

Calistoga City Council FY 26/27 Priorities

The Calistoga City Council is mindful of the following values, in no order of ranking, as they consider city business and focus on the annual priorities: economic vitality, housing, infrastructure, our environment, professional services, public safety, recreation, & small-town character.

1) Infrastructure – Human and Physical

The Calistoga City Council wishes to maintain a “Human and Physical Capital Infrastructure Reserve Fund” based on fiscally responsible principles for the following purposes:

- a) City facilities
- b) Disaster response or major systems failures including wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, or infrastructure/facility breaks.
- c) Road and transportation system repairs, upgrades, and traffic mitigation efforts.
- d) Fiscally responsible management of the water and wastewater utilities while exploring opportunities to enhance efficiency and minimize rate impacts where feasible.

2) Housing

The Calistoga City Council wishes to increase opportunities for the “missing middle” to live and work in Calistoga including city employees, school employees, and local business owners and employees. Projects this year include:

- a) Develop the city-owned Earl & Eddy parcels in partnership with the school district’s housing reuse site or as a standalone missing middle housing project.
- b) Explore missing middle development incentives to encourage the development of new missing middle homes and discourage homes from becoming infrequently used second homes.
- c) Implement any direction provided by the City Council following presentation of a comprehensive Rural Residential rezoning analysis that evaluates appropriate density near existing utilities and services while incorporating agricultural preservation principles and long-term land use compatibility.
- d) Consider establishing a home repair assistance program for residents earning up to 160% of the area median income (AMI).
- e) Continue seeking input from the Housing Advisory Committee on additional ideas related to this priority and ask for their help researching implementation measures.

3) Fairgrounds

The Calistoga fairgrounds, an open-space venue for public recreation and community cohesion, is an historical and integral component of the life of the city. Calistoga wants to develop its potential as a resource for residents, an attraction for visitors, and a haven in emergencies.

- a) Prioritize planning and investment to allow for increased revenue.
- b) Utilizing the community survey and Fairgrounds committee input, prepare a plan to prioritize other Fairground infrastructure projects that will allow for additional Fairgrounds revenue generation to offset General Fund subsidies to the Fairgrounds.

4) Small-town Character

The Calistoga City Council wishes to respect and maintain Calistoga’s authentic small-town character by being mindful of the following actions:

- a) Review proposals with preference for community values: small-town tradition; friendly, welcoming, unassuming culture; local business; sustainability; volunteerism; simplicity; honest, unpretentious way of life; sense of belonging, connectedness.
- b) With any proposal, consider whether it enhances or diminishes small-town character.
- c) Encourage accessible government representatives.
- d) Support policies and programs that maintain Calistoga as a multi-generational community where children, families, working adults, and older residents can live and thrive.