

**City of Palmdale**  
**Public Safety/Essential City Services Measure**  
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: What's important to the high quality of life in Palmdale?**

A: Palmdale consistently ranks among the safest cities and best places to live, raise a family and retire. Safe neighborhoods and parks, quality services to support residents, and strong community partnerships make Palmdale a desirable community and helps protect property values. The City is working to ensure a high quality of life for Palmdale into the future.

**Q: How is Palmdale protecting residents and maintaining quality of life during this challenging time?**

A: Hardworking first responders and other City staff are working tirelessly to protect and provide public safety and other vital services for our residents during this extraordinarily tough time. We partnered with the L.A. County Dept. of Health in establishing a drive-through testing center at Antelope Valley Mall. Through our South Antelope Valley Emergency Services (SAVES) program and Legacy Commons for Active Seniors, and we are providing food service to vulnerable residents in our community, including seniors, and free childcare services for essential workers and first responders.

**Q: How is the City working to help small businesses and ensure economic recovery?**

A: The City is working in close partnership with our local employers – from small business owners and aerospace industry leaders – to develop an economic development plan that will help all businesses reopen safely and thrive again as quickly as possible. This plan has been hailed as a model for other cities.

**Q: What other challenges is our City facing?**

A: Like states and cities across the nation, Palmdale faces serious economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn, and the funding for essential services is threatened as a result. High-priority services include quick emergency response, senior support and health protocols that will help our residents stay safe during and after this health crisis, but significant loss of funding could threaten even these essential services.

**Q: How will the City address these budget challenges?**

A: The City faces significantly lower revenue projections over the next few years. Even after taking prudent belt-tightening measures, additional revenues are needed. In order to protect essential City services and to keep more of our local sales tax dollars here in Palmdale, the City Council has placed a local funding measure on the November 2020 ballot.

**Q: How would a local funding measure work?**

A: If approved by Palmdale voters, the measure would authorize a ¾ cent sales tax, generating about \$12 million annually, with 100% of this revenue staying in Palmdale. This sales tax would be paid not just by Palmdale residents, but also those who work, visit and shop in Palmdale. Essential purchases such as groceries, prescription medicine and other essential purchases, rent and utilities, are exempt from sales tax.

**Q: How much would the measure cost?**

A: On a purchase of \$50, the increase would be 38 cents, or for a \$100 purchase, an increase of 75 cents. Groceries, prescription medicine, bottled water and other essentials are exempt.

**Q: Could funds from a local measure be taken by Los Angeles County or the State?**

A: No. All funds raised by a local measure would stay here in Palmdale under local control and could not be taken away.

**Q: How would additional funds be used?**

A: Funds would be used to protect essential city services and the quality of life for Palmdale residents, including:

- Maintaining 911 emergency response times and keep neighborhoods safe for all
- Keeping public parks open, safe and clean
- Repairing streets and potholes
- Supporting services for local military veterans
- Retaining local businesses through economic development initiatives to ensure the City's long-term financial stability
- Supporting community policing, activities for at-risk youth and mental health efforts to help keep our community safe for everyone
- Addressing homelessness
- Maintaining food distribution services
- Supporting rental and mortgage assistance programs
- Upgrading emergency communications and improve emergency preparedness
- Partnering with faith communities, non-profits, and local youth sports programs

**Q: How do I know funds would be spent wisely?**

A: Strict accountability provisions would be required, including a public oversight committee. All funds would remain in Palmdale to benefit local residents, and no funds could be taken away by L.A. County or Sacramento. Each year for nearly three decades, the City of Palmdale has been recognized by the national association of Government Finance Officers for its strong fiscal management and transparency in reporting to the public.

**Q: How would Palmdale's sales tax rate compare to other cities if voters approve an increase?**

A: This measure would keep Palmdale's sales tax rate comparable to other neighboring cities, including Lancaster and Quartz Hill.

**Q: Would a sales tax measure disadvantage our local auto dealers?**

A: No. It would not create any competitive disadvantage, because sales tax rates on vehicles do not depend on where vehicles are purchased. Rather, they are calculated based on where vehicle owners live and register their cars. To help Palmdale auto dealers increase their competitive edge, the City is providing a \$500 incentive for local new vehicle purchases and \$250 incentive for used car purchases through its Operation Jump Start program.

**Q: How can I receive more information or provide feedback?**

A: As the City considers a local funding proposal, your input is important. Please contact [info@cityofpalmdale.org](mailto:info@cityofpalmdale.org) with questions or comments.