



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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CARLOS J. PALACIOS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## NEWS RELEASE



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### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ASSESSMENT ROLL SETS NEW RECORD

Assessor-Recorder Sheri Thomas announced that the 2025-26 Assessment Roll has reached a new all-time high of \$64.7 billion, an increase of \$3.6 billion, or 5.95 percent over the prior year.

The 2025-26 property tax roll reflects the net assessed value of all real, business, and personal property in Santa Cruz County as of January 1, 2025, after applying exemptions for homeowners, disabled veterans, and qualifying nonprofit organizations. The primary drivers of this year's growth were changes in property ownership and new construction. While the total roll increased by 5.95%, the vast majority of property owners will see only a 2% increase in assessed value, thanks to the protections guaranteed by Proposition 13.

"The property tax roll helps fund the local services our residents rely on—like public schools, fire protection, and libraries—and it remains one of the largest sources of discretionary revenue for the County's general fund," said Assessor-Recorder Sheri Thomas.

Over the past year, the Assessor's Office made significant progress in reducing its backlog of assessments, aided by additional staffing and continued modernization of operations. The backlog had built up in recent years due to sustained increases in workload—driven by the implementation of Proposition 19, a rise in new construction, and the lasting impacts of major disasters such as the CZU Lightning Complex fire and severe winter storms.

"Our team works every day to ensure accurate, fair, and timely assessments," Thomas added. "We're here to serve the public with transparency and respect—whether that means answering questions, helping property owners access exemptions, or assisting owners with navigating new tax rules under Proposition 19."

The office continues to expand its public outreach and education efforts, helping residents better understand property tax programs and potential savings. By investing in staff and streamlining systems, the Assessor's Office is building capacity to meet the needs of Santa Cruz County's diverse and growing community.

For more information, visit the Assessor's website at [www.santacruzcountyca.gov/asr](http://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/asr), email us at [assessor@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:assessor@santacruzcountyca.gov), or call (831) 454-2270. Staff are also available in person, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 701 Ocean Street, Room 130, Santa Cruz—no appointment necessary.