

Nation: Secret Service shoots and kills a man who opened fire near the White House. A bystander also was shot. A4

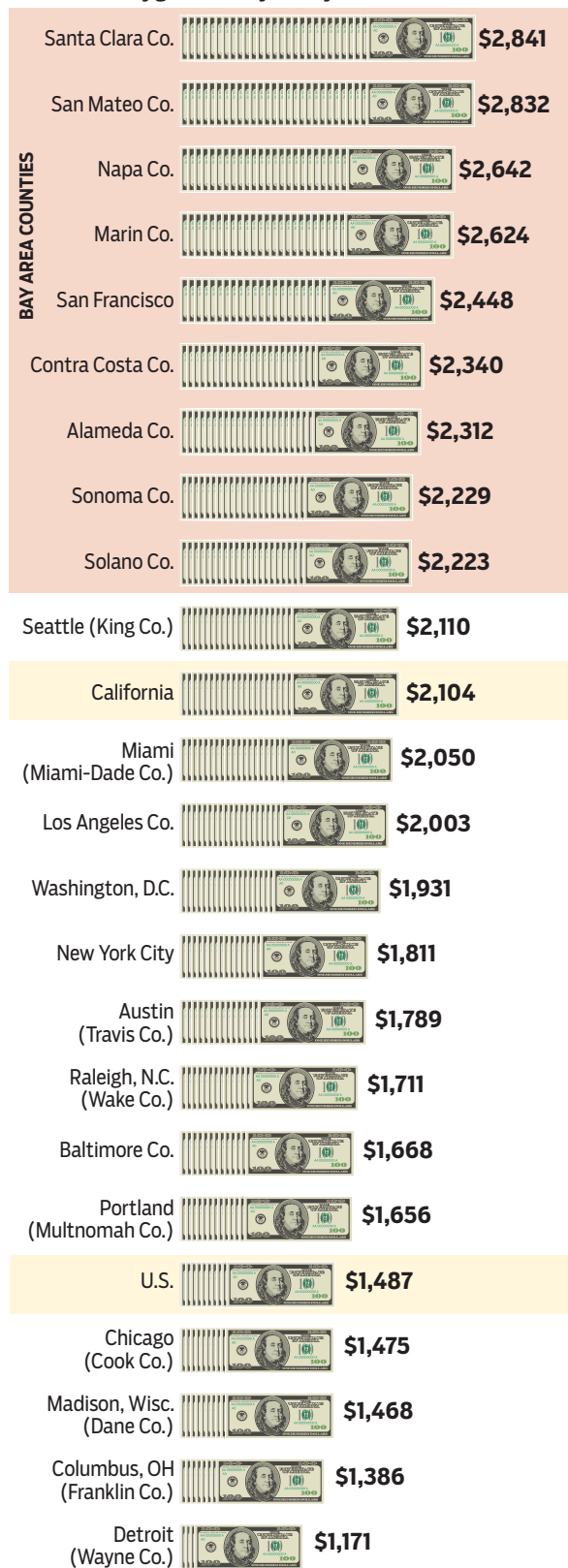
LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO CALL HOME

One force sets homelessness crisis apart: Bay Area rent

BAY AREA RENT OUTPACES MOST IN THE U.S.

A key factor in the Bay Area's homelessness problem, rent in all counties in the region are among the highest in the country.

Median monthly gross rent by county in 2024



Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates
 BAY AREA NEWS GROUP



Eduardo Lopez with the rented RV he and his family have been living in is parked among dozens of RVs on Leghorn Street in Mountain View on March 19. RAY CHAVEZ — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

9-county region has some of the highest numbers in the nation and the cost of living is a prime factor

HOW DOES THE BAY AREA COMPARE?

Homeless per capita

New York City
1,652
 Santa Clara County
527

Poverty rate

Detroit
22%
 Santa Clara County
7%

More on Page A6

By Luis Melecio-Zambrano and Ethan Varian
 STAFF WRITERS

This article was produced as a project for the USC Annenberg Center for Health Journalism's 2025 Data Fellowship. It is Part 1 of a Bay Area News Group series examining why homelessness is so severe in the Bay Area, what sets the region apart and what could help.

