

Hollister No Tax Increase Public Safety/ Essential City Services Continuation Measure

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the issue?

A: Local funding, passed by voters several years ago, has provided the resources for Hollister to provide key services, like public safety. While the City has been able to adopt a balanced budget, current local funding is scheduled to expire. Without continued local funding the City will need to consider reducing essential city services such as police, fire response, senior programs and the maintenance of local roads and parks.

Q: What is the Hollister No Tax Increase Public Safety/Essential City Services Continuation Measure?

A: To address these budget issues on August 1st, the Hollister City Council unanimously voted to place the **Hollister No Tax Increase Public Safety/Essential City Services Continuation Measure** on the November 2016 ballot for voter consideration. If enacted, this measure would prevent cuts and maintain the current public services that residents need by simply extending the existing local funding with no increase in taxes.

Q: What percentage of our budget is from these local funds?

A: Without continuing local funding at the existing rate, Hollister will be forced to cut 20% or \$4.5 Million of its General Fund Budget, resulting in significant cuts to City services which could increase critical emergency response times and affect our ability to maintain our locally-run fire department.

Q: How would this measure address public safety needs?

A: If adopted by voters, the measure will help maintain 9-1-1 emergency response times so people suffering from heart attacks, strokes, or other medical emergencies receive the basic life support they need to increase their chance for survival. Without continued funding Hollister will be forced to reduce police and firefighter positions, further increasing 9-1-1 emergency response times.

Q: What about street and road maintenance?

A: Our residents commute to work and need to have safe streets on which to drive. If enacted, the measure would provide funds to maintain and improve our local roads. It will cost less to repair and maintain streets and roads now as opposed to the future.

Q: What services will this measure address?

A: If enacted, the measure would provide funds to continue to address the following community priorities, including:

- Maintaining rapid emergency response times
- Maintaining operations at all current Hollister fire stations
- Attracting and retaining qualified police officers and firefighters
- Preventing cuts to youth gang and drug prevention and intervention programs
- Maintaining water conservation programs
- Maintaining youth programs at City parks and recreation centers
- Supporting programs to retain, expand, and attract business to Hollister

Q: Is this measure fiscally accountable?

A: This measure includes strict accountability measures including independent annual audits and citizens oversight. All funds from the measure would stay in Hollister to attract and retain qualified police officers and firefighters, prevent cuts to youth gang and drug prevention and intervention programs, support programs to retain, expand, and attract business to Hollister, and other essential city services. None of the funds can be taken by the State.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: For more information, please visit the City's website at www.hollister.ca.gov.