

Frequently Asked Questions

The Essential Services Restoration Act for Los Angeles County General Sales Tax Measure (Measure ER)

Revised May 13, 2026

Overview

Measure ER is a Los Angeles County ballot measure that will appear on the June 2, 2026 election ballot. The motion to place the ballot measure before voters was introduced by Supervisors Holly J. Mitchell, Second District, and Hilda L. Solis, First District.ⁱ On February 10, 2026, the Board of Supervisors approved the ballot measure to go before voters in response to H.R. 1 (One Big Beautiful Bill Act) and anticipated federal funding cuts affecting the County's healthcare system.ⁱⁱ



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Measure ER?

Measure ER is a proposed ½-cent (0.5%) increase in the Los Angeles County sales tax for five years. If approved by voters, it's estimated to generate about \$1 billion annually to support healthcare and other essential services.

Based upon current proposed allocation plans approved by the Board, about 10% of Measure ER revenue would be directed to support Public Health's core public health functions and awarding of grants to support health equity.ⁱⁱⁱ This would generate an estimated \$100 million per year for Public Health, though actual funding may vary based on annual budget decisions.

2. Why is Measure ER being proposed?

Measure ER is intended to address significant funding losses tied to federal changes to Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) and other reductions that are impacting LA County's healthcare and public health system. These federal changes are projected to result in substantial revenue losses and reduced healthcare coverage for residents, increasing demand for County services, and placing pressure on hospitals, clinics, and public health programs and services. County departments face losses totaling \$2.4 billion over the next three years due to H.R. 1 and other federal actions. The County has already initiated hiring freezes and service consolidations and there could be layoffs of potentially 5,000 staff and additional facility closures. The proposed tax would help limit the effect of federal cuts on public health services such as chronic disease prevention, disease tracking, water safety, and healthcare.

3. How much would the tax increase cost?

The tax increase would cost about \$0.50 for every \$100 spent and would raise the County sales tax rate to approximately 10.25%. Certain essential items would remain exempt from the tax, including groceries, prescription medications, and medical equipment.

4. How long would the tax last?

The tax would be in effect for five years only, until October 1, 2031,ⁱⁱ and cannot be extended without voter approval.

5. How would the funds be used?

Measure ER is a general sales tax, meaning revenues go into the County's general fund.ⁱⁱ Funding is allocated annually by the Board of Supervisors through the County budget process. The County has outlined a spending plan that prioritizes healthcare services and safety-net providers, County hospitals and clinics, and public health programs.

6. How will Measure ER spending be tracked?

Spending will be tracked through independent audits, public reporting, and a nine-member citizens' oversight committee.ⁱⁱ

7. When will voters decide on Measure ER?

Measure ER is scheduled for the June 2, 2026 primary election ballot.ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Statement of Proceedings for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles (February 10, 2026). Retrieved from: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/sop/1202644_021026.pdf. Accessed on 4/27/2026.

ⁱⁱ Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office. Fact Sheet: The Essential Services Restoration Act for Los Angeles County General Sales Tax Measure (March 2026). Retrieved from: https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/lac/1202661_EssentialServicesRestorationActforLosAngelesCountyGeneralSalesTaxMeasureFAQ_FINAL.pdf. Accessed on 4/24/2026.