

2016 California Library Ballot Measures

[California Secretary of State, Elections and Voter Information, Ballot Measures](#)

Ballotpedia: [Local Ballot Measure Elections 2016](#)

This list of ballot measures specifically references libraries and not just general sales or other tax initiatives that go into localities' general funds.

April 12, 2016

Los Angeles County

Sierra Madre, City of	April 12, 2016	Measure UUT
Los Angeles County, CA	Utility Users Tax	Approved
Public Library		72.27% Yes Vote

A [Utility Users Tax Increase, Measure UUT](#) was on the ballot for Sierra Madre voters in Los Angeles County, California, on April 12, 2016. It was approved.

As of June 2015, the utility tax in the city was 10 percent. On July 1, 2015, however, the tax rate dropped to 8 percent since voters rejected [a measure in 2014](#) designed to extend the 10 percent rate. Moreover, without the approval of this measure in 2016, the utility tax rate would drop to 6 percent on July 1, 2016.

City officials estimated the difference in revenue between a 10 percent utility tax and a 6 percent utility tax to be about \$1 million per year. In preceding years, the utility tax had been the second largest single source of revenue for the city. The city's annual expenditures amounted to about \$8.8 million in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.^{[4][5]}

Ballot Text:

“To maintain City services, such as Public Safety, Paramedic and **Library** services, shall an Ordinance be adopted to:

1. Increase the City's Utility Users' Tax (UUT) to a maximum of 10% for all utilities, to be effective on July 1, 2016; and
 2. Extend and stabilize the funding by eliminating the "sunset" clause; and
 3. Provide an exemption from the UUT for very low income households?^[7]”
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June 7, 2016

Contra Costa County

Oakley City of	June 7, 2016	Measure K
Contra Costa County, CA	Parcel Tax	Defeated
Oakley Library – Contra Costa County Library		54.71% Yes Vote*

A **parcel tax measure** was on the ballot for Oakley voters in Contra Costa County, California, on June 7, 2016. It was **defeated**.

*Approval by two-thirds of city voters is required to impose this tax.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To replace the small, outdated Oakley Library currently utilizing a portion of Freedom High School and construct and operate a new Library and Community Learning Center downtown, shall the ordinance establishing a \$7.75 per month per parcel Library Development Tax be adopted, raising approximately one million one hundred thousand dollars annually, for thirty years starting fiscal year 2016/17, with independent financial audits ensuring funds are spent only on the Oakley Library and Community Learning Center? ^[2]”

Kern County

Kern County of	June 7, 2016	Measure F
Kern County, CA	Sales Tax	Defeated
Kern County Public Library system		51.68% Yes Vote*

A **library sales tax measure** was on the ballot for [Kern County](#) voters in [Kern County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **defeated**.

*A [two-thirds supermajority vote](#) was required for the approval of Measure F.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“Shall the Kern County Board of Supervisors enact a 0.125 percent (1/8 cent) transactions and use tax on all qualified retail sales within the County of Kern, for the benefit of the Kern County Public Library system, in accordance with California Revenue and Taxation Code §7286.59? ^[2]”

Los Angeles County

Glendale, City of	June 7, 2016	Measure N
Los Angeles County, CA	Utility Tax	Defeated
Glendale Public Library		28.52% Yes Vote

A **measure to repeal the city's utility tax** was on the ballot for [Glendale](#) voters in [Los Angeles County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **defeated**.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[2]

“Shall the City’s longstanding utility users tax be repealed, eliminating approximately 9.5% of the revenues in the City’s general fund annually (\$17.5 million this year) that is used to pay for city services such as police, fire, 9-1-1 emergency response, **libraries**, parks and senior services?^[3]”

Long Beach, City of	June 7, 2016	Measure A
Los Angeles County, CA	Sales Tax	Approved
Glendale Public Library		60.32% Yes Vote

A **sales tax measure** was on the ballot for [Long Beach](#) voters in [Los Angeles County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **approved**.

Measure A was designed to be [a general sales tax](#), with revenue deposited into the city's general fund to be used for any government purpose.

*In California, [sales taxes with specially dedicated revenue](#) require a [two-thirds supermajority vote](#) for approval.

