Alameda County, California

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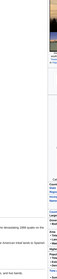
Alameda County (/ˌæləˈmiːdə/ AL-ə-MEE-də) is located in the state of California in the United States. As of the 2010 census, the population was 1,510,271,[1] making it the 7th most populous county in the 58 and 19th most populous statewide. The county seat is Oakland.[2] Alameda County is included in the San Francisco Bay Area, occupying much of the East Bay region.

Alameda County is known as the birthplace of the state's major civil rights movement. The county was originally home to the Ohlone people. Its fertile soil and sunnier clime along the banks of the rich watershed of the San Francisco Bay estuary attracted settlers from the eastern United States and Europe during the California Gold Rush. The name of the principal estate that flowed into the county is now simply "Alameda Creek."

Alameda County is included in the San Francisco–Oakland–Berkeley, CA Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is also included in the San Jose–San Francisco–Oakland, CA Combined Statistical Area.



Alameda County	
County of California	
Flag	Seal
Nickname(s): The Town	
Motto: Eden's Gateway	
Location within the state of California	
Country	United States
State	California
Region	San Francisco Bay Area
Incorporated	February 18, 1853
County seat	Oakland
Largest city	Oakland
Government	
• Body	Alameda County Board of Supervisors
Area	
• Total	821 sq mi (2,127 km²)
• Land	738 sq mi (1,910 km²)
• Water	83 sq mi (220 km²) 10.1%
Highest elevation[3]	3,849 ft (1,173 m)
Population (2010)	
• Total	1,510,271
• Density	1,800/sq mi (700/km²)
Time zone	UTC−8 (Pacific)
• Summer (DST)	UTC−7 (PDT)
Area codes	510, 925
FIPS code	06-001
GNIS feature ID	1675854
Website	www.acgov.org

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History

The county was formed on March 25, 1853, from a large portion of Contra Costa County and a smaller portion of Santa Clara County.

The county seat at the time of the county's formation was located at Alvarado, now part of Union City. In 1854, it was moved to San Leandro, where the county courthouse was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire. The county seat was then moved to Oakland, where it has been since 1872. In 1873, Brooklyn was annexed to Oakland, and in 1909, Oakland annexed Berkeley.

Much of what is now Alameda County's urban region was initially developed as a trolley car suburb of San Francisco in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The historical progression from historic American ethnic bands to Spanish-speaking Latino communities is also evident in Alameda County, as is a dramatic growth in the adjacent and closely associated Contra Costa County.

Events

The annual county fair is held in Pleasanton. The fair runs for four weekends from June to July. Entertainment includes racing, carnival rides, 4-H exhibits, and live bands.

Geography

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 821 square miles (2,130 km²), of which 738 square miles (1,910 km²) (10%) is land and 83 square miles (220 km²) (10%) is water.[4] The San Francisco Bay and San Leandro Bay are prominent features of the county.

The Alameda County Water District serves the southern portion of the county, including Fremont, Newark and Union City, and a small portion of Hayward. The Zone 7 Water Agency serves the eastern portion of the county, including Pleasanton, Livermore, Dublin and a small portion of Sunol.

The Hayward Fault, a major feature of the San Andreas Fault to the west, runs through the most populated parts of Alameda County and the Oakland Fault runs through the southwestern part of the county.

Neighboring counties

- Santa Clara County (south)
- San Francisco, California, borders the county on the west, and has a small land border with the city of Alameda. California is the land to the east.[5]
- San Mateo County (southwest)
- Contra Costa County (northeast)
- Stanislaus County (southeast)

National protected area

- San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (part)

Demographics

A 2014 analysis by The Atlantic found Alameda County to be the fourth most racially diverse county in the United States—behind Aleutians West Census Area and Aleutians East Borough in Alaska, and Queens County in New York—as well as the most diverse in California.[6]

2011

Population, race, and income [show]

Places by population, race, and income [show]

Places by population and race [show]

2010

The 2010 United States Census reported that Alameda County had a population of 1,510,271. The population density was 2,047.0 people per square mile (790.0/km²). The racial makeup of Alameda County was 845,122 (55.9%) White, 186,481 (12.3%) African American, 5,766 (0.4%) Native American, 394,560 (26.1%) Asian (8.2% Asian Indian, 5.1% Filipino, 4.3% Chinese, 1.2% Korean, 1.0% Japanese, 2.2% Other Asian), 9,810 (0.6%) Pacific Islander, 72,526 (4.8%) from other races, and 46,006 (3.0%) from two or more races. Hispanics or Latinos of any race were 187,789 persons (12.4%): 7.6% Mexican, 0.6% Puerto Rican, 0.6% Cuban, 3.5% Other Hispanic.[7]

