



Local Ballot Measure: AA

Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted.

Argument In Favor of Measure AA

Vote YES on MEASURE AA for safer roads and a safer Monterey County.

Our rural roads are in crisis. Decades of neglect have filled our roads with potholes and broken pavement, putting our families at risk every time they travel. Most of Monterey County's 1,257 miles of roads are below fair condition. Measure AA is our chance to fix our roads before they become even worse.

Public safety is at stake. As Monterey County's population grows, our emergency services are stretched thin. With fewer Sheriff deputies on patrol, fire departments struggling to keep up and 911 emergency services stressed, the safety of our rural and unincorporated communities is in jeopardy. Measure AA will provide the necessary funding to ensure that when emergencies strike, help is there, fast.

Measure AA will also support critical county services that we all rely on-parks where our children play, healthcare services that keep us healthy, social services for the elderly and needy, programs to reduce homelessness and training to improve job skills for all residents.

The facts are clear:

- Essential purchases are exempt. Groceries, prescription medications, feminine hygiene products, and diapers will not be taxed.
- Funds stay in Monterey County. By law, these funds will be used for local services and cannot be taken by the State.
- Addressing a growing deficit. Without Measure AA, our county faces a growing fiscal deficit that threatens crucial services.

Join first responders, labor, business, and community leaders in voting YES on MEASURE AA for better roads, safer communities, and a brighter future for all of us.

Vote YES on MEASURE AA for a better quality of life in rural and unincorporated Monterey County.

/s/ Kate Daniels, Monterey County Supervisor-Elect

/s/ Leo Murillo, Vice President Deputy Sheriffs Association

/s/ Adriana Melgoza, Founder of Monterey County Rapid Response Team

/s/ Jacqueline C. Simon, Vice President, North County Fire Protection District

Rebuttal To Argument In Favor of Measure AA

This measure would impose a 1 percentage point sales tax increase on sales within the unincorporated areas of Monterey County. The proposal is a bad idea for three reasons.

First, we don't know how the revenues will be used. Although the argument in favor emphasizes fixing potholes and broken pavement, the actual Measure lists many possible uses. Moreover, the tax proceeds will be part of general revenues. So where specifically will those funds go? We don't know. In short, the revenues will be spent for whatever purposes the Supervisors decide. There is no guarantee, for example, that of the many potholes we have, even one will be filled.

Second, as of December 20, 2023 (see <https://smartasset.com/taxes/california-sales-tax>), the current 7.75% tax rate for Monterey County is above or equal to the tax rate for 44 of California's 58 counties. If the 1 percentage point tax increase were implemented, that would put the tax rate for the unincorporated areas of Monterey County at 8.75%, which is above the rate for 52 of California's 58 counties.

Third, Monterey County's government doesn't have a "revenue problem." It has a spending problem. It spends too much. If the Supervisors want to know who's responsible for spending so much, they need only look in the mirror.

Let's not make it easier for them to spend.

Make it clear to the Board of Supervisors: Vote NO on Measure AA!

/s/ David R. Henderson, Economist

/s/ Lawrence Samuels, Author

/s/ Chris Kramer, Registered Respiratory Therapist

/s/ Tom Lee, Meteorologist

/s/ Michael Weaver, Businessman