

TO: Supervisors John Gioia and Karen Mitchoff

FROM: Joshua Anijar and Mariana Moore

RE: Measure X Oversight Committee Structure

DATE: November 23, 2020



Thank you for your support and commitment to the process that resulted in Measure X and its success with voters in November of 2020.

With the passage of the measure, an ad hoc group of stakeholders met and discussed the structure and principles for an Oversight Committee. This group included many of the members of the Working Group (appointed by you in your capacity as the Ad Hoc Committee) that developed the [Needs Assessment](#) presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 26, 2020. The priorities set by this group are driven by this Needs Assessment and by additional data from subsequent stakeholder surveys, input received from stakeholder meetings, and the ballot language¹ for Measure X. In addition, the Working Group was guided by the following Shared Values during its work:

- **Vision Statement:** Contra Costa County will have the necessary funds to invest in and sustain a robust system of care and the social and public services necessary to support a vibrant community and ensure that all county residents have equitable opportunities to thrive.
- **Values**
 - The Contra Costa community has a shared responsibility to practice the values of equity, justice, inclusion and compassion.
 - The County's provision of a strong social safety net for those most in need is critical for the health and prosperity of all, especially when there is an economic downturn.
 - An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; investing in services that address social disparities early prevents more painful and expensive difficulties later on.
 - Leveraging additional County funds to draw down increased funding from state and federal sources will strengthen the safety net and makes sound financial sense.

¹ Ballot measure language: To keep Contra Costa's regional hospital open and staffed; fund community health centers; provide timely fire and emergency response; support crucial safety-net services; invest in early childhood services; protect vulnerable populations; and for other essential county services, shall the Contra Costa County measure levying a ½ cent sales tax, exempting food sales, providing an estimated \$81,000,000 annually for 20 years that the State cannot take, requiring fiscal accountability, with funds benefiting County residents, be adopted?

Outlined below are a summary of the principles and recommendations developed with input from the members of this group.

Oversight Committee Principles

- **Responsibilities:** The Oversight Committee's main responsibilities should include:
 - Overseeing a regular assessment of community needs, focusing primarily on the priority areas identified in this year's Needs Assessment, including health care, emergency response (fire/medical), safety net services, preventative care, affordable housing, and supports for early childhood, youth, families, and seniors.
 - Creating detailed priority lists of the top ten service gaps (county- and community-provided), based on the results from the needs assessment.
 - Using the assessment to make general funding priority recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.
 - Reviewing annual spending reports.
 - Tracking and drafting a regular report on the impact of allocated funds.
- **Membership:** The Oversight Committee's membership should represent broad and diverse voices, perspectives and expertise, including but not exclusive to: budget justice advocacy, children's services, community health, consumer advocacy, faith leadership, senior services, fire protection, housing and homelessness, labor union representation, legal advocacy, local businesses, mental health services, non-partisan civic organizations, policy organizations, public health, racial justice and equity, safety net services, senior services, substance use services, taxpayers, and youth services.
 - Committee members should have expertise in an area stipulated above, or that is otherwise in accordance with the priorities set by the ballot measure.
 - Stakeholders envision representation from county staff, community-based organizations, and residents from across the county who have received county- and community-provided services in the areas identified.
- The Board of Supervisors will accept applications from individuals who live and/or work in the county and meet the above criteria.
- Members of the Oversight Committee will serve limited, staggered terms.
 - One suggestion from stakeholders is to appoint members to initial two- or three-year terms, and then to three-year terms thereafter, with a maximum of six years served consecutively by any member.

Needs Assessment Funding Priorities

The revenue brought in by Measure X should be allocated to the general priorities explicitly outlined in the ballot measure, with more specific program funding determined by the regular re-assessment of needs. As such, it is vital that the Oversight Committee comprise a diverse group of voices with experience and knowledge about these priority funding areas.

The following were the issue areas that were ranked as the highest concern for county residents during the initial needs assessment and subsequent surveys of county residents, and should be prioritized. We have noted the specific services that residents overwhelmingly supported funding.

- **Hospital and Community Health**
 - *Expanding access to mental health services (87% support)*
 - *Funding Contra Costa's regional hospital and clinics (86% support)*
 - *Offering substance abuse prevention programs (84% support)*
- **Fire and Emergency Services**
 - *Firefighting and emergency preparedness (92% support)*
 - *Accountability measures for local law enforcement (82% support)*
- **Early Childhood & Youth Services**
 - *Preventing child abuse (90% support)*
 - *After-school programs that help young people stay in school and on a positive path (87% support)*
- **Senior Services**
 - *Senior services (89% support)*
 - *Preventing elder abuse (88% support)*
- **Safety Net Services**
 - *Expanding access to shelter (84% support)*
 - *Expanding food security (84% support)*
 - *Homelessness assistance programs (79% support)*
 - *Job training for formerly incarcerated and low-income residents (83% support)*
 - *Expanding services provided by community-based organizations (75% support)*

Funding should only be used to meet the need areas of the county services as stipulated by the original ballot language and expanded on by the regular re-assessment. Because these funds were approved to improve public and community services determined by the community in the initial needs assessment, they should be dedicated to use in these areas.