



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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County Releases 2017-18 Proposed Budget

Demonstrating continued transparency and fiscal prudence, the County of Santa Cruz has released its 2017-18 Proposed Budget.

The \$717 million Proposed Budget includes a 5.5 percent decline in overall spending, modest increases in general fund revenues and spending, an increase in budget reserves and a new, user-friendly format that gives residents easier access to important, department-level financial information.

Among the highlights, the 2017-18 Proposed Budget includes funding for the Nurse-Family Partnership and Thrive by Three programs, a shift in how nonprofit community programs are funded through the "CORE Investments" strategy, the full rollout of local cannabis licensing and funding for road and other infrastructure repairs due to the 2016-17 winter storms.

The Proposed Budget also outlines several challenges, including State proposals to decrease funding for CalWORKs and In-Home Supportive Services. Uncertainty at the federal level could pose further challenges, with any changes to the Affordable Care Act potentially impacting up to 35,000 local residents.

The revamped budget includes a new community profile section showing trends for several metrics, including crime, voter turnout, health insurance, housing affordability and more.

Budget highlights include:

- 5.5 percent overall spending decrease due to capital projects coming off the books
- General fund spending and revenues up less than 1 percent
- Proposed reserves of \$43.8 million, up \$15 million since 2011-12

Residents may read the Proposed Budget at www.santacruzcounty.us, or view on online, interactive budget tool at sccbudget.com.



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