



# FUNDING THE NEXT GENERATION SOLANO FACT SHEET

## Key Elements of the Proposed Solano Fund for Children Ballot Measure

The Solano Fund for Children is designed to comprehensively address long standing and widely recognized gaps in prevention oriented children's services. In order to better understand how well the voting public understands this problem and how best to address it, professional polling was conducted in the fall of 2014. The measure has been drafted to closely follow the results of the polling. Key elements include the following provisions.

- The Fund would impose a  $\frac{1}{4}$  cent sales tax throughout Solano County and would raise an estimated \$15 million per year for 10 years. The estimated average cost per resident would be \$29 per year, or roughly 55 cents per week. (This estimate assumes that about 20% of sales taxes collected are paid by non-residents.) **In other words, per person, the amount of the tax to benefit our children is roughly the same as one postage stamp per week, and significantly less than one dog license per year.**
- The 5 programmatic areas that the Fund would address are:
  - **Homeless Children** – Make sure homeless children can stay in school.
  - **Prevention of Child Abuse** - Keep children safe by preventing the circumstances that lead to abuse.
  - **Quality Preschool and Afterschool Programs** – Assure every child has access to high quality Early Learning programs that enable school success.
  - **Preventative Child Health Care** – Reach families early to prevent child health problems from taking root.
  - **Jobs for Our Youth** – Expand Youth job opportunities for career pathways to success.
- Each issue area would be guaranteed a minimum of 10 % of the funds raised (about 1.5 million) with the remainder distributed based on a periodic planning process to determine the greatest unmet needs among the 5 programmatic areas. This allows some flexibility to adapt to changing community needs and resource patterns.
- There are currently 98,640 children in Solano County. Because this measure would fund prevention oriented services such as community education on detection and prevention of child abuse, **all children in Solano County would benefit.**
- Consistent with voter preferences, the measure establishes an Oversight Board made up largely of individuals with expertise in the 5 issue areas, requires annual audits and a tri-annual planning process, and requires the maximum possible public engagement in the planning process. The Board of Supervisors would have responsibility for appointing the Oversight Board, and approving the plans and contracts developed.
- Also consistent with voter preferences, no new governmental departments are established by the measure. Plans would be developed by organizations that currently have planning and organizational responsibilities in the 5 issue areas.