



Pathfinder

"Your present circumstances don't determine where you can go; they merely determine where you start."

Nido Qubein

Teamwork Matters

A message from
the City Manager



JASON STILWELL

The City Council voted unanimously on July 3rd to place the Santa Maria Public Safety/Essential Services Measure for voter consideration on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

Now that the Council has voted to place the measure on the ballot, as employees when representing the City, we can inform but we cannot advocate. We are free to answer inquiries and can explain the proposed one-cent sales tax measure in detail. We can only provide information and facts; we cannot suggest or recommend that someone vote for or against the measure.

As a City employee, you cannot participate in political activities on work time and using City resources. As public employees, you are also prohibited from participating in political activities while in a City uniform, during work hours, and on City property. As public servants, we are legally mandated to refrain from activities that may give an appearance of favoring or opposing a candidate or issue. But you can participate in political activities on your own personal time and using your own personal resources.

For information: Measure U2018 would extend and enhance the existing quarter-cent sales tax approved by City voters in 2012. If enacted by voters, the one-cent sales and use tax measure would provide about \$18 million annually to protect vital local public safety and quality of life services.

We are pleased to place this issue on the ballot for consideration by the community. Over the last few months, we have engaged nearly a thousand residents at more than two dozen community events about their local priorities. We heard loud and clear that our residents want

to protect Measure U's locally-controlled public safety funds.

Since Measure U was approved in 2012, our City has benefitted from locally-controlled funding. Our residents told us over and over that they particularly value the public safety services that Measure U funds. If approved, this Measure U extension will allow our City to maintain and enhance the public safety and quality of life services that our residents want and deserve.

Priorities identified by residents in a pair of community surveys conducted this spring by the City included: supporting gang suppression and crime prevention efforts, protecting prompt 9-1-1 response times, staffing all fire stations, and maintaining at-risk youth programs - all services that the funding from this measure would support if enacted.

"The City needs a dependable revenue source to fund our vital City services," Mayor Alice Patino said. "This local measure, if enacted by voters, will maintain our dependable revenue stream that can never be taken by the State. Maintaining this local funding will help our local Police Department and Fire Department build on our success and keep Santa Maria an excellent place to live. We look forward to talking with Santa Maria residents about our City's needs and look forward to hearing from them in November."

If you desire more information regarding this upcoming ballot measure, I encourage you to read the City Council Agenda Report of July 3, 2018, and also to monitor the City website where staff will have a dedicated webpage about the measure.

Jason

Save the date: Hope to see you at the City's Employee BBQ, September 15th, at the AMCYC.