

# The VIEW

## CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

### The View

Welcome to *The View*, Mountain View's semi-annual publication dedicated to providing news on major projects, plans and initiatives in the community.

In this issue we explore some of the current issues most important to our residents, businesses and visitors. This includes a look at the City's efforts to address homelessness, increase affordable housing, improve transportation and promote a sustainable environment. We also offer information about how the City's budget provides a spending plan for our work, and how you can get involved.

Answers to your questions are always just a few clicks away. Visit the City website at [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov) to access useful information. You can also submit your questions by clicking the "Ask MV" link on the "Contact Us" page or follow us on social media for the latest news.



## Mountain View's Transportation Future

While transportation improvements have been a long-standing City Council goal, the focus has changed over the years. Shifting toward enhancing overall mobility and last-mile connectivity, Mountain View is taking a wholistic view of how multiple modes of transportation work together, how our residents can gain greater access to them, and how local, regional, public and private organizations can work together to ease congestion while improving public safety.

Every city in California is required to create a Congestion Management Plan. In Santa Clara County, that plan is maintained by the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) with the goal of reducing overall traffic congestion, improving air quality and better understanding land use as it relates to transportation. These goals are also in line with Mountain View's General Plan 2030 – our vision of the City by the end of the next decade ([www.mountainview.gov/GeneralPlan2030](http://www.mountainview.gov/GeneralPlan2030)).

Because there is limited space in Mountain View; simply widening streets cannot be the answer. Studies have shown that widening streets can actually create more problems, including increased crossing distances for pedestrians and reduced character of neighborhoods. Additionally, the influx of cars can inadvertently cause greater congestion on side

streets, resulting in all new problems.

In light of these considerations, the City is taking a coordinated, multi-modal approach, which invites and encourages the reduction of single-occupancy vehicle use. By adding safer bicycle and pedestrian pathways, connecting public transportation, and working collaboratively with employers to bridge last-mile connections to work, Mountain View aims to make it easier and more appealing for residents and commuters to get out of the car — or at least, become less reliant on their cars. In October 2016, the Council authorized staff to study new possibilities, such as bicycle facilities with amenities like showers, identifying additional regional transit expansion and funding opportunities, increasing public education, improving signal timing, and computerized traffic management.

How does this benefit our community? Aside from the obvious benefits of higher air quality, safer streets and less frustrating travel times, more opportunities to be outside of the car lead to healthier lifestyles and more cohesive neighborhoods where people see each other on a regular basis and look out for one another.

Learn more about what the City is doing at [www.mountainview.gov/Transportation](http://www.mountainview.gov/Transportation), and be sure to sign up for updates on MyMV.



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# City Strategies for Housing

## Increasing Housing Supply

Mountain View is working to increase availability and stabilize the cost of housing by increasing the overall housing supply and creating opportunities to develop affordable housing. Currently, there are approximately 3,000 new housing units approved for development, with 337 of them considered affordable. A large majority of the units are rentals and subsidized by the City through fees collected from office and industrial developments.

## Rent Stabilization and Relocation Assistance

Several programs have been adopted or updated in the past two years to provide assistance and stabilization to renters. In December 2015, Council also gave \$200,000 to the Community Services Agency to help lower-income households facing an unexpected or steep rent increase.

## Other Assistance Programs

The Right to Lease Ordinance (RTLO), adopted in January 2016, requires landlords to provide a written lease so both landlord and tenant are clear on the terms presented. The Rental Housing Dispute Resolution Program (RHDRP), implemented in March 2016, encourages landlords and tenants to mediate grievances through Project Sentinel. This has resolved 21 cases as of the time of this publication. The Tenant Relocation Assistance Ordinance (TRAO), adopted in 2010 and updated in 2014, requires landlords to provide relocation assistance to eligible tenants and helps lower-income households with moving costs, deposits and securing replacement housing.

## Measure V Temporarily Halted – Just Cause Eviction Urgency Ordinance Remains in Effect

In November, voters approved passage of Measure V, the Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Charter Amendment. Due to a lawsuit filed against the City on December 21, 2016, Measure V is on hold at the time this publication went to print. The Just Cause Eviction Urgency Ordinance adopted by the City Council on November 15, 2016 will remain in effect. The City regrets any confusion this situation may cause renters and landlords. City staff will continue its ongoing outreach and preparation in anticipation of Measure V's implementation and continue to provide updates at [www.mountainview.gov/rentstabilization](http://www.mountainview.gov/rentstabilization). You can also receive automatic updates on the process by signing up at [www.mountainview.gov/mymv](http://www.mountainview.gov/mymv) and checking "Rent Stabilization Updates."

