



Promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary taxes and spending



June 26, 2023

Speaker Presentation

CoCoTax Officers

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Summary of CoCoTax General Meeting 6-23-23 Speaker Presentation

Adam Nguyen, Contra Costa County Finance Director

Adam Nguyen explained his background. Adam worked 10 years in the San Francisco City/County Finance Department, primarily focusing on real estate matters, after spending his first 6 years there in Human Services doing systems evaluation for childcare and foster care services. He has been in his current position at Contra Costa County for 1½ years.

Adam’s primary focus has been on updating the structure of the budget. The County has a balanced annual budget of \$5.515 billion dollars. It is a consolidated budget with all departments and many special districts included. There are 100’s of special districts in the county each with a small budget. For FY 23-24 the recommended expenditure budget is also \$5.515 billion. The County expense budget expenditures by categories include County Hospital, Health, and Sanitation at 50% of the budget and Public Protection at 25%. For the hospital and county health plan, the required revenues needed are \$1.988 billion (36%). The rest comes from federal and state grants and revenues.

Contra Costa is in the top 25 counties by budget size nationally. We have a large amount of revenue. The budget size is so large because we have a regional hospital. The hospital operations are partially funded by Federal and State funds. We are in the top 100 nationally in spending per capita. Our revenues are continuing to grow, but not growing as fast as spending pressure.

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Contra Costa Taxpayers Association



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Speaker Presentation, Continued

The county has been gaining population. We have 1.17 million in 24-hour residential population (as of 2020) and 1 million in daytime population which means a lot of people commute outside the county to work. The County has 11,127 full time employee positions. We don't have a deficit. Our revenue increase from property tax growth is expected to be 4%. The revenue from property taxes is 14% of the budget.

Adam walked through the county's [new budget website](#). You can get information in the County transparent portal. He covered the revenue allocation detail on handout charts. The general fund reserves are \$1.94 billion. Questions raised were the funding model for local governments, the status of pension obligations and retirement benefits, the sale of bonds and how the grants work. The County created two enhanced programs, \$10 million for a new Bay Point Library branch and \$10 million for local infrastructure grants given on a 1:10 basis.

The County's median real property sales price is down 10% this year, which will lower revenue growth. It was occasioned by higher mortgage rates. The county general purpose revenues are about \$725 million. The real property tax revenues are about \$500 million. The handout covered the biggest revenue sources by category and biggest expenditure requirements by category. He was asked if they do investigations of budget expenditure for fraud or potluck projects near the end of a fiscal year cycle.

Finally, Adam touched on Measure X current funds of \$217.6 million which have been collected through March 31, 2023. Distributions have not been allocated yet and will be before the board later in FY 23-24. (A copy of the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Overview is available by sending an email to jim@cocotax.org.)

James Pezzaglia

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