

**Let's Talk Atwater**  
*Frequently Asked Questions*

**Q: What is Let's Talk Atwater?**

A: Let's Talk Atwater is our own local conversation on Atwater service needs and priorities. In a recent community survey, 78% of residents told us Atwater has a significant need for additional funding for general City services. During this year's budget process, we want to expand the conversation citywide to hear what is important to you.

**Q: What is the status of locally controlled funding for City services?**

A: Current voter-approved funding expires in 2023. Without an additional source of local funding the City will lose \$2 million a year that funds local police and fire services.

**Q: What is the impact of growth on our local public safety services?**

A: As the City continues to grow, police and fire staffing levels that are not able to increase to reflect the population growth.

Atwater firefighter staffing levels are significantly below the national staffing standards, making it challenging to respond quickly to medical emergencies – especially if there is more than one at a time. Additional local funding is needed to help the city provide staffing levels and reliable emergency response services needed to keep residents and businesses safe.

**Q: What have Atwater residents identified as local priorities?**

A: In a recent community survey and through public engagement, residents identified the following community service priorities:

- ✓ Providing police officer training
- ✓ Addressing homelessness
- ✓ Investigating violent crimes
- ✓ Maintaining the City's financial viability as a full-service City
- ✓ Preventing elimination or significant reduction of the Atwater Police Department
- ✓ Maintaining emergency medical response services including emergency heart attack and stroke response services
- ✓ Ensuring Atwater is prepared for any future health emergencies or other catastrophic disasters

**Q: How can I join Let's Talk Atwater?**

A: We want to hear from YOU! Join Let's Talk Atwater by visiting [www.Atwater.org/letstalk](http://www.Atwater.org/letstalk).