

2014 California Library Ballot Measures

[California Secretary of State, Elections and Voter Information, Ballot Measures](#)

Ballotpedia: [Local Ballot Measure Elections 2014](#)

This list of ballot measures specifically references libraries and not just general sales or other tax initiatives that go into localities' general funds.

Alameda County

Hayward, City of	June 3, 2014	Measure C
Hayward, CA	Sales Tax	Approved
Hayward Public Library		67.36% Yes Vote

A [City of Hayward Sales Tax, Measure C](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in city of Hayward in Alameda County, California, where it was **approved**.

Measure C authorized the city of Hayward to increase the sales tax rate in the city by 0.5 percent for 20 years in order to fund: ^[1]

- public safety services such as EMS, fire protection and police protection,
- the replacement of the city's library facilities,
- road maintenance and repair and
- other city services.

Ballot question

The question on the ballot: ^[1]

To restore and maintain Hayward city services and facilities, including firefighting/emergency medical services; improving police protection for neighborhoods; replacing the aging library with a 21st century facility including safe space for after-school homework and tutoring; repairing potholes and streets; updating aging neighborhood fire stations; and other city services; shall the City of Hayward increase the sales tax by ½ percent, for twenty years only, providing locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the State?

Yes; No ^[2]

El Dorado County

Georgetown, City of	June 3, 2014	Measure G
Georgetown, CA	Sales Tax	Approved
El Dorado County Library (Georgetown Branch)		77.32% Yes Vote

A [Georgetown Library Parcel Tax, Measure G](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in the El Dorado County Georgetown Zone of Benefit in El Dorado County, California, where it was approved.^[1]

Measure G was designed to be imposed and collected by El Dorado County in the Georgetown Zone of Benefit (Zone G) in order to support and fund the Georgetown *library*. It replaced an expiring library parcel tax with a tax of \$20 per both improved and unimproved parcel, adjusted for inflation by not more than 3% annually. The Measure G tax begins in the 2015-16 tax year and lasts for 12 years. The tax replaced by Measure G imposed tax rates of \$18.00 per parcel of improved and unimproved land, \$14.40 per apartment unit on a parcel and \$9.00 per mobile home on a parcel.^[2]

[A similar library tax, Measure L](#), was also voted on by residents of the El Dorado County South Lake Tahoe Zone of Benefit (Zone F) for the South Lake Tahoe library in the June 2014 election. It was also approved.^[3]

[An alternative, countywide library tax measure, also called Measure L](#), was defeated by voters in 2012. The 2012 measure was not a continuation of a previous parcel tax. It would have also unified the El Dorado County tax system, establishing a parcel tax across all five zones of the county for 15 years.^[3]

A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for the approval of Measure G.

El Dorado County

South Lake Tahoe, City of	June 3, 2014	Measure L
South Lake Tahoe, CA	Parcel Tax	Approved
El Dorado County Library (South Lake Tahoe branch)		80.33% Yes Vote

A [South Lake Tahoe Library Parcel Tax, Measure L](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in the El Dorado County South Lake Tahoe Zone of Benefit in El Dorado County, California, where it was **approved**.^[1]

Measure L was designed to be imposed and collected by El Dorado County in the South Lake Tahoe Zone of Benefit (Zone F) in order to support and fund the South Lake Tahoe library. It replaced an expiring library parcel tax with a tax in the amount of \$20 per both improved and unimproved parcel, adjusted for inflation by not more than 3% annually. The Measure G tax was scheduled to begin in the 2015-16 tax year and to last for 12 years.[2]

The South Lake Tahoe Zone of Benefit, in which this tax was designed to take effect and was voted on, included the entire city of South Lake Tahoe, the Meyers-Christmas Valley areas and some other outlying parcels.[3]

The tax that was replaced by the Measure L tax was approved by 82 percent of voters in 2005 and had rates of \$18.00 per parcel of improved and unimproved land, \$14.40 per apartment unit on a parcel and \$9.00 per mobile home on a parcel.[4]

A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for the approval of Measure L.

The question on the ballot:

To replace the previous voter-approved expiring library special tax, shall El Dorado County levy the amount of \$20.00 annually per parcel (with annual inflation adjustment not to exceed 3%) within County Service Area No. 10 South Lake Tahoe Zone of Benefit, Zone F, for a period of twelve (12) years commencing in fiscal year 2015/16, to preserve continued funding for library services, hours, and operations and help avoid library closure?^{[2][5]}

Los Angeles County

Pomona, City of	November 4, 2014	Measure PPL
Pomona, CA	Special Library Tax	Defeated
Pomona Public Library		50.39% No Vote*

A [City of Pomona Special Library Tax, Measure PPL](#) ballot question was on the November 4, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Pomona in Los Angeles County, California. It was **decisively defeated**.

