

**CITY OF FRESNO
MEASURE M**

CITY OF FRESNO VETERANS SUPPORT MEASURE. Shall the measure establishing a 1/8 percent sales tax providing approximately \$19.5 million annually for 20 years to improve facilities and services for Fresno veterans, including affordable housing, job training/placement, and mental/physical healthcare; reduce veteran homelessness; rehabilitate deteriorating Fresno Veterans Memorial Auditorium, VFW/American Legion halls (by removing asbestos and providing disabled accessibility), requiring local use of funds, public spending disclosure, citizen oversight and audits, be adopted?

YES

NO

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY CITY ATTORNEY

The City of Fresno has placed Measure M on the November 8, 2022, ballot to ask the City's voters to approve a retail transactions and use tax of 1/8% for 20 years to fund facilities and services for veterans in the City of Fresno. This measure would increase the City's current sales tax rate to 8.475%.

City staff estimate that Measure M will raise approximately \$19.5 Million annually. Proceeds of Measure M will be deposited into a special fund entitled the Veterans Support Fund and may only be spent as allowed by the Expenditure Plan contained in the measure.

Under the Expenditure Plan, Measure M proceeds would be allocated as follows: one-third to services; one-third to facilities; and one-third to either services or facilities. Facilities projects may include, but are not limited to, improvements to the Fresno Memorial Auditorium, VFW Posts, the American Legion Hall, affordable housing for veterans and other capital and maintenance projects. Services would include, but not be limited to, assistance with affordable housing, job training and placement, mental and/or physical health care and administrative costs. Proceeds may be loaned, pledged, or granted to assist veterans and/or for capital projects.

Measure M also requires annual reporting on expenditures, formation of and oversight by a citizens committee composed of veterans. The Council may delegate duties to the committee or to special veterans district, should one be created.

The City Council may amend the Ordinance in the future; however, the tax rate and purposes of the measure cannot be changed without voter approval.

A "YES" vote is a vote to approve a 1/8% retail transactions and use tax for 20 years to be expended for veterans support per the Expenditure Plan.

A "NO" vote is a vote against a new 1/8% retail transactions and use tax.

Measure M would take effect only if it receives a two-thirds majority "YES" vote at the November 8, 2022, general election.

Dated: August 22, 2022

/S RAJ SINGH BADHESHA
Assistant City Attorney

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure M. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voter's office at 559-600-8683 or the Fresno City Clerk's office at 559-621-7650 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M

There are no greater heroes in the City of Fresno than the men and women who were called into the defense of our nation. Their sacrifices as members of the Armed Forces have protected our freedoms, and we owe a debt of gratitude for their service.

Measure M is a way we can repay that debt to our city's 20,000 veterans.

Over its lifespan, Measure M aims to accomplish three key things:

1. Renew Fresno's pre-existing veterans facilities and build new facilities
2. Fill the gaps to provide social, mental health, and job training services for our veterans
3. End veteran homelessness by investing in veteran housing

Fresno is home to four current veterans facilities – our dilapidated, Great Depression-era Veterans Memorial Auditorium, two VFW posts, and an American Legion Hall.

Measure M funding will end 50 year's worth of deferred maintenance and modernize these facilities to serve veterans organizations and the public at-large, while constructing a Fresno Veterans Memorial Hall akin to the beautiful facility in the City of Clovis.

Measure M will enable the City of Fresno to invest in mental health, social services, and job training programs to help veterans stay productive and navigate complicated state and federal bureaucracy to access the benefits they've earned on the battlefield.

Lastly, Measure M will help bring an end to homelessness among our veteran community.

Many of our city's homeless veterans, due to their young age, cannot qualify for housing at Fresno's Veterans Nursing Home. With Measure M funding, we will invest in bridge housing to get them back on their feet.

Measure M is subject to citizen oversight and annual audits to ensure our dollars are spent wisely for the benefit of our veterans.

Join us in honoring our veterans' sacrifices and vote Yes on Measure M on November 8.

/S Luis Chavez
Fresno City Councilmember

/S Miguel Arias
Fresno Cit Councilmember

/S Garry Bredefeld
Fresno City Councilmember / Veteran

/S Shawn Brooks
Central Unified Trustee / Veteran

REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M

Measure M is written so that council can change how the taxes are spent at any time. Who does it benefit? The city and a slew of special interests, including chamber of commerce and public unions. Maybe a few veterans.

