

COUNTYWIDE FIRE PREVENTION & RESPONSE PROPOSED MEASURE H, MARCH 2024



"We plan to use funding from the countywide measure to increase our daily staffing by 50%, from 2 to 3 firefighters. This means we would meet the fire industry standard of 3 firefighters on the engine at all times. During a fire, there should be 2 firefighters to enter the building and a third to pump the engine. The additional funding could make that happen. Additionally, we plan to use funds for recruiting and retention dollars so we can retain our agency's experienced firefighters who know our community, our engines, our policies, etc. This measure was written by local fire fighters and fire chiefs who believe the measure addresses a critical need facing Sonoma County. Finally, the revenue will be managed by our agency to enhance the safety of our community directly."

- **Bill Bullard**, Graton Fire Chief

REVENUE WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO COUNTY RESIDENTS

- Recruitment and retention of local firefighters
- Improved response times
- Increased wildfire prevention, preparedness, and response
- Expanded paramedic services
- Infrastructure improvements
- Red flag and winter storm upstaffing
- Provide staffing to rural and underserved communities
- Supports an improved local dispatch center
- Enhanced vegetation management and fuels reduction
- Provides collaborative technology platforms

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

➤ How much will this tax generate?

This ½ cent sales tax is expected to generate approximately \$60 million annually to address the current and future funding challenges facing EVERY county fire agency.

➤ How will the expenditures be governed?

Revenue will go directly to fire agencies. Their governing bodies, either City Councils or District Boards, will be responsible for ensuring that the funds are spent in accordance with the ordinance. Additionally, an independent oversight committee will review the expenditures of each agency.

➤ How much funding will my local fire department get?

Our fire department will receive 1.06% of the annual tax revenue, estimated at \$636 thousand.

➤ What will the funding be used for?

- Hire and retain additional skilled local firefighters
- Funding for volunteer firefighters
- Improved response times in rural areas
- Enhanced fire prevention resources
- Facility upgrades



**For more information, please visit
SonomaChiefs.org**

