

# The County of Yuba



February 13, 2018

## **Yuba County residents interested in local funding to address essential public safety and quality of life services**

**MARYSVILLE, CA** – Yuba County residents rate local Fire Protection Districts and the Sheriff’s Office job performance positively, and nearly two-thirds feel the county needs additional funding to bolster public safety and other essential services, according to an independent research firm.

The recent public opinion research survey conducted in December 2017 by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates found high approval ratings of 91% and 76% for local Fire Protection Districts and the Sheriff’s Office, respectively. Residents also noted concerns about rising crime, homelessness, the local economy, and local infrastructure. More than half (54%) indicated potential support for a locally-controlled funding measure to address essential County services such as public safety and emergency response, parks and recreation, and fixing roads and public infrastructure.

“This community input is invaluable and appreciated,” said County Administrator Robert Bendorf. “Public safety and maintaining essential services are a top priority for the County. We must continue to address illegal marijuana grows, gang activity, our under-staffed local fire districts, our infrastructure and our local economy.

Bendorf said the county will continue to gather feedback from residents about their priorities.

Yuba County Sheriff Steve Durfor said current public safety staffing levels are at historic lows, and added there is also limited capability to purchase or maintain life-saving equipment.

“Residents understand that with an inadequate number of Sheriff’s deputies on patrol or local fire districts that lack critical equipment, emergency response times can be unnecessarily long and put lives and property at risk,” Durfor said. “We have 664 square miles of Yuba County to protect, so it’s important we continue this conversation about public safety needs.”

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