Tuolumne County, California

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Coordinates: 38°02′N 119°54′W

Tuolumne County (/tjuˈɑːlᵊmnɪ/ tjuu-AHL-ə-mə-nee), officially the **County of Tuolumne**, is a county in the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 54,539.[1] The county seat and only incorporated city is Sonora.[2]

Tuolumne County comprises the Sonora, CA Micropolitan Statistical Area. The county is in the Sierra Nevada region.

The northern half of Yosemite National Park is located in the eastern part of the county.

Tuolumne County, California

County

County of Tuolumne

Images, from top down, left to right: the Tuolumne County Courthouse in Sonora, a shop in Columbia State Historic Park, Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park

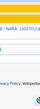
Flag | Seal

Location in the state of California

Californians located in the United States

Country	United States
State	California
Regions	Sierra Nevada, Gold Country
Incorporated	February 15, 1850[3]
County seat	Sonora
Largest city	Sonora
County government	
• County Administrator	Tracie Riggs[4]
• Body	Board of Supervisors
Area	
• Total	4,218 sq mi (10,925 km²)
• Land	4,218 sq mi (11,180 km²)
• Water	52.7 sq mi (136.6 km²)
Population (April 1, 2010)[5]	
• Total	51,480
• Estimate (2018)[6]	53,924
• Density	12/sq mi (4.7/km²)
Time zone	UTC-8 (Pacific Time Zone)
• Summer (DST)	UTC-7 (Pacific Daylight Time)
Website	www.co.tuolumne.ca.us ☑

Very fine old crystalline gold specimen, most likely from Tuolumne County. Sold in the 1980s for $65, more recently for $12,500. Published twice.[7]



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Etymology [edit]

The name *Tuolumne* is of Native American origin and has been given different meanings, such as Many Stone Houses, The Land of Mountain Lions, and Straight Up Stem. It was the latter an interpretation of William Fuller, a native Chief.[8] Manuel Vallejo, in his report to the first California State Legislature, said that the word is "a corruption of the Native American word talamalumne which signifies 'cluster of stone wigwams.'" The name may mean 'people who dwell in stone houses,' i.e., in caves.

History [edit]

Tuolumne County Boundaries

One of California's original 27 counties, Tuolumne was organized in 1850.

Prior to the official naming of counties by the state, Tuolumne was sometimes referred to as Oro County.[citation needed]

The original limits of Tuolumne County were not long established in 1854 and the portion of Tuolumne County that extended west into the San Joaquin Valley was reorganized as Stanislaus County. In 1864 a number of the original counties including Tuolumne were slightly reduced in size as the establishment of Alpine County to the northeast. With the State's Adoption of the Political Code in 1872 the current boundaries of Tuolumne County were largely established as shown in the maps below.

Geography [edit]

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 2,274 square miles (5,890 km²), of which 2,221 square miles (5,750 km²) is land and 54 square miles (140 km²) (2.4%) is water.[9] A California Department of Forestry document reports Tuolumne County's 1,658,812 acres (4,172,55 km²) include federal lands such as Yosemite National Park, Stanislaus National Forest, Bureau of Land Management lands, and Indian reservations. Notable landforms in the county include Table Mountain.

Special Districts [edit]

Special districts in Tuolumne County include:

- Bellevue Elementary School District
- Big Oak Flat-Groveland Unified School District
- Chinese Camp Elementary School District
- Columbia Fire District
- Columbia Union Elementary School District
- Curtis Creek Elementary School District
- Groveland Community Services District
- Jamestown Elementary School District
- Jamestown Fire District
- Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine Fire Protection District
- Sonora Elementary School District
- Sonora Union High School District
- Southside/Twain Elementary School District
- Strawberry Fire District
- Summerville Elementary School District#
- Summerville Union High School District
- Tuolumne County Air Pollution Control District
- Tuolumne County Water District No. 1
- Tuolumne Fire District
- Tuolumne Regional Water District
- Tuolumne Utilities District
- Twain Harte Fire District
- Twain Harte-Long Barn Union Elementary School District
- Yosemite Community College District

Adjacent counties [edit]

- Alpine County, California - north
- Calaveras County, California - northwest
- Stanislaus County, California - southwest
- Mariposa County, California - south
- Madera County, California - southeast
- Mono County, California - east
- Merced County, California - southwest

National protected areas [edit]

- Stanislaus National Forest (part)
- Yosemite National Park (part)

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) [edit]

- Red Hills (Tuolumne County)

Transportation [edit]

Major highways [edit]

- California State Route 49
- California State Route 108
- California State Route 120

Public transportation [edit]

Tuolumne County Transit bus routes radiate from Sonora to serve most of the county. In Columbia, a connection can be made to Calaveras County Transit. Yosemite Area Regional Transportation System (YARTS) makes a single daily round trip from Sonora into Yosemite Valley during summer months only. YARTS is set to begin a second daily round trip in June 2013. For details visit www.yarts.com or tuolumnecountytransit.com. There is no public transportation into or out of Tuolumne County that connects to any of the closest metropolitan areas.

Airports [edit]

Columbia Airport and Pine Mountain Lake Airport are both general aviation airports located in the Southwest and Northwest corners of the county 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 [edit]

Cities by population and crime rates [show]

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 Tuolumne County had a population of 55,365. The racial makeup of Tuolumne County was 48,274 (87.2%) White, 1,143 (2.0%) African American, 1,039 (1.9%) Native American, 572 (1.0%) Asian, 78 (0.1%) Pacific Islander, 2,238 (4.0%) from other races, and 2,023 (3.7%) from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 5,918 persons (10.7%).[22]

Population reported at 2010 United States Census [show]

2000 [edit]

As of the census[23] of 2000, there were 54,501 people, 21,004 households, and 14,240 families residing in the county. The population density was 24/km² (62/mi²). There were 28,158 housing units at an average density of 5/km² (13/mi²). The racial makeup of the county was 89.5% White, 2.1% Black or African American, 1.8% Native American, 0.7% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 2.9% from other races, and 2.8% from two or more races. 8.2% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race. 94.7% spoke English and 3.5% Spanish as their first language.

