



## Council Agenda Report

From: Chris Huot, Assistant City Manger  
Melissa Boyer, City Clerk

Subject: Calling for and Conducting a Consolidated General Municipal Election on November 5, 2024 for the Election of Certain Officers; Approving the City Proposed Ballot Measure; Setting Priorities for the Filing of Written Arguments; and Directing the City Attor

CEQA Determination: The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

Date: June 4, 2024

---

1. Under the laws relating to general law cities in California, the City Council must call and order a General Municipal Election for the purpose of electing the following for terms expiring this year: one member of the City Council from District 1 to a partial term of two years, one member of the City Council from District 3 for a full-term of four years, one member of the City Council from District 4 for a full-term of four years, and a Treasurer for a full-term of four years.
2. The General Municipal Election must be consolidated with the Statewide General Election which will allow the San Luis Obispo County Clerk-Recorder to canvass the returns of the General Municipal Election for the City.
3. The General Municipal Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
4. The terms of three Councilmembers, Sharon Roden, Steve Gregory, and Fred Strong in Districts 1, 3, and 4 respectively, and the term of City Treasurer Ryan Cornell will expire in December 2024.
5. The qualifications required for a candidate to run for City Councilmembers are as follows:
  - Must be over the age of 18;
  - Registered to vote in the City of Paso Robles; and
  - Live within the District in which they are seeking election within the Paso Robles City limits.
6. The qualifications required to run for Treasurer are the same as a City Councilmember, however, because the Treasurer is elected at-large, the candidate must live within the Paso Robles City limits.
7. A resolution calling and giving notice of a general municipal election is required pursuant to the laws of the State of California relating to general law cities (Attachment 1 - Resolution 24-XXX(A)).
8. A resolution requesting the Board of Supervisors of San Luis Obispo County to consolidate a general municipal election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for City officers with the Statewide General Election to be held on the same date pursuant to section 10304 of the California Elections Code is required. (Attachment 2 - Resolution 24-XXX(B)).
9. A resolution adopting regulations for candidates for elective office pertaining to candidate statements submitted to the voters at an election is required (Attachment 3 - Resolution 24-XXX(C)).

### Ballot Measure

10. The City intends to place one ballot measure on the November 5, 2024 ballot for the citizens of Paso Robles to vote on.
11. This measure, if approved by voters, will extend the existing ½ cent general sales tax measure until it is ended by voters.
12. A resolution calling for the placement of a ½ cent percent transactions and use tax (sales tax) measure on the ballot will need to be approved if the measure is to be taken to the voters (Attachment 4 - Resolution 24-XXX(D)).
13. A resolution requesting the Board of Supervisors of San Luis Obispo County to consolidate a general municipal election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for the ballot measure with the Statewide General Election to be held on the same date pursuant to section 10403 of the California Elections Code is required. (Attachment 5 - Resolution 24-XXX(E)).
14. A resolution setting deadlines for the filing of primary and rebuttal arguments and setting rules for the filing of written arguments regard to ballot measures is also required (Resolution 24-XXX(E)).

### **Options**

1. Take no action;
2. Approve resolutions by separate roll call vote:
  - a. Resolution 24-XXX(A) calling and giving notice of the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for the election of certain officers;
  - b. Resolution 24-XXX(B) requesting consolidation of the General Municipal Election for City officers with Statewide General Election held on November 5, 2024;
  - c. Resolution 24-XXX(C) pertaining to regulations for candidate statements submitted to the voters;
  - d. Resolution 24-XXX(D) placing a ballot measure to extend the ½ cent general sales tax measure until ended by voters by amending Chapter 3.10 of the Paso Robles Municipal Code as shown in Ordinance XXXX (Exhibit A);
  - e. Resolution 24-XXX(E) requesting consolidation of the General Municipal Election for a ballot measure with Statewide General Election held on November 5, 2024;
  - f. Resolution 22-XXX(F) setting Deadlines and Rules for Arguments and Rebuttals for Transactions and Use (Sales) Tax Amending Chapter 3.10 Measure November 2024.
3. Provide alternative direction to staff.

### **Analysis and Conclusions**

The attached resolutions provide the necessary legal and administrative framework for conducting a General Municipal Election consolidated with the State General Election on November 5, 2024, for electing two full-term members of the City Council in Districts 3 and 4, a partial-term member for Council District 1, and a City Treasurer. In addition, Resolution 24-XXX(D) allows for a ballot measure to be placed on the same ballot. As required by law, the City Attorney will prepare an impartial analysis of any ballot measure to be placed on the ballot. Arguments for and against any ballot measure, as well as rebuttal arguments, may be submitted, subject to the priorities and limitations set by the Elections Code and the County Elections Official, as well as the City Council's resolution.

