

Voters to Consider **Measure H**

On the November ballot, Lafayette voters will elect four people to serve on the City Council as well as decide about Measure H, the City of Lafayette Sales Tax Measure. Measure H asks voters if they will authorize a 1/2¢ increase in the local sales tax rate in order to generate approximately \$2.4 million annually for 7 years to maintain City services. The increase is equal to half a penny on every taxable dollar spent in Lafayette and would change the sales tax rate from 8.75% to 9.25%, which would be equal to the current rate in Walnut Creek, and lower than the current rates in Moraga and Orinda. The ballot question language reads as follows:



CITY OF LAFAYETTE SALES TAX MEASURE.

To provide funding to maintain City services, including public streets, storm drains, pothole repairs, wildfire preparedness, number of police officers, traffic safety, senior and youth programs, and other general city services, shall the measure enacting a 1/2¢ sales tax for 7 years generating approximately \$2,400,000 annually with yearly financial audits, public review of expenditures by a citizen oversight committee, and all funds benefitting Lafayette be adopted?

Yes

No

If Measure H is authorized, the additional revenue would be retained by the City and not shared with the State or County. By law, local sales taxes are not levied on certain purchases and expenses like most groceries, prescription medication, rent, mortgage payments, utilities or services. A local sales tax would be paid by residents and visitors alike.



If Measure H is approved by a simple majority of Lafayette voters, the revenue will become part of the City's General Fund and is projected to close the budget deficit and maintain the current level of City services being provided to residents. Measure H would also require the City Council to establish an independent citizen oversight committee to review the use of the revenue consistent with community priorities. Measure H revenues and expenditures would also be included in the City's annual comprehensive financial report (prepared by an independent auditor in accordance with the best practices for municipal finances) which is made available to the public and approved by the City Council each year.

If voters do not pass Measure H, the City Council will have to consider cutting back or discontinuing City programs and services as part of the budgeting process.

For more information about
Measure H please visit:
www.lovelafayette.org/MeasureH

REFRESHER ON CITY'S FINANCIAL SITUATION



If you are new to this topic, please visit our website (lovelafayette.org/vistas) to read the Winter and Spring issues of *Vistas*, about how municipal finances work (including the distinction between the General Fund and restricted funds) as well as more details about the City's deficit. *Here's a refresher:*

- Lafayette was incorporated in 1968 as a limited-service City and we are very proud to have been able to consistently balance the budget for more than 25 years.
- Proportionally, Lafayette only receives a small amount of the property taxes collected by the County compared to most other cities – about \$670 annually for each million dollars of assessed property value.
- The last several years have been challenging financially and the City now faces an ongoing annual deficit of more than \$2M. This deficit is due primarily to rising costs for maintaining our public streets and City facilities, insurance, and more state mandates without state funding which increase local government administrative and financial burdens.
- The City Council looked into making spending cuts and after considering a list of potential options, opted to give voters the choice to approve a new sales tax revenue measure as a way to maintain the current level of programs and services provided to the community.
- To bridge the deficit in the current fiscal year (FY2024-25), the City Council:
 - Utilized remaining one-time ARPA funds.
 - Froze the hiring of four positions.
 - Agreed to forgo adding any new tasks or projects to the current workload.
 - Delayed making immediate cuts that would impact services such as the number of police officers, street and drain maintenance, support for senior services, traffic safety improvements including for people biking and walking, and cuts to community partners such as the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce.



VOTING RESOURCES



Election day is Tuesday, November 5. If you have moved, changed your name, or changed your political party affiliation since the last election, you will need to update your information with the Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters.

Key Dates Leading up to the November 5th Election:

- ★ October 7 – Vote by Mail Mailing
- ★ October 21 – Voter Registration Deadline
- ★ October 29 – Last Day to request a Vote by Mail Ballot

Check your registration: Go to www.contracostavote.gov and click on the “My Voter Registration” button to verify your

status. Questions? You can contact Contra Costa County Elections at Voter.Services@vote.cccounty.us or (925) 335-7800.

If you vote by mail, remember to sign the envelope! Ballot return envelopes must be signed by the registered voter and verified by election officials before the ballot can be counted. Election officials check every ballot return envelope to compare the signature to the voter's signature on file before the ballot can be counted. However, if the signatures do not match, or if the signature is missing, election officials contact the voter to “cure” their vote by mail challenge status. Once the voter's signature is verified the ballot can be counted.

SENIOR SERVICES

The City's *Parks, Trails & Recreation Department* offers a wide variety of services, programs, and resources to enrich the lives of adults 55+ including educational and recreational programs.

Lafayette Senior Services

Lafayette residents who are 55+ can join the membership-based Lafayette Senior Services program. Membership is \$15 per person for the calendar year and is free for residents over age 90. With membership, most classes offered through the program are free. Pay your membership fee and register for classes online at www.lafayetterec.org, call 925-284-5050 or email seniors@lovelafayette.org to request a mail-in membership form.

Lamorinda Spirit Van

Since 2006, the Lamorinda Spirit Van has provided rides to Lamorinda residents who are 60+ as well as residents with disabilities to errands, shopping, medical and personal appointments in Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Concord, Martinez, Pleasant Hill, and Walnut Creek. Additionally, we provide rides to Café Costa senior lunch program and Lamorinda Movers monthly dinner program. We offer rides weekdays and operate by appointment on a first come, first served basis. The cost per ride is currently \$5 within Lamorinda and \$10 for eligible destinations



outside of Lamorinda. More information is on our website at www.lovelafayette.org/SpiritVan. For rides call: 925-283-3534 or email: dispatch@lovelafayette.org.

