

# 2013 California Library Ballot Measures

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<b>Hercules, City of</b> Contra Costa County Hercules, CA	<b>June 4, 2013</b> Utility User Tax	<b>Passed</b> <b>71.0% Yes Vote</b>
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A [City of Hercules Utility Tax, Measure A](#) ballot question was on the June 4, 2013 ballot for voters in the City of Hercules in Contra Costa County: it was **approved**.

Measure A sought to increase the utility users tax by 2% from 6% to 8% for five years, providing an estimated \$1 million additional general fund revenue per year.

On February 12, the Hercules city council voted to declare a fiscal emergency, allowing this Measure A tax increase to pass with simple majority.

This measure was voted on a year after the overwhelmingly approved Measure O, which raised the city sales tax in 2012.

City of Hercules Fiscal Accountability/Services Protection Measure. To restore Hercules to financial stability, enhance fiscal accountability, continue to maintain our own local Police Department, and prevent drastic cuts to neighborhood police officers, youth/senior programs, and other services, shall Hercules modernize its utility users tax with equal treatment of taxpayers regardless of technology, increase the rate by 2% for 5 years, maintain current low-income exemptions, with citizens' oversight, independent audits, and local control of revenues?

<b>San Dimas, City of</b> Los Angeles County San Dimas, CA	<b>March 5, 2013</b> Hotel Tax Rate	<b>Passed</b> <b>55.9% Yes Vote</b>
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A [City of San Dimas Hotel Tax Increase, Measure A](#) ballot question was on the March 5, 2013, ballot for voters in the City of San Dimas in Los Angeles County; it was **approved**.

Measure A increased the hotel ("transient lodging") tax paid in the City of San Dimas from 8% to 12%.

"To provide funding for general city services, including public safety (Sheriff), parks and recreation, and maintenance of city streets and public area landscaping, shall the City of San Dimas approve an ordinance amending the San Dimas Municipal Code to increase the transient occupancy tax rate from eight (8%) to twelve (12%) on the rate charged to hotel and recreational vehicle campground guests staying within the City to be effective July 1, 2013?"

<b>Corte Madera, Town of</b> Marin County Corte Madera, CA	<b>November 5, 2013</b> Sales Tax	<b>Passed</b> <b>68.1% Yes Vote</b>
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A [Town of Corte Madera Sales Tax, Measure B](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the town of Corte Madera in Marin County, which is in California. It was **approved**.

Measure B approved a 1/2 percent increase in the town sales tax, boosting the rate to 9%. The resolution that put Measure B on the ballot was approved to fill the following needs of the town:

- Fire prevention,
- Flood control,
- Streets and potholes,
- Disaster preparedness,
- Safe routes to schools,
- Senior and youth programs

<b>Larkspur, City of</b> Marin County Larkspur, CA	<b>November 5, 2013</b> Sales Tax	<b>Passed</b> <b>75.8% Yes Vote</b>
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A [City of Larkspur Sales Tax, Measure C](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the city of Larkspur in Marin County, California. It was **approved**.

This measure imposed an additional sales tax at a rate of 1/2 a percent, pushing the total tax rate for residents to 9%. Previously, the total sales tax rate in the city was 8.5%, but only 0.75% of that tax went to the city.

<b>San Anselmo, Town of</b> Marin County San Anselmo, CA	<b>November 5, 2013</b> Sales Tax	<b>Passed</b> <b>69.9% Yes Vote</b>
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A [Town of San Anselmo Sales Tax, Measure D](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in Town of San Anselmo Marin County, which is in California. It was **approved**.

This measure increased the sales tax in the city by 0.5% for 10 years.

Officials said the measure was required primarily for road maintenance and repair.

<b>San Rafael, City of</b> Marin County San Rafael, CA	<b>November 5, 2013</b> Sales Tax	<b>Passed</b> <b>65.3% Yes Vote</b>
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A [City of San Rafael Sales Tax, Measure E](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the city of San Rafael in Marin County, which is in California. It was **approved**.

Measure E renewed a 0.5% sales tax approved in Measure S by voters in 2005. Measure E also authorized a 0.25% tax increase or 25 cents per \$100 purchase or \$2.50 on a \$1,000 purchase. The resulting total sales tax rate for city residents became 9.25%. The rate in many other cities such as San Anselmo, Corte Madera, and Larkspur became 9% as their respective tax measures were also approved.

