

A COMMUNITY FORUM ON MEASURE B *PROTECTING OUR SOCIAL SAFETY NET*

Featured Speakers

- Dr. Grant Colfax, Director, Contra Costa Health Services
- John Gioia, District 1 Supervisor
- Josh Anijar, Executive Director, Contra Costa Labor Council
- Dr. Sarah McNeil, Medical Staff President, Contra Costa Regional Medical Center



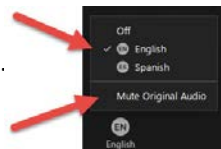
Welcome!

If you participate in this meeting and speak English:

- Click the **globe** or **3 dots (MORE)** located at the bottom of the screen.



- **Select the language** you would like to hear
- Make sure you **mute yourself** if you are not speaking or if there is a lot of noise in the background.
- Stick to one language
- If you have technical issues, please use the chat box to assist you.



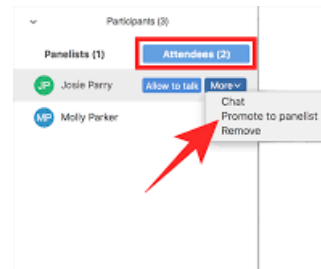
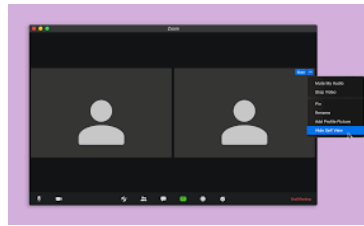
¡Bienvenidos!

Si usted está participando en esta reunión y habla Español:

- **Apriete** el símbolo del **globo** o **los 3 puntos** (en la parte inferior de la pantalla).
- Presione el globo o la palabra **MORE** (si nos acompaña por tableta o por teléfono).
- **Elija el idioma** que desea escuchar y hablar.
- Apague el audio original (si solo desea escuchar una voz).
- Asegúrese de **silenciar** el micrófono.
- Comparta en el idioma que seleccionó.
- Si tiene problemas técnicos, favor de mencionar en el chat para ayudarle.

How to add the language letter to your name – **Cómo** **agregar la letra de lenguaje a su nombre**

- Click on the **3 dots** on the top of your image
or
- Click on the **participants** section, next to your name – click on **MORE**
- Add an **-S** next to your name if you speak **SPANISH**
or
- **Add** an **-E** next to your name if you speak **ENGLISH**



This will help us assign you to your Breakout rooms during the session.

- **Oprima los 3 puntos** en la parte superior de su imagen
u
- Oprima en la tecla de **participantes**, a lado de su nombre dice **MAS (MORE)**
- **Agregue** una **-S** junto a su nombre si habla **ESPAÑOL**
o
- Agregue una **-E** junto a su nombre si habla Inglés

Esto nos ayudara asignarle a su grupo durante la sesión

Language Justice Guidelines

Open and equal communication for all.

Recommendations:

- Everyone must enable interpretation feature in zoom.
- Speak clearly and slightly slowly, especially if you are reading
- State your name each time you are about to speak, as individuals in the interpretation channel will only hear the interpreter's voice.
- For optimal sound quality, use a microphone or headphones if you are presenting.
- Try to avoid acronyms and/or jargon.
- If you are bilingual, remain in a single channel or announce if you intend to switch languages.
- Speak in your chosen language; the interpreter will switch channels to provide interpretation.

Pautas de Justicia del Lenguaje

Comunicación abierta y equitativa para todos.

Recomendaciones:

- Todos deben activar la función de interpretación en zoom.
- Hablen con claridad y un poco más despacio de lo habitual, sobre todo si están leyendo
- Digan su nombre cada vez que vayan a hablar, ya que quienes estén en el canal de interpretación solo escucharán la voz del intérprete.
- Para una calidad de sonido óptima, utilicen un micrófono o auriculares si van a presentar.
- Intente evitar acrónimos y jerga técnica.
- Si son bilingües, permanezcan en un solo canal o anuncien si van a cambiar de idioma.
- Hablen en el idioma que hayan elegido; el intérprete cambiará de canal para ofrecer la interpretación.



