

IN THE NEWS: *New Year, New Legislative Cycles Begin*

Happy New Year! The new year also marks the beginning of new legislative cycles for 2025, and new federal, state, and local elected officials taking office.

The 119th Congress was sworn in on Friday, January 3rd, with two new members of the Orange County delegation taking office: Rep. Dave Min and Rep. Derek Tran. New committee assignments have also been taking place, with special attention being paid to the Agricultural Committees in both the Senate and the House, who will be tasked with passing a new Farm Bill this year.

TOGETHER, LET'S FIGHT HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITIES

**I STAND WITH
CALIFORNIA'S
FOOD BANKS**



One of Congress's first orders of business in the new year will be passing a federal budget for 2025. The budget was extended via a continuing resolution before the December holiday break, but now must be made permanent for the remainder of the fiscal year. We, along with our partners at Feeding America, will be focused on protecting funding for our federal nutrition programs.

Our California state legislators were sworn into their new terms on December 2, 2024, and reconvene in Sacramento this week for the new state legislative session. Governor Newsom will also be releasing his state budget proposal, which is the first step in negotiating a final state budget by the end of June. Second Harvest, along with the other 40 California food banks, will be advocating together for the [California Association of Food Banks' 2025 State Policy Agenda](#).

LEARN MORE: [Looking back at the results of the 2024 State Legislative Cycle \(CAFB\)](#)

BEYOND POLICY: *Food Need Rises in Orange County*

Throughout 2024, Second Harvest and food banks across the country saw the food need steadily increase in our communities. Currently, Second Harvest is serving almost a half a million individuals on average per month, a number not seen since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The food insecurity rate here in Orange County is elevated for many reasons: high cost of living here in Southern California, high food prices across the country, and the sunset of many COVID-era protections and subsidies that helped offset our neighbors' monthly food budgets.

Food banks play a critical role in addressing food insecurity in our communities, but we can't do it alone. That is why Second Harvest strategically engages in year-round advocacy work by raising awareness of hunger issues and mobilizing support at every level of government for policy solutions that address public nutrition and other anti-poverty programs.

LEARN MORE: [Hunger is on a Sharp and Silent Rise in Orange County \(Voice of OC\)](#)

ENGAGE:

Join us as we work to educate the public and policymakers about food insecurity by signing up to receive advocacy updates and engagement activities throughout the year via our [Second Harvest Engagement Network](#).

ON THE CALENDAR:

January 3 – 119th Congress Sworn In

January 10 – CA Governor Budget Proposal Released