**Riverside, City of**  
**Riverside County**  
**Riverside, CA**

**June 4, 2013**  
**Annual Transfer of Funds**

**Passed**  
**67.8% Yes Vote**

A [City of Riverside Local Services & Clean Water Charter Amendment, Measure A](#) ballot question was on the June 4, 2013 ballot for voters in the City of Riverside in Riverside County, where it was **approved**.

Measure A authorized the continued transfer of funds from the city water utility revenue to the general fund. This transfer was originally approved by voters in 1968 and twice again since then.

This was an all mail election with ballots going out to voters on May 6<sup>th</sup> and due back by June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Riverside Local Services and Clean Water Measure. To maintain general fund services such as 9-1-1- response; police patrols/fire protection; children's after-school and senior/disabled services; and protect supplies of clean drinking water from contamination; shall Section 1204.1 be added to the Charter continuing the annual transfer of funds from the City water utility to the general fund approved by City voters in 1968, with independent audits, funds staying local and no increase in taxes.

**Palm Springs, City of**  
**Riverside County**  
**Palm Springs, CA**

**November 5, 2013**  
**Tax**

**Passed**  
**66.3% Yes Vote**

A [City of Palm Springs Medical Cannabis Collectives Operation Tax, Measure B](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the city of Palm Springs in Riverside County, which is in California. It was **approved**.

The Measure B tax was set to be a 15% tax collected from each of the three licit medical marijuana dispensing collectives in the city as well as any operational illicit ones. The Council was given the authority to periodically decrease the tax rate by Measure B, but they were not given authority to increase it beyond the base 15% rate without voter approval.

The tax revenue was designed to be used for police services including the regulation and enforcement of laws governing cannabis. But Measure B revenue will go into the general fund and could potentially be used for any purpose. The city attorney estimated the costs needed to administer the dispensaries and regulate illegal operations to be \$500,000 over the past several years.

Because revenue was not earmarked for a particular purpose, but was directed to go into the city's general fund, only a 55 percent supermajority vote was required for approval instead of a two-thirds supermajority vote.

**Grand Terrace, City of**  
**San Bernardino County**  
**Grand Terrace, CA**

**November 5, 2013**  
**Utility User Tax**

**Failed**  
**39.4% Yes Vote**

A [City of Grand Terrace Utility Tax, Measure C](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the city of Grand Terrace in San Bernardino County, which is in California. It was **defeated**.

If Measure C had been approved by over 50% of voters, a 5% utility tax would have been imposed for six years to add revenue to the city's general fund. The Mayor stated that estimates placed the expected revenue from the Measure C tax increase between \$1.39 million and \$1.4 million per year.

According to *The Sun's* editorial on Measure C:

- Grand Terrace had "an ongoing structural deficit of roughly \$1 million,"
- General fund revenues for the city in 2013 were a little over \$3 million, and
- In the several years immediately preceding 2013 the city's revenue had fallen by 40%.

<b>Foster, City of</b> San Mateo County Foster City, CA	<b>November 5, 2013</b> <b>Business License Tax</b>	<b>Passed</b> <b>73.2% Yes Vote</b>
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A [City of Foster City Business License Tax, Measure U](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the city of Foster in San Mateo County, which is in California. It was **approved**.

To pay for general city services enjoyed by all residents and businesses in Foster City, including services such as police, fire, parks, recreation, and repairing and maintaining the levee, lagoon, streets and other infrastructure, shall an ordinance be adopted to increase the City's business license tax effective January 1, 2014?

<b>Scotts Valley, City of</b> Santa Cruz County Scotts Valley, CA	<b>November 5, 2013</b> <b>Sales Tax</b>	<b>Passed</b> <b>75.3% Yes Vote</b>
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A [City of Scotts Valley Sales Tax Increase, Measure U](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the city of Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County, which is in California. It was **approved**.

Measure U increased the sales tax from 8.25% to 8.75%, increasing the city's "general purpose" revenue by an estimated \$1,200,000.

The previous 8.25% sales tax was broken up in the following way:

6.50% - State 0.75% - City 0.50% - Santa Cruz Metro Transit District 0.25% - Countywide Transportation Fund 0.25%- Countywide Library System **8.25% Total Sales Tax Rate**

Revenue from the new 1/2 percent sales tax goes to the city.

<b>Modesto, City of</b> Stanislaus County Modesto, CA	<b>November 5, 2013</b> <b>Sales Tax</b>	<b>Failed</b> <b>48.9% Yes Vote</b>
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A [City of Modesto Sales Tax, Measure X](#) ballot question was on the November 5, 2013, election ballot for voters in the city of Modesto in Stanislaus County, which is in California. It was **defeated**.