If approved, Measure PPL would have assessed a \$42 per parcel tax beginning on July 1, 2015, and expiring in ten years. Revenues from the parcel tax would have funded the Pomona Public Library to restore library hours to at least 38 hours a week and provide for professional staff.^[1]

**A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for the approval of Measure PPL.*

The question on the ballot:^[1]

To provide revenue dedicated solely for the Pomona Public Library, shall \$42.00 per parcel be assessed commencing 7/1/2015? Restores Library hours to 38 hours/week minimum and provides for professional staff. Assessment expires in 10 years. Revenue raised is additional to monies from City's General Fund. Ensures City's annual contribution to Library remains no less than current general fund allocations. Revenue use is subject to annual audit and citizen oversight.^[2]

Marin County

Marin, County of	June 3, 2014	Measure A
Marin County, CA	Parcel Tax Renewal	Approved
Marin County Free Library		78.53% Yes Vote*

A [Marin County Free Library District Parcel Tax Renewal Measure](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in the Marin County Free Library District in Marin County, California, where it was **approved**.^[1]

The measure renewed a parcel tax of \$49 per year for 9 years in support of the Marin County Free Library District. This tax, which raised about \$2.5 million per year for the library, was designed to expire in 2015. Measure A extended the existing parcel tax, which was approved in 2010. It also featured an annual cost-of-living increase tied to the Bay Area Consumer Price Index and capped at three percent per year. Seniors were to continue to be eligible for an exemption under Measure A.^[2]

The Library Chief Sara Jones said that the 2010 tax had allowed for the remodeling of library branches, the improvement of services, the improvement of disability access and the expansion of library materials and has provided \$1.7 million towards staff salaries, which amounted to 17 percent of the staffing budget.^[2]

The question on the ballot is:^[4]

To provide critical funding to: upgrade local libraries, prevent closures, and maintain library hours; provide children, teen, senior and disabled programs including public education support; maintain books and digital collections; enhance library facilities and ADA accessibility; and ensure local funding can't be taken by the State, shall Marin County Free Library extend the current approved 2010, \$49 parcel tax for 9 years with annual CPI adjustment, including independent citizen oversight and senior citizen exemptions?^[5]

Note: Original voter pamphlet information was sent to all county voters because of a coding error. This measure could, in fact, only be voted on by district residents, which included residents of Novato, Fairfax, Corte Madera, Ross and the unincorporated areas of the county, but excluded voters in San Anselmo and southern Marin. Although voters countywide saw Measure A on voter pamphlets, the official ballots were corrected to exclude Measure A from the ballots of voters outside of the library district boundaries.^[3]

This tax was originally approved as [Measure A in 2010](#) by over 74 percent of Marin County voters.

**A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for approval of the measure.*

Marin County

San Anselmo, Town of	June 3, 2014	Measure E
Town of San Anselmo, CA	Parcel Tax	Approved
San Anselmo Public Library		72.73% Yes Vote*

A [Town of San Anselmo Library Parcel Tax, Measure E](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in Town of San Anselmo in Marin County, California, where it was approved.^[1]

Measure E authorized the town to impose an additional parcel tax of \$54 per year per parcel for 9 years, with an annual 3 percent cost of living increase. The revenue from this tax was allocated to support the operation of the town's library. A provision of the measure dictated that if the town's funding of the library dropped below the 2012-2013 level of \$449,765 by more than 10 percent, the Measure E parcel tax will no longer be levied.^[2]

The question on the ballot:

“To maintain and enhance San Anselmo Library open hours, adult and children's programs, and general library services, shall an ordinance be adopted approving a Special Library Services Tax of \$54.00 per year per real estate parcel located in San Anselmo with a three percent (3%) annual cost of living increase, for a period of nine (9) years to augment money from the Town of San Anselmo's funding of library services and with expenditures monitored by an oversight committee?”

A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for the approval of Measure E.

Riverside County

Cathedral, City of	November 4, 2014	Measure N
Cathedral, CA	Marijuana Tax	Approved
Riverside County Library System		71.67% Yes Vote

A [City of Cathedral City Marijuana Tax, Measure N](#) ballot question was on the November 4, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Cathedral City in Riverside County, California. It was **approved**.

Upon approval, Measure N imposed a 15 percent tax on the proceeds of marijuana sales by collectives and dispensaries operating in the city, to fund general city services such as police, fire and emergency services and park, recreation and library facilities.^[1]

Ballot question

The question on the ballot appeared as:^[1]

To help fund general municipal services, including but not limited to police protection and crime suppression services, fire prevention and suppression services, emergency medical services, park, recreation, and library facilities and services, and general improvements throughout the City, shall an ordinance to impose a tax at a rate of up to fifteen cents per each one dollar of proceeds or fractional part thereof on marijuana collectives and dispensaries operating in Cathedral City be adopted? ^[2]

Sacramento County

Sacramento, City of	June 3, 2014	Measure B
Sacramento, CA	Parcel Tax	Approved
Sacramento Public Library		73.02% Yes Vote*

A [City of Sacramento Library Parcel Tax, Measure B](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Sacramento in Sacramento County, California, where it was **approved**.^[1]

Measure B authorized the city of Sacramento to increase its parcel tax by \$12 per parcel per year for every single-family, residential parcel for 12 years. Rates for other types of properties would be varied according to the chart below.^[2]

Measure B contained a provision requiring the city to stop levying the Measure B tax if the contributions to the library system from the city's general fund dropped below \$7,635,500, unless other general fund spending, excluding police and fire services, dropped by the same proportion.^[2]

The question on the ballot:^[2]

Should library services for all City residents including children, teens, adults and seniors be preserved, including after-school reading programs, homework assistance, library operating hours, 24/7 online access, programs for seniors, and other services, by enacting a new \$12 per year single-family residential parcel tax for 12 years, and specified amounts for other uses, adjusted for inflation, that the State cannot take, with independent financial audits to ensure funds are spent only on City of Sacramento libraries? ^[3]

A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for the approval of Measure B.

