



MELISSA WILK

ALAMEDA COUNTY

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

June 2022 Newsletter

Message from Melissa

Dear Alameda County,

Happy Summer! This June has been a month of celebrations, as well as a time to act and reflect on many important issues affecting our communities. We celebrated Pride Month and Juneteenth, both of which recognize the efforts of those who fought and continue to fight for equal rights and freedoms. We also celebrated the Summer Solstice on June 21 marking the first day of Summer and the longest day of the year. Over 300,000 Alameda County residents voted in federal, state, judicial and local primary elections, and many people attended weddings, graduations and Father's Day celebrations. All of these moments are exciting, and are wonderful examples of how we can all come together as families and as a community.



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June is also budget approval month for Alameda County. The County Administrator, Board of Supervisors, community stakeholders and department heads are working diligently and collaboratively to approve a balanced, thoughtful and fiscally responsible \$3.8 billion County budget. And while the County prepares for the new fiscal year, our staff has been very busy closing out the current fiscal year. Our Agency and County departments are working together to ensure that all revenues and expenditures are accounted for prior to closing the "books" for fiscal year 2021-2022. To learn more about what's kept us busy in June, and to find fun and family friendly Fourth of July celebrations throughout Alameda County, please continue reading below. I wish you all a very safe and happy July 4th holiday!

Best,

Melissa Wilk



County Offices Closed for Independence Day

All County Offices will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. The Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency services are always available online. Need to order a birth or marriage certificate? [Click here!](#)

Honoring Pride Month and Juneteenth

Pride Month is an important time to support our Alameda County community members who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and other identities (LGBTQIA+). Pride Month is celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan. The Stonewall Uprising was the first major protest of the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. During this time, we reflect on the progress we have made as a community and what more needs to be done year-round in the fight for justice, inclusion and equality.



Juneteenth is an important part of American history and tradition that has been celebrated for over 150 years. Originating in Galveston, Texas in 1865, Juneteenth commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans at the end of the Civil War. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law which officially recognizes

Juneteenth as a federal holiday. We join together to support our African American community throughout the whole year.

On June 18, the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency joined the festivities at the 2022 Juneteenth Outdoor Fitness and Wellness Festival presented at the Hayward Heritage Plaza where we also reunited with one of our former Raising Leaders interns. Learn more about the Raising Leaders



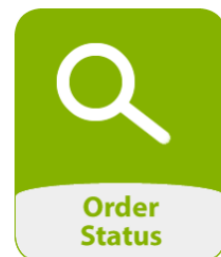
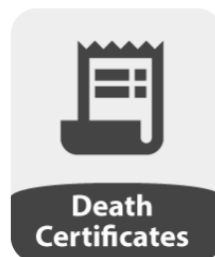
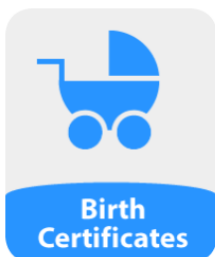
The Property Tax Process



Alameda County Assessor Phong La and Auditor-Controller Melissa Wilk sign the Assessment Roll Affidavit, turning over the Roll from the Assessor to the Auditor-Controller

Our Agency is proud to work in partnership with the [County Assessor](#), Phong La, and the [County Treasurer-Tax Collector](#), Henry “Hank” Levy, on the annual property tax process. The first step in the process is that each year the Auditor-Controller officially receives the assessed values for all of the taxable property in Alameda County, as determined by the Assessor. Melissa and her Auditor-Controller team then have the responsibility of applying the appropriate tax rate to the assessed property value and extending the tax roll. In other words, the Auditor-Controller calculates the amount of taxes that are due. The tax rate that’s applied to the assessed value is based on the location of the property, and the tax rates include the rates necessary to pay voter-approved debt, in addition to the Countywide 1% tax. Most voter approved debt is in the form of General Obligation Bonds that have been approved as ballot measures during past elections. The Auditor-Controller also has the responsibility of adding any special assessments and/or fixed charges that are levied by other taxing districts in the County. After the Auditor-Controller completes the calculations, the Treasurer-Tax Collector prepares and mails the property tax bills, and collects the taxes. As the last step in the process, the Auditor-Controller apportions the tax collections to the County, cities, schools, and over 80 special districts.

SAVE TIME AND ORDER ONLINE



Need a birth, marriage, or death certificate? Save yourself time and order online!
Select our *pick-up option* and we can typically turn around your order within a few days.