Just across the highway from Google's corporate headquarters, dozens of campers and RVs line a wide suburban street in the heart of Silicon Valley. A stone's throw from the multitrillion-dollar tech giant, Eduardo Lopez has lived on the Mountain View street in a sun-faded camper without electricity or a refrigerator.

When asked how he got there, he gives a simple answer:

"It's about the rent," he said. "The rent is so high."

Earlier this year, Lopez, his wife and his 6-year-old son shared a crowded apartment in Sunnyvale with as many as eight other people. But after their landlord raised the family's

monthly rent from about \$1,500 to \$1,800, they found themselves unable to pay and moved to the RV, Lopez said. Even as his family adapted to RV life, it didn't erase the stress of avoiding parking tickets and the worry of being towed.

"The police come; they say you have to move," he said. "You can't stay in the same place."

Lopez and his family are among the more than 38,000 people experiencing homelessness on the street, in tents and in shelters in the shadow of the Bay Area's exceptional wealth. Bay Area counties have some of the highest rates of homelessness in the country: As a whole, the nine-county region has more than twice as many people experiencing homelessness per capita as the national average, and a higher average rate than the rest of California.

As public frustration over street homelessness has grown, the scale of human suffering has fueled criticism of a region known for both extraordinary wealth and progressive politics, raising an obvious question: Why is homelessness so bad here in the Bay Area?

A Bay Area News Group analysis compared

See **HOMELESS** on Page A6

SAN JOSE

Mahan noticeably absent during gubernatorial run

Mayor has missed 7 of 19 City Council meetings in 3 months

By Grace Hase
 GHASE@BAYAREANEWSGROUP.COM

As San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan has campaigned for governor for the last 3½ months on a platform of results and accountability, the mayor has missed more than a third of City Council meetings, a Bay Area News Group analysis of his attendance has found.

Mahan, who has struggled to break through in the polls, has missed seven of the 19 council meetings or study sessions held between Jan. 29 — the date he entered the crowded governor's race — and May 12. He arrived late or left early for two of the meetings where he was in attendance. Mahan's presence at City Hall since he decided to run for the state's highest office draws a sharp contrast to the prior five months when he attended every



Gubernatorial candidate and San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan and businessman Rick Caruso walk in Pacific Palisades on Feb. 26. Mahan has missed numerous council meetings. HANS GUTKNECHT — SCNG

council meeting, though he left early or arrived late for two separate meetings.

The mayor's absence on the dais comes amid San Jose's efforts to close a \$50 million budget deficit, which includes proposals to delay

the construction of a new fire station and reduce encampment sweeps. Over the last several months, he's missed at least one consequential council vote that ended in a dead-

See **MAHAN** on Page A10

STATEWIDE POLL

Californians find affordability top issue in election

Water, government also important, survey determines

INSIDE

Opinion: State's voters want results, not more "resistance theater." **Page A8**

By Kaitlyn Schallhorn
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA NEWS GROUP

Californians are a bit pessimistic these days.

They're dissatisfied with the overall state of California, with how President Donald Trump and Gov. Gavin Newsom are handling their jobs and with the outlook for their personal finances.

That's all according to a recent statewide poll from the New California Coalition. The nonpartisan organization surveyed 1,529 people considered likely to vote in the 2026 midterm elections to get a sense of their mood heading into the primary, how they view the

economy and elected leaders and what they'd like to see the state address when it comes to artificial intelligence.

Perhaps predictably, affordability tops the chart for the issues likely voters care about as the June 2 primary barrels closer.

Addressing inflation and the rising cost of living was the No. 1 priority for voters surveyed.

Voters were presented with a lengthy list of issues and asked to score them on a scale of 1 to 7, with 7 designating an issue was extremely important.

Based on median scores, addressing the rising cost of food, gas and other essential

See **POLL** on Page A11

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