

Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure - FAQ

What is the Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure?

The “Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure” is a question on the November 8, 2022 ballot seeking voter authorization for the continuation of a dedicated, special revenue source for Pasadena Public Library programs and services. This is NOT a new tax. Pasadena will ask residents whether they’d like to continue the existing source of revenue by voting on the “Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure.”

Why am I hearing about it now?

In June of 1993, voters chose to save the Pasadena Public Library’s existing services and operations when they approved a Special Library Tax with 79.9% of the vote, which has since been renewed twice with more than the required two-thirds support of all voters. In 1997, it was supported with 84% of the vote and in 2007 it was supported with 80.4% of the vote. After almost 15 years since its last renewal, the City’s special library revenue source will expire in February 2023 and can only be continued by a public vote.

What is the purpose of the Special Library Tax?

Extending the current revenue source through the “Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure” will protect funding levels, which will:

- Maintain library book/materials collections
- Prevent neighborhood library branch closures and reduction of hours to the maximum extent possible.
- Allow the City to retain qualified librarians
- Maintain youth reading/ homework/college preparation programs
- Keep libraries safe and welcoming
- Ensure computer and Wi-Fi access
- Maintain early childhood programs

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What would happen if the Special Library Tax is not renewed?

If the existing funding through the Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure is not maintained, the City would lose approximately 20% of the library budget or \$2.8 million annually, which may lead to the closure of neighborhood library branches, a reduction of books and collections, a reduction in library hours, the loss of qualified librarians, and cuts in other significant programs and services offered to our community.

How much money is generated for the Pasadena Public Library?

The Pasadena Library Special Tax generates about \$2.8 million locally controlled dollars annually for Pasadena's libraries.

Does the Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure maintain fiscal accountability provisions?

Yes. The City of Pasadena does not and will not use the revenues from the "Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure" for anything but operating the library system serving the community. All revenue currently is and will continue to be deposited into the Pasadena Public Library Services Fund, which is subject to annual independent audits; and annual reports to the community would continue to be required.

How long will the Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure funding last?

If approved, the "Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure" will become effective April 1, 2023. It will be in effect for 15 years.

What is required for the Pasadena Public Library Services Continuation Measure to be successful?

This renewal measure would need to be supported by two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the voters in order to pass.

How much would the continuation measure cost property owners?

The City of Pasadena currently has a rate of approximately \$41 annually for single-family residences/condominium units and specified rates for other parcel types. For most taxpayers, this tax can be deducted from Federal income taxes. [Exemptions](#) are provided for qualified seniors, disabled, and low income owners.

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How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?

You can register to vote at www.registertovote.ca.gov. To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters at (800) 815-2666 or visit <https://lavote.gov/home/voting-elections>

How can I learn more about the Pasadena Public Library Continuation Measure?

For more information, please visit www.CityofPasadena.net/Measure-PPL