Job Opportunities at the Auditor-Controller/ Clerk-Recorder Agency



We are currently accepting applications for our entry-level position at the [Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency](#). Please click this link to learn more about the [Auditor Associate I](#) position including the job duties and annual salary. Employees in this position work a full-time schedule and perform a variety of clerical duties. They work with members of the community and other County departments, and are responsible for critical financial, payroll, vital record and property related transactions. Within an 18-month period, Auditor Associates have the opportunity to rotate through various units of the Agency in order to gain experience and demonstrate proficiency, which will qualify them for promotion to the position of Auditor Associate II and then to Auditor Associate III.

If you're interested in joining our team, please submit an online County application by Tuesday, July 5th at 5:00 p.m. Please visit the Alameda County Human Resource Services' [Current Job Openings](#) for detailed information about the position and application process.

Sign up for Email Alerts! You may visit the County's list of [Job Descriptions](#) to sign up for automatic email notifications when a specific recruitment is open and accepting applications.

Resources for Alameda County Homeowners



Do you have a question about your property assessment or transferring a property to a family member or a trust? The Property Transfer Clinic was created by Alameda County Assessor Phong La as a way for Alameda County homeowners to access free, one-on-one phone consultations with a volunteer attorney to answer questions related to:

- The Alameda County assessment process
- Holding title to property and its tax consequence

- Transferring property to family members
- Transferring property to a revocable trust
- Common exclusions from reassessment
- Matters pertaining to Proposition 19

Click [here](#) to learn more about how to schedule an appointment for a FREE 30-minute consultation.

The Property Transfer Clinic is a partnership between the Alameda County Library, Alameda County Law Library, and Legal Access Alameda. It is funded by the Alameda County Assessor's Office.

Schedule your appointment to meet with a volunteer attorney on **July 15, 2022**.

Clinics are held every *third* Friday of the month.

Meet our Disbursement Team



Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency Disbursements Division Team

The Disbursements Division is part of the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency. The Division is comprised of multiple units responsible for managing the County's accounts payable payment systems, policies and procedures. These include processing payment requests and disbursing approved payments to contractors and suppliers, issuing business expense reimbursements to employees, and issuing 1099s. The Disbursements Division also administers the County's contract compliance system. The Small Local Emerging Business (SLEB) Certification Unit is also in the Disbursements Division.

"The Disbursements Division staff take tremendous care to ensure all laws and County governance related to our operations are followed," said Assistant Controller Susan Wewetzer who leads the Division. "Protecting our County's assets, including those funded by taxpayers, and ensuring timely payments to our contractor and supplier community, are two of our main priorities."

The Disbursements Division processes more than \$6 billion in payments annually, including those for goods and services provided by our community business organization partners. The timely processing of these payments is made possible by the hardworking staff from all of the Disbursements Division Units which include Claims, Board-Approved Contracts, Warrants, and

the Office of Contract Compliance & Reporting.

The SLEB Certification Unit certifies small local businesses and maintains the online searchable SLEB database. The County's SLEB Program was established by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to enhance contract opportunities for small, local and emerging businesses in Alameda County by promoting and fostering inclusiveness, diversity, and economic development. Certified SLEBs are eligible to receive bid preferences during the competitive process for County contract awards. "We strongly encourage qualified small, local and emerging businesses to begin the certification and/or renewal process before they plan to submit bids or proposals to the County so that they can be well positioned to compete for procurement and contracting opportunities," emphasized Susan Wewetzer.

For more information on the County's Small, Local and Emerging Business program, please visit www.acgov.org/sleb.

Fourth of July Celebrations in Alameda County

Independence Day, also commonly known as the 4th of July, is an annual celebration that commemorates the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. Independence Day officially became a federal holiday on June 28, 1870 and has since been celebrated with festivities including fireworks, parades, concerts, barbecues and more.



To help you celebrate Independence Day, we have compiled a partial list of family-friendly celebrations happening all around Alameda County during the holiday weekend. Have a safe and Happy Fourth of July!

Alameda

- [City of Alameda 4th of July Parade](#) (free admission)
- [4th of July on the USS Hornet](#) (up to \$20 per person; free for ages 6 and under)
- [Alameda July 4th Parade R.A.C.E.](#) (\$35 to register)

Albany

- [4th of July Concert in the Park 2022](#) (free admission)

Berkeley

- [City of Berkeley 4th of July](#) (free admission; parking \$20-\$50)

Fremont

- [Fremont 4th of July Parade](#) (free admission)

Hayward

- [Meek Mansion Celebration](#) (free admission)

Livermore

- [City of Livermore Community Fireworks Night](#) (free admission)

Oakland

- [Annual 4th of July Picnic in Oakland](#) (free admission)
- [A's Firework and Drone Light Shows](#) (ticket prices vary)
- [July 4th Celebration on the USS Potomac](#) (\$125/ticket)

