

**Ballot Title**

PROPOSITION "H ": Essential City Services Protection Measure

To provide funding that would remain local and cannot be taken by the State to preserve/improve essential city services including, police, fire, 911 emergency response, neighborhood police patrols, crime prevention; maintain city streets and parks; address homelessness; improve youth/senior programs; retain local jobs; and other general services, shall City of Hanford enact a 1% Transaction and Use Tax (Sales Tax), providing approximately \$19,200,000 annually, until ended by voters; requiring annual independent audits and citizens' oversight?

Yes

No

**Impartial Analysis**

The Hanford City Council has placed Measure H, the City of Hanford ("City") Essential City Services Protection Measure, on the November 2024 ballot. If approved by the voters, the Measure H Ordinance will amend Hanford Municipal Code Title 3 to establish a transactions and use tax at the rate of 1%.

Although the tax is a "transactions and use tax," it is commonly referred to as a sales tax. The tax would be assessed on the sale of tangible personal property and the storage, use, or consumption of such property within the City, until repealed by the City's voters.

The proposed tax will be in addition to the existing 7.25% sales tax levied under State law, of which the City only receives an undivided 0.95%.

It is projected that the proposed tax will initially generate \$19,200,000.00 annually for the City.

The proposed tax is a "general tax," and, if approved, the proceeds may be utilized for any purpose for which the City's general fund monies may be used, including, without limitation: police, fire, 911 emergency response, neighborhood police patrols, and crime prevention; maintain city streets and parks; address homelessness; improve youth/senior programs; retain local jobs; and other general services.

If Measure H is approved by the voters, the City intends to amend the Hanford Municipal Code to establish accountability measures, including, without limitation: (i) formation of a Sales Tax Oversight Board ("Oversight Board") comprised of Hanford residents; (ii) requirements for an expenditure plan outlining transaction and use tax spending for the fiscal year; (iii) expenditure plans shall fund City department activities as may be recommended by the Oversight Board and approved by City Council resolution; (iv) expenditure plan changes will require a resolution adopted by the City Council following recommendation by the Oversight Board and a public hearing; (v) the initial expenditure plan, plan amendments, and annual budgets will be publicly available; (vi) the initial expenditure plan will dedicate 15% of budgeted revenues for the initial year to establish an economic uncertainty fund, which may only be accessed in times of fiscal emergency determined by a 4/5ths vote of the City Council as a whole, with funds budgeted in future years as are necessary to replenish the fund and maintain its balance at 15% of budgeted revenues; and (vii) annual independent audits, which shall be publicly available, that account for tax revenues received and expenditures made.

A "Yes" vote is a vote in favor of the proposed 1% transactions and use tax.

A "No" vote is a vote against the proposed tax.

The Measure will be approved if it receives a simple majority (greater than 50%) of "Yes" votes.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure H. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or Measure, call the City Clerk's office at (559) 585-2515, and a copy will be provided at no cost to you.

Dated: July 16, 2024

s/ Ty N. Mizote  
City Attorney

**Argument in Favor of Measure H**

Measure H is crucial for Hanford's future. It improves public safety, addresses homelessness, repairs our roads, and ensures a better tomorrow for our community. Here's how Measure H will improve Hanford:

- Recruit and retain top-tier police officers, reducing crime and keeping our neighborhoods secure.
- Ensure our Fire Department has the necessary staff and equipment to handle increasing emergency calls effectively.
- Repair and improve roadways, and maintain all streets in excellent condition, allowing for smooth and safe travel.
- Maintain and enhance parks, keeping them safe, clean, and up to the highest standards for our children and community.
- Address homelessness, providing enforcement and resources toward the city's comprehensive approach to the issue where they are needed most.

Currently, Hanford is one of only 32 cities out of California's 483 cities without a local sales tax. Because of this, 87% of revenue from local spending and the 1.1 million visitors who shop, dine, and stay in Hanford each year go to Kings County and Sacramento, with only 13% staying local. Measure H will change that, generating an estimated \$19 million annually, all of which will be used exclusively in Hanford. None of these funds can be taken by the state or go towards salaries or pensions for city administrators.

Measure H revenue will be distributed in accordance with a spending plan that was developed by a committee of Hanford residents, not politicians. It was placed on the ballot with the full support of our City Council to let voters decide what kind of future they want for our community. It includes strict accountability, spending overseen by a Citizens Oversight Committee, public disclosure of all spending, and annual independent financial audits, giving residents confidence that these funds are working for them.

Support a safer, better Hanford by voting YES on Measure H.

s/ Stephanie Huddleston  
Chief of Police, City of Hanford

s/ Martin Devine  
Former Chair, Revenue Measure Committee (RMC)  
Hanford City Council Member

s/ Daniel Perkins  
Fire Chief, City of Hanford

s/ Valerie Castles  
Former Member, Revenue Measure Committee  
(RMC)

**No Argument was filed Against this Measure.**