Historical population		
Census	Pop.	%±
1860	8,927	—
1870	24,237	171.5%
1880	32,976	36.0%
1890	48,349	46.6%
1900	130,197	169.3%
1910	246,131	89.1%
1920	344,150	39.8%
1930	474,883	38.0%
1940	513,011	8.0%
1950	740,315	44.3%
1960	908,209	22.7%
1970	1,073,184	18.2%
1980	1,105,379	3.0%
1990	1,279,182	15.7%
2000	1,443,741	12.9%
2010	1,510,271	4.6%
2018 (est.)	1,671,329[8]	10.7%

The median income for a household in the county was $65,942, and the median income for a family was $80,307 (these figures had risen to $82,868 and $101,466 respectively as of a 2007 estimate[9]). Males had a median income of $47,425 versus $40,625 for females. The per capita income for the county was $34,135. About 7.9% of families and 11.9% of the population were below the poverty line, including 15.5% of those under age 18 and 7.6% of those age 65 or over.

In the county, the population was spread out with 24.0% under the age of 18, 9.2% from 18 to 24, 33.3% from 25 to 44, 22.1% from 45 to 64, and 11.4% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 36 years. For every 100 females there were 96.8 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 94.5 males.

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2000

As of the census[10] of 2000, there were 1,443,741 people, 529,183 households, out of which 32.5% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 47.0% married couples living together, 12.0% had a female householder with no husband present, and 35.9% were non-families. 26.0% of all households were made up of individuals, and 7.7% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.71 and the average family size was 3.32.

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The median income for a household in the county was $52,289, and the median income for a family was $61,017. Males had a median income of $40,625 versus $34,135 for females. The per capita income for the county was $25,858. About 7.9% of families and 11.9% of the population were below the poverty line, including 15.5% of those under age 18 and 7.6% of those age 65 or over.

Racial composition as of 2000	
White	58.9%
Black or African American	12.6%
Native American	0.5%
Asian	21.0%
Pacific Islander	0.6%
Other race	3.9%
Two or more races	2.5%

In 2009, the county estimated the population to be 1,529,744.[11]

The racial and ethnic composition of Alameda County was 58.9% White, 12.6% Black or African American, 0.5% Native American, 21.0% Asian, 0.6% Pacific Islander, 3.9% from other races, and 2.5% from two or more races. 12.4% of the population were Hispanic or Latino of any race.

The largest ancestry groups in Alameda County are Mexican (8.0%), Irish (7.8%), German (6.8%), English (6.5%), Italian (3.2%), Filipino (3.1%), Portuguese (2.1%), Chinese (2.1%), Scottish (1.6%), and French (except Basque) (1.5%).[12]

2010 United States Census American Community Survey estimates

According to 2010 US Census estimates, Alameda County's population was 38.9% White (29.3% Non-Hispanic White and 7.7% Hispanic White), 12.3% Black or African American, 26.8% Asian, 0.6% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 4.8% Pacific Islander and Other Race, and 3.0% from two or more races.[13]

The White population increase is the largest racial category in Alameda County and the 5th for all of Hispanics who self-identify as White. The remainder of Hispanics self-identify as Some Other Race (63.6%), American Indian and Native Alaskan (1.3%), Black (0.9%), Asian (0.7%), and Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (0.2%).[14]

If Hispanics are treated as a separate category race, Alameda County's population was 30.9% White, 30.9% Asian, 12.3% Hispanic Latino, 12.3% Black or African American, 3.3% Some Other Race, 0.6% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0.4% Pacific Islander and 0.4% from two or more races.[15]

Asian Americans remain the largest minority group in Alameda County, including Asian Hispanics in all 5% (according Asian Hispanics).[16]

By ethnicity, 22.4% of the total population is Hispanic Latino (of any race) and 77.6 % is Non-Hispanic of any race. Alameda County's population was 30.9% White, 30.9% Asian, 12.3% Hispanic Latino, 12.3% Black or African American, 3.3% Some Other Race, 0.6% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, 0.4% Pacific Islander and 0.4% from two or more races.[17]

Law, government and politics

Government

Alameda County is governed by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

The Government of Alameda County is defined and activated under the California Constitution, California law, and the Charter of the County of Alameda.[18] Much of the Government of California is the responsibility of county governments, such as the Government of Alameda County, while municipalities such as the city of Oakland and the city of Berkeley provide additional, often not-overlapping services. The County government provides countywide services such as law enforcement (the Alameda County Sheriff's Office), jails, vital records (birth certificates, marriage licenses, property records), elections and voter registration, and many health services.