To learn more, please visit [www.mountainview.gov/housing](http://www.mountainview.gov/housing), or one of the following dedicated pages [www.mountainview.gov/RTLO](http://www.mountainview.gov/RTLO), [www.mountainview.gov/RHDRP](http://www.mountainview.gov/RHDRP), [www.mountainview.gov/TRAO](http://www.mountainview.gov/TRAO).

# HOUSING

## The Timeline of Housing Production

A top concern for Mountain View residents and members of the City Council is the rising cost of housing. While Mountain View is a regional leader in tackling housing issues, and was one of the first to raise funds for affordable housing by placing fees on commercial development, housing costs and availability continue to be major challenges.

Mountain View added thousands of new units in recent years, with thousands more approved or in planning stages. Several hundred of these units are classified as "affordable," with rents kept below the market rate for low-income individuals or families, and specified for groups such as veterans. Building affordable housing is a complex process that takes time, funding and a collaborative effort between governments and private partners. The process requires a series of steps before construction can even begin.

### Application for City Funding

After the City sets aside funding for affordable housing, developers look at available land and create a proposal for a project. City staff and the City Council review collected proposals and decide which projects will have funding reserved for them.

### Buying Land

Buying land is not only expensive, but also a rare opportunity. Many available lots are not zoned for multi-family housing, or have existing structures that make redevelopment too difficult. Affordable housing developers must find under-utilized or oddly shaped pieces of land which may still need rehabilitation before they are suitable for housing and still pay Bay Area prices. A recent development sold for a staggering \$11 million per acre.

### Financing the Project

Affordable housing developers obtain project funding from a number of sources, including City funds for some projects. In the last year, the City Council approved \$35 million for affordable housing. While substantial, even that amount is not enough to completely fund a single project. Developers also attempt to gain funding from public and private grants, non-profit donations and tax credits. All of these sources are highly competitive, and developers may need to use a combination to make a project work. In addition, applications for state tax credits are only accepted twice a year, and typically only one in three applications is awarded full funding. Many projects are halted in this phase of development, and some never move past it.

### Entitlements

The City maintains its high standards for project quality, design and neighborhood fit when considering affordable housing proposals. During the entitlement process, City staff checks designs for how they will impact parking, traffic and the local environment. Eventually, permits need to be approved by City Advisory Boards and the City Council. This process could take more than a year to complete.

### Public Process

Public review starts simultaneously with the permit process. The City notifies all residents within one quarter-mile about the proposed development and invites community members to a series of meetings to share concerns, ideas and hopes that may change the design of the project—all of which add to the timeline.

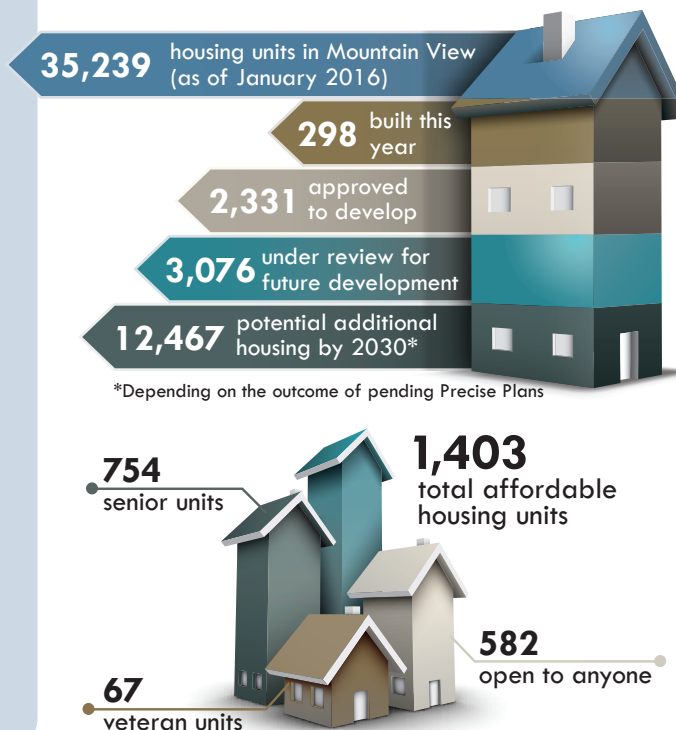
### Final Design

After initial approval, project architects might make changes to the design if needed. City staff review those final changes to make sure they still fit with the City Code and infrastructure in the area.

### Construction

Once a project breaks ground, the estimate for construction is up to 24 months before anyone moves in, depending on the complexity of the project, winter weather and other unforeseen delays.

For more information about housing in our City, visit [www.mountainview.gov/housing](http://www.mountainview.gov/housing).





