



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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NICOLE COBURN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE



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ASSESSOR'S OFFICE ANNOUNCES RECORD 2026-27 ASSESSMENT ROLL

Assessor-Recorder Sheri Thomas today announced completion of the 2026-27 assessment roll, reaching a new high of \$67.75 billion — a 4.66 percent increase over last year. The roll reflects the total net assessed value of all taxable real, business, and personal property in the County as of January 1, 2026, capturing changes that occurred in 2025.

Assessed value growth varied by area, ranging from 3.37 percent in the City of Scotts Valley to 5.86 percent in the City of Santa Cruz, driven primarily by changes in property ownership and new construction. Despite the countywide 4.66 percent increase, most property owners will see only a 2 percent rise in assessed value due to annual caps on increases for existing owners under Proposition 13.

Property tax revenue generated from the roll funds essential local services, including public schools and community colleges, fire protection and emergency response, libraries, parks, and other County services. Funds support people who live, work, and raise families in Santa Cruz County.

Over the past year, the Assessor's Office has made significant strides in improving service to the public. After reaching full staffing, the team has made steady progress in reducing longstanding backlogs and expects to resolve all remaining backlogs by the next roll close. The Assessor's Office also launched a redesigned website featuring simplified navigation, plain-language explanations of assessment terms and processes, and a streamlined parcel search tool. Annual assessment notices are now available online through the website, allowing property owners to look up their notice directly by address or parcel number rather than waiting for a mailed copy.

"This roll reflects more than a number -- it reflects the strength of our communities and a staff committed to getting every assessment right," Thomas said. "We aim to be accurate and timely, but just as important, transparent and respectful — whether we're answering a question, helping someone claim an exemption, or guiding a property owner through new rules under Proposition 19."

For more information, visit the assessor's website, call (831) 454-2270, or email assessor@santacruzcountyca.gov. Staff are available Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. No appointment necessary.