It is composed of the elected five member Alameda County Board of Supervisors and an elected District Attorney. The five elected Supervisors comprise the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, whose primary responsibilities include unincorporated areas of the county and cities within the county which contract with the Sheriff's Office for police services, providing security and law enforcement for county buildings (courthouses, juvenile detention facilities, etc.), and coroner services. Other elected officials include the Assessor, Auditor-Controller/County Clerk/Recorder, Treasurer/Tax Collector, and Alameda County Superintendent of Schools. Elected officials are listed on the County's website.[19] The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is charged by the California Constitution with governing the county. The Board of Supervisors is composed of five supervisors elected to four-year terms from districts of approximately equal population. Terms are staggered, with elections occurring every two years. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is responsible for the budget of Alameda County Government. The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is responsible for preparing the budget.[20] The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is charged by the California Constitution with governing the county. The Board of Supervisors is composed of five supervisors elected to four-year terms from districts of approximately equal population. Terms are staggered, with elections occurring every two years. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is responsible for the budget of Alameda County Government. The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is responsible for preparing the budget.[21] Nate Miley is currently the President of the Board of Supervisors.[22]

The current supervisors are:[23]

- Scott Haggerty, district 1
- Richard Valle, district 2
- Wilma Chan, district 3
- Nate Miley, district 4, and
- Keith Carson, district 5.

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office provides all meetings of the Board and appoints committees to handle work involving the major programs in the county. The Sheriff's Office is a meeting, the vice president must be appointed. A Board election occurs every two years in November.

The county's law enforcement is overseen by an elected Sheriff/Coroner and an elected District Attorney. The Sheriff's Office provides the responsibilities of the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, whose primary responsibilities include unincorporated areas of the county and cities within the county which contract with the Sheriff's Office for police services, providing security and law enforcement for county buildings (courthouses, juvenile detention facilities, etc.), and coroner services. Other elected officials include the Assessor, Auditor-Controller/County Clerk/Recorder, Treasurer/Tax Collector, and Alameda County Superintendent of Schools. Elected officials are listed on the County's website.[24] The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is charged by the California Constitution with governing the county. The Board of Supervisors is composed of five supervisors elected to four-year terms from districts of approximately equal population. Terms are staggered, with elections occurring every two years. The Alameda County Board of Supervisors is responsible for the budget of Alameda County Government. The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is responsible for preparing the budget.[25] Nate Miley is currently the President of the Board of Supervisors.[26]

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Since 2004, Alameda has been considered a bellwether county in presidential elections. From 1952 to 2004, the county supported the Republican candidate in every election except 1964 (Democrat Lyndon Johnson) and 1996 (Democrat Bill Clinton). In 2008, Democrat Barack Obama received 79% of the county's vote, far above George W. Bush's 2004 win by less than 4 points. Bush in 2004 was the last Republican to win 40% of the vote (receiving 40.6%).[28]

State and federal representation

In the California State Assembly, Alameda County is split between five districts:

- the 14th Assembly District, represented by Democrat Tony Thurmond
- the 15th Assembly District, represented by Democrat Rob Bonta
- the 16th Assembly District, represented by Democrat Kansen Chu
- the 18th Assembly District, represented by Democrat Bill Quirk
- the 20th Assembly District, represented by Democrat Alex Lee.[29]

In the California State Senate, the county is split between three districts:

- the 7th Senate District, represented by Democrat Steve Glazer,
- the 9th Senate District, represented by Democrat Nancy Skinner, and
- the 10th Senate District, represented by Democrat Bob Wieckowski.

In the United States House of Representatives, the county is split between four districts:

- California 13th congressional district, represented by Democrat Barbara Lee,
- California 14th congressional district, represented by Democrat Eric Swalwell, and
- California 17th congressional district, represented by Democrat Ro Khanna.[30]

Politics

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Presidential election results [show]

The California Secretary of State, as of February 10, 2019, states that there are 893,942 registered voters in Alameda County. Of those registered voters, 49.8% (445,274) are registered to vote Democrat parties, 16.6% (148,454) are registered to vote Republican parties, and 33.6% (300,214) are registered to vote other parties.[32]

On November 4, 2008 Alameda County voted 61.92% against Proposition 8, which was statewide, and which amended the California Constitution to bar same-sex marriage. The county garnered the sixth highest "no" vote, by percentage, of the 58 counties in California.[33]

