



City of Montebello Frequently Asked Questions

Do residents of Montebello believe there's a need for additional funding?

Yes. Over 70% of our voters believe there's a great or some need for additional funding to maintain public safety and essential City services.

Is Montebello facing any financial difficulties?

Montebello's top priority is maintaining quality of life and public safety of all our residents, while remaining committed to long-term financial stability. We are a thriving City despite the setbacks due to the State takeaway of \$10 million per year by eliminating local redevelopment funds, the rising cost of police and firefighters, and the cost for outsourcing up.

Does Montebello need to do more to address financial Challenges?

In order to achieve long-term financial stability and avoid the current budget deficit of \$3 million, the City needs additional funding. That is why the City Council voted unanimously to place Measure H, a $\frac{3}{4}$ cent sales tax increase, on the ballot to ensure that we maintain our exemplary public safety services and protect other vital City services as well.

Will Measure H help keep Montebello safe and well-maintained?

If Measure H is approved by voters, the locally controlled sales tax revenue would be used to:

- Maintain fire and paramedic services
- Preserve public safety, police protection, anti-gang efforts and neighborhood patrols
- Keep parks and other neighborhood public areas safe and clean
- Fix streets and potholes, and help prevent sinkholes
- Maintaining programs and services for seniors
- Support summer and after-school programs that keep youth out of trouble and on track
- Attract and retain local business
- Require public disclosure of spending

Will there be accountability and transparency on how Measure H revenue will be spent?

Measure H requires strict fiscal accountability, including:

- A Transparency and Accountability Committee to ensure all funds are spent as promised

- All funds would be used to benefit Montebello residents only – no funds could be taken by the State, the County or other cities
- All funds subject to mandatory annual independent audit and reports to the community

Would Measure H ensure local sales tax revenue stays in Montebello?

Yes. Currently Montebello receives only one tenth of the revenues collected from the 9.5% sales tax – the rest goes to the state and county. If approved by voters, 100% of the revenue from Measure H will stay in Montebello.

What happens if Montebello doesn't increase its sales tax?

Other government agencies – such as the County of Los Angeles and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) – may decide to gain additional funding through a ¾ cent sales tax increase. Should those entities decide to pursue a tax, Montebello's sales tax rate could increase from 9.50% to 10.25% without receiving the full benefit to our community.

Without additional funding, the City may also be forced to make deeper cuts to basic services such as police and fire protection, paramedics, senior services, youth programs and park maintenance and safety.

Has crime in Montebello gone down due to the City's efforts in public safety?

Crime in Montebello has steadily dropped over the years due to the City's proactive public safety efforts.

What has the City of Montebello done to invest in infrastructure?

Unfortunately, the City has been unable to adequately invest in its infrastructure due to the budgeted deficits in prior years.

Is there example of why we should keep local revenue local?

Los Angeles County's Measure H, intended for Countywide homeless programs, has collected about \$6 million from Montebello since July 2017. To date, we've only received about \$50,000 in return. Current taxes are largely being used to benefit homelessness programs outside of Montebello.

Have neighboring cities increased their sales tax?

Yes. Neighboring cities like Pico Rivera, Lynwood, South Gate, Downey, Pasadena, Huntington Park and other neighboring cities have already passed a sales tax and are benefiting from locally controlled revenue. And the cities of Whittier, Paramount, Norwalk, Lakewood, and Bellflower are also currently considering a similar sales tax to protect essential city services.

Would visitors to Montebello pay the local sales tax?

Yes, sales tax is paid by anyone who shops in Montebello. This ensures that both residents and visitors contribute revenue for public safety and other essential services in our City.

How do residents of Montebello feel about a local sales tax?

According to polling 62% of Montebello residents would support a sales tax, far above the 50%+1 votes required to pass.

Can we trust that Measure H revenue will be locally controlled?

All funds from Measure H will be used solely to fund city services here in Montebello. By law, no money could be taken away by the State or the County. Independent financial audits will ensure public disclosure of all spending.

Is there new leadership in Montebello?

Yes, there is new leadership in Montebello, including the Mayor, City Council and City Manager. All of our new leaders are committed to the long-term financial stability of the City and to ensuring transparency and accountability to the public.

Are the City of Montebello and Montebello School District separate entities?

Yes, they are entirely separate entities. The City is governed by the Mayor and City Council while the school district is governed by the Board of Education.

How can I receive more information or provide feedback?

Community input is a critical component of our planning process. As we examine solutions to maintain our City services in Montebello, we value your input.

The statements provided herein are solely for informational purposes. The City cannot take a position to ask voters to vote either “yes” or “no”. For more information, please visit www.cityofmontebello.com or contact Rene Bobadilla at 323-887-1363 or publicsafetymeasure@cityofmontebello.com .