



# HOUSING

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

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## Housing Santa Cruz County August Newsletter

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### **Our Feature Article:**

### ***"Housing is on the Ballot!"***

[Santa Cruz was recently in the news](#) for being second only to San Francisco as the most expensive place to live in our country. That fact is no surprise to anyone who lives here. Local schools and businesses find it increasingly more difficult to hire and retain staff due to the high cost of housing in our area.

In an effort to respond to the critical shortage of affordable housing, several housing-related measures will be on the November ballot, and voters will have a critical role to play in determining the future of affordable housing in our county. *Now* is the time to start paying attention and getting educated about what's at stake when voters go to the polls to cast their ballots!

[Click Here to Read Full Article from HSCC](#)

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## SC County Housing Ballot Measure Updates

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### ***School Bond Measures Would Support Workforce Housing for Teachers and Staff***

Voters in November will decide whether Santa Cruz City Schools should issue about \$371 million in bonds to fund school upgrades. The bonds would raise taxes on homeowners in the school district.

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### ***No on Measure O!***

Developed *without real stakeholder consultation, with zero public input, and without any impartial analysis of its impact*, Measure O would amend the City's General Plan and Downtown Plan to do the following...

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### ***Watsonville Ballot Measures Tackle Development and Farm Land***

Watsonville voters in November will weigh two ballot measures that help guide where new housing, shops, parks and other development could be built near the city limits.

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### ***Explainer: Santa Cruz's Empty Home Tax***

Santa Cruz city voters will decide on Measure N in the Nov. 8 election. Measure N is a tax on homes that are vacant for most of the year in the City of Santa Cruz. The tax would raise money for affordable housing projects.

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## **Other SC County Affordable Housing News**

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### ***Santa Cruz council delays vote on housing changes***

To address Santa Cruz's housing shortage and comply with state law, city staff on Tuesday night presented a plan to the city council that would allow more new homes above shops in busy areas like Soquel Avenue and Mission, Ocean and Water streets.

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### ***RV Parking Program Expands to Armory***

A legal, overnight parking program for at least 20 RVs is set to start this month outside the National Guard Armory near Delaveaga Golf Course in Santa Cruz.

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## ***County's Sustainability Update Promotes***



## ***Housing Diversity***

The County's housing needs are changing as a result of several interconnected trends: seniors are making up a larger percentage of the population as the Baby Boomer generation ages; more professionals are choosing to move to Santa Cruz and commute over the hill to Silicon Valley or work remotely; and the region has not built enough housing to accommodate demand, leading to a housing supply crisis.

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## ***County Superintendent of Schools Addresses the Housing Problem***

Housing costs are deeply intertwined with public education. Many of our teachers and support staff struggle to live – and stay – within Santa Cruz County due to the high cost of housing.

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## ***Veteran Homelessness Hits New High in Santa Cruz County***

While support for homeless veterans has been robust at both the state and national levels, a recent survey done in conjunction with February's one-day point-in-time count suggests that the situation in Santa Cruz County might not be as positive as local advocates believed.

[Read More](#)

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# **HSCC CA Legislative Watch**

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## **Critical Housing and Homelessness Bills Coming Up for a Vote**

Over the next few days several game-changing legislative bills are coming up for a vote in Sacramento which would transform the lives of Californians fighting housing insecurity and

homelessness.

**AB 1685 (Bryan):** The Local Ticket Relief Programs would provide unhoused Californians, especially those who live in their cars, a path towards stability by forgiving accumulated debt from parking ticket fines and fees.

**AB 1816 (Bryan):** The Reentry housing and Workforce Development Program would support formerly incarcerated Californians, who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, in accessing permanent housing and living wage jobs.

**AB 2011 (Wicks):** The Affordable Housing and High Road Jobs Act of 2022 would allow new apartment and condominium developments to be built in commercial and mixed-use zones when at least 15% of the homes are affordable to low-income households.

**AB 2094 (R. Rivas):** Would add a Very Low Income category to the reporting matrix that local jurisdictions are already familiar with so they may distinctly count units that serve Extremely-Low- and Very-Low- Income populations.

**AB 2334 (Wicks):** Would build on the improvements in density bonus law provided under AB 1763 by creating another opportunity for 100% affordable housing developments to earn enhanced density bonus in location-efficient areas, defined by very low vehicle miles traveled.

**AB 2817 (Reyes):** Would establish a state-level rental assistance program for people experiencing homelessness, and include resources for service providers and local jurisdictions to help connect people to housing in the private market.

**SB 948 (Becker):** Would allow the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a pool of transition reserves, rather than requiring each affordable housing development to hold transition reserves for their tenants with vouchers.

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## [Join Housing Santa Cruz County Today!](#)

**Housing Santa Cruz County** is working every day to keep affordable housing development top of mind amongst policymakers and community leaders.

Your tax-deductible donation will help us maintain a steady presence and pressure at the local and State level to enact and support meaningful affordable housing policy and projects throughout Santa Cruz County. Please consider becoming a recurring contributor to our work, if you aren't already!



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