

2012 California Library Ballot Measures

Arcadia, City of Arcadia Public Library Arcadia, CA	April 10, 2012 Hotel Tax Operating	Passed 79.1% Yes Vote
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Measure D's approval means that an ordinance of the Arcadia Municipal Code is amended to extend the period of occupancy subject to the Transient Occupancy (Hotel) Tax from 30 days to 90 days, and to apply the Tax to all rent charged by hotel operators, including online travel companies. Funds received will help preserve general City services such as police and fire protection, street operations and maintenance, and library, parks and recreation services. Measure D is not a new tax, rather an extension of number of days of a traveler's stay that will be taxable.

Alameda, City of Alameda Public Library Alameda, CA	June 5, 2012 Sales Tax Facilities Improvements	Failed 50.56% Yes Vote
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Measure C proposed a one-half (1/2) cent sales tax increase raising the total sales tax in the city to 9.25% to maintain neighborhood crime patrols, fire protection and 911 emergency response; improve earthquake preparedness; replace an unsafe fire station; establish a citywide Emergency Operations Center, a joint police/fire training facility, library, cultural and recreational facilities; replace outdated police/ fire vehicles and equipment; and for other capital equipment and facilities. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Dunsmuir, City of Siskiyou County Library – Dunsmuir Branch Dunsmuir, CA	June 5, 2012 Parcel Tax Operating	Failed 39.44% Yes Vote
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Measure N proposed a parcel tax of \$25/year per parcel that would have been in effect for ten years. Property owners would have paid a flat \$25 per year to cover the modest costs of keeping the library open. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Hercules, City of Contra Costa Public Library (Hercules branch) Hercules, CA	June 5, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Passed 70.78% Yes Vote
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Measure O proposed a temporary one-half (1/2) cent sales tax increase raising the total sales tax in the city to 8.75% to address Hercules' Fiscal Emergency, stabilize city finances, offset budget shortfalls/the impact of State budget cuts on local services, prevent reductions to the number of police officers/crime investigators, protect/maintain crime prevention, childcare, youth sports and recreation programs and other general City services. The tax will expire after four years. A simple majority was required for approval.

Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles County Library Downey, CA	June 5, 2012 Hotel Tax Operating	Passed 60.9% Yes Vote
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Measure H proposed hotel tax of 12% requests taxpayer approval of the existing hotel tax rate that has been in existence since 1991. In January 1991, the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County raised the hotel (lodging) tax in the county from 10% to 12%, which was enacted without voter approval. A lawsuit has challenged the January 1991 hotel tax increase to 12% on the same grounds that have led other courts in the state to invalidate tax increases that were enacted without voter approval. The approval of Measure H means that the 12% tax has been approved by voters. The 2% hotel tax in question applies to lodging in the county's unincorporated areas and will fund essential County general fund services, such as parks, libraries, senior services, and law enforcement; to continue exempting hotel stays longer than 30 days, to add exemptions for emergency shelter referrals, and for individuals on official government business pursuant to federal law. A simple majority vote was required for approval.

Solano, County of Solano County Library Fairfield, CA	June 5, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Passed 80.1% Yes Vote
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The approval of Measure L means that a pre-existing retail sales and use tax one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) that supports the operations of the public libraries throughout the county will be extended for sixteen (16) more years. This tax provides local library funding that prevents library closures; maintains collections of books, databases, and other materials; preserves library hours and children, teen, adult, senior programs, including computer training, homework help, family literacy and children's storytimes. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Stanislaus, County of Stanislaus County Library Modesto, CA	June 5, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Passed 81.93% Yes Vote
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The approval of Measure T extended a one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) sales tax for five more years, the revenues of which go to support the county's libraries. This tax was first approved by voters in 1995 and was re-approved in 1999 and 2004. This tax provides 87% of the library's funding that will keep branches open, maintain hours, provide programs for children, teens, adults & seniors, children's storytimes, literacy, homework and job search resources, maintain book, CD, DVD & reference collections. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Atherton, Town of San Mateo County Library (Atherton Branch) San Mateo, CA	November 6, 2012 New Library Location Operating	Failed 31.32% Yes Vote
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Measure F asked "Should the Town of Atherton construct a new library in Holbrook-Palmer Park using funds dedicated for library purposes only, by replacing the Main House and some surrounding patios and walkways?" The Town of Atherton plans to build a new library. The question to be decided by this ballot measure was whether that new library should be built in Holbrook-Palmer Park. Existing funds are already designated solely for library purposes including construction, operating expenses, programs and book and media collections. The text of the ballot question noted that if the new library is built in Holbrook-Palmer Park, this will involve "replacing the main house and some surrounding patios and walkways."

Carmel-by-the-Sea, City of	November 6, 2012	
Carmel-by-the-Sea Public Library	Sales Tax	Passed
Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA	Operating	75.4% Yes Vote

The approval of Measure D increases the sales & use tax levied by Carmel-by-the-Sea by 1% for ten years to maintain essential services including fire, ambulance and police response times; fund capital needs including streets, beach, parks, forest and trails; increase code compliance; maintain libraries, Sunset Center and other public facilities; address CalPERS pension liabilities and other debt; and provide other general City services. A simple majority vote was required for approval.

