



# MADERA

# COUNTY

## Proposed Public

## Safety Sales Tax

## Why is Measure “L” needed?

- ▶ County Supervisors have local control over \$63 million of the \$266 million 2016/2017 budget
- ▶ The remaining \$203 million is controlled by the state and feds
- ▶ 64% of the locally controlled funds (\$40m) is for Protection Services (Fire services = 12% & Sheriff services = 28%)
- ▶ Increased funding for fire or sheriff services from the general fund would directly impact funding of other important public programs or services
- ▶ Current sheriff staffing levels do not allow for daily staffing of all patrol beats, limiting preventative patrolling, proactive activity, and follow-up
- ▶ Low staffing levels lead to increased response times in emergencies
- ▶ There are foothill and valley communities with no fire stations
- ▶ Ineffective fire response with a single firefighter on duty
- ▶ Limited seasonal staffing of rural fire stations
- ▶ Shortage of Paid Call Firefighters (PCF's) down from 300 to 70
- ▶ Currently PCF's are not paid for medical calls, which account for 70% of the calls they make as volunteers
- ▶ Fire service also serves as Emergency Medical Service (EMS) first responders
- ▶ Increasing tree mortality rates increases fire risk
- ▶ Increased homeowner's insurance due to Insurance Service Office's (ISO) Public Protection Classification ratings; ratings are based on a community's fire suppression system including staffing and response time

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[www.MaderaCountyPublicSafety.com](http://www.MaderaCountyPublicSafety.com)

Measure “L” is a proposed one-cent dedicated sales tax collected and used solely in the unincorporated areas of Madera County for increased fire and sheriff public safety services.

Measure “L” includes strong fiscal accountability requirements including:

- ▶ Annual, independent financial audits
- ▶ Citizen's Oversight Committee
- ▶ Separate Public Safety Trust Fund

## What are the benefits?

- ▶ Funds will be locally controlled and will not replace existing funds currently allocated to fire and sheriff services by County Supervisors
- ▶ Considering shopping habits of unincorporated residents, a large percentage of Measure “L” proceeds will be paid by visitors and tourists

### Fire Department

- ▶ Increase in staffing
- ▶ Improved response times
- ▶ Provide volunteer medical call reimbursement, training and protective gear
- ▶ Potential reduction in homeowner's insurance policy premiums

### Sheriff's Office

- ▶ 9 additional deputies assigned to community related problems currently being addressed by the Problem Oriented Policing Sergeants
- ▶ Increased staffing potentially reduces risk to Deputies
- ▶ Improved response times leading to safer communities