### **General Sales Tax Ballot Measure**

Measure E-12 is a half cent transaction and use tax (sales tax) that was approved in November 2012 by the voters of Paso Robles. The tax became effective on April 1, 2013, and automatically sunsets on March 31, 2025. Currently, the Measure generates between \$6 to \$7 million annually that is recognized within the City's General Fund. Per City Council direction, an equivalent amount of General Funds are utilized for repair and maintenance of local roadways and related improvements. Since 2012, Measure E-12 has

generated over \$65 million that has remained within the City of Paso Robles. Per City Council direction, an equivalent amount of General Fund dollars have been allocated toward local road repair projects during this same period. [During the May 21, 2024 City Council meeting](#), the City Council directed staff to return at the June 4, 2024 City Council meeting with the necessary documents to place a ½ cent sales tax measure extension on the November 5, 2024 ballot.

The included attachments and recommendation will place the following question on the November 5, 2024 ballot for the voters of Paso Robles to consider:

<p><b>PASO ROBLES LOCAL SERVICES FUNDING CONTINUATION MEASURE.</b></p>	<p><b>YES</b></p>
<p>Shall the measure to extend the existing voter-approved ½¢ sales tax for general government use including to improve Paso Robles’ long-term finances, maintain important services such as fixing damaged streets/roads/infrastructure, repairing potholes, synchronizing traffic signals, maintaining traffic/pedestrian safety, and improving emergency evacuation routes, providing approximately \$6,500,000 annually until ended by voters, requiring audits, citizen oversight, public disclosure of all spending, all funds for Paso Robles, be adopted?</p>	<p><b>NO</b></p>

If approved by the voters, the sales tax rate within the City of Paso Robles will remain the same as it is today at 8.75 percent, with this Measure making up .50 percent of the total. An affirmative vote of 50% +1 or greater of the voters will amend Chapter 3.10 of the Paso Robles Municipal Code to extend the existing ½ cent sales tax until ended by voters along with other minor updates to the chapter to reflect the most current format of a sales tax ordinance as recommended by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration. A copy of the amended ordinance is attached to the resolution for reference.

**Fiscal Impact**

The cost of the election is determined by the number of registered voters on Election Day, and the number of Candidate Statements included in the Voter Pamphlet. The City Clerk’s estimate to conduct the Consolidated General Election for the City of Paso Robles is approximately \$95,500. The City Clerk’s estimate for the impartial analysis and the County charges for the addition of the ballot measures, if all the proposed measures are placed on the ballot, is approximately \$61,400. Therefore, the total estimate for the 2024 election including ballot measures is approximately \$156,900. These costs were anticipated as part of the FY 2024-26 City budget; the necessary funds are available in the FY 2023-24 City budget.

**CEQA**

The City finds that this action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State Guidelines Section State CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15060, subd. (c)(2)-(3), 15378.

**Recommendation (Option 2)**

Approve the following resolutions (by separate roll call vote):

- a. Resolution 24-XXX(A) calling and giving notice of the General Municipal Election to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for the election of certain officers;

- b. Resolution 24-XXX(B) requesting consolidation of the General Municipal Election for City officers with Statewide General Election held on November 5, 2024;
- c. Resolution 24-XXX(C) pertaining to regulations for candidate statements submitted to the voters;
- d. Resolution 24-XXX(D) placing a ballot measure to extend the ½ cent general sales tax measure until ended by voters by amending Chapter 3.10 of the Paso Robles Municipal Code as shown in Ordinance XXXX (Exhibit A);
- e. Resolution 24-XXX(E) requesting consolidation of the General Municipal Election for a measure with Statewide General Election held on November 5, 2024;
- f. Resolution 22-XXX(F) setting Deadlines and Rules for Arguments and Rebuttals for Transactions and Use (Sales) Tax Amending Chapter 3.10 Measure November 2024

**Attachments**

- 1. Resolution 24-XXX (A) - Calling Election
- 2. Resolution 24-XXX (B) - Requesting Consolidation of City Officer Election
- 3. Resolution 24-XXX (C) - Regulations for Candidate Statements
- 4. Resolution 24-XXX (D) – Ballot Measure - Transactions and Use Tax Measure
  - a. Ordinance XXXX – E12 Continuation Measure
- 5. Resolution 24-XXX(E) - Requesting Consolidation of ballot measure election
- 6. Resolution 24-XXX (F) - Setting Deadlines and Rules for Arguments and Rebuttals – Transactions and Use Tax Measure