

**City of Pomona**  
**Frequently Asked Questions about Measures PG and PC**

**Questions about Measure PG**

**What issues are facing the City of Pomona?**

Pomona strives to be a vibrant, safe and safe community where artists, students, families, businesses and industries can flourish.

However, state policies have meant that parolees are being released into our community, resulting in increased crime and homelessness and impacting our safety and quality of life. At the same time, our City was hit hard by the economic recession and significant cuts had to be made to City services. Thirty-seven sworn police officer positions were eliminated and the number of fire trucks available to respond to emergencies has been reduced.

Additionally, local streets and roads need repair and repaving. Independent pavement management engineers rated 40% of the roads in Pomona as either in poor or very poor condition, which can adversely affect road safety.

**How are City services in Pomona funded?**

Most funding for City services is dependent on revenue generated by property tax, local and state sales tax, and from our utility users tax (UUT). However, the recessions in 2001 and 2008 led to substantial decreases in local sales tax revenue, resulting in significant cuts to the budget and cutbacks to local services.

**What has the City already done to reduce the City budget in recent years?**

The City has already taken the following steps to reduce costs:

- Cut City programs
- 27% of workforce was cut, including 37 sworn police officer positions
- Restructured pension costs
- There is \$5 million in deferred maintenance on City buildings and parks

**Why did the City of Pomona place Measure PG on the November ballot?**

Though the City has taken steps to increase efficiency and cut costs, we are still facing a growing structural deficit. Our City's first priority is maintaining our quality of life and the essential City services our residents depend upon.

In order to provide stable, local funding to meet these needs, the Pomona City Council unanimously voted to place Measure PG, a 3/4 cent Sales Tax, on the November 2018 Ballot. It is anticipated this sales tax would generate approximately \$12 million annually for local City essential services including public safety services, crime reduction, address homelessness and maintain Pomona's long-term financial stability.

**What types of services would Measure PG fund?**

If approved by a majority of voters, Measure PG would fund essential City services, such as:

- Addressing homelessness
- Maintaining and improving rapid response to burglaries and 911 emergency response times
- Maintaining and increasing neighborhood police patrols and local fire protection
- Repairing deteriorating streets and keeping parks and other public areas clean and safe
- Continuing programs that keep kids safe and out of trouble, including drug and gang prevention programs

**Could the State cut or take this local funding?**

No. All Measure PG funds would be legally required to be spent in Pomona, ensuring that our tax dollars are used locally, with no money going to Sacramento.

**How do we know Measure PG funds would be spent properly?**

Measure PG requires public disclosure of all spending. A citizens' oversight committee and independent annual audits would also be required.

**How long would Measure PG last?**

Measure PG would have a duration of 10 years and could not be renewed without voter approval.

**How much will Measure PG cost me?**

This measure would add, for example, 75¢ to a \$100 purchase or \$7.50 on a \$1,000 purchase. Food and prescription medicine are exempted from sales tax. Significant portions of our local sales taxes are paid by residents from other cities who shop in our community. Increasing the rate by 3/4 cent (or by 75¢ on the purchase of \$100) would provide \$12 million annually to help support public safety and essential City services.

**Would Measure PG ensure visitors pay their fair share?**

Measure PG would be paid by both residents and visitors, ensuring they pay their fair share for the roads, police services and parks they use when they come to our community.

## Questions about Measure PC

### **Why did the City of Pomona place Measure PC on the November ballot?**

California voters approved Proposition 64 in 2016 to legalize the sale and use of recreational marijuana. Proposition 64 imposed state taxes on the production and sale of marijuana, but virtually all revenue from these taxes goes directly to the State, and nothing is distributed directly to Pomona.

The Pomona City Council recently placed Measure PC, a commercial cannabis business tax measure, on the November 6, 2018 Ballot to provide local funding to regulate and oversee cannabis businesses operating within the City should they become legal. Measure PC would provide a local source of funding to regulate cannabis businesses, without taking funds away from existing services and programs.

### **Could Measure PC also be used to fund City services in Pomona?**

Yes, in addition to providing local funds for cannabis business regulation within the City, Measure PC would provide an additional source of local funding for City programs, emergency services, crime prevention services and infrastructure maintenance.

### **Would Measure PC include fiscal accountability provisions?**

By law, funding from Measure PC could not be taken away by the State. These funds would be protected and restricted to stay in Pomona to assist in the regulation of the local cannabis industry should it become legalized and would protect essential City services in our community.

### **Would Measure PC legalize commercial cannabis businesses in Pomona?**

Measure PC would not authorize commercial cannabis activities and businesses in the City. If Measure PC passes, it would put in place a tax rate of up to 6% on gross receipts on all cannabis businesses operating within the City, should they ever be legalized. It would tax cannabis businesses at an annual rate of up to \$10 per canopy square foot of cultivation as well.

### **What is the need for Measure PC if commercial cannabis businesses are not legal?**

It is possible that the State will remove cities' authority over local cannabis activities and require cities to allow for cannabis in the community in the near future. In order to prepare for that possibility Measure PC, should it be passed by voters, would be ready for implementation and have a local tax structure in place.

### **Does Pomona already receive a portion of state taxes on marijuana production and sales?**

No. Proposition 64 allows for and imposes state taxes on the legal sale and use of marijuana. Virtually all the money from the state tax imposed on the production and sale of marijuana goes to the State. However, the City is responsible for regulating and overseeing marijuana businesses operating here. Measure PC help ensure our City gets its fair share of local funding to regulate cannabis businesses operating in Pomona, should they be legalized.

### **What would Measure PC cost local residents?**

Measure PC would not increase taxes on homeowners or residents who do not operate cannabis businesses in Pomona. Cannabis businesses would pay an ongoing tax of up to 6% on gross receipts in the City, providing an estimated \$400,000-\$500,000 annually in locally-controlled funding.

**Have other cities instituted similar cannabis measures?**

Yes, many cities across California have instituted local cannabis business taxes. Measure PC would ensure Pomona also gets its fair share of local revenue and it would put a tax structure in place should the City legalize cannabis businesses be legalized.

**Where can I learn more about voting in this election?**

To learn more about voting in this election, please visit [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net) or call (800) 815-2666.

**What level of support would Measures PG and PC require to pass?**

Both Measure PG and PC require the support of a majority of voters in order to pass. All registered voters in the City of Pomona are eligible to vote on these measures.

**How can I learn more about Measures PG and PC?**

For more information, visit our dedicated webpage at [www.ci.pomona.ca.us/LocalMeasures](http://www.ci.pomona.ca.us/LocalMeasures) or contact the Finance Department at (909) 620-2353.