

Approved Budget Priorities Based on Survey Results

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved recommended budget priorities based on the results of a survey of County residents.

The public opinion survey, conducted by a professional public opinion firm, was conducted in October and November of 2023. The survey was a follow-up to the County's first public opinion survey in 2021, which was conducted so the County could develop budget priorities based on public input.

The results of the 2023 survey were remarkably similar to the results in 2021, with focus areas such as homelessness and road improvements identified as priorities.

The recommended priorities for the use of General Fund discretionary funds in the FY 2024-25 budget are:

1. Complying with the County's legal, financial, regulatory and policy obligations, including providing mandated services, ensuring collection of revenues, and complying with the General Fund Reserve policy.



2. Optimizing the use of County resources, with budgeted service levels for County programs informed by community priorities, improving effectiveness and efficiency where possible, and limiting the extent to which reductions in dedicated revenue are backfilled with discretionary resources.
3. Funding new or enhanced programs that focus on the most critical and urgent needs, with the following priority focus areas identified in the survey of County residents:
 - A Countywide focus area of addressing homelessness, its impacts, and contributing factors, including the cost and availability

of housing, mental health services and substance abuse treatment.

- An unincorporated focus area of improving the condition of roads.

Survey Methodology

The firm conducted surveys through telephone and online interviews with 1,061 respondents, with a margin of sampling error of $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% confidence level. The survey was available in 10 languages, including English.

Survey Audience

Of the 1,061 respondents surveyed, residents were drawn from communities in proportion to the County's adult population by age and gender and came from a mix of educational backgrounds and household incomes.

More than half of the respondents identified with a race or ethnicity other than white, and more than one-quarter indicated they spoke a language other than English at home regularly.

Continues on back

Sacramento County Board of Supervisors

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Sacramento County Opens 2nd Safe Stay Shelter

Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy cut the ribbon on the County's second Safe Stay Community for people experiencing homelessness. The sleeping cabin-style shelter campus has a capacity of 56 - 34 single cabins and 11 double occupancy cabins and was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Safe Stay is located at 7001 East Parkway, in the parking lot of the County's Department of Health Services.

"I'm thrilled to open up a second Safe Stay Community in my district," said District 2 Supervisor Patrick Kennedy. "We've already had really positive results at our first location - both for the guests and the neighborhood, that I'm hopeful we'll see an immediate impact once this opens next week."

What Can Guests Expect?

On-premises guests can use the bathroom and shower trailers, laundry services and eat three meals a day in the common area. The campus also has a pet relief area, a computer lab, an entertainment space, employment development and housing-focused case management. Guests will also connect with transportation resources for off-site needs such as medical appointments or jobs.

Each cabin is outfitted with a bed that folds down from the wall, two storage containers, basic toiletry supplies, a desk and chair, overhead light, HVAC, power outlets, smoke alarm and fire extinguisher and a locking door. Cabins also have enough space to accommodate a dog bed or pet crate. The campus has storage containers for possessions that do not fit in the sleeping cabins.



How Are Guests Referred?

The East Parkway Safe Stay Community is currently a closed referral process, through homeless services providers engaging with people living outside near the shelter. Existing street outreach providers will engage with people living outside to evaluate what services and shelter programs they are eligible for and that will best meet their needs.

People experiencing homelessness and looking for shelter resources should contact the Housing Crisis Line by calling 2-1-1 and pressing 8 or the toll-free number at 1-844-546-1464.

If you need shelter or services, please call 2-1-1.

For more information on what the County is doing to address homelessness, visit the Department of Homeless Services and Housing website at schs.sacounty.gov.

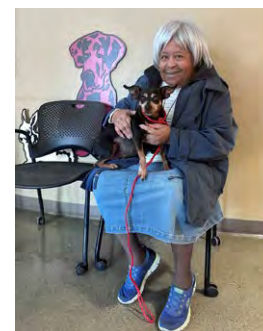
Start the New Year by Adopting a New Pet

There's no better way to start the new year than by adopting your new best friend from Bradshaw Animal Shelter. To ring in a new year of adoptions, the shelter celebrated the first adoption of 2024: an 11-year-old dog named Mini. Mini, a Miniature Pinscher mix and senior dog, was exactly what Christena Austin was looking for.

"Old dogs need a good home too," Austin says. She knows a thing or two about adopting older dogs: she met her last pup, Violet, when Violet was 12.5 years

old. At first, Austin recalls walking away from Violet, thinking she was too old to adopt, but "something made me go back for her," Austin says. The pair spent five memorable years together, but Violet recently passed away at the age of 17.5. Austin felt called to give another old dog a new lease on life and is ecstatic to welcome Mini into her home. "She will be treated like a queen," Austin says.

There are still so many wonderful pets who are looking for forever homes. If one of your resolutions going into 2024



is to live a healthier lifestyle, a pet can help you get there. Studies have shown that pets can have

positive effects on our health: pets can increase opportunities to exercise, get outside, and socialize. Regular walking or playing with pets can decrease blood

Continues on back



How the County Meets the Needs of Older Adults

California launched the Master Plan for Aging (<https://mpa.aging.ca.gov/>) in 2021 to create a California for All Ages by 2030.

"We are all aging, whether we're 10, 20, 30, 40, or 70, 80, 90, or 100," says Heidi Richardson, program planner with the Sacramento County Department of Child, Family & Adult Services.

