacaville Hills

Location in the state of California

California's location in the United States

State	United States
State/Region	California Francisco Bay Area
Incorporated	February 18, 1850[1]
Named for	Francisco Solano, the Suisun people
County seat	Fairfield
Largest city	Vallejo (population) Fairfield (area)
Area	
• Total	906 sq mi (2,350 km²)
• Land	827 sq mi (2,140 km²)
• Water	84 mi (218 km²)
Highest elevation[2]	2,819 ft (860 m)
Population (April 1, 2010)[3]	
• Total	413,344
• Density (2010)[4]	447.64/sq mi (173/km²)
• Rank	460th in (1880s)[5]
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific Time Zone)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (Pacific Daylight Time)
Area code	707
FIPS code	06-095
GNIS feature ID	277252
Website	www.solanocounty.com

History [edit]

Solano County was one of the original counties of California, created in 1850 at the time of statehood.

As the request of General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the county was named for Chief Solano of the Suisun people, a Native American tribe of the region and Vallejo's close ally. Chief Solano at one time led the tribes between the Petaluma River and the Sacramento River. The chief was also called Sem-Yeto, which signifies "brave or fierce hawk." The Chief was given the Spanish name Francisco Solano during his baptism at the Catholic Mission, based in the present-day San Francisco mission, Father Francisco Solano.

"Solano" is a common surname in the north of Spain, especially in Navarra, Zaragoza and La Rioja.

Travis Air Force Base is located just east of Fairfield.

Region [edit]

Solano County is the easternmost county of the North Bay.[4] As such, it is sometimes reported by news agencies as being in the East Bay.[5][6][7] Additionally, a portion of the county extends into the Sacramento Valley, geographically.

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 906 square miles (2,350 km²), of which 822 square miles (2,130 km²) is land and 84 square miles (220 km²) (9.3%) is water.[8]

Solano County has several inactive cinnabar mines including the Hastings Mine and St. John's Mine.[9][10] both of which are subject to ongoing mercury discharge. These mines were worked in the first half of the twentieth century.

Flora and fauna [edit]

Solano County has a number of rare and endangered species including the beetle *Elaphrus viridis*, the wildflower *Lasthenia conjugens*, commonly known as Contra Costa goldfields and the annual plant *Legenere limosa* or False 'Venus' looking glass.

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Contra Costa County, California - south
- Sonoma County, California - west
- Napa County, California - west
- Yolo County, California - north
- Sacramento County, California - east

National protected area [edit]

- San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge (part)

Transportation [edit]

See also: Rail transportation in Solano County, California

Major highways [edit]

- Interstate 80
- Interstate 505
- Interstate 680
- Interstate 780
- State Route 12
- State Route 29
- State Route 37
- State Route 84
- State Route 113

Public transportation [edit]

Solano County is served by several transit agencies:

- SolTrans, formed as a merger between these two existing transit agencies:
  - Vallejo Transit, which used to also operate the Baylink Ferry to San Francisco
  - Benicia Breeze
- San Francisco Bay Ferry, with a terminal in Vallejo
- Fairfield and Suisun Transit
- Vacaville City Coach
- Rio Vista Delta Breeze

Each agency interconnects with each other, enabling transit trips throughout the county. Service also connects with BART stations in Contra Costa County. Transit links are provided to Napa, Yolo and Sacramento counties as well.

Greyhound and Amtrak provide long-distance intercity service.

Airports [edit]

General aviation airports in Solano County which are open to the public are the Nut Tree Airport and Rio Vista Municipal Airport.

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]

Demographics [edit]

A 2014 analysis by The Atlantic found Solano County to be the 5th most racially diverse county in the United States, behind Aleutians West Census Area and Aleutians East Borough in Alaska, Queens County in New York, and Alameda County in California.[19]

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

Places by population and income	[show]

2010 [edit]

The 2010 United States Census reported that Solano County had a population of 413,344. The racial makeup of Solano County was 219,751 (53.0%) White, 74,761 (18.1%) African American, 2,512 (0.6%) Native American, 60,473 (14.6%) Asian, 3,564 (0.9%) Pacific Islander, 43,235 (10.5%) from other races, and 31,268 (7.6%) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 99,356 persons (24.0%).[20] At 52.64% Filipino is the largest ancestry making up 12% of the population, Solano County has the largest percentage Filipino population of any county in the United States. [citation needed]

Population racial makeup reported at 2010 United States Census [show]

2000 [edit]

At the 2000 census there were 394,542 people, 130,403 households, and 97,411 families in the county. The population density was 476 people per square mile (184/km²). There were 134,513 housing units at an average density of 162 per square mile (63/km²). The racial makeup of the county was 56.4% White, 14.9% Black or African American, 0.8% Native American, 12.8% Asian, 0.8% Pacific Islander, 8.0% from other races, and 6.4% from two or more races. 12.5% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 8.5% were of German, 6.4% Irish and 6.5% English ancestry according to Census 2000. 75.7% spoke English, 12.1% Spanish and 6.6% Tagalog as their first language.[21] Of the 130,403 households 39.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.7% were married couples living together, 13.6% had a female householder with no husband present, and 25.3% were non-families. 19.6% of households were one person and 6.5% were one person aged 65 or older. The average household size was 2.80 and the average family size was 3.13.