AGENDA

01. WELCOME FROM CO-HOSTS
02. SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS
03. PANEL DISCUSSION
04. AUDIENCE Q&A





Sara Gurdian

PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE
CONTRA COSTA BUDGET JUSTICE
COALITION

BJC Mission & Goals:

- To build shared community knowledge and power throughout the county's budgeting process
- Serve as an accountability anchor for systems and processes
- Center and uplift the voices of those most impacted in Contra Costa County

As the program manager for the Contra Costa Budget Justice Coalition, Sara Gurdian is a champion for practices rooted in equity that address gaps and disparities faced by those most impacted. Her understanding of local and regional policies has influenced her core belief that it is essential to center community voices throughout decision-making processes. As a Bay Area native, Sara learned to have a deep appreciation for people who make our communities great, regardless of gender, immigration status, color, identity.



**Greg
Colley**

MANAGING DIRECTOR
MULTI-FAITH ACTION COALITION

The Multi-Faith ACTION Coalition:

We are a multi-faith coalition of Contra Costa County residents, faith communities, and advocates taking action together in support of our most vulnerable neighbors. We use a systems change approach in our faith-rooted advocacy to reduce poverty.

Greg Colley has been working with MFAC since the fall of 2024. He has been active in faith-rooted social justice and advocacy since 2014. He has Masters Degrees in Theology and Pastoral care, and served as a chaplain at John Muir Health for over 10 years.



Mariana Moore proudly serves as Senior Director of Ensuring Opportunity, which brings together advocates across issues and sectors in a collective effort to end poverty in our community. We focus on the root causes of poverty in challenging and changing unjust and racist policies, practices, and narratives that keep our neighbors in Contra Costa members from reaching their full potential to thrive.

Mariana Moore

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ENSURING
OPPORTUNITY



**Rachel
Rosekind**

Rachel Rosekind, PhD, MLIS, (Root and Bloom) strives to build social infrastructure and communities of care that lift people up instead of pinning them down or hemming them in. As an educator, editor, researcher, and consultant at the nexus of economic, racial, and social justice, she seeks to amplify underrepresented voices in print and in public and move underserved communities to the centers of social and political concern. Rachel is dedicated to excavating and examining root causes to catalyze strategic interventions that promote more inclusive and accessible communities and equitable, just, and accountable resourcing.

Contra Costa County 2026 Proposed Sales Tax Purpose + Impact



Measure B Ballot Language

“To help Contra Costa County address cuts in federal funding; support local services such as health care, supplemental food assistance, and other general county services; shall Contra Costa County adopt a five-eighths of one cent (0.625%) temporary general sales tax for 5 years, providing an estimated \$150,000,000 annually, and subject to annual audits?”

Level-Setting: A National Issue With Local Impacts

- HR 1 cuts \$1 trillion in health care + \$187 billion in food assistance and gives the wealthy \$1.4 trillion in tax cuts
- These funding cuts will cost California billions of dollars over the next 10 years
 - Amplifying a broken tax system
 - Endangering critical safety net services
- Counties will be burdened with much higher administrative costs yet are limited in how they can raise revenues
- County hospitals and community clinics face major funding and service disruptions
- County workers are on the frontlines



The Sustainability of Public Systems & Services Is At Risk



- Reduced federal funding for public benefits and administration
- Tightened eligibility and renewal processes for Medi-Cal and CalFresh
- Loss of revenue to public hospital and community clinics
- New unfunded mandates
- Higher administrative workload
- Reduced reimbursement for services provided
- Absorbing costs of uncompensated care for residents without health insurance