# • HOUSING



The Community Services Agency at 204 Stierlin Rd. continues to provide support to local families in need.

## Help for Mountain View's Homeless

Homelessness and the regional housing crisis are significant issues for communities throughout the Bay Area, including ours. According to the 2015 County homeless census, there were 6,556 homeless persons countywide, with 276 in Mountain View — nearly double the number from 2013. Increasing housing availability and affordability remains a top priority for our City Council, and the City continues to examine a broad range of options for increasing supply and assisting displaced residents. As a result, Mountain View is a recognized leader in addressing the regional problem of insufficient housing supply in the Bay Area.

The City is working collaboratively with Santa Clara County, the Community Services Agency and other non-profits locally on homelessness, including those living in RVs and other vehicles, with both short-term and long-term actions. For the long-term, the City is increasing the overall housing supply and has passed several ordinances this year that provide assistance to renters and encourage pathways to keep people in their homes, such as dispute resolution. More information about these programs can be found in the Housing sidebar on page 2.

Short-term strategies provide basic human services designed to start those in need on the path to more permanent future housing. Services authorized by Council in October 2016 include: mobile showers and laundry; free waste-tank caps to prevent leaks; 72-hour notice of street cleaning in areas with RV parking; an ADA compliant portable toilet with servicing in Rengstorff Park; rotating shelter or safe parking programs by faith-based organizations; on-going review of RV parking areas to assess visibility and safety; outreach and caseworker funding to link homeless individuals to services; and a search for a local RV waste-dump site for those living in vehicles. City staff continues its analysis of this complex set of issues and will return to Council in early 2017 with additional options for expanding the availability of programs for residents in need of more stable housing.

For more information about these and future programs, visit the City online at [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov), and on social media at [www.mountainview.gov/social](http://www.mountainview.gov/social).

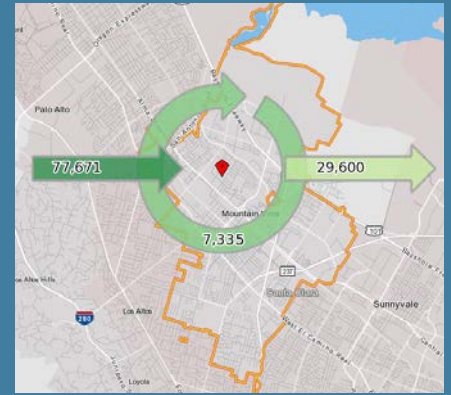


## Companion Unit Ordinance Update

In July 2016, the City adopted amendments to its companion unit development regulations in an effort to encourage more of this type of development within the City. The amendments included removing the minimum lot size requirement, reducing the amount of required parking and reducing the parkland dedication in-lieu fees for companion unit development. The City is also currently reviewing these updated regulations for compliance with new state regulations adopted in September 2016, as part of Bill SB 1069. State regulations are effective as of January 1, 2017.

Any potential change in City regulations will be reviewed by the City Council at a duly noticed public hearing. Visit [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov) for updates or follow us on social media at [www.mountainview.gov/social](http://www.mountainview.gov/social).

U.S Census Bureau for 2014



According to the US Census Bureau, 77,671 commuters flow in to our city, while only 29,600 residents commute to other cities.

## The Future of Shoreline Boulevard

The City has a new plan for the center-running reversible bus lane on Shoreline Boulevard, between Middlefield Road and Pear Avenue. A dedicated bus lane was identified in the North Bayshore Precise Plan as one of several improvements that will help facilitate transportation into and out of the North Bayshore area.

The bus lane will operate northbound during morning commutes, and southbound during weekday afternoon commutes. New bus stops will also be provided at the Terra Bella Avenue intersection. Public and private shuttles and buses that meet minimum passenger capacity requirements, and are driven by professionally trained operators, will also be allowed to use the bus lane (such as VTA buses, MVgo shuttles, MVTMA shuttles, etc.).

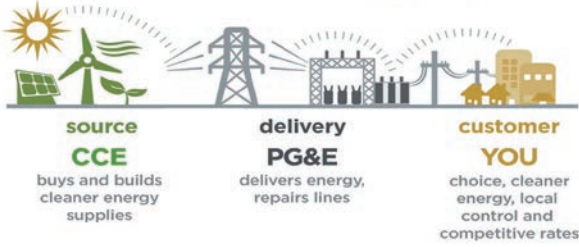
Protected bike lanes with a raised buffer will be constructed between Middlefield Road and Terra Bella Avenue. Shoreline Boulevard at Middlefield Road will be improved to become a protected intersection for pedestrians and cyclists. In addition, traffic signals at five intersections along the project corridor will be upgraded or replaced.