The age distribution was 28.3% under the age of 18, 9.2% from 18 to 24, 31.3% from 25 to 44, 21.7% from 45 to 64, and 9.5% 65 or older. The median age was 34 years. For every 100 females there were 101.5 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 100.2 males.

The median household income was $54,099 and the median family income was $60,597. Males had a median income of $41,787 versus $31,916 for females. The per capita income for the county was $21,731. About 6.1% of families and 8.3% of the population were below the poverty line, including 10.3% of those under age 18 and 6.3% of those age 65 or over.

Government and politics [edit]

Government [edit]

Main article: Government of Solano County, California

The Government of Solano County is defined and authorized under the California Constitution and law as a general law county. The County government provides countywide services such as elections and voter registration, law enforcement, jails, vital records, property records, tax collection, public health, and social services. In addition the County serves as the local government for all unincorporated areas.

The County government is composed of the elected five-member Board of Supervisors, several other elected officials including the Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, Assessor/Recorder, Auditor-Controller, and Treasurer/Tax Collector/County Clerk, and numerous county departments and entities under the supervision of the County Administrator. As of January 2013 the members of the Solano County Board of Supervisors were:

- Erin Hannigan, District 1, Vice-Chairwoman
- Monica Brown, District 2
- Jim Spering, District 3
- John Vasquez, District 4, Chairman
- Skip Thomson, District 5

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]

Since 1932, Solano County has been a Democratic stronghold in presidential and congressional elections, with Californians Richard Nixon in 1972 and Ronald Reagan in 1980 and 1984 being the only Republicans to win the county since.

Presidential election results [show]

Solano County is split between California's 3rd and 5th congressional districts, represented by John Garamendi (D–Walnut Grove) and Mike Thompson (D–St. Helena), respectively.[26] In the California State Assembly, Solano County is split between the 4th Assembly District, represented by Democrat Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, and the 11th Assembly District, represented by Democrat Jim Frazier. In the California State Senate, it is in the 3rd Senate District, represented by Democrat Bill Dodd.[27]

On November 6, 2008, Solano County voted 55.82% in favor of Proposition 8, which amended the California Constitution to ban same-sex marriages. It was the only Bay Area county to approve the initiative.[28] In the 2008 presidential election that day, Barack Obama carried the county by a 28.5% margin over John McCain, a larger margin than statewide (24%).[29]

According to the California Secretary of State, as of February 10, 2019, Solano County has 238,628 registered voters. Of those, 106,452 (45.1%) are registered Democrats, 50,008 (21.2%) are registered Republicans, and 68,558 (28.2%) have declined to state a political party.[30] Democrats hold voter registration advantages in all incorporated cities and towns in Solano County. However, Republicans lead in registration in the unincorporated communities of the county (40%-35%), making Solano the only county in the Bay Area where Republicans out-number Democrats in unincorporated communities. The Democratic largest registration advantage in Solano is in the city of Vallejo, wherein there are only 6,242 Republicans (14.6%) out of 56,313 total voters compared to 33,753 Democrats (59.9%) and 12,157 voters who have declined to state a political party (21.6%).

Communities [edit]

Cities [edit]

- Benicia
- Dixon
- Fairfield (county seat)
- Rio Vista
- Suisun City
- Vacaville
- Vallejo

Census-designated places [edit]

- Allendale
- Elmira
- Green Valley
- Hartley

Other unincorporated communities [edit]

- Bahia
- Birds Landing
- Buckhorn
- Collinsville
- Cordelia
- Maine Prairie
- Rockville
- Scandia

Population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of Solano County.[26]

† county seat

Rank	Settlement	Municipal type	Population (2010 census)
1	**Vallejo**	City	115,942
2	**† Fairfield**	City	105,321
3	**Vacaville**	City	92,428
4	**Suisun City**	City	28,111
5	**Benicia**	City	26,997
6	**Dixon**	City	18,351
7	**Rio Vista**	City	7,360
8	**Hartley**	CDP	2,510
9	**Green Valley**	CDP	1,625
10	**Allendale**	CDP	1,506
11	**Elmira**	CDP	188

Miscellania [edit]

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- In 1985 Humphrey the humpback whale strayed off his migration route and ended up in Shag Slough north of Rio Vista. Rescuers from the Marine Mammal Center and other volunteers dismantled a county bridge before being able to turn him around in the narrow slough.

See also [edit]

- 1892 Vacaville–Winters earthquakes
- List of counties in California
- List of school districts in Solano County, California
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Solano County, California
- Solano County Library

San Francisco Bay Area portal

Notes [edit]

1. ^ Only larceny-theft cases involving property over $400 in value are reported as property crimes.
2. ^ Other = Some other race + Two or more races.
3. ^ Native American = Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander + American Indian or Alaska Native
4. ^ ^ Percentage of registered voters with respect to total population. Percentages of party members with respect to registered voters follow.
5. ^ This total comprises 1,201 votes for Progressive Theodore Roosevelt (who was official Republican candidate in California), 781 votes for Socialist Eugene V. Debs and 108 votes for Prohibition Party nominee Eugene W. Chafin.

References [edit]

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12. ^ ^ ^