

Argument for Measure E

Vote YES on Measure E to protect emergency medical care and essential services throughout Santa Cruz County.

Federal funding cuts enacted by President Trump and the Republican Congress put our local healthcare and safety-net system at risk. Without local action, hospitals and emergency rooms will face reduced services, ambulance response will worsen, and thousands of residents will lose access to healthcare, food assistance, housing support, and other services that keep people healthy and safe.

Measure E provides temporary, locally controlled emergency funding to:

- Keep local hospitals and emergency rooms open and protect 9-1-1 ambulance response;
- Maintain community health clinics and access to urgent healthcare, reproductive care, mental health care, and substance use treatment;
- Support local food banks and food assistance;
- Prevent homelessness and preserve housing stability; and
- Protect seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, foster youth, children, and working families.

These services benefit everyone in the county.

Strong hospitals, reliable ambulance response, community clinics, and an effective safety net reduce pressure on emergency rooms, help people get care sooner, and protect our entire community. When emergency rooms close, patients crowd the nearest hospital, leading to skyrocketing wait times, increased costs, and a decline in the quality of care.

Measure E is a half-cent sales tax that will generate approximately \$27 million annually - helping partially replace more than \$200 million in annual federal and related state funding losses affecting local healthcare and safety-net programs. Every dollar will stay in Santa Cruz County and be allocated through the County's public annual budget process.

Measure E is temporary. It automatically expires after five years.

We cannot allow decisions in Washington, DC to put emergency response, local healthcare, and other services at risk. Measure E gives Santa Cruz County a practical way to respond locally and protect the essential services our community depends on.

Vote YES on Measure E to protect emergency and essential services.

/s/ Dr. Joe Gallagher, Retired Physician/Pajaro Valley Health Care District Board Member

/s/ Anita Aguirre, Santa Cruz Community Health Chief Executive Officer

/s/ Chief Mark Correia, Scotts Valley Fire Protection District

/s/ Tricia Wynne, Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County Board Emeritus

/s/ Elaine Johnson, Housing Santa Cruz County Executive Director