

## Maintaining Quality of Life in the Town of Los Gatos

Known for its family-oriented environment and commitment to safety, Los Gatos is more than just a town; it's a vibrant, sustainable community that takes pride in its unique qualities: historic neighborhoods and lively, accessible downtown, local culture and arts scene, excellent schools, and healthy local economy.

### **Additional Funding Would Help Address Community Needs**

Additional reliable, ongoing funding would allow the Town to maintain and improve public safety and meet other community priorities.

The Town is exploring options to increase revenues to maintain the high level of municipal services Los Gatos residents have come to expect, emphasizing community character, good governance, fiscal stability, quality public infrastructure, civic enrichment, and public safety.

Additional revenues would be used to fund essential services and community-desired programs, such as:

- Provide high quality public safety and law enforcement services by adding additional officers
- Reduce the risk of wildfire and prepare for potential emergencies with more resources for these ongoing efforts
- Maintain rapid 911 response
- Keep parks and public areas safe and clean
- Support services for seniors to thrive
- Provide free, vibrant Library services and programs for all ages
- Support unhoused residents
- Pave streets, remove potholes, and improve traffic safety

### **Challenges Facing Los Gatos**

While costs of providing services and programs for residents have significantly increased over the years, Town revenues have not kept pace. Los Gatos is facing the same economic pressures of many other cities and businesses, including inflation and the uneven recovery from the pandemic. In addition, unfunded mandates by the State have also reduced the Town's available funds.

### **Fiscally Responsible Budget Measures Enacted**

Los Gatos has taken the following proactive cost-cutting measures during major downturns to reduce budget expenditures and control costs while maintaining high service levels:

- Staffing levels significantly reduced from 2001 – 2005 and have not returned to those levels, despite an increase in population since then, unfunded mandates, and service demands
- Imposed wage freezes and unpaid furloughs
- Reduced employee benefit costs

Town budgets are reviewed annually by an independent auditor. Los Gatos has earned recognition for its fiscal responsibility with the highest credit rating (AAA bond rating by Moody's) and annual awards by the Government Finance Officers Association for its high quality and transparent budgeting practices.

*We welcome your feedback and questions as the Town explores funding strategies and revenue enhancements so Los Gatos can address these needs and thrive in the years ahead.*