

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS & ANSWERS GARDENA MARCH 3rd MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Q: Are there any changes to the voting system for this election?

A: Yes. In March 2020, the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters will be utilizing a new electronic ballot format and voting system – Voting Solutions for All People (VSAP) - where new voting technology will be implemented and city-related elections and ballot measures appear in a different place on your ballot. In addition to local city council elections, Measure G will be on the local portion of your Gardena ballot.

Also, changes in state law now allow more time to register to vote. Eligible Gardena residents will have the opportunity to register or re-register all the way up to and including Election Day by visiting any voting center in the County.

For more information on the new system or registering to vote, visit the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters: www.lavote.net or the Gardena City Clerk: www.cityofgardena.org/election-information

Q: What is on the March 3rd Municipal Election Ballot?

A: On November 26th, the Gardena City Council unanimously placed Measure G – the City of Gardena Neighborhood Safety and Community Services Measure - on the ballot for voter consideration. Gardena voters will also have the opportunity to select two City Councilmembers (elected at large) on the March 3rd ballot.

Q: What is Measure G?

A: Measure G is a ¾ cent local sales tax which, if approved by Gardena voters, would generate approximately \$7.4 million per year that will go directly to the City's General Fund. The City's General Fund is used to pay for the City's general operations, including police and fire services, street and sidewalk improvements and youth and senior services.

Q: How could Measure G funds be spent?

A: If enacted, Measure G funds could be used for community identified spending priorities, such as:

- ✓ Keeping public areas safe and clean
- ✓ Repairing streets and potholes
- ✓ Maintaining firefighters and paramedics
- ✓ Maintaining 911 emergency response times
- ✓ Maintaining vital city services
- ✓ Maintaining gang and drug prevention programs
- ✓ Maintaining senior services

Q: How would Measure G impact the average Gardena resident?

A: This $\frac{3}{4}$ cent increase translates to approximately 75¢ for every \$100 spent. This means that a trip to the store for \$50 worth of household goods would increase by approximately 38¢ or a \$3.50 cup of coffee would increase by 3¢.

Q: What fiscal accountability provisions does Measure G include?

A: Measure G includes fiscal accountability provisions that require annual independent financial audits and public review of expenditures.

Q: Would Measure G ensure local sales tax stay in Gardena?

A: Yes. Currently, Gardena receives 1% of the revenue collected from the 9.5% sales tax-the rest goes to the state and county. If approved by voters, 100% of Measure G funds will stay in Gardena.

Q: Is there an example of why we should keep local revenue local?

A: Los Angeles's County's Measure H, intended for Countywide homeless programs, has collected about \$2.4 million from Gardena since July 2017. To date, the City is only eligible to receive \$200,000 funds in return. Current taxes are largely being used to benefit homelessness programs outside of Gardena.

Q: Would visitors to Gardena pay the local sales tax?

A: Yes, sales tax is paid by anyone who shops in Gardena. This ensures that both residents and visitors contribute revenue for public safety services and other resources they utilize while in our city.

Q: What items will be charged a sales tax?

A: If approved, Measure G will not apply to groceries, rent, mortgages, utilities, prescription medicine, or personal services, such as medical and dental services. Instead Measure G will apply to common items such as clothing, furniture, restaurant meals, etc.

Q: Have neighboring cities increased their sales tax?

A: Yes. Neighboring cities like Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lawndale have already passed a sales tax and are benefiting from locally controlled revenue. Many more are considering similar ballot measures this March.