



PRESERVING ESSENTIAL SERVICES IN SUISUN CITY

Suisun City, along with many other cities across the state, has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and related steep downturn in economic activity. Throughout changing and challenging circumstances, Suisun City has been working hard to continue providing essential city services and to maintain the City's long-term financial stability.

Preserving Fire and Emergency Response Services

73% of fire department 911 calls in Suisun City are for medical emergencies and for years Suisun City's volunteer firefighters and emergency medical personnel kept our community safe. While public safety continues to be a top priority, the City only has one-quarter of the volunteer firefighter and emergency personnel force it had a decade ago and current police staffing levels are nearly 20% lower than budgeted levels. This makes it challenging to patrol neighborhoods and respond to emergency calls. Additionally, there has been a 125% increase in fire call volume this year and current firefighter staffing levels have made it difficult to respond quickly to these emergencies.



Investing in training and recruiting volunteer and professional fire and emergency medical staff would help ensure that first responders have the training, staffing and equipment they need to respond to emergencies and save lives.

Without additional funding, public safety services and staffing could be further impacted and Suisun City would have to make cuts to city services and programs, such as senior and youth programs, parks services and public nuisance code enforcement.

Local Funding to Address Community Needs

In a recent community survey, our residents noted public safety, maintaining streets, keeping senior and youth programs, and maintaining city services as top priorities for the city, and a majority of residents would support a potential emergency local sales tax measure to help prevent cuts to city services amidst the recession and coronavirus crisis. Accordingly, the City Council is considering placing a three-quarter cent local sales tax measure on the November 2020 ballot. This would be a time-limited measure dedicated to addressing the City's most urgent needs. A measure would provide locally-controlled funding for essential general services, such as:

- Maintaining fire and 911 emergency medical services and response times
- Retaining experienced firefighters and maintaining local fire protection and prevention services
- Maintaining and repairing local streets
- Maintaining neighborhood police patrols
- Addressing crime and public nuisances associated with homelessness
- Preventing elimination of senior, youth and pre-school programs

Strict Fiscal Accountability Required

- Annual independent financial audits and public review of expenditures would be required
- All funds would remain in Suisun City and could not be taken by the State
- A measure would not just be paid by local residents but also those who visit and shop in Suisun City
- Groceries, prescription medicine and other essential purchases are exempt from sales tax, which would help ensure the cost is not a burden to those on fixed incomes

More Information

For more information or to provide feedback, visit our website at www.suisun.com/potentialmeasure. You can also contact City Manager Greg Folsom at (707) 421-7300 or gfolson@suisun.com.

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