



BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 164-2026

On the motion of Supervisor: Hernandez
Duly seconded by Supervisor: De Serpa

The following resolution is adopted:

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR THE PROPOSED ONE-HALF CENT INCREASE IN THE RETAIL TRANSACTIONS AND USE TAX (SALES TAX) FOR COUNTYWIDE TRANSACTIONS IN THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz provides essential public services that protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of residents, including healthcare, mental health and substance abuse, public health, emergency medical services, human services, housing and homelessness programs, and other community safety-net services; and

WHEREAS, recent federal actions and related State fiscal impacts reduce funding annually by over \$200 million for local healthcare and safety-net programs while shifting additional administrative responsibilities and costs to counties; and

WHEREAS, the County's Strategic Plan establishes long-term goals to improve access to basic needs, health, housing, public safety, economic opportunity, and environmental resilience, and the Community Health Improvement Plan provides a collaborative framework for healthcare providers, community organizations, local governments, and residents to improve health outcomes and address the social drivers of health; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County administers or supports many of the programs that help residents access healthcare, mental health and substance abuse services, food assistance, housing stabilization, emergency medical response, and other essential services that protect vulnerable individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, reductions in federal and related State funding is negatively impacting the financial stability of hospitals, community health centers, emergency medical providers, mental health and substance abuse providers, food assistance programs, homelessness response systems, and other organizations that comprise the local healthcare system and human services safety net; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a strong local healthcare system and human services safety net benefits all residents by preserving emergency medical response, protecting hospital capacity, strengthening public health infrastructure, preventing homelessness, reducing food insecurity, and supporting healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, Santa Cruz County and its community partners have made significant progress in expanding mental health and substance abuse services, reducing homelessness, improving care coordination, and strengthening partnerships across the healthcare system and human services safety net, and the Board of Supervisors desires to protect that progress; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors intends that revenues generated by the proposed temporary transactions and use tax be appropriated through the County's annual budget process and used to support the continued delivery of essential County services consistent with the purposes of the measure; and

WHEREAS, because the proposed transactions and use tax is a general tax, all proceeds will be deposited into the County General Fund and appropriated in accordance with applicable law and the County's annual budget process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz expresses its support for the proposed measure and establishes the following budget priorities to guide future appropriations of revenues generated by the measure, if approved by the voters:

- 1) **Protect Emergency Medical Services and Healthcare** – Support the continued operation and accessibility of the local healthcare system, including emergency medical services, ambulance response, hospitals, emergency departments, community health centers, indigent healthcare, uncompensated care, physician recruitment and retention, and other programs that maintain timely access to emergency and urgent healthcare.
- 2) **Strengthen Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services** – Support mental health services, substance use disorder treatment, crisis response, youth mental health and substance abuse services, school partnerships, mobile crisis response, and other mental health and substance abuse programs that improve community health and reduce reliance on emergency services.
- 3) **Reduce Food Insecurity** – Support food assistance programs, food banks, nutrition partnerships, CalFresh outreach and administration, employment and training services, and other efforts that improve food security and help residents meet their basic needs.
- 4) **Preserve Housing Stability and Homelessness Response** – Support homelessness prevention, housing stabilization, outreach, shelter services, supportive housing, coordinated entry, and other programs that prevent homelessness and protect recent community progress in reducing homelessness.
- 5) **Maintain Other Essential Safety-Net Services** – Support General Assistance, public health, services for older adults, veterans, people with disabilities, children and families, and other County-administered programs that strengthen the local healthcare

system and human services safety net and respond to reductions in federal and related State funding.

- 6) **Support Community Resilience and System Coordination** – Support planning, innovation, technology, care coordination, administrative capacity, and partnerships that improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and long-term sustainability of the local healthcare system and human services safety net.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nothing in this Resolution shall limit the authority of the Board of Supervisors to appropriate General Fund revenues through the County's annual budget process, and these priorities are intended to provide general policy direction consistent with the purposes of the proposed measure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this 4th day of August 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Koenig, De Serpa, Cummings, Hernandez and Martinez
 NOES: None
 ABSENT: None
 ABSTAIN: None

Signed by:

 34684D888835450...

8/5/2026

Monica Martinez
 Chair of the Board of Supervisors

DocuSigned by:

 466B074F3141450... 8/5/2026

Attest: _____
 Juliette Rezzato
 Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Signed by:

 JASON M. HEATH
 County Counsel

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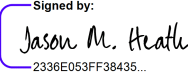
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County Counsel
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Parties agreed to: Jason M. Heath, Juliette Rezzato

Resolution 164-2026

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