Improvements will also include replacing and upsizing the water and sewer mains on Shoreline Boulevard, between Middlefield Road and Highway 101, in anticipation of increased demand from new developments in North Bayshore.

The project design is expected to be complete by late 2017, with construction slated to last from early 2018 until late 2019.



## How Community Choice Energy (CCE) Works



## Securing Mountain View's Sustainable Future

Mountain View has been a leader in the area of municipal sustainability for decades. Most recently, the City set the ambitious goal of reducing community-wide carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. The City Council has also indicated that increasing sustainability activities is one of its highest priority goals.

The City Council subcommittee on Environmental Sustainability works closely with key City staff to find ways that Mountain View can be greener, such as requiring all new or remodeled City facilities to achieve LEED certification, installing solar power, replacing fossil fuel vehicles with hybrids and all-electrics, and installing electric vehicle charging stations in downtown parking structures. Local transit agencies continue to make improvements by expanding service areas and increasing frequency.

The City also strives to make Mountain View safer and more convenient for cyclists and pedestrians, making it ever easier for people to choose alternatives to driving. In 2012, Mountain View became one of only 242 cities to receive a "Silver" rating from the League of American Bicyclists – an improvement from its previous "Bronze" rating. Bike and pedestrian access is expected to continue to improve as expansions of major trails like Permanente and Stevens Creek have been approved by City Council. Collectively, these actions and other changes in City policy and planning make Mountain View a more sustainable community.

### What can I do?

Municipal buildings and activities are only responsible for about 3% of community-wide carbon emissions. In order to reach our carbon reduction goals, it is essential that businesses and residents focus on reducing their own carbon emissions wherever possible.

For most people, transportation is the biggest generator of carbon, followed by home energy. Our homes, commutes and shopping habits are three common areas where it is easy to start making a difference. For instance, buying locally grown and produced goods is not only good for local businesses and the local economy, but also healthier for the environment. Such goods require much less transportation time from creation to consumer. Using reusable bags each time you shop will, over your lifetime, eliminate the need for thousands of plastic bags that are generally thrown away immediately. These bags often end up in bodies of water, harming sea life and cluttering beautiful spaces.

To help encourage cleaner commuting, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District requires employers with at least 50 employees to provide some kind of benefit for employees who use alternatives to driving alone to work. Check with your employer to see if there are incentives such as a pre-tax transportation account, free or reduced price transit passes, or other benefits.

A host of resources exists to help residents improve their quality of life and even save money, all while contributing to the community's carbon reduction goals. Mountain View residents and businesses can take advantage of local and state funding and rebates for green improvements that reduce energy bills and make buildings more comfortable. Energy-efficient appliances, double-pane windows, and even smart-home apps can reduce your carbon footprint and save you money.

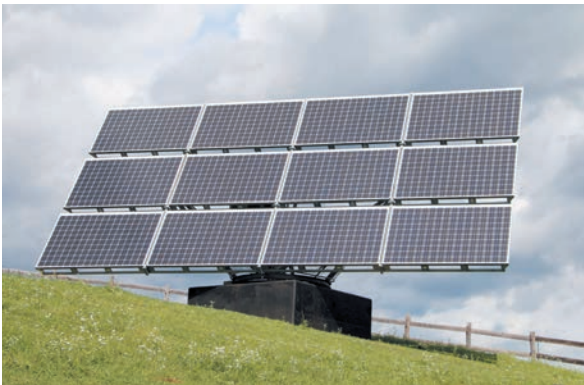
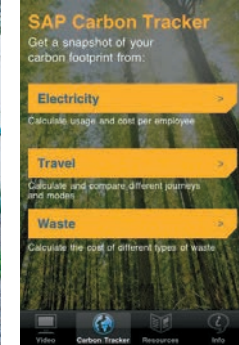
### Community Choice Energy

Developing a Community Choice Energy program is perhaps the most important recent sustainability initiative undertaken by the City. In April 2017, Mountain View and 11 other collaborating jurisdictions will launch Silicon Valley Clean Energy (SVCE) and provide 100% carbon-free electricity for residents and businesses. The new program will not only reduce the City's energy-related carbon emissions, but also be delivered at a cheaper rate for participants. As SVCE is an opt-out program, citizens do not need to do anything in order to benefit from cleaner energy at cheaper rates.

### Imagining the Mountain View of Tomorrow

It is hard to imagine what Mountain View will look like in 2050, but current efforts by the City and its citizens to work together toward a more sustainable community ensure new generations can make their home in Mountain View and continue to benefit from the local beauty and climate that make the area famous.

Learn more about the City's sustainability initiatives, available incentives, and how you can get involved at [www.mountainview.gov/sustainability](http://www.mountainview.gov/sustainability).