There were 21,004 households, out of which 26.1% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.4% were married couples living together, 9.6% had a female householder with no husband present, and 32.2% were non-families. 26.0% of all households were made up of individuals, and 11.70% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.36 and the average family size was 2.82.

In the county, the population was spread out, with 20.7% under the age of 18, 7.6% from 18 to 24, 25.3% from 25 to 44, 27.3% from 45 to 64, and 18.9% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 43 years. For every 100 females there were 111.50 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 112.20 males.

The median income for a household in the county was $38,725, and the median income for a family was $44,327. Males had a median income of $35,373 versus $25,805 for females. The per capita income for the county was $21,015. About 8.1% of families and 11.4% of the population were below the poverty line, including 16.2% of those under age 18 and 6.0% of those age 65 or over.

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1850	8,351	—
1860	16,229	94.3%
1870	8,150	−49.8%
1880	7,848	−3.7%
1890	6,082	−22.5%
1900	11,166	83.6%
1910	9,979	−10.6%
1920	7,768	−22.2%
1930	9,271	19.3%
1940	10,887	17.4%
1950	12,584	15.6%
1960	14,404	14.5%
1970	22,169	53.9%
1980	33,928	53.0%
1990	48,456	42.8%
2000	54,501	12.5%
2010	55,365	1.6%
2019 (est.)	54,478[24]	−1.6%

U.S. Decennial Census[25]
1790–1960[26] 1980–1990[27]
1990–2000[28] 2010–2019[29]

County Government and Policing [edit]

The Government of Tuolumne County is established and defined by the California Constitution and is a five-member elected Board Of Supervisors who serve four year elected terms. The government provides services such as elections and voter registration, law enforcement, jails, vital records, property records, tax collection, public health, and social services. The Board is government for all unincorporated areas. The county seat Sonora is the only incorporated city in Tuolumne County.

Sheriff [edit]

The Tuolumne County Sheriff provides court protection, jail administration, and coroner services for the entire county with 55,000 population. It provides patrol and detective services for the unincorporated areas of the county.

Municipal police [edit]

Municipal police department in the county is: Sonora, population 5,000.

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]

Tuolumne county tends to vote Republican in Presidential and congressional elections. The last Democrat to win the county was Bill Clinton in 1992. In the 2008 presidential election, 14,866 votes were counted for John McCain with former president Barack Obama receiving 11,532 votes.[30]

Presidential elections results [show]

Tuolumne County is in California's 4th congressional district, represented by Republican Tom McClintock.[31] In the state legislature Tuolumne is in the 5th Assembly district, which is held by Republican Frank Bigelow, and the 8th Senate district, which is held by Republican Andreas Borgeas.

Communities [edit]

City [edit]

- Sonora (county seat)

Census-designated places [edit]

- Cedar Ridge
- Chinese Camp
- Cold Springs
- Columbia
- East Sonora
- Groveland
- Jamestown
- Long Barn
- Mi-Wuk Village
- Mono Vista
- Phoenix Lake
- Pine Mountain Lake
- Sierra Village
- Strawberry
- Tuolumne
- Tuttletown
- Twain Harte
- Soulsbyville

Unincorporated communities [edit]

- Blanchard
- Buchanan
- Bundeleke
- Confidence
- Dardanelle
- Deadwood
- Mather
- Moccasin
- Pinecrest
- Priest
- Standard

Population ranking [edit]

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of Tuolumne County.[29]

†: county seat

Rank ♦	City/Town/etc. ♦	Municipal type ♦	Population (2010 Census) ♦
1	† **Sonora**	CDP	4,653
2	**Phoenix Lake**	CDP	4,010
3	**Jamestown**	CDP	3,433
4	**Mono Vista**	CDP	3,127
5	**Pine Mountain Lake**	CDP	2,796
6	**Columbia**	CDP	2,297
7	**East Sonora**	CDP	2,266
8	**Twain Harte**	CDP	2,226
9	**Soulsbyville**	CDP	2,215
10	**Tuolumne City**	CDP	1,779
11	**Cedar Ridge**	CDP	1,132
12	**Mi-Wuk Village**	CDP	941
13	**Tuttletown**	CDP	568
14	**Groveland**	CDP	601
15	**Sierra Village**	CDP	456
16	**Tuolumne Rancheria**[29]	AIAN	185
17	**Cold Springs**	CDP	181
18	**Long Barn**	CDP	155
19	**Chinese Camp**	CDP	126
20	**Strawberry**	CDP	126
21	**Chicken Ranch Rancheria**[29]	AIAN	91

See also [edit]

- National Register of Historic Places listings in Tuolumne County, California

Notes [edit]

- † Only factory-built cases involving property over $400 in value are reported as property crimes.
- ♦ Other = Some other race + Two or more races.
- ‡ Native American = Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander + American Indian or Alaska Native
- ## Percentage of registered voters with respect to total population. Percentages of party members with respect to registered voters follow.

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Further reading [edit]

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External links [edit]

- Official website ☑
- Tuolumne County Economic Development Authority's Web Site☑

Wikimedia Commons has media related to Tuolumne County, California.

Places adjacent to Tuolumne County, California [show]

Municipalities and communities of Tuolumne County, California, United States [show]

State of California [show]

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Categories: Tuolumne County, California | 1850 establishments in California | California counties | Populated places established in 1850

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