CITY OF LONG BEACH

Measure A – March 3 Ballot
Transaction and Use Tax (Sales Tax)
Frequently Asked Questions

What is this ballot measure all about?

- On July 7, 2016, Long Beach voters approved Measure A, a 10-year sales tax increase which has been used to fund public safety and infrastructure. It is currently being collected at a rate of 1 percent, then declining to 0.5 percent in 2023 for four years, and expiring in 2027. This ballot measure, if approved by voters, would extend the current Measure A sales tax rate of 1 percent until ended by voters. It includes a temporary reduction to 0.75 percent for years 2023 through 2027, to accommodate the Los Angeles County Measure H tax. It does not increase the rate of the City's sales tax beyond it is today (1%).

Why was this measure placed on the ballot?

- Measure A funds have been used to add public safety officers, maintain public safety positions that would have otherwise been eliminated, and fund investments in the City's infrastructure. However, Measure A will be reduced from 1 percent to 0.5 percent in 2023 and will end in 2027. Half of the tax revenue is currently being used to fund ongoing police and fire personnel. As 2027 nears, the public safety positions added and maintained through Measure A could be eliminated due to lack of funding. In addition, while Measure A has funded new investment in City infrastructure over the last few years, the City has indicated that its infrastructure needs require long-term funding solutions. Furthermore, the City is facing new funding challenges related to community health services, namely its commitment to financially support the re-opening of Long Beach Community Hospital. It is for these reasons that the City Council voted to place this measure on the ballot for voters to consider.

How much funding does Measure A provide and how will this measure affect that amount?

- Measure A provides approximately $60 million annually through January 1, 2023, and approximately $30 million annually through January 1, 2027. The proposed measure would generate approximately $60 million annually until January 1, 2023, declining to $45 million from January 1, 2023 through October 1, 2027 (to accommodate County Measure H) and returning to $60 million annually from October 1, 2027 into the future. Funding decisions would be made by the City Council on an annual basis based on priorities for public safety and infrastructure.

How has Measure A been used to fund public safety?

Measure A funding has added 41 new public safety positions:

- Paramedic Rescue 12 and Fire Engine 8 have been returned to service
- Police South Patrol Division is now at the same operational level as the other three Patrol Divisions in the City
- Supporting the staffing needs of the Police Academy
- Supporting the Fire Department's Homeless Education and Response Team (HEART) and the Police Department's Quality of Life Units

Additionally, this funding has maintained 108 additional public safety positions that would have been eliminated due to lack of funding. It has also helped funded a three-year restoration of Fire Engine 17, Police and Fire academies, and the future renovation of training facilities. Measure A has also funded new public safety technology such as radios and body-worn cameras.

How has Measure A been used to fund infrastructure?

- To date, the City has allocated $88.1 million of Measure A funding for improvements in the following categories:

Project Category	FY 17-19 Measure A Funds
Streets, Sidewalks and Mobility Arterial and Residential Streets, Alleys, Sidewalks, Curbs, Bridges, Street Lights, Signage	**$42,357,978**
Parks & Recreation Community Centers, Playgrounds/ Tot Lots, Building Repairs, Irrigation Improvements, Sports Courts, Park Restrooms	**$26,880,915**
Public Facilities Fire Stations, Police Stations, Libraries, Health Facilities, Emergency Communications & Operations Center, Animal Care Facility	**$15,385,000**
Utilities Stormwater Protection	**$3,488,500**
TOTAL	**$88,112,393**

How does the City spend its current tax revenues?

- The City spends 69 percent of its General Fund departmental budget on public safety, and the remaining on services such as parks, libraries, public works, and general government services. And, 79 percent of the City's costs are personnel costs. To date, Measure A funds have only been spent for public safety and infrastructure, consistent with the City Council's adopted resolution of spending priorities. For more information on how funds are spent, please visit the Measure A webpage.

How are expenses for Measure A accounted for?

- When voters approved Measure A, they approved a Citizen's Advisory Committee to review the City's use of revenues generated by the tax and to make recommendations to the City Council with regard to the use of tax revenues. The members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. All reports and fact sheets on funded projects are made available to the public for review. The Committee has met 12 times since Measure A went into effect and has found, each year, that Measure A funds have been spent in accordance with the Measure and the Council's adopted resolution of spending priorities. For more information on the Committee, please visit the Measure A webpage.

Where would this new tax place the City compared to other cities sales tax rates?

- In California, the highest sales tax is 10.5 percent (Santa Fe Springs), 18 cities are at 10.25 percent (Arcadia, Burbank, Compton, Covina, Cudahy, Culver City, Glendale, Glendora, Hawthorne, Lawndale, Long Beach, Lynwood, Monrovia, Pasadena, Pico Rivera, Pomona, Santa Monica, South Gate), and eight others are at 10 percent.

What will happen next with the ballot measure?

- Voters will decide on March 3 whether to approve or reject the extension of Measure A. Either way, the City will develop a balanced budget and manage the City's expenses. Any funds approved will be reviewed by the Mayor and City Council each year through the annual budget with community participation.

How was this placed on the ballot?

- Mayor Garcia proposed the measure to the City Council. The City Council voted 8-0 to place the measure before Long Beach voters.

I have questions about information I received from a campaign. Who can I talk to about that?

- City staff are unable to answer questions about any campaign. They can only provide neutral information and facts about the measure, such as this fact sheet. For questions regarding the campaign, please contact the individual campaigns for or against the measure (contact information to be provided once available).

This information is provided to give general facts about the impacts of the Measure in a neutral manner. It neither advocates or provides information for or against the Measure.