



Measure K Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the ballot measure?

A: The City Council voted unanimously to place a ½ cent Transactions & Use Tax (Sales Tax) on the November 8, 2016 ballot. If passed, the measure would increase most retail transactions in Pleasant Hill by a half percent beginning April 1, 2017. The tax would provide approximately \$4 million annually in additional local revenue to the City over 20 years.

Q: Why has the City Council placed this measure on the November ballot?

A: Due to the recession and historical State takeaways of local tax dollars, the City is faced with deferred maintenance of current infrastructure, unfunded new infrastructure projects, and a library that has structural and safety issues. In order to build a new community library and tackle more than \$39 million in infrastructure needs, the City needs an additional revenue source. The money from this 1/2 cent sales tax cannot be taken by the state.



Q: Why a Sales Tax Measure and not another funding mechanism such as a Bond Measure or Parcel Tax?

A: The City Council is proposing this measure as the most cost effective mechanism to raise the necessary revenue to deal with the deferred maintenance on streets, sidewalks and storm drains, and build a new library. Because it is a sales tax it ensures that everyone who shops in Pleasant Hill, even if they don't live here, will contribute to these improvements. A parcel tax or bond measure would only raise a limited amount of revenue for a specific project such as construction of the new library and only Pleasant Hill homeowners would contribute to this tax or measure.



Q: How have State Takeaways affected our City?

A: Although cities work to protect local services from State takeaways, there is no guarantee that the State will not take additional funding in the future. Over the past ten years, State reductions have resulted in more than \$20 million in lost revenue for the City. Consequently, the City has had to delay maintenance and repair of streets, roads and storm drains.

Q: Specifically, what are the City's current needs?

A: In the recently adopted 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), staff identified \$39 million in deferred maintenance and infrastructure needs that are not currently funded. These include:

- \$14.6 million for deferred street maintenance
- \$9.1 million in storm drain deferred maintenance and improvements
- \$4.3 million in sidewalk repairs and upgrades

- \$8.5 million in improvements to pedestrian walkways and bike paths; and
- \$2.3 million in ADA improvements throughout the city

If these infrastructure needs are not addressed soon, it will cost more for major reconstruction and repair in the future.

Q: Specifically, what will the measure fund, if passed by voters in November?

A: The additional revenue may be used for City services including repaving and maintaining streets, fixing potholes, maintaining and upgrading the City's storm drains, adding new sidewalks and bike paths, constructing a new community library, and funding other city projects and services.

Q: What about our Library?

A: Pleasant Hill Library is now 55 years old and has physical constraints and structural issues, including seismic and ADA compliance, a leaking roof, asbestos in the ceilings and walls, no sprinkler system for fire suppression and insufficient HVAC. The Pleasant Hill Library Task Force has determined that a new library is required for the community.



Q: Why is the City proposing to build a new library and not the County?

A: Contra Costa County Library provides library services to most communities in the County. However, it does not provide library buildings. That responsibility lies with the City where library services are requested. For example, the new library buildings in Walnut Creek, Lafayette, San Ramon, Orinda and Hercules were all funded through the respective Cities or Redevelopment Agencies.

Q: How will the City fund the construction of the library if there is only \$4m each year from Measure K revenue?

A: If Measure K passes, the City would be able to finance the upfront costs of a new library. The Library Task Force estimated a new 25,000sf building would cost approximately \$15 million (based on other recent library construction costs). The total payments for a 20-year revenue bond would be approximately \$1 million per year. This would still allow for over \$3 million annually for street resurfacing, sidewalks and storm drains improvements.

Q: What measures would be put in place to ensure the additional revenues are spent as promised?

A: The proposed ordinance requires the establishment of a **Citizens Oversight Committee**, appointed by the City Council, to review the collection and expenditure of sales tax revenues. In addition, the ordinance requires mandatory annual financial audits of all monies collected and spent on City programs and services.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: For more information, visit www.pleasanthillca.org/MeasureK. If you have any specific questions contact the City Manager's office at (925) 671-5229 or citymanager@pleasanthillca.org.

