



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MEASURE B

Q: *What is Measure B?*

A: Measure B was placed on the June 2016 primary ballot by the San José City Council. If approved by voters, Measure B would enact a ¼ cent locally controlled sales tax for 15 years, allowing the City to address public safety, street maintenance, and other community service priorities.

San Jose's current sales tax is 8.75%, of which the city receives 1% and the rest goes to the State of California and county-level entities. The additional ¼ cent would raise \$40 million annually for the City.

Q: *Why was Measure B placed on the ballot?*

A: The City of San José adopted a Deficit Elimination Plan in 2008 and a Fiscal Reform Plan in 2011, and previously pursued major strategies to cut costs including pension reform, staff reductions, organizational efficiencies such as cost-saving technology, lower-cost staffing models, engaging volunteers, and outsourcing where prudent - cutting nearly \$700 million from the General Fund budget.

The fiscal plans also recommended exploring options for locally controlled funding, including a ¼ cent sales tax to help restore some service cuts made to the City budget during the economic downturn, particularly in public safety, emergency response, and local road repair.

Q: *What community priorities could Measure B address?*

A: The City of San José conducted a series of extensive community surveys with the goal of identifying the community's priorities for any new funding. Survey results indicated the following priorities:

- Improving police response to /reducing violent crimes and property crimes, such as burglary
- Improving emergency medical response times
- Improving response times to fires
- Increasing the number of police officers patrolling city streets
- Maintaining the long-term financial stability of the City of San José
- Maintaining and repairing major streets

Q: *How can we be sure that Measure B funds will be spent properly?*

A: Measure B will be subject to fiscal accountability requirements going beyond anything required by state law, including full public review of all spending and independent citizen oversight, to ensure that the money is spent consistent with community priorities.

Q: *When is the election?*

A: Election Day is June 7, 2016. The last day to register to vote is May 23rd. To register online visit: RegisterToVote.ca.gov.

Q: *Where can I get more information about Measure B?*

A: The City will continue to provide information about all items on the June ballot and how to participate in the upcoming election. For more information, please visit the City's website at www.sanjoseca.gov/Election2016.