Voter registration statistics [show]

Population and registered voters [show]

Cities by population and voter registration [show]

Cities by population and voter registration [show]

Crime

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]

Cities by population and crime rates [show]

Education

The Alameda County Office of Education[34] oversees seventeen K-12 school districts and also is the district of Alameda County. In all, there are approximately 15,000 students across 226,000 students. The school districts serve a total enrollment of approximately 226,000 students.[35]

The Alameda County Library operates libraries in the cities of Albany, Dublin, Fremont, Newark and Union City and the unincorporated areas of Castro Valley and San Lorenzo. The cities of Alameda, Berkeley, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, San Leandro, and Pleasanton have their own library systems.

Colleges and universities

Alameda County is home to the University of California, Berkeley, the flagship campus of the University of California system, and one of the largest and most prestigious research universities in the world.

Other colleges and universities located within Alameda county include:

- Alameda City College
- California State University, East Bay, one of the campuses of the California State University system
- Chabot College, a community college, part of the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
- College of Alameda, a community college, part of the Peralta Community College District
- Ecumenical College for Spirit Arts
- Graduate Theological Union, a consortium of seven Bay Area seminaries, part of the University of California, Berkeley
- Holy Names University
- Las Positas College, a community college, part of the Peralta Community College system
- Las Positas College
- Merritt College, a two-year community college, part of the Peralta Community College system
- Ohlone College, a community college, part of the Ohlone Community College District
- Samuel Merritt University

School districts (K–12)

- Alameda Unified School District
- Albany City Unified School District
- Berkeley Unified School District
- Castro Valley Unified School District
- Dublin Unified School District
- Emery Unified School District
- Fremont Unified School District
- Hayward Unified School District
- Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District
- Lammersville Joint Unified School District
- Mountain House Elementary School District
- Newark Unified School District
- Oakland Unified School District
- Pleasanton Unified School District
- Piedmont Unified School District
- San Leandro Unified School District
- San Lorenzo Unified School District
- Sunol Glen Unified School District

Arts

The Alameda County Arts Commission, a division of the county administrative, under the California Arts Council, was created in 1965. Its fifteen-appointed members act in an advisory capacity to the board of supervisors, in promoting the arts. The Oakland Museum of California has a substantial collection of California art events and historical artifacts.

Sports

The following teams score play in Alameda County:

Club	Sport	Founded	League	Venue
California Golden Bears	NCAA	1868	NCAA: Pac-12	California Memorial Stadium (Football), Haas Pavilion (Basketball), Evans Diamond (Baseball)
Oakland Athletics	Baseball	1901 (in Oakland since 1968)	Major League Baseball: American League	Oakland–Alameda County Coliseum
Oakland Raiders	Football	1960	National Football League	Oakland Arena
East Bay FC Blizzard	Soccer	2012 (in San Francisco from 2012 to 2013)	National Premier Soccer League	Pioneer Stadium

Parks and recreation

There are more than 200 parks located within the county.[36] The East Bay Regional Park District operates within Alameda and neighboring Contra Costa County, with numerous parks within the county, including Tilden Regional Park, Redwood Regional Park, Anthony Chabot Regional Park, Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve, Coyote Hills Regional Park, Don Castro Regional Park, Garin Regional Park, Ardenwood Historic Farm, Quarry Lakes Regional Park, Del Valle Regional Park, and Shadow Cliffs Regional Park.[37] The Regional Parks Foundation was founded in 1991 to support the East Bay Regional Park District.[38] The Regional Parks Foundation and Park District is the largest special park district in California.

Transportation

Major highways

- Interstate 80 (Eastshore Freeway)
- Interstate 238
- Interstate 580 (Richmond/San Rafael Bridge/Foothill Freeway)
- Interstate 680 (Sunol Freeway)
- Interstate 880 (Nimitz Freeway/Cypress Freeway)
- Interstate 980 (John R. Williams Freeway)
- State Route 13 (Ashby Avenue)
- State Route 24 (William Byron Rumford Freeway)
- State Route 84 (Dumbarton Bridge)
- State Route 92 (San Mateo–Hayward Bridge)
- State Route 185 (Mission Boulevard)
- State Route 238 (Foothill Boulevard)
- State Route 260 (Posey Tube)
- State Route 61 (Route 61)
- State Route 77 (San Pablo Avenue) – Berkeley
- State Route 123 (San Pablo Avenue) – Berkeley, Albany
- State Route 185 (Mission Boulevard/East 14th Street)
- State Route 238 (Foothill Boulevard)
- State Route 262 (Mission Boulevard)