The total sales tax rates in Long Beach under the approval and defeat of Measure A are listed below for comparison:^[1]

- **Approved:** 10 percent
 - 7.5 percent: state-mandated minimum
 - 1.5 percent: county tax
 - 1.0 percent: city tax
- **Defeated:** 9 percent
 - 7.5 percent: state-mandated minimum
 - 1.5 percent: county tax

[Measure B](#), a proposal for a "rainy day fund," accompanied Measure A on the city election ballot. Measure B was designed to only take effect if both Measure A and [Measure B](#) were approved.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot.^[2]

“To maintain 911 emergency response services; increase police, firefighter/paramedic staffing; repair potholes/streets; improve water supplies; and maintain general services; shall the City of Long Beach establish a one cent (1%) transactions and use (sales) tax for six years, generating approximately \$48 million annually, declining to one-half cent for four years and then ending, requiring a citizens’ advisory committee and independent audits, with all funds remaining in Long Beach?^[3]”

Long Beach, City of	June 7, 2016	Measure B
Los Angeles County, CA	“Rainy Day” Fund	Approved
Glendale Public Library	creation dependent upon approval of Sales Tax increase in Measure A	58.0% Yes Vote ‡

A measure to establish a budget stabilization fund ("rainy day fund") was on the ballot for [Long Beach](#) voters in [Los Angeles County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **approved**.

‡**Measure B** was designed to only take effect if the proposed 1 percent Long Beach sales tax measure, [Measure A](#), was also approved.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To help maintain city services, such as police, firefighter, paramedic, park, **library**, street repair and community programs, during economic recessions that cause temporary budget shortfalls, shall the City of Long Beach establish a budget stabilization (“rainy day”) fund as part of the General Fund to provide short-term funding for such general services into which one percent of any new general tax revenues shall be deposited and spent only to balance the budget?^[2]”

Marin County

San Rafael, City of	June 7, 2016	Measure D
Marin County, CA	Special Parcel Tax	Approved
San Rafael Public Library		69.1% Yes Vote*

A measure to increase the Special Library Services Parcel Tax to \$59 per year was on the ballot for [San Rafael](#) voters in [Marin County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **narrowly approved**.

*A [two-thirds supermajority vote](#) was required for the approval of Measure D.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To provide a critical, consistent, locally-controlled funding source, augmenting current general fund allocations for the San Rafael Public Library to maintain library hours, equipment, materials, and services for children, teens, and adults, shall the City of San Rafael be authorized to levy an annual \$59 parcel tax (slightly higher for multiple-residential unit parcels) for a period of nine (9) years with annual CPI adjustment, oversight by an independent citizens committee and exemptions for senior citizens?^[2]”

Sacramento

Sacramento, City of	June 7, 2016	Measure X
Sacramento County, CA	Parcel Tax	Approved
Sacramento Public Library		79.12% Yes Vote*

A **library parcel tax measure** was on the ballot for [Sacramento](#) voters in [Sacramento County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **approved**.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To fund library services –including programs for children, teens, and seniors; homework support for students; regular open hours; books; and technology– shall the parcel tax adopted in 2004 be renewed in 2017-18 (single family residences currently \$31.53/ year and other properties at specified amounts, annually adjusted for inflation) for 10 years, generating approximately \$5 million annually, with independent financial audits to ensure funds are spent only on City of Sacramento libraries?^[2]”

Full text

The full text of the measure is available [here](#).

San Bernardino County

Colton, City of	June 7, 2016	Measure D
San Bernardino County, CA	Electric Utility Revenue Transfer and Rate Freeze	Approved
Colton Public Library		76.2% Yes Vote*

A [sic] **electric utility revenue transfer and rate freeze measure** was on the ballot for [Colton](#) voters in [San Bernardino County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **approved**.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To add approximately \$4,800,000 in funding annually for general city services such as police, fire, paramedics, parks, libraries and senior services while stabilizing electric utility rates; shall an ordinance be adopted authorizing a transfer not to exceed 20% of annual electric utility gross revenues to the City’s General Fund reverting back to a 12.39% maximum on June 30, 2021, and establishing a freeze on electric utility rates for 5 years, except in cases of financial emergency?^[2]”

San Diego County

San Diego, City of	June 7, 2016	Measure H
San Diego County, CA	Charter Amendment – affects General Fund	Approved
San Diego Public Library	revenue	65.02% Yes Vote

A **charter amendment measure to establish a dedicated infrastructure fund** was on the ballot for [San Diego](#) voters in [San Diego County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **approved**.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“CHARTER AMENDMENT: INFRASTRUCTURE FUND.
Shall the Charter be amended to require certain unrestricted General Fund revenues to be deposited in an Infrastructure Fund used exclusively to pay for capital improvements including streets, sidewalks, bridges, bike paths, storm water and drainage systems; public buildings including libraries, recreational and community centers; public safety facilities including police, fire and lifeguard stations; and park facilities, but expressly not used for new convention center facilities and new professional sports venues? ^[2]”

Santa Cruz County

Santa Cruz, County of	June 7, 2016	Measure S
Santa Cruz County, CA	Parcel Tax	Approved
Santa Cruz Public Libraries		70.38% Yes* Vote

A **bond issue and parcel tax measure** was on the ballot for voters in the Community Facilities District No. 2016-1 of the Libraries Facilities Financing Authority in [Santa Cruz County, California](#), on [June 7, 2016](#). It was **approved**.

