

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT MEASURE A

Q: What is Measure A?

A: Measure A is a local ¾ cent sales tax measure placed on the June 4, 2019 ballot to maintain general City services such as 911 and property crime response, police and fire protection, and street/road repair.

Q: How can Measure A funds be spent?

A: If enacted, the City Council can utilize Measure A funds for community-identified spending priorities, such as:

- ✓ Maintaining local 911, police, and fire services
- ✓ Preventing and investigating property crimes, like thefts and burglaries
- ✓ Keeping fire stations operating at current levels
- ✓ Maintaining police patrols around neighborhood schools and parks
- ✓ Cleaning and maintaining public areas including commercial districts, residential neighborhoods, and parks
- ✓ Retaining and attracting local business
- ✓ Maintaining the City's finances

Q: What has the City done to cut costs?

A: Since 1998, the City has taken a number of actions to reduce the City's costs, including reducing operational expenses by \$3.4 million, enacting pension reforms, and engaging the community on these issues. For example, to maintain the budget, the City currently has five fewer police officers than it did in 2008. If enacted, funding from Measure A could help prevent further reductions in police services in order to balance the budget.

Q: What alternative sources of revenue are available to the City?

A: According to financial forecasts, the City is facing an \$8 million annual shortfall in the General Fund. The Arcadia Citizens Financial Advisory Committee recommended increasing the City's sales tax to address this shortfall instead of property tax increase because a significant part of sales tax is paid by out of town visitors and shoppers. A property tax increase would be paid entirely by Arcadia residents and businesses.

Q: What happens if Measure A is not approved by voters?

A: If Measure A is not approved by voters, as part of the budgeting process, the City Council may have to consider cuts to City services, which may include reductions to public safety and other City services.

Q: What are some of the public safety services addressed by Measure A?

A: If enacted, Measure A can provide funding to respond to and investigate property crimes, like thefts and burglaries. In 2017, Arcadia had the highest number of home break-ins and neighborhood property crime in recent history. With changes in state law allowing for the early release of prisoners and shortening sentences, Arcadia residents have expressed the importance of maintaining police protection and the number of Arcadia officers at current levels.

Q: What are Measure A's fiscal accountability requirements?

A: Measure A requires annual independent audits and public review of expenditures. No Measure A funds can be taken by the county, state, or federal government.

Q: How can I get more information on Measure A?

A: For more information on the June 4, 2019 Special Election or Measure A, visit ArcadiaCA.gov/MeasureA or email CityManager@ArcadiaCA.gov.