

Ready Nevada County: Preparing for the Future



WILDFIRE PREVENTION, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND DISASTER READINESS MEASURE *(proposed)*

Background:

As wildfires become more frequent and more destructive, heat events become increasingly common, and climate uncertainties mean more risk of droughts, floods, and extreme weather events, Nevada County must be well prepared for ongoing natural disasters.

Residents are requesting community wide solutions based on setting big goals to better protect Nevada County residents, homes, and businesses, and securing the necessary ongoing resources to make them a reality.

After consulting with first responders, key stakeholders, and concerned citizens, County staff is developing a proposal, subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors, for a locally controlled revenue measure that could fund wildfire prevention, emergency services, disaster readiness, and other critical services.

What are the community needs and priorities a local revenue measure could address?

A local revenue measure could provide critical resources needed to save lives, reduce the threat of wildfires, and improve all-hazards disaster readiness and evacuation safety.

A measure could respond to community priorities such as:

1. Help prevent wildfires by removing flammable brush countywide from along our roads, in our neighborhoods, around our cities and town, and near critical public infrastructure.
2. Improve evacuation routes to get residents out safely and quickly, and first responders in during an emergency.
3. Enhance emergency communications, early warning and 911 response to quickly notify residents during a natural disaster.
4. Improve enforcement of fire safety laws and illegal campfires that increase the threat of wildfires countywide. Help law enforcement ensure our parks, forests, trails, and other public areas are monitored to prevent wildfires and are safe and secure for everyone.
5. Help seniors and people with disabilities maintain defensible space around their homes.
6. Provide free year-round green waste disposal and drop-off sites.

When could Nevada County residents get to vote on the proposed measure?

At their upcoming August 9th Board meeting, the Supervisors will consider whether to place the proposed measure on the November 8, 2022, General Election ballot. By putting the measure on the ballot, Nevada County voters would be given the choice to support this emergency services initiative.

The potential measure, if enacted, would establish a ½ cent countywide sales tax that would apply to both residents and visitors and generate approximately \$12,000,000 annually, making the County eligible for more state and federal funding to address wildfire prevention and other local services.

It is not a tax on homes or property and food purchased as groceries are not subject to it. It would require independent citizen oversight, financial audits, and reports to the public. If enacted, all revenue would be locally controlled and could not be taken by the State.

Can the public still provide feedback?

Yes. You can share your priorities with the Board by taking a short 5-minute online survey at www.ReadyNevadaCounty.org/Future.

When will the proposed measure be on the Board agenda and how can I participate?

The proposed measure will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, August 9th, at 1:30PM at the Rood Center.

- The agenda will be published on August 4th at noon, and can be found at www.NevadaCountyCA.gov/BOSMeetings
- Letters to the Board should be emailed no later than Friday, August 5th to: BOS.PublicComment@co.nevada.ca.us (Option to snail-mail to Board of Supervisors at 950 Maidu Ave, Suite 200, Nevada City, CA 95959)
- Option to join Public Comment by phone at: (530) 270-3474 [Note that callers will be placed in a call-in queue until they are permitted into the meeting for comment.]

Contact:

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