Lamorinda Village

Lamorinda Village is a local non-profit organization providing services and programs to members that empower them to remain independent in their homes and communities as they grow older. Services provided by Lamorinda Village include social events, wellness classes, local transportation, grocery shopping, meal preparation, minor household repairs, assistance with computer issues, and phone check-ins to help older adults remain safe in their homes.

For the past two years, the City has funded subsidies to provide free annual memberships to income-qualified Lafayette residents so they can access all the benefits provided by the Village.

Learn more about becoming a volunteer or member of Lamorinda Village at www.lamorindavillage.org or call them at 925-283-3500. To request the supported membership application, call us at 925-284-5050 or email seniors@lovelafayette.org.

WILDFIRE SEASON IS STILL HERE

Keep you and your family prepared by having a go-bag ready and making sure you are signed up to receive emergency alerts. More preparedness tips are available at www.lovelafayette.org/ready.

If you live or work in Lafayette, sign up for the Community Warning System (CWS) through the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services at <https://cwsalerts.com/registration>.

Registering is easy and provides a way we can reach you with timely alerts about wildfires and other potentially life or health-threatening hazards that require you to take action.

Here's a checklist of items to include in your go-bag. A go-bag is a portable kit that contains what you need to survive for at least 72 hours.

It should be customized to meet the needs of everyone in your household, including pets! Having a packed go-bag will allow you to evacuate quickly (i.e. in case of a wildfire) or can be used when sheltering in place in response to a disaster. More preparedness tips are available at www.lovelafayette.org/ready.





City of Lafayette
3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lafayette, CA
Permit No. 161

Postal Customer
Lafayette, CA 94549

SLOW DOWN LAFAYETTE!

Since speed is the most critical factor affecting the severity of injuries, we want to remind all drivers to do their part in keeping our community safe. Driving at a safe speed lowers the likelihood of a crash by increasing response time and improving visibility.

Speaking of visibility, when you are walking or riding around town, be sure to look both ways before you cross the street and if you are at a crosswalk with flashing beacons, be sure to press the button to activate this safety feature.

In the past few years, we have installed flashing beacons at the following crosswalks:

- Olympic Blvd/Pleasant Hill Road roundabout
- St. Mary's Road at Acampo Drive and another at Solana Drive (behind Stanley Middle School)
- Acalanes High School (on Stanley Blvd.) and at the new mid-block raised crosswalk, and one at the trail crossing
- Happy Valley Road (in front of Happy Valley Elementary School)
- School Street (in front of Stanley Middle School and at Avalon Avenue)

We also created raised crosswalks near Springhill Elementary and Acalanes High School that improve the visibility of people crossing the street while slowing drivers as they cross over the area.

This summer, the City of Lafayette installed signs reflecting the new speed limits in zones around public and private schools in Lafayette. The school zone speed limits are in effect within 500' of an entry to a school whenever children are present, i.e. pick-up/drop-off times, lunchtime, etc. Additionally, eight other roadway segments in town have new lower speed limits. Go to www.lovelafayette.org/SlowDown to see a map. Please be aware of the new school zone speed limits and adjust your speed when children are present.

Additionally, we formalized a number of changes near the Pleasant Hill Road/Olympic Blvd roundabout to improve safety for people biking and walking. The temporary plastic delineators that were in place during the trial phase have been replaced and a concrete curb has been installed to reduce southbound Pleasant Hill Road to one lane. We also created lane width reductions on the east and westbound approaches to the roundabout as well as the eastern exit from the roundabout. Green pavement markings were also installed in the roundabout and on Pleasant Hill Road to further improve awareness of cyclists.



CITY DIRECTORY

Council Members

Gina Dawson	Mayor
Wei-Tai Kwok	Vice Mayor
Carl Anduri	Councilmember
Susan Candell	Councilmember
John McCormick	Councilmember

For Council Members call: 925-284-1968

Messages to all Council Members:

cityhall@lovelafayette.org

City Departments

Main Offices 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd. #210
City Manager – Niroop K. Srivatsa
General Reception 925-284-1968

Administration 925-284-1968
Admin. Services Director – Tracy Robinson
City Clerk – Joanne Robbins

Engineering Services & Public Works

Director & City Engineer – Mike Moran
Engineering Dept. 925-284-1951
Code Enforcement 925-299-3280
Maintenance/Corp. Yard 925-934-3908

Submit Public Works maintenance requests online at:

lovelafayette.org/maintenance-request

Report illegal dumping into waterways and accidental spills to Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Division 925-646-2286

Parks, Trails, Recreation

500 St. Mary's Rd
Director – Jonathan Katayanagi
Youth/Adult Recreation,
Parks & Trails 925-284-2232
Senior Services 925-284-5050
Lafayette Spirit Van 925-283-3534
lovelafayette.org/recre

Planning & Building

925-284-1976
Director – Greg Wolff
Building Department 925-655-2704
lovelafayette.org/Planning

Police Services

3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Police Chief – Ben Alldritt
Emergency (24 Hours): 911
Non-emergency Dispatch (24 Hours): 925-284-5010
Administrative Office: 925-283-3680

Sign up for emergency alerts:

lovelafayette.org/ready

City Website: www.lovelafayette.org

Connect with us on social media and sign-up for agenda notices:
lovelafayette.org/connect