*A [two-thirds supermajority vote](#) was required for the approval of Measure S.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[2]

“To modernize, upgrade and repair local libraries in Santa Cruz, Aptos, Live Oaks, Scotts Valley, Boulder Creek, Capitola, Felton and La Selva Beach -- replace failing roofs, outdated [sic] bathrooms, electrical systems/structurally damaged facilities; support growing use by children, seniors, veterans and others; expand access to modern technology; and construct/expand facilities where necessary; shall Santa Cruz Libraries Facilities Financing Authority issue \$67,000,000 in bonds for Santa Cruz Libraries Facilities Financing Authority Community Facilities District No. 2016-1; levy a special tax annually on parcels within the Community Facilities District; establish an initial appropriations limit; and assure mandatory accountability? ^[3]”

November 8, 2016

Contra Costa County

El Cerrito, City of	November 8, 2016	Measure B
Contra Costa County, CA	Bond Issue	Defeated
El Cerrito Library – Contra Costa County Library		62.96%* Yes Vote

A **bond issue** was on the ballot for [El Cerrito](#) voters in [Contra Costa County, California](#), on [November 8, 2016](#).

* A [two-thirds supermajority vote](#) was required for the approval of this measure.

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To replace the 67 year old El Cerrito Library with a safe, energy efficient, 21st century library that meets earthquake and fire codes with space for a children's area for story times/books; public access computers/computer learning center; up-to-date book/resource collections; and improved senior/disabled access, shall El Cerrito issue \$30,000,000 in bonds at legal rates for 33 years, as the Voter Guide describes, requiring independent citizen oversight, and all funds for El Cerrito Library? ^[2]”

Pleasant Hill, City of	November 8, 2016	Measure K
Contra Costa County, CA	Sales Tax	Approved
Pleasant Hill Library – Contra Costa County Library		67.09% Yes Vote

A **sales tax** was on the ballot for [Pleasant Hill](#) voters in [Contra Costa County, California](#), on [November 8, 2016](#).

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To provide and maintain Pleasant Hill city services and facilities, including fixing potholes, and repairing neighborhood and city streets; replacing the aging library with a 21st century facility including space for after-school homework and tutoring; creating additional walking and biking paths; maintaining storm drains; and other city services; shall the City of Pleasant Hill levy a 1/2 cent sales tax, providing \$4,000,000 annually for 20 years, providing locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the State?^[2]”

Monterey County

Monterey, City of	November 8, 2016	Measure G
Monterey County, CA	Telephone Users Tax	Approved
Monterey County Library		56.15 % Yes Vote

A **telephone users tax measure** was on the ballot for [Monterey](#) voters in [Monterey County, California](#), on [November 8, 2016](#).

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To modernize the City’s existing 5% telephone users tax for non-residential users, and existing 2% rate for residential users, and to maintain funding for such essential City services as police, fire, streets, **libraries** and parks, shall the tax be extended to include wireless, internet, and other modern telecommunications without increasing the tax rate to raise approximately \$560,000 per year for City services on an ongoing basis?^[2]”

Monterey, City of	November 8, 2016	Measure H
Monterey County, CA	Business License Tax	Approved
Monterey County Library		73.86% Yes Vote

A **business license tax** was on the ballot for [Monterey](#) voters in [Monterey County, California](#), on [November 8, 2016](#).

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“To simplify the City’s existing business license tax and to fund essential City services such as police, fire, streets, libraries, and parks at current levels, shall the City amend the tax to assess rates equally amongst businesses regardless of function, imposing a minimum tax per business of \$26 per year plus 0.15% of gross receipts over \$25,000, thereby maintaining current annual revenues of approximately \$3.2 million on an ongoing basis?^[2]”

Placer County

Loomis, City of	November 8, 2016	Measure G
Placer County, CA	Sales Tax Revenue Allocation	Approved
Loomis Library	Determination	63.77% Yes Vote

A **measure determining how sales tax revenue is spent** was on the ballot for [Loomis](#) voters in [Placer County, California](#), on [November 8, 2016](#).

Ballot question

The following question appeared on the ballot:^[1]

“If a local transactions and use tax is enacted in the Town of Loomis, should its revenue be used predominantly to support the continued operation of the Loomis Library?^[2]”