Commerce, City of	November 6, 2012	
Commerce Public Library	Sales Tax	Passed
Commerce, CA	Operating	67.64% Yes Vote

Measure AA proposed to enact a one-half-of-one-percent (0.5%) sales and use tax in the City of Commerce to offset severe state budget cuts and provide funding for such things as police and fire service, repair, maintenance and improvement of streets, sidewalks, public facilities, parks, libraries and other city services. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Coronado, City of	November 6, 2012	
Coronado Public Library	Hotel Tax	Passed
Coronado, CA	Operating	60.12% Yes Vote

Measure F proposed to increase the City of Coronado's Transient Occupancy Tax ("TOT"), known as the hotel tax, from 8% to 10%. The City's existing TOT rate of 8% has been in effect since 1995. If passed, Measure F would amend the City's Municipal Code to increase the TOT rate by two percent (2%) and establish the total rate of 10%. Measure F is a general tax and would be deposited in the City's general fund to be used for any general governmental purpose of the City. Services commonly supported from the City's general fund include police, fire, beach lifeguards, parks, library, capital improvements, public facilities maintenance, non-enterprise public works, and general government functions that support them. A simple majority vote was required for approval.

El Dorado, County of	November 6, 2012	
El Dorado County Library	Parcel Tax	Failed
Placerville, CA	Operating	54.96% Yes Vote

Measure L would have levied a special county-wide parcel tax for 15 years to support libraries in the county. The tax was expected to generate about \$1.6 million a year, and would have replaced the existing library parcel taxes or fees in Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, South Lake Tahoe and Georgetown areas creating uniform tax rate for library support. There are six public libraries in El Dorado County and the proceeds of Measure L would have supported all of them. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Fresno, County of Fresno County Library Fresno, CA	November 6, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Passed 73.2% Yes Vote
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The approval of Measure B extended the existing one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) sales tax which has been in effect for 13 years. These funds will protect libraries from state budget cuts by preventing library closures & reduced library hours; keeping qualified librarians; improving reading/literacy, job search programs/computer technology; providing neighborhood school-library joint programs, and maintaining services for children, seniors and the blind. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Lassen Library District Lassen Library District Susanville, CA	November 6, 2012 Parcel Tax Operating	Failed 55.69% Yes Vote
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Measure W would have authorized the Lassen Library District to extend the existing special parcel tax it levies to all "inhabitable dwelling units" within the district. Funds would have been used solely for the operation and maintenance of the District. Currently the tax in effect since 1994 is only levied on homeowners in the City of Susanville. In September 2006, the geographic boundaries of the Lassen Library District were extended from the City of Susanville to include all inhabitable dwelling units in Lassen County by the Lassen LAFCo. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Plumas, County of Plumas County Library Quincy, CA	November 6, 2012 Hotel Tax Operating	Failed 59.21% Yes Vote
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Measure C would have increased the lodging tax paid in Plumas County from 9% to 11%. The tax increase would have been in effect from January 1, 2013 through January 1, 2017. The tax increase was estimated to result in about \$200,000 in additional revenue for Plumas County during each of the four years it was to be in effect. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Plumas, County of Plumas County Library Quincy, CA	November 6, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Failed 64.06% Yes Vote
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Measure D would have levied a one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) sales tax on the purchase of goods and services in Plumas County for four years. The tax rate would have gone from 7.25% to 7.5%. The tax increase was estimated to result in about \$700,000 in additional revenue for Plumas County during each of the four years it was to be in effect. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Pomona, City of Pomona Public Library Pomona, CA	November 6, 2012 Parcel Tax Operating	Failed 39.37% Yes Vote
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Measure X would have levied a parcel tax of \$38 per parcel. This tax was not designed to expire in a set time; it would have been a permanent new tax. If the measure had passed, the library would have had to stay open at least 38 hours/at least 5 days every week. Currently, the library is open 20 hours a week. A two-thirds (2/3) supermajority vote was required for approval.

Sacramento, City of Sacramento Public Library Sacramento, CA	November 6, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Passed 64.14% Yes Vote
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Measure U will levy a one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales and use tax in the City of Sacramento for six (6) years. It is expected that this will generate \$28 million a year in new tax revenues. Sales tax funds will restore and protect essential public safety services, including 9-1-1 response, police officers, gang/youth violence prevention, fire protection/emergency medical response, and other essential services including park maintenance, youth/senior services, and libraries. A simple majority vote was required for approval.

Salinas, City of Salinas Public Library Salinas, CA	November 6, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Passed 77.6% Yes Vote
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The approval of Measure E means that a pre-existing retail sales/use tax of one-half of one percent (0.5%) that supports the operations of public libraries throughout the county will be extended in perpetuity. There was already a sales tax in the City of Salinas of a half-cent approved in 2005 as Measure V and scheduled to expire in March 2016. The approval of Measure E means this sales tax will not expire and instead will exist in perpetuity. Funding will preserve essential services and facilities in Salinas, including: crime & gang prevention; keeping libraries open; emergency response, police, fire, paramedics; fixing streets and sidewalks; parks and recreation for youth and seniors; and other city services.

San Mateo, County of San Mateo County Library San Mateo, CA	November 6, 2012 Sales Tax Operating	Passed 65.39% Yes Vote
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Measure A proposed a one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales tax increase for ten years in unincorporated areas and almost all cities in the county resulting in a tax increase from 8.25 to 8.75 percent. Funds raised would be used to ensure San Mateo's quality of life by retaining critical facilities/services such as: child abuse prevention, 911 dispatch, fire prevention, after-school library reading/homework programs; keeping parks open; maintaining seismically safe hospital/emergency rooms which may include substantial funding to replace Seton Hospital/emergency room for low-income children/seniors/disabled; and other County services. A simple majority vote was required for approval.