Why It Matters

- The County's safety net is an irreplaceable lifeline for hundreds of thousands of Contra Costa residents
- 432,782 residents served in 2025 through public benefits programs

Public benefits such as Medi-Cal and CalFresh provide:

- Economic stabilizers for individuals and families
- Sources of revenue for public systems and institutions
- Overall protection and promotion of public health
- Long-term benefits for communities and society

Acute Harm Alongside Shared Impact

- Residents who are already struggling will bear the brunt of federal and state cuts
 - Higher medical debt, delayed care, increased financial hardship
 - Most at risk: systems-involved individuals, immigrants, seniors, people with disabilities, low-income residents, and people of color
- 93,000 people in Contra Costa are at risk of losing health insurance
- Up to 17,600 may lose food assistance
- These changes will impact all of us
 - Extended emergency room wait times
 - Higher health insurance premiums
 - Potential County service and staffing reductions



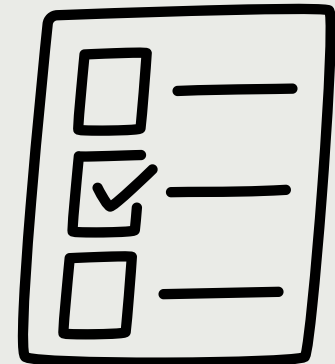
What's at Stake: A Fraying Safety Net & Increased Disparities



- Programs most under pressure: health care access, housing support, food assistance
- Not just a public health issue, it is a humanitarian crisis
- More residents will turn to County services as fewer qualify for federal and state assistance
- Will amplify serious disparities in health and well-being for community members already struggling with the cost of basic needs and care

What Is Measure B Intended to Do?

- Protect and sustain our county's health care system
- Help keep eligible residents on Medi-Cal and CalFresh
- Partially fill the federal & state funding gap
- Proactively increase revenue for the significant fiscal pressures to come



Residents Have Expressed Concern About:



- Lack of clarity over how funds will be spent
- Understanding how different community needs will be prioritized
- Absence of community engagement, transparency, and oversight
- Another regressive tax on the heels of Measure X and a rising affordability crisis

Tonight Offers an Opportunity for:

- Residents to hear directly from county leaders how federal and state cuts will impact community members and County safety net services
- Shared learning and discussion about a sales tax measure that aims to mitigate the impact of those cuts
- Measure B's proponents to educate residents about its intent, parameters, and accountability
- Community members to pose questions to our panelists



Meet Our Speakers



John Gioia

DISTRICT 1 SUPERVISOR



Dr. Grant Colfax

CONTRA COSTA HEALTH,
DIRECTOR



Sarah McNeil, MD (she/her)

MEDICAL STAFF PRESIDENT,
CONTRA COSTA REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER



Josh Anijar

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONTRA
COSTA LABOR COUNCIL



Panelist Questions

Question No. 1

Based on your role and perspective, describe the landscape our county and its residents will be navigating in the coming years.



Question No. 2

Based on your role and perspective, why do we need the sales tax measure?



Question No. 3

What, specifically, will the sales tax measure revenues be invested in and how will those revenues protect Contra Costa's residents most at risk of harm?



Question No. 4

How will you prioritize funding allocations with so many competing and worthwhile needs?



Question No. 5

How would you explain this tax measure to a Contra Costa resident who is already struggling to make ends meet amid rising costs of living?



Question No. 6

What role will community members play in ensuring transparency and accountability for the funds, given that there is no community advisory board mandated with this measure?



Question No. 7

What happens after the sales tax expires in five years?



Question No. 8

Anything you would like to add that we have not already covered?



Audience Q&A

Audience members can raise their hands to pose questions or type questions directly into the chat





WEBI

Material Sharing + Recording

- Measure B Community Forum - Shared Drive
 - Recent county presentations including data and key changes to Contra Costa Health & Employment and Human Services Department
- The video recording of this webinar will be shared with all participants in a follow-up email



THANK YOU!

