

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2009-2010 PROPOSED CAPITAL BUDGET**

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**STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Following is a list of significant State and local legislation.

**2000s Initiatives**

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**Measure J** replaced the Emergency Communication System Support (ECSS) Fee of \$1.75 per telephone line per month with a tax of \$1.57 per telephone line per month. The City ceased collecting the fee and began collecting the tax on April 1, 2009. The tax is collected from telephone users on their phone bills. Exemptions to the tax include low-income seniors and disabled persons who receive lifeline telephone service. Measure J was passed by the voters of San José in 2008.

**Measure K** reduced the telephone utility rate from 5% to 4.5% (10% reduction) in San José. This measure broadened the base for the utility tax and the definition of technologies covered by the tax. The utility company collects the tax from consumers on a monthly basis and is required to remit that amount to the City by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the following month. The tax is not applicable to State, County, or City agencies. Measure K was passed by the voters in 2008.

**Proposition 1A**, effective 2006, prohibits the State from reducing local governments' property tax revenue. The provisions may be suspended only if the Governor declares a fiscal necessity and two-thirds of the Legislature approves the suspension. Suspended funds must be repaid within three years. Proposition 1A also requires local sales tax revenues to remain with local governments, and for the State to fund legislative mandates. Proposition 1A was passed by the voters in 2004.

**Measure A**, the Airport Security and Traffic Relief Act, authorized the City to implement infrastructure improvements at the Airport to meet federally mandated security requirements,

improve passenger facilities, and add nine new gates once the Airport street system is within three years of completion and funding has been identified for the implementation of the Airport People Mover transit connection. Measure A was passed by the voters in 2003.

**Measure O** authorized the issuance of a \$159 million general obligation bond (Neighborhood Security Act Bond Measure) to improve San José's fire, police, and paramedic response times by adding and improving fire stations and police stations, training facilities, and creating state-of-the-art 911 communications facilities. Measure O was passed by the voters in 2001.

**Measure K** approved an update to San José's General Plan to modify greenline/urban boundaries. Measure K was passed by the voters in 2000.

**Measure O** authorized the issuance of \$212 million in bonds over 10 years for the establishment of six new and fourteen expanded branch libraries in San José. Measure O was passed by the voters in 2000.

**Measure P** authorized the issuance of \$228 million in general obligation bonds for the establishment of new and improved existing public parks and facilities in San José. Measure P was passed by the voters in 2000.

**1990s Initiatives**

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**Proposition 218** extended the two-thirds majority vote requirement for any new user fees or new taxes to be levied at the local level. It can be considered the fourth component of Proposition 13. Assessments, fees, and charges must be submitted to property owners for approval or rejection, after notice and public hearing. Proposition 218 was passed by the voters in 1996.

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**STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D.)**

**Measure I** authorized the construction of a new City Hall, located in downtown San José. Measure I was passed by the voters in 1996.

**Proposition 172** enacted a half-cent sales tax increase. Monies derived from this tax must be utilized solely for public safety services. Revenue is distributed to cities and counties for purposes such as police, sheriffs, fire, district attorneys, and corrections. Proposition 172 was passed by the voters in 1993.

**Measure I** established term limits for the City. City Council members and the Mayor can only serve for two successive four-year terms in office. Measure I was passed by the voters in 1990.

**Proposition 111** enacted a statewide traffic congestion relief program and changed the procedures for calculating the Gann Limit by updating the spending limit on state and local government to better reflect the needs of a growing California population. It provided new revenues to be used to reduce traffic congestion by building state highways, local streets and roads, and public mass transit facilities. Proposition 111 was passed by the voters in 1990.

**Proposition 8** allowed a property owner to file an assessment appeal when the market value of the property is less than the current assessed value. If the appeal is successful, the assessed valuation is lowered to reflect current market conditions. Proposition 8 also provided that the value of reassessed properties may be increased to previous levels when market values increase. Proposition 8 was passed by the voters in 1990.

**1980s Initiatives**

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**Measure C** authorized the City to use public funds to build low-rent housing. Measure C was passed by the voters in 1988.

**Measure H** authorized the City to build a sports arena, currently known as the HP Pavilion at San José. Measure H was passed by the voters in 1988.

**1970s Initiatives**

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**Proposition 13** placed a substantial limitation on the ability of local governments to collect sufficient property taxes commensurate with the historical role this revenue source has played in funding both municipal operations and new public facilities. Proposition 13 specified that an assessed value may increase at the rate of the Consumer Price Index, not to exceed two percent per year based on the 1979 value, unless the property is improved or sold to establish new market value. Proposition 13 was passed by the voters in 1979.

**Proposition 4**, otherwise known as the "Gann Limit," stipulated that the City must compute an annual appropriations limit which places a ceiling on the total amount of tax revenues the City can appropriate annually. The limit is adjusted each year using the following criteria: (1) the percentage change in California Per Capita Income or the change in the City's Assessed Valuation due to new nonresidential construction, whichever is greater and (2) the percentage change in the city-wide population, whichever is greater. Proposition 4 was passed by the voters in 1979.

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**STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS (CONT'D.)**

**1890 – 1970 Initiatives**

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**1965** – Passed by the voters in 1965, the City Charter reaffirms the Council-Manager form of government in San José. The City consists of 10 council members elected by district and a Mayor elected at large.

**1897** – The City Charter was adopted in 1897. The Charter generally establishes the organization and structure of City government. The Charter also empowers the City Council to make and enforce all ordinances and regulations with respect to municipal affairs subject only to the limitations specified in the Charter.

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