

CITY OF RIDGECREST – MEASURE _____

City of Ridgecrest Public Safety and Essential Services Reauthorization Measure

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

Measure _____, if approved by the voters at the November 5, 2024 general election, would amend Article III Chapter 9 of the City of Ridgecrest Municipal Code, titled “Temporary Sales and Use Tax,” continuing a one-cent per dollar (1.00%) transactions and use tax (i.e., sales tax) for general fund purposes, originally approved by the voters in 2016 and currently set to expire in March of 2025. The tax will be in place until ended by the voters.

Specifically, Measure _____ places a tax of 1.00% upon retailers’ gross receipts from the retail sale of most tangible personal property sold within the City, and an excise tax upon the storage, use or other consumption of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer for storage, use or other consumption within the City at a rate of 1.00% of the sales price of the property, where “sales price” includes delivery charges subject to State sales or use tax, regardless of delivery destination.

It is estimated that revenues from this tax will generate approximately \$6,500,000 annually for the funding of general City services. Funds generated by the proposed tax are not restricted and may be used for any City general fund expenditures, including, without limitation, maintaining services such as:

- repair potholes/ city streets;
- 9-1-1 emergency/ medical response times;
- neighborhood police patrols;
- attract/ retain local business/ jobs; and
- for general government use.

Measure _____ was placed on the ballot by the City of Ridgecrest City Council and includes provisions for the establishment of a citizen oversight committee and annual financial audits.

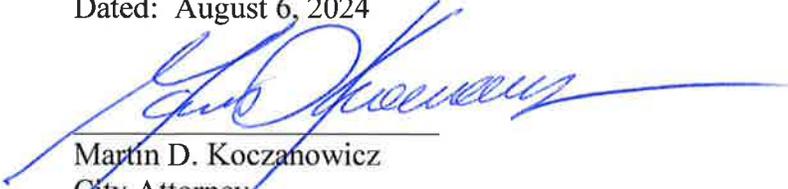
As a sales tax, Measure _____ will apply to everyone who purchases retail goods within City limits. Food purchased as groceries and prescription medication will not be taxed under this measure. Visitors to Ridgecrest will bear part of the tax burden imposed by their local activities and thus contribute to the City’s ability to maintain general public services they use while visiting. Residents and other purchasers of goods in the City will also be subject to the tax.

The tax would be administered by the California Board of Equalization under contract with the City of Ridgecrest.

A “YES” vote is a vote to approve continuation of the 1.00% retail transactions and use general tax. A “NO” vote is a vote against continuing the 1.00% retail transactions and use general tax. The transactions and use tax in Measure _____ would take effect only if it receives a majority “YES” vote at the November 5, 2024, consolidated general election.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure _____ prepared by the City Attorney. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the elections official's office (City Clerk) at 760.499.5002 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

Dated: August 6, 2024



Martin D. Koczanowicz
City Attorney
City of Ridgecrest