Section 7-1606, allegedly, controls spending. The council can change the allocations anytime it wants. Notwithstanding the language "specific and legally binding and enforceable limitation" (7-1605), there is no limitation on spending, because 7-1606 is written so loosely.

The hook is veterans. Doesn't almost everyone have compassion for how the federal government, the agency that creates veterans, has mistreated them?

We feel compassion for the terrible situation that feds have put them in too. Council is counting on your emotions to pass this tax. After it's passed, they'll spend it on their pet programs.

OVERSIGHT? It's a fraud. Citizen oversight ends when votes are cast. If you could trust council, why would you need oversight?

STRICT ACCOUNTABILITY? Fraud number 2. There are no accountability police. When you're not looking, they do whatever they want.

PROJECT LIST? There is none. Measure M includes just about everything under the sun. Read it.

ADMINISTRATOR SALARIES? Of course! Read the fine print!

The entire system is rigged to pass taxes. That's not just our opinion. <http://bit.ly/GrandJury2021> <http://bit.ly/ElectionCheating>

Bottom line: Only undecided voters can be persuaded by arguments. 90% don't even read them. Undecideds determine the election. We can't win without your help.

Vote HELL NO! on Measure M (\$390,000,000 tax).

Connect here: <http://bit.ly/NoFresnoSalesTax>

/S Honor "Mimi" Robson, Chair
Libertarian Party of California

/S Kathryn McElroy
Libertarian Party of California

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE M

How much election cheating are you willing to put up with?

What if it's for an allegedly good cause? Does that change your answer?

Do you know all the public officials with duties related to local measure elections? County supervisors, registrar of voters, city attorney, city council that resolves to put measures on the ballots. A lot of public officials, most of them getting salaries you could never dream of.

Are these public officials corrupt? All of them?

Then how do you explain that at every election they all look the other way or point fingers at each other saying that "It's not my job to enforce measure election laws?"

How is it then, that all these public officials, who you pay, combined, millions of dollars a year, have never (never means not once) put a local measure on the ballot that follows the law? <http://bit.ly/GrandJury2021>

The statutes regarding local measure elections apply to every county. How is it that every county, even Fresno, doesn't follow every law, as written? Who benefits? Certainly not you.

It's almost like it's a conspiracy. Because the public officials (city council) who start the ball rolling, violate every meaningful law with the knowledge, apparently, that all the other public officials will go along with their corruption.

There are too many broken laws to mention in 300 words, but you can check it out (<http://bit.ly/ElectionCheating>) for all the gory details.

Bottom line: All the public officials would rather have gullible voters force taxpayers, including themselves, to send every dollar they dream up to some government agency or another. It's more for them. Less for you.

Are you tired of been taken for a chump? Vote HELL NO! on Measure M (\$390,000,000 tax).

Join us: <http://bit.ly/NoFresnoSalesTax>

/S Honor "Mimi" Robson, Chair
Libertarian Party of California

/S Kathryn McElroy
Libertarian Party of California

REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE M

Measure M is a critical step forward for improving the quality of life for our city's 20,000 veterans and our Fresno neighborhoods in the process, all with public oversight and financial audits to ensure that our resources are well-utilized.

As previously mentioned, Measure M focuses on three overarching goals:

1. Improving old and building new Veterans facilities
2. Investing in social, mental health, and job training services for veterans
3. Eliminating veteran homelessness through strategic investments in bridge housing

With new revenues, the City of Fresno aims to improve Fresno's pre-existing veterans facilities, such as the Veterans Memorial Auditorium, VFW posts, and American Legion Hall.

We will also look to build a brand-new Veterans Center, a combination of Memorial Hall, museum, and veterans resource and entrepreneurship center.

This Veterans Center will ensure that we have a place to honor our fighting men and women, teach the next generation of their selfless service to our country, give returning veterans a central location to connect and grow as they return to civilian life, and serve as a hub for the various social, mental health, and job services funded by Measure M.

To ensure that these goals are met, Measure M includes safeguards for taxpayers. Expenditures are subject to annual audits reviewed by an independent Veterans Commission.

In short, Measure M delivers badly-needed upgrades to our veteran facilities, improves key services for our veterans and keeps them off the streets, all with safeguards for our tax dollars.

Please vote Yes on Measure M!

/S Luis Chavez
Fresno City Councilmember

/S Miguel Arias
Fresno City Councilmember