# • INFRASTRUCTURE



## Charleston Retention Basin Construction

On September 1, 2016, local leaders from environmental groups, technology companies and local government came together to break ground on the Charleston Retention Basin Project. With the first phase to be completed by Winter 2017, the project will reconfigure the basin and surrounding area to accommodate more native vegetation, improve bicycle and pedestrian access to nearby pathways, and create a more pronounced buffer between recreation uses and protected species habitats.

The idea for the project first surfaced three years ago, but it took a big step forward in December 2015, when City staff presented a report to the Council that included a letter of support to updating the basin from Google, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Committee for Green Foothills, California Native Plant Society and Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge.

The Charleston Retention Basin Project was originally designed in 1980 to capture stormwater runoff from the 360-acre area of North Bayshore properties and channel it into Stevens Creek. This City-owned property has since become a designated wetland area, fitness trail, bird-watching destination, natural retreat for both nearby employees, and an important part of some daily work commutes.



## McKelvey Park Flood Basin

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) awarded a contract for the McKelvey Park project, as part of the Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project, at their Board meeting on November 8, 2016.

Offsite improvements, including utility relocation and replacements in Park Drive and Miramonte Avenue, are scheduled to start in January 2017. Construction work within the park itself will begin after local little leagues finish their seasons in summer 2017. Public Works staff will work closely with SCVWD to issue construction-related notices once the contractor's detailed construction schedule is approved.

The project will create a detention basin, resulting in both ball fields lowering 15 to 18 feet below street level. Among the coming features are a new parking lot off of Park Drive and a new mini-park at the corner of Park Drive and Mountain View Avenue.

For more information, visit the SCVWD website at [www.valleywater.org/services/PermanenteCreek.aspx](http://www.valleywater.org/services/PermanenteCreek.aspx), or download the May 14, 2013, City Council report from [www.MountainView.gov](http://www.MountainView.gov).

## Are You Flood Prepared?

City participation in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System earns Mountain View residents a 10% discount on insurance rates because the City exceeds minimum standards for flood risk reduction practices.

Find out if your property is in a flood zone today. The City provides the public lending institutions, real estate agents and insurance agents with flood map information. You can also look up your flood risk online at [www.Floodsmart.gov](http://www.Floodsmart.gov). This site provides relative risks, links to flood risk maps and other flood insurance community resources.

Visit [www.MountainView.gov/floodprep](http://www.MountainView.gov/floodprep) to get more information and learn how to prepare your family in case of a flood or call (650) 903-6311 during regular business hours.

## Winter Storm Tips

### Remove Fallen Leaves to Prevent Street Flooding and Sewer Clogs

- Compost leaves and other plant debris. Contact the City's Solid Waste Program for more info at (650) 903-6311.
- Layer leaves in the roadway (less than 3 inches deep and 3 feet wide) for pick-up by the street sweeper on scheduled sweeping days only.

### Obtain Sandbags When Necessary

- Available to residents at no charge at the City's Municipal Operations Center, 231 North Whisman Road. Remember to bring a shovel!

### Report Flooding or Standing Water

- Call the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329 during normal business hours. After hours or on weekends, call the City's Emergency Communications Center at (650) 903-6395.

### Report Downed Trees and Limbs

- Call the Forestry and Roadway Landscape Division at (650) 903-6273 during normal business hours. After hours or on weekends, call the City's Emergency Communications Center at (650) 903-6395.

### Do Not Touch Downed Power Lines

- Assume all downed power lines are dangerous and immediately call both 9-1-1 and PG&E at (800) 743-5000.
- Stay tuned to your local radio station for power outage updates.

### Keep a List of Emergency Telephone Numbers

- Police or Fire emergencies, call 9-1-1.
- To report power outages or downed power lines, call PG&E at (800) 743-5000.

For more information about how to prepare for the winter storm season, call the Public Services Division at (650) 903-6329.



## Civic Academy in Spanish

The Spanish Language Civic Leadership Academy is a free, eight-week program designed to embrace diversity and improve residents' understanding of government and City services. Participation is beneficial to the community as it encourages civic engagement, leadership and volunteerism. Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know your neighbors and serve as a role model for other Spanish-speaking residents.

The Academy's three major objectives are to educate and increase awareness of City functions, services, activities, and issues; develop residents' understanding of their role in City government; and prepare individuals to serve on Council Advisory Bodies and Committees.

Representatives from various Mountain View City departments will lead sessions about their services. Participants will also meet City Council members and participate in discussions on how citizens can get involved in issues that affect the community.

