



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2000 WWW.SANTACRUZCOUNTY.US

CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE



Date: April 4, 2024

Contact: Jason Hoppin

Jason.Hoppin@santacruzcounty.us

COUNTY RELEASES 2024-25 PROPOSED BUDGET

The County of Santa Cruz has released its 2024-25 Proposed Budget and updated its award-winning interactive website, providing residents with a digital portal into the County's priorities and finances.

The \$1.126 billion Proposed Budget includes a \$754.2 million General Fund. The Proposed Budget is downsized from the prior fiscal year with 34 reduced limited-term positions (primarily due to the sunseting of COVID-19-related funds) and the elimination of General Fund investments in its aging facilities, while following sound financial practices and prioritizing funding for ongoing priorities.

Despite fiscal challenges including \$144 million in unreimbursed State and federal natural disaster-related costs – the equivalent of an entire year of General Fund property tax and vehicle license revenues – the County will mark several significant achievements this year. They include the opening of the South County Government Center, full implementation of the Recovery Center and completion of the Sheriff's DNA Laboratory, development of a Master Plan on Aging, construction of a 32-unit Bridge Housing facility to help homelessness individuals with mental health and/or substance use disorder issues, groundbreaking on a new Children's Crisis Stabilization Center, and more.

The 2024-25 Proposed Budget is also subject to change, with significant uncertainties surrounding the State Budget and a projected State deficit of \$73 billion.

The Board of Supervisors has scheduled a series of budget hearings to review the 2024-25 Proposed Budget on April 9th, May 21st and May 22nd at 9 a.m. and June 4th at 1:30 p.m. All meetings will be held in Board Chambers, 701 Ocean St., 5th Floor, Santa Cruz.

To learn more about the 2024-25 Proposed Budget, visit the County's award-winning budget website at <https://www.santacruzcounty.us/VisionSantaCruz/Budget.aspx>.