



Welcome to Humboldt County's
Fiscal Year 2016-17 Interactive
Community Budget Meeting

Community Budget Meeting

March 3, 2016

Participant Workbook

About the workbook:

Each year we face unique challenges and have difficult decision to make. We want to hear from you throughout our decision-making process. This workbook is one way to do that. This year the County of Humboldt is considering re-hauling the structure of some of our departments, and potentially placing a Cannabis Excise Tax on the November ballot. We also want to hear from you in regards to Measure Z, and what else you would like to see at these meetings. We hope you enjoy tonight's meeting, and we look forward to your feedback.

DEPARTMENTAL REORGANIZATION

The County of Humboldt is constantly looking for ways to make our operations more efficient and improve the service you receive. This year we've been exploring the idea of reorganization, or combining departments that have related functions. By bringing these functions together there may be ways to increase efficiencies, improve communication, and ultimately improve customer service.

Below are some of changes we are considering, and would like to get your input.

1. Did you know that our Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office manages more than \$1.4 billion each year? This includes investing, receiving and disbursing (paying out) money for most local government agencies in the county, like local schools, special districts and county departments. On average, this office transacts more than \$5 million per day. It makes sure that each agency has enough cash on-hand for its daily operations, while investing the rest to help it grow. This office also prepares and distributes tax bills, and collects property taxes, which is more than \$60 million each year. All of this work is completed by a staff of just nine people.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector works closely with the Auditor-Controller when it comes to preparing property tax bills. To determine your property tax rate, the Auditor-Controller matches up your property with the appropriate taxes, taking in to account factors like exemptions, school bonds, street lighting, fire protection, and other charges that are specific to your property. This office also is responsible for many more functions. The Auditor-Controller distributes tax revenue, prepares financial reports, processes payroll for more than 2,000 employees and processes claims for payment, among other duties. Their staff is made up of just 12 employees.

Having such a small staff in each of these departments poses problems. It is especially difficult to provide back-up coverage and plan for the future as individual employees move on. In several other counties around the state these two offices are combined into a Finance Department. If we were to combine the Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector, how would you expect to be served better? Please note that this issue is not related to the County Assessor's Office.

How could you be better served by combining the offices of Treasurer-Tax Collector and Auditor-Controller ? _____

2. Let's say you want to build a house on the outskirts of town, in the unincorporated part of the county. One of your first steps would be to contact our Planning and Building Department to get information and apply for the appropriate permits. If you plan to have a well or a septic tank you would need to and get in touch with the Environmental Health Division of the Department of Health & Human Services. Any road encroachment projects (such as a

driveway or road that connects to a county-maintained roadway) would need to involve the Land Use Division of our Public Works Department.

This is all to say that when you are considering getting permits for developments, there are several county departments that you need to do business with. As with our other services, we are looking for ways to improve customer service when it comes to permitting. This could include reorganizing our permitting agencies, along with our Code Enforcement Unit. If we reorganized or took other action related to permitting, what benefits would you expect to see as a member of the community?

What improvements would you like to see made in our permitting process ? _____

CANNABIS EXCISE TAX

Last year the Governor passed a series of bills that made it legal in California to participate in certain commercial activities involving medical marijuana. The legislation, known as the Medical Marijuana Regulation and Safety Act (MMRSA), also provides us with significant local control when it comes to regulating and taxing this industry. The local control provisions are intended to reduce environmental impacts, and convert an underground, black-market economy into a legitimate agricultural and

commercial contributor to the local and state economy. The Board of Supervisors is considering placing an excise tax on the cultivation of medical marijuana within Humboldt County to help with these efforts.

If the tax is passed, what would your priorities be for this funding ? _____

If a local excise tax is passed on the cultivation of medical marijuana, what are your priorities for those funds ? _____

MEASURE Z

The Measure Z sales tax began showing up on your receipts in April of 2015. Your investment turned in to 15 new public safety projects in our community this year. Among other projects, we hired new

Sheriff Deputies, purchased essential equipment for volunteer firefighters, and performed some much-needed repair work on our local roads. Safety has been one of our top priorities this year. While Measure Z is not our only means of improving your safety, we hope you have noticed a difference. Let us know how you have seen Measure Z at work in our community.

How have you seen Measure Z improve our community?

COMMUNITY BUDGET MEETING

The annual Community Budget Meeting is an opportunity to learn more about county government. More importantly, it's an opportunity to air your concerns and hopes about our community, and find

ways to make Humboldt County a better place. Your time is valuable, and we want to make this meeting as effective and useful for you as possible. So, please let us know what you want to see from an event like this:

What do you want to know more about ? _____

What local issues do you care about most? _____

What would you like to see more or less of at this meeting ? _____

What do you want to see at the next Community Budget Meeting ? _____

Additional Feedback: _____

Completed handbooks can be given to County staff at the Community budget meeting or mailed to the County Administrative office at 825 5th Street, Room 112, Eureka, Ca 95501 or you can complete the same information on our Open Humboldt tool at humboldt.gov/OpenHumboldt.



THANK YOU.

How can you get involved?

- Attend Board of Supervisors meetings
Tuesdays starting at 9:00 am
Humboldt County Courthouse
Board of Supervisors' Chamber
825 5th Street, Eureka
- Visit our website at humboldt.gov/
- Watch meetings on Access Humboldt
- Watch live stream of meetings from the County webpage
- Contact your Supervisor
- Attend Community Budget Meetings and other community meetings
- Comment on Open Humboldt at humboldt.gov/OpenHumboldt
- Join nextdoor.com a neighborhood networking website
- Sign up for our the County eNewsletter at humboldt.gov/Newsletter
- Serve on a board or commission.



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