Mass transit

- ACE train – commuter rail serving railroad tracks; primarily stops from commuters from San Joaquin County to Santa Clara County.
- AC Transit – local bus system in Alameda County, also provides transbay service to San Francisco and Contra Costa County.
- BART – commuter rail serving northwest to northeast Oakland, primarily serves commuters to downtown San Francisco and downtown Oakland.
- Capitol Corridor – commuter rail using railroad tracks; primarily stops from commuters from San Jose to Sacramento, running through western Alameda County.
- WHEELS – free system in the cities of southwestern Alameda County.
- Emery Go-Round – free shuttle service in Emeryville to AC Transit
- Emery Go-Round – free bus service in Emeryville.
- Alameda–Oakland Ferry and Harbor Bay Ferry – commuter ferry service between Alameda Point, Oakland Jack London Square, and San Francisco Ferry Building.
- LTA – commuter service between eastern Alameda County and points in the Silicon Valley.
- Dumbarton Express – additional service across the Dumbarton Bridge between Fremont and Palo Alto.

Airports

The main airport is the Oakland International Airport, with two general aviation airports, the Hayward Executive Airport and Livermore Municipal Airport.

Services

The county operates hospitals and primary care clinics, through the Alameda County Medical Center. The Alameda County Community Food Bank nonprofit provides food bank resources to residents. The following organizations are based in Alameda County:

Landmarks

Alameda County has eight National Historic Landmarks: The Ahwa, Joaquin Miller House, First Church of Christ, Scientist, USS Hornet (CV-12) (aircraft carrier), Lake Merritt Wild Duck Refuge, Lightship WAL 605, Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Preston, (Presidential yacht), and Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park, as well as a number of California Historical Landmarks.

Sister county

Alameda has a sister county, Taoyuan County, Taiwan (see Taoyuan City).[39]

Sister cities

Communities

Cities

- Alameda
- Albany
- Berkeley
- Dublin
- Emeryville
- Fremont
- Hayward
- Livermore
- Newark
- Oakland (county seat)
- Pleasanton
- San Leandro
- Union City

Census-designated places

- Ashland
- Castro Valley
- Cherryland
- San Lorenzo
- Sunol

Unincorporated communities

- Altamont
- Byron
- Dougherty Valley
- Englemont
- Fairview
- Hillcrest Knolls
- Palomares Hills
- Sandalwood Village
- Sunol Glen
- Tesla
- Tyler
- Verona
- Vineyard Estates
- Winton

Unincorporated communities

- Alden Woods
- Castlewood
- East Pleasanton
- Kottinger Gardens
- Meadowlands
- Mountain House
- Mowry Landing
- San Ramon Village
- Scotia Corner

Population ranking

The population ranking of the following table is based on the 2010 census of Alameda County.[40]

† county seat

Rank	City/Town/etc.	Municipal type	Population (2010 Census)
1	† Oakland	City	390,724
2	Fremont	City	214,089
3	Hayward	City	144,186
4	Berkeley	City	112,580
5	San Leandro	City	84,950
6	Livermore	City	80,968
7	Alameda	City	73,812
8	Pleasanton	City	70,285
9	Union City	City	69,516
10	Castro Valley	CDP	61,388
11	Dublin	City	46,036
12	Ashland	CDP	23,537
13	San Lorenzo	CDP	22,220
14	Ashland	CDP	21,421
15	Albany	City	18,539
16	Cherryland	CDP	14,728
17	Sunol	CDP	1,903
18	Dougherty	CDP	10,000
19	Fairview	CDP	10,003
20	Sunol	CDP	913

Climate

Imperial conversion [show]

See also

- Alameda County Landmarks
- National Register of Historic Places listings in Alameda County, California
- Solar power in Alameda County

Notes

1. ^ Other = Some other race + Two or more races.
2. ^ Includes persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, for example, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, and all other Hispanic or Latino.
3. ^ Percentage of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

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External links

- Official website
- Map of Alameda County with supervisorial district boundaries
- Alameda County Fairgrounds – Annual county fair June to July
- A short film about Alameda County from 1919
- Alameda County Photographs – Photographs by Oakland Vertie Tollefs Wee, 1941, California Legacy Project.
- Alameda County Fire Department Training Division
- Alameda County Community Development Agency

Wikivoyage has a travel guide for Alameda County.

Categories: Alameda County, California | California counties | Counties in the San Francisco Bay Area | 1853 establishments in California | Populated places established in 1853

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