



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
Elected and Appointed Leaders

May 19, 2023

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

As elected and appointed county leaders, we are fully committed to collaborating with you to effectively address the ongoing budgetary challenges within our County. Over the past two years, all County departments have meticulously assessed programs, positions, and essential/non-essential services that could be reduced or eliminated to alleviate the imminent budget shortfall. This year, as per your guidance, all departments have submitted budgets incorporating a 10% vacancy reduction. We are grateful that the Board of Supervisors will be considering the utilization of county contingency funding to ensure that no current county employees will face layoffs this fiscal year. However, we collectively share deep concerns about the future budget outlook.

Our region's economy is experiencing a downturn, accompanied by rising inflation, increased interest rates from the federal reserve, declining sales tax revenue, and the looming possibility of a recession. It is crucial for the county to formulate both short-term and long-term strategies to navigate these uncertain financial times. We want to assure the Board that each department head and elected official is wholeheartedly committed to conserving resources and saving the county money. Our approach involves diligently serving our community without implementing significant service reductions or cutting county positions. Our county employees have always embraced a "do more with less" mindset, and we are truly appreciative of their unwavering dedication to fulfilling our mission of serving the community. As your leaders, we pledge to collaborate with the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrative Officer to find viable solutions to our current financial crisis. However, we have reached a critical juncture where, if dedicated county revenue is not provided by the Board, we will be forced to eliminate services and jobs in the future. We urge the Board of Supervisors to evaluate existing general fund revenue streams, including Measure Z, Measure S, and the Transient Occupancy Tax. These County General Fund tax revenues should be prioritized for funding County departments over the next two years. We understand that this decision may not be well-received by the beneficiaries of Measure Z and licensed county cannabis cultivators. However, we are currently unable to identify alternative solutions that will be sufficient to bridge the anticipated future structural funding gap of over \$17 million.

As your county leadership group, we comprehend the tremendous challenges you face in balancing the county budget. Rest assured that your county leaders are unwavering in their support of your endeavors.

Respectfully,

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Cheryl Dillingham, Auditor-Controller

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Juan Cervantes, Clerk Recorder



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825 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501  
Elected and Appointed Leaders

William Honsal, Sheriff-Coroner

Connie Beck, DHHS Director

Tom Mattson, Public Works Director

Stacy Eads, District Attorney

Howard LaHaie, Assessor

John Ford, Planning-Building Director

Amy Christensen, Treasurer-Tax Coll

Cody Roggatz, Aviation Director

Chris Cooper, Library Director

Luke Brownfield, Public Defender

Yana Valachovic, UC Cooperative

Bennett Hoffmann, Child Support Dir