

Rebuttal to argument for Measure E

Please, don't be fooled by claims that this new countywide half-cent sales tax will be spent on emergency health needs. All of the money will go to the County General Fund, with no restrictions whatsoever on how it is spent.

Measure E will hurt those who need help the most, including students and people on fixed incomes.

Measure E will increase the cost of living here even more, with no accountability by the County.

Can you afford to pay 10% tax on your purchases? The tax will be *even higher* in Watsonville, Scotts Valley and the City of Santa Cruz.

Measure E is the third time the Board of Supervisors has grabbed for your money via a half-cent sales tax, offering empty promises about spending:

In 2018, Measure G increased sales tax, promising to fix roads and fund fire protection. The 2022 Civil Grand Jury deemed this misleading, with no money spent on fire services.

In 2024, Measure K increased sales tax, promising to fix roads, housing and homeless needs. The County lost a lawsuit because of false ballot claims, forcing restrictions on spending.

Now the County Executive Officer advised the Board of **Supervisors "This Resolution is a guidance, and the Board can always pivot to other needs."**

County Counsel advised *not* identifying specific funding recipients, as Santa Cruz City Mayor lobbied for allocations to serve the homeless.

Meanwhile, many County staff salaries are nearly \$500,000/year. All received raises this year. The County Board of Supervisors voted to give themselves a raise, too.

Don't be fooled. Measure E will hurt people while County leadership spends freely on whatever they please.

Vote NO on Measure E.

/s/ Becky Steinbruner

/s/ Dave Michaels

/s/ Michael Lelieur

/s/ Patrice Edwards

/s/ Gail Harlamoff