The deadline for registration is February 24, 2017. The cohort will meet every Wednesday, 5:30-8:00 p.m., from March 15 through May 10, and sessions will be held in various City locations according to subject. A light meal will be offered, as well as childcare provided by the Recreation Department. For more information, visit the City website at [www.mountainview.gov/Civico](http://www.mountainview.gov/Civico), or call the Multilingual Community Outreach Program (MCOP) at (650) 903-6145.

## Multilingual Community Outreach Program

The City of Mountain View is proud to provide a Multilingual Community Outreach Program designed to meet the needs of our diverse community. The program, established in 1998, is unique in the Bay Area. Its goal is to reach all residents, particularly individuals who might not benefit from traditional communication, by providing information about City and community programs and services in four languages: English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian.

Information is accessible in person or by phone, and covers topics like City Services, Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) classes, City events, childcare, housing, mediation services and other topics. Program representatives also attend City and community events, visit schools and nonprofits and provide translation and interpretation services at City programs. To learn more about this service, call (650) 903-6145.



# CIVICS 101



## Civics 101: How to Engage with the City

With so much media attention on the federal government, it's easy to forget the significant impact that local government makes on daily life. From keeping roads drivable and delivering water to your faucets, to providing resources to prepare your family for an emergency and support you if one occurs, City staff is working for you. And your voice directly impacts how the City acts on behalf of its residents.

**Find Out What's Happening:** The Mountain View City Council meets most Tuesdays at City Hall, with a summer break in July and August. The proposed agenda for upcoming meetings is posted on the City website, [www.MountainView.gov](http://www.MountainView.gov), the Friday before Council meetings. Visit the City Council page and click on "Current Council Agendas" for a PDF with links to supporting documents. To find both archived and current Council and Advisory Body packets and recordings, go to the City Council page and click "Watch Meetings Online." If you want to learn more, click the City Records filing cabinet icon on the City home page and search through archived City documents.

**Get Notifications in Advance:** To receive notifications when agendas are posted for Council meetings, and any other City meeting of interest, sign up for MyMV and customize which information you want displayed and emailed to you. Click on the MyMV symbol at the top right of any page of the website, create your account and choose which topics you want to follow and how you would like to get information. Finally, you can get regular updates right in your social media stream by following us on Facebook and Twitter. Access the Social Media Center in the left footer of every page of the City website to choose which topics interest you, or follow City Hall's general interest posts at [www.facebook.mountainview.gov](http://www.facebook.mountainview.gov).

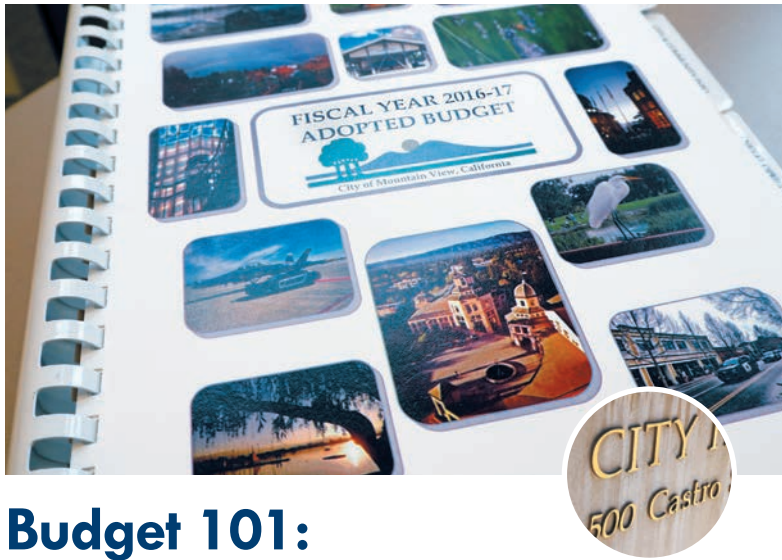
**Give Feedback to Councilmembers:** One of the easiest ways to give feedback to Council is to send an email to [citycouncil@mountainview.gov](mailto:citycouncil@mountainview.gov). You can also send a letter addressed to City Council, 500 Castro St., Mountain View, CA 94041; schedule an appointment to meet on the 3rd floor of City Hall by calling (650) 903-6304; or choose AskMV at the top right of any page of the City website and complete the form to track the progress of your question or concern. Finally, you may also address the entire Council in person at Council meetings.

**When to Speak at a Council Meeting:** After roll call, Council agendas are divided into four segments during which the public can speak: Consent Calendar, Oral Communications, Public Hearing and Business (unfinished and new). Consent Calendar items are approved all together in one motion. Members of the public may, however, ask Council to remove any of these items for comment. After the Consent Calendar comes Oral Communications. This is a time when any member of the public may speak for two to three minutes about anything as long as it is not already scheduled for discussion in the same evening. Councilmembers are not permitted to make any decisions about topics in Oral Communications; they simply listen and take notes. Next are the Public Hearing and Business portions of the meeting, both of which have specific topics for discussion listed on the agenda in advance. After a presentation on a topic, the Mayor will ask for public comment about that specific topic.

