

County Manager,
Don Kalkoske

Humboldt County Courthouse
50 West Fifth Street Room 205
Winnemucca, Nevada 89445

County Manager's Office Humboldt County, Nevada



March 14, 2025

Fiscal Year 2025 – 2026 Budget Message,

Dear Commissioners,

As we prepare for the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (FY 25/26) budget, it is with great responsibility and a deep commitment to the well-being of our community that we present this proposed budget for your review. This document reflects our ongoing efforts to address both immediate fiscal needs and long-term priorities, while maintaining a balanced approach to service delivery, operational efficiency, and strategic investment in the future of our county.

The fiscal environment for FY 25/26 presents both challenges and opportunities. While we are witnessing some economic growth, inflationary pressures and potential uncertainties in state and federal funding sources require caution in our approach. Our county's revenue streams, primarily from property taxes, sales taxes, other taxes and fees remain stable. Although we recently enacted a property tax increase, after holding fast for 20 years, Humboldt County continues to have the lowest taxes among Nevada counties and the country as a whole. Over the next year, we anticipate some growth, driven by development and taxes generated by those projects.

At the same time, we must address the long-term effects of inflation and escalating costs in critical areas such as public safety, health services, and infrastructure maintenance. The budget strives to balance these economic realities with our commitment to maintaining or enhancing the safety of our facilities and quality of life for our residents.

To continue providing the essential services, we need to have the necessary infrastructure in place. While our current facilities are functional, the county's infrastructure is aging, and we have seen numerous issues over the past year, including the Detention and Administrative-Courthouse facilities. Some issues were addressed over the past year using ARPA funding, but additional work is necessary to ensure these facilities remain safe and accessible for employees and the public.

One bright spot related to our county facilities is the new Facilities Operations building. This project has been awarded, and construction is underway of a new building near the current Public Works equipment shop. Once complete, by the end of the year, this new facility will resolve safety concerns associated with housing the department in the courthouse basement.

Beyond facility infrastructure, the health and well-being of our residents remains central to our mission. We are continuing the process of planning and design of a new wastewater collection

and treatment facility in the Grass Valley area. While this project will take years to come online, in the meantime, efforts are underway to improve water quality in the Gold Country area by developing a new source well and creating an intertie between the Gold Country and Star City Water systems.

The proposed budget includes careful management of revenues and expenditures. We remain committed to controlling unnecessary spending while continuing to fund essential services. One of the greatest increases we will see this year is the projected PERS contribution increase. This increase will put a great burden on the departments as they struggle to maintain flat or decreasing budgets.

There are several other challenges that we must continue to navigate. Inflationary pressures, particularly in labor and materials costs, may outpace growth in revenues. In addition, we must be prepared for potential changes in federal and state funding, which could impact our revenue forecasts. These challenges require that we remain vigilant and flexible in our financial planning.

In conclusion, the FY 25/26 budget represents our collective vision for the future of our community. It reflects our commitment to improving the lives of our residents while ensuring financial sustainability. This budget is a blueprint for responsible governance that balances the needs of today with the opportunities of tomorrow.

I look forward to working with each of you as we review and refine this proposal. Your input and leadership are essential as we continue our efforts to make Humboldt County a thriving, sustainable, and vibrant place for all.

Thank you for your dedication to the county, and for your continued support in making our community a better place.

Sincerely,

Don Kalkoske,
County Manager