

About the Reimagine Public Safety Contra Costa Campaign

Our Vision Statement

We envision a Contra Costa County where all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, or disability can flourish from shared county resources and where racial equity is at the forefront of decision making. Public safety is not about policing, public safety is access to fair housing, quality food, safe and clean community spaces, healthcare services including mental health care, and economic opportunity.

Our Guiding Principles

The most impacted people and families must be the voices to lead the way to transforming the systems that continue to oppress BLIPOC and marginalized communities. Investing in these communities by moving funds into community resources and away from law enforcement uplifts everyone.

Our Purpose and Mission

Our mission is to rapidly reconstruct the public safety system and what we view as public safety by shifting policies to anti-racist policies and push the county in the direction that is rooted in our values and ensure the county and cities increase community safety through alternative non-police response programs, and invests in programs (such as health services, housing, jobs, etc) that address the root causes of violence and harm, and shifting policies that address racial and economic disparities.

Our Asks for Measure X Funding

Especially given that Measure X is a regressive tax measure, Measure X funding must meet the needs of community members who are under-resourced and criminalized. To prevent further harm of these communities, these vital investments must be coupled with divestments from law enforcement and incarceration.

Measure X funding should go towards:

1. **The Public Defender's Office** to hire social workers to connect to clients at first contact to mental health, housing, childcare services. Community members and their families navigating the criminal legal system are often the most vulnerable in terms of finances, housing security, and immigration status. Connecting them to resources early on is a vital entry point to promote stability for residents who have significant unmet needs.
2. **A Youth & Equity Center in East County.** The one-time \$22 million Measure X money should go towards meeting the needs of our youth in East County through a Youth &

Equity Center. The Center will provide life-affirming services like youth programs, job training, art classes, recreation programs, and counseling.

3. **Eviction Defense Legal Services** for the estimated 11,200 households behind on their rent and facing housing insecurity. Public safety must include keeping families housed.
4. **Library Services & the Arts.** As one of the most essential community spaces and a place where youth can both find refuge after school and get exposed to the wider world, the Library Services should be adequately supported beyond what is carved out for them from the general fund.
5. **Transformational Investment in Service Providers for Children and Families.** A partnership between First Five Contra Costa, CCC Employment & Human Services, and others have outlined how an investment of \$16,725,000 would help working families, children with disabilities, and childcare service providers recover from the pandemic and fill pre-existent service gaps.
6. **Health Services.** As we emerge from the pandemic and can already see disparities in service in the Covid data. Our county health services need to be fully funded so that they may benefit all residents.

The County should make the following divestments:

The Sheriff's Office has increased staffing every year for the past three years, including in this year's general fund budget while residents are losing their homes and have significant health needs. The Sheriff's budget is over a quarter of a BILLION dollars (\$266,288,000), and his office already receives money from a separate sales tax via Prop 172, projecting \$77,883,337 this year alone. These Measure X funds are a unique opportunity for the county to fund people and programs that enrich life and ultimately keep our communities safe, rather than react to crimes already committed. For these reasons, NO Measure X funds should go towards the Sheriff's Office.