**How to Speak at a Council Meeting:** Anyone wishing to speak at a Council meeting is asked to complete a blue speaker card, which is available at the meeting. When the Mayor asks for public input you will be able to return the completed card to the City Clerk and line up behind the podium. You will have up to three minutes to state your name, where you are from and what you would like Council to know. If there are more than 15 speakers for a single topic, the Mayor may reduce speaking times to two minutes. Although Council does not engage in dialogue during public comments, Councilmembers may ask questions for clarification. These questions do not count toward your speaking time.

Visit [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov) and visit the City Council page for more how-to documents like "Intro to Watching Council" and "Your Government in Action."

# BUDGET 101



## Budget 101: About the City Budget

The City has begun its process to develop the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget. Key dates to learn more and provide input are below.

- February 14:** Mid-Year Report
- March 28:** Preliminary Review of Capital Improvement Program (Study Session)
- April 27:** Narrative Budget Report (Study Session)
- May 2:** Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership Program and General Operating Fund Nonprofit Requests (Public Hearing)
- June 13:** Budget Public Hearing
- June 20:** Rate Hearing, Capital Improvement Program and Budget Adoption

The budget reflects the City's spending plan for accomplishing Council goals and other priorities in a fiscally responsible manner. This includes preparing forecasts that anticipate revenue and expense trends and ensuring adequate funds for both current operations and long-term liabilities. The City's budget philosophy is to adopt a budget that is structurally balanced, which means that ongoing expenses are funded by ongoing revenues (not reserves or one-time revenues). The City is recognized for its sound fiscal practices in its AAA credit rating and the receipt of the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 23rd consecutive year, and the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers' Excellence in Operational Budgets Award for the 30th consecutive year.

As part of the midyear update on the 2016-17 Budget, the City Council will review preliminary 2017-18 forecasts at its February 14 meeting. Mountain View is currently experiencing a period of revenue growth and is in a strong fiscal position. Forecasts do, however, include an economic downturn within the next five years. Having experienced significant recessions in the recent past, the City has a history of successfully navigating economic challenges by improving efficiency, strategically reducing expenditures, finding appropriate opportunities to enhance revenues and working in partnership with employee organizations to keep the cost of doing business down. The City has also been able to limit the impact of economic downturns to some extent by using City-owned property to generate ongoing ground lease revenue.

### Budget Basics

The City budget is organized into a variety of funds that serve particular purposes and reflect certain restrictions on how revenues can be spent. The General Operating Fund (GOF) is the single largest fund and is the only one that is unrestricted and can be used to support most general City operations like public safety, recreation, parks, library service and regular maintenance of streets and other infrastructure. Providing such a full range of

## How are Your Taxes Distributed?

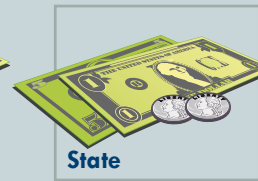
For every **\$100** you pay in property taxes to the County of Santa Clara, Mountain View receives approximately **\$16**.



Of the remainder, Mountain View school districts receive 36%, State education receives 15%, the County receives 4% for education and 16% for its General Fund, 7% is allocated to Foothill-DeAnza Community College and 6% to various other agencies.



Mountain View



State



Special Districts

For every **\$100** you spend on taxable goods within the City of Mountain View, the City receives approximately **\$1** with the remainder going to the State of California and Special Districts. The sales tax rate in Mountain View is 8.5% (as of January 1, 2017); the State's share is 6.5%, the Special Districts receive 1.25%, and the City's share is 1.0%.

services demands a complex mix of revenue sources. The GOF is comprised of: property, sales and other local taxes (utility users tax, hotel tax, business licenses, etc.); interest and rental income; fees for services; intergovernmental funds (state and federal); and inter-fund revenues (administrative overhead to other funds). For FY 2016-17, GOF revenues are budgeted at \$118.7 million. This amount is expected to be sufficient to fund estimated expenditures of \$108.8 million, including a projected budget savings of \$1.8 million.

### Additional funds include:

**Special Revenue Funds:** Legally restricted for specific purposes. These funds support street improvements, the City's Capital Improvement Program, low-income housing, parking district operations, federally funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) projects and cable television franchise activities.

**Shoreline Regional Park Community Fund:** A special revenue fund used to account for the development and maintenance of the Shoreline Regional Park Community (North Bayshore Area).