The benefits of supporting older residents are the same as supporting all residents: a community where residents from birth to older ages can thrive, enjoy life, help others, and reach out for help when in need. "We think of older people as needing care and help—and some do—but we all do at points in our life. We want a society where people are able to say, 'I need help,'" says Richardson.

Sacramento's growing aging population

According to the California Department of Aging, the population of Sacramento County residents over age 60 will increase 187% from 2010 to 2060. Conversely, the population of younger residents is decreasing.

"What's going to happen in Sacramento County, in probably 2026, is the older adult population will exceed the youth population. That will be the first time in history that that's ever happened," says Pam Miller, executive director of the Agency on Aging Area 4.



"There's a whole lot of things out there that are happening for the first time that older adults are experiencing. I think the increase in housing costs, the increase in food costs, and your income probably going down because you're older, it's like the perfect storm for folks to need a lot of services."

Planning to meet future needs

Sacramento County is part of AARP's Age-Friendly Network of States and Communities. Created by the World Health Organization and implemented by AARP, age-friendly communities identify eight domains that make communities more livable.

Those domains include accessible and affordable housing and health care, transportation options, green spaces, as well as opportunities for social and civic participation. Age-friendly communities "help older people thrive and experience connection and joy in their life," Richardson says. "Our goal for

older adults—and everyone—is to thrive as residents of Sacramento County." In 2023, Sacramento received a grant from the California Department of Aging to develop an Action Plan, the next stage of becoming an age-friendly community.

General Resources for Older Adults

- 1. Senior Resource guide** (<https://www.211sacramento.org/211/senior-resource-guide>)
Phone: 2-1-1 or 1-844-546-1464
- 2. Agency on Aging Area 4** (<https://agencyonaging4.org/>)
Phone: 916-486-1876
- 3. Aging and Disability Resource Connection** (<https://adrc4.org/sacramento-county/>)
Phone: 1-800-211-4545
- 4. ACC Senior Services** (includes Meals on Wheels) (<https://www.accsv.org/services/>)
Phone: 916-394-6399
- 5. Sacramento County Department of Child, Family and Adult Services** (<https://dcfas.saccounty.net/SAS>)
 - Adult Protective Services (APS)
Phone: 916-874-9377
 - In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS): Phone: 916-874-9471
- 6. Resources for Independent Living** (<https://www.ril-sacramento.org/>)
Phone: 916-446-3074

Sacramento Public Library Prom Drive



The Sacramento Public Library is accepting donations for gently used formalwear including jackets, dresses, shoes and accessories for its annual Prom Drive. Drop off items at any of the library's 28 locations through January 31.

All items should be free of holes, stains, rips, and tears. The library will host a series of free Prom Giveaway events in the spring, where teens can browse the prom closet and pick out an outfit to keep. Visit www.saclibrary.org/prom to learn more.

Board Approves Budget Priorities Based on Survey Results, *Continued*

More than two in five respondents personally experienced homelessness or knew someone who had.

Survey Results

Survey result highlights include:

County Context: The top concern survey respondents wanted the County to address, by far, was homelessness. Of the respondents identified, 58 percent reported homelessness as the most important problem (compared to 53 percent in 2021). The second and third categories were crime/safety/drugs at 18 percent and housing/affordable rent at 15 percent (both were at 13 percent in 2021).

Infrastructure/road repairs was in the fourth category at 8 percent (same in 2021) cost of living/inflation was fifth at 7 percent (versus 5 percent in 2021).

Road conditions are a bigger issue in the unincorporated areas than the cities, with 66 percent of residents in the unincorporated areas citing road conditions as an extremely or very serious problem.

Resident Priorities for the County Budget:

Low levels of homelessness and crime, the fair and transparent administration of elections and adequate protection for vulnerable children were seen as keys to making Sacramento County a good place to live. Residents also valued enough good, well-paying jobs for local residents and accessible mental health services.

Less important to residents were adequate retail and shopping opportunities and low levels of incarceration.

Residents were also broadly satisfied with waste disposal, County parks and libraries. Majorities were satisfied with public transportation and preparation for public health emergencies.

However, four in five residents were broadly dissatisfied with homelessness prevention. Addressing homelessness, affordable housing and mental health services were areas that people highly value but see the County as falling short.

Allocating the County Budget: Residents were asked to imagine they are in charge of the County budget and were asked how



they would prioritize County spending in six broad areas.

On average, residents allocated more funding to reducing homelessness and public safety than other areas. Infrastructure maintenance came in third, followed by services for children, seniors and families, economic development such as job creation, and parks and environmental protection.

For City of Sacramento residents, homelessness was a higher priority than in the unincorporated areas and other cities. Homeowners were slightly more likely to prioritize homelessness, safety and infrastructure.

View the full survey and results at <https://bdm.saccounty.gov>.

Start the New Year by Adopting a New Pet, *Continued*

pressure, cholesterol levels, and triglyceride levels, and the companionship that pets provide can help manage feelings of loneliness and anxiety.

Your new pet's adoption includes their spay/neuter surgery, up-to-date vaccinations and monthly preventatives, a microchip, and a 1-year license for Sacramento County residents. Adoptable animals can be viewed at animalcare.saccounty.gov.

Bradshaw Animal Shelter is located at 3839 Bradshaw Rd. in Sacramento and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. with extended hours on Wednesdays from 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

You can also meet adoptable pets at **Petco adoption center** located at 8840 Madison Avenue in Fair Oaks from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.