Piedmont

- [City of Piedmont 4th of July Parade](#) (free admission)

Pleasanton

- [July Fireworks Spectacular 2022](#) (free with fair admission)
- [Independence Day Concert at Alameda County Fair](#) (free with fair admission)
- [July 4th Community Concert Band](#) (free admission)

Out in the Community: *Celebrating Raising Leaders*



Raising Leaders June 2022 Graduates with Melissa Wilk and other County and public officials

On June 18, Melissa was honored to attend the first in-person Raising Leaders graduation since the beginning of the pandemic at Cal State East Bay University, Hayward Campus. The event was a celebration for 73 young people who were graduating from the Raising Leaders program, including three interns from the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency. Many of these amazing young adults were also graduating from local colleges while working several jobs and achieving high academic honors.



Melissa Wilk and Raising Leaders Graduates

Raising Leaders was founded in 2017 by Davida Scott and is a program that provides free

workshops that focus on employability skills, financial awareness, career exploration and educational opportunities. The program provides opportunities to students who may be in alternative education schools, foster care, are low-income, or are otherwise at an academic disadvantage. Students in the Raising Leaders program receive five school credits, updated résumés and 16 hours of community service upon completion, along with the opportunity to interview for a paid internship. The Auditor-Controller/Clerk Recorder Agency is proud to participate in and support the Raising Leaders program by placing interns at our Agency throughout the year. Congratulations to all of the graduates!

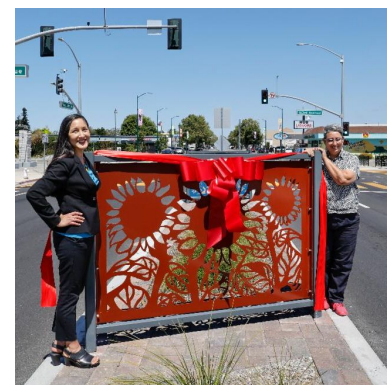
"Raising Leaders teaches life skills while simultaneously preparing the next generation of workforce leaders in our community" —Davida Scott

Out in the Community: *East 14th Street Ribbon Cutting Event*



Rachel Osajima, Artist Miriam Klein Stahl, Supervisor Nate Miley, and community stakeholders

On June 18, Rachel Osajima, [Alameda County Arts Commission](#) Director, joined [Nate Miley, Alameda County Supervisor](#), and others to celebrate the completion of the East 14th Corridor Improvement Project in the Ashland Community with an official Ribbon Cutting Event. The East 14th Project extends from 162nd Avenue to Interstate 238. Motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and residents in the Ashland community will enjoy a revitalized, safe, and accessible commercial corridor. Artist Miriam Klein Stahl created the public artworks which celebrate the beauty of the natural world, resiliency, and a sustainable future for our communities. The original artworks are handmade paper cuts. The paper cuts were digitized and the designs were laser cut into metal panels, sandblasted on seating, and featured on street banners and utility boxes.



"I am so happy to support Alameda County's Public Art Program and to help bring this important project to the unincorporated community of Ashland. Congratulations and thanks to the artist Miriam Klein Stahl for her beautiful work." —Melissa Wilk

The Public Artwork for the [East 14th Street Corridor Improvement Project](#) was managed by the Alameda County Arts Commission in partnership with the Alameda County Public Works Agency. The funds are provided through the “Percent for Art” Ordinance established by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. Please see the [public art guide](#) for more information.

Out in the Community: *Annual Homeowners Fair in Fremont*



Phong La, Alameda County Assessor

On May 25, the Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency was honored to participate in and support the Alameda County Assessor's Office 3rd Annual Homeowners Fair. This year's Homeowners Fair focused on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), the effect the addition of an ADU has on property assessment values, and the ADU construction process in Fremont and Newark. An ADU is a separate and independent housing unit on a single family lot. ADUs have a full kitchen and bathroom and offer an affordable option to address critical housing needs in California. We were pleased to provide information about the services we offer such as how to record deeds, calculate documentary transfer tax, and conduct public records searches at the Clerk-Recorder's Office.

The Assessor's Office is responsible for locating all taxable property in the County, establishing its taxable value, and applying any legal exemption. Click [here](#) for more information on Accessory Dwelling Units in Alameda County and [here](#) to learn more about the Assessor's Office.

QUESTIONS FOR OUR AGENCY?

Are there upcoming community events that you would like us to attend? Do you have a specific question you would like to ask? Is your community or organization interested in a presentation about the services provided by the County and the [Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder Agency](#)?

Email Melissa Wilk at ACCR.info@acgov.org or follow her on [Twitter](#) to let her know what questions we can answer



and how we can support your efforts.

STAY IN TOUCH

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