**Restricted Capital Project Funds:** Restricted project-specific revenues such as park renovations and storm drain upgrades. Most major capital projects are budgeted in the City's General Capital Project funds.

**Enterprise Funds:** For operations financed through user charges – similar to private business enterprises – including water, wastewater (sewer) and solid waste (trash and recycling).

**Internal Service Funds:** Used to account for the financing of goods and services provided by one City department to other departments on a cost reimbursement basis (i.e. equipment maintenance, workers' compensation, unemployment self-insurance, retirees' health benefits, employee benefits and the City's general self-insurance liability).

**Other Funds:** Debt service funds, and trust and agency funds held for others (payroll, performing arts, etc.).

For more information on the City budget, check out the City's financial and budget transparency platform by visiting [mountainview.opengov.com](http://mountainview.opengov.com).



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CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

# The VIEW

## New Laws with Local Impact

On December 8, the results of the 2016 Elections were certified and can be found at the Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters website [SCCVote.org](http://SCCVote.org). Because there were so many ballot measure this year, we wanted to highlight the local impact of some of them.

**Measure A: Countywide affordable housing bond** passed at 67.88%. The measure allows the County to borrow up to \$950 million dollars to be used toward providing affordable housing for vulnerable populations, including veterans, seniors, the disabled, low and moderate income individuals or families, foster youth, victims of abuse, the homeless and individuals suffering from mental health or substance abuse illnesses. Up to \$150 million in bond proceeds could be used to assist moderate income households and promote opportunities for housing in proximity to employment. The authors of Measure A estimated as many as 5,000 new affordable homes in the County will be created with Measure A and are hoping to use some of the bond money to make real property investments to generate funding for more affordable housing in the future.

**Measure B: Countywide sales tax increase for transportation** passed at 71.74%. As a result, Santa Clara County residents will have an additional ½ cent sales tax for the next 30 years to generate more than \$6 billion for transportation improvements. From better traffic flow at interchanges of major roadways like the 101, 237 and 85 to extending BART to the San Jose airport and expanding Caltrain services, Measure B is focused on alleviating local traffic congestion by providing more transportation alternatives and improving the way regional highways flow in and out of the area.

**Measure V: Community Stabilization and Fair Rent Act (CSFRA)** passed at 53.57%. Initiated by a voter-led initiative with the intention to regulate rent increases and to provide just-cause eviction provisions, Measure V is temporarily on hold. Read more about Measure V on Page 2 of this publication.

For more information about these or other Santa Clara County ballot measures and election results, visit [SCCVote.org](http://SCCVote.org).



## New Driving Laws in Effect for 2017

New state legislation for drivers went into effect as of January. New restrictions on cell phone use require drivers to mount their cell phone on their windshield or dashboard in a way that does not hinder their view of the road. Drivers can now only activate or deactivate a cell phone function with a single swipe or tap on the phone.

California now requires all children under the age of 2 to ride in rear-facing car seats, unless the child weighs more than 40 pounds or is more than 40 inches tall. For more information visit [www.mountainview.gov/depts/police](http://www.mountainview.gov/depts/police).

### The View

The newsletter is published two times a year (Fall/Winter and Spring/Summer) by the City of Mountain View. *The View* is delivered by bulk mail to every residential address and business in Mountain View.

### Mountain View City Council

Mayor: Ken Rosenberg  
Vice Mayor: Lenny Siegel  
Councilmembers:  
Margaret Abe-Koga  
Chris Clark  
Lisa Matichak  
John McAlister  
Pat Showalter

Daniel H. Rich, City Manager  
City Manager's Office  
P.O. Box 7540  
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540  
(650) 903-6301  
[city.mgr@mountainview.gov](mailto:city.mgr@mountainview.gov)  
*The View* • P.O. Box 395  
Mountain View, CA 94042  
(650) 903-6301

### City Website

*The View* is available on the City's website, [www.mountainview.gov](http://www.mountainview.gov).

### City Hall Social Channels

[Facebook.mountainview.gov](https://www.facebook.com/mountainview.gov)  
[mountainview.gov/GooglePlus](https://www.google.com/+mountainviewgov)  
[Twitter.mountainview.gov](https://twitter.com/mountainviewgov)

### Extra Copies

A limited supply of extra copies are available at City Hall, 500 Castro St.; the Mountain View Public Library, 585 Franklin St.; and the Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Ave.

### City Mission Statement

The City of Mountain View provides quality services and facilities that meet the needs of a caring and diverse community in a financially responsible manner.

### Organizational Values

The City staff has established the following organizational values that guide their work for the community:

- Provide exceptional service
- Act with integrity
- Treat others with respect

