

Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure E

Measure E is an urgent and necessary response to Trump administration cuts threatening local healthcare and safety-net services.

Our community cannot afford the consequences of losing vital federal funding that supports rapid ambulance response and helps keep our two local hospital emergency rooms open 24/7.

The Board of Supervisors adopted clear priorities for Measure E funding. These include protecting emergency medical services and community health clinics, food assistance for people in need, mental health and substance use treatment that are essential to addressing homelessness, and access to reproductive healthcare.

Every dollar from Measure E stays local and will be allocated through the County's public annual budget process. No funds can be taken by the federal or State government.

Measure E expires automatically after five years, when Trump will no longer be in office. State legislation did not impose this measure. It gave Santa Cruz County voters the authority to decide for themselves.

Measure E would not apply to key necessities like groceries or prescription medicines. It adds just 50 cents to a \$100 eligible purchase. Visitors also contribute when they shop and dine in Santa Cruz County, sharing the cost of services they use and that protect us all.

Accountability matters. So does what happens when someone calls 9-1-1, needs an emergency room, or depends on local healthcare. Measure E asks residents and visitors to contribute toward protecting our community's safety net.

Protect emergency and essential local services. Vote YES on Measure E.

/s/ Dr. Faris Sabbah, Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools

/s/ Kristen Brown, Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce Executive Director

/s/ Jennifer Merchant, Grey Bears Executive Director

/s/ Sam Altis, Association of Faith Communities Executive Director

/s/ Donna Young, Salud Para la Gente Health Clinics Chief Executive Officer