San Diego County

National City, City of	November 4, 2014	Proposition D
National City, CA	Sales Tax	Approved
National City Library		68.60% Yes Vote

A [City of National City Sales Tax Renewal, Proposition D](#) ballot question was on the November 4, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of National City in San Diego County, California. It

was **approved**.

Proposition D authorized the city to renew its existing 1 percent sales tax for 20 years.^[1]

Voters first approved this sales tax in 2006, and it was set to expire in September 2016 without voter-approved renewal.^[2]

Mayor Ron Morrison, explaining the request for renewal, said, “When we first put this thing on the ballot in 2006 nobody saw the Great Recession and elimination of redevelopment coming. It accounts for approximately \$10 million a year in general fund money.” The annual \$10 million in revenue received by the city from this tax amounted to approximately 24 percent of the city's annual budget.^[2]

Ballot question

The question on the ballot:^[1]

National City Continuation of City Services Funding Measure. To maintain National City's public safety and prevent cuts to neighborhood police patrols and officers; gang/drug prevention; 911 emergency response; fire protection and firefighters; graffiti removal; street/pothole repair; senior/youth/library programs; and other City services; shall National City continue its existing voter-approved one-cent sales tax for 20 years with Citizens' Oversight, annual independent audits, all money kept in National City, with no increase in tax rate?^[3]

San Mateo County

Half Moon Bay, City of	November 4, 2014	Measure O
Half Moon Bay, CA	Sales Tax	Defeated
San Mateo County Library		50.3% Yes Vote

A [City of Half Moon Bay Sales Tax, Measure O](#) ballot question was on the November 4, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County, California. It was **defeated**.

If approved, Measure O would have authorized the city of Half Moon Bay to renew for three years a 0.5 percent sales tax that would otherwise expire on March 31, 2015.^[1]

In 2014, the sales tax rate in the city of Half Moon Bay was 9.5 percent. Only 1.5 percent of this tax, however, was reserved for the city. The remainder went to the state and the county. Without the approval of Measure O, this rate dropped to 9 percent on March 31, 2015.^[1]

This tax was originally authorized in 2012 when voters approved [Measure J](#).

Ballot question

The question on the ballot:^[2]

To provide additional funding exclusively for the City of Half Moon Bay that can be used to substantially fund our new Library, upgrade Smith Field and other recreational facilities, repair city streets, improve youth and senior services, and invest in opportunities to enhance our quality of life, shall the expiration date of half-cent general sales tax approved by Half Moon Bay voters in 2012 be extended for 3 years, to April, 2019, with continued oversight by a citizens' committee[.]^[3]

Santa Clara County

San Jose, City of	June 3, 2014	Measure B
San Jose, CA	Library Parcel Tax	Approved
San Jose Public Library		81.47% Yes Vote

A [City of San Jose Library Parcel Tax, Measure B](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of San Jose in Santa Clara County, California, where it was **overwhelmingly approved**.

Measure B renewed for 25 years a city library parcel tax that was originally approved in 2004 and was set to expire in 2015. This parcel tax began at a rate of \$25 per single-family home in 2004 but, through inflation adjustment, rose to \$29.84 per single-family home.^[1]

Approximately \$505,000 was approved by the city council to fund the process of putting this ballot question before voters.^[1]

The question on the ballot:^[3]

To continue existing, voter-approved funding for all San Jose's libraries and services, including: open hours; librarians; updated books/research materials; access to computers/technology; children's reading programs, story times, teen/senior programs; and adult literacy/job readiness, shall the City of San Jose continue its library parcel tax for another 25 years, subject to independent annual audits and 'citizens oversight, with no change in the existing voter-approved tax rate formula?^[4]

A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for approval of this measure.

Siskiyou County

Dunsmuir, City of	November 4, 2014	Measure N
Dunsmuir, CA	Sales Tax	Approved
Siskiyou County Free Library (Dunsmuir Public Library Branch)		62.28% Yes Vote

A [City of Dunsmuir Sales Tax Increase, Measure N](#) ballot question was on the November 4, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Dunsmuir in Siskiyou County, California. It was **approved**.

Measure N authorized the city to increase its sales tax by 0.25 percent from 7.5 percent, which was the

minimum rate mandated by the state at the time, to 7.75 percent for ten years. The tax proposed by Measure N was designed as a general tax, which meant revenue from it will go into the city's general fund and could be used for any governmental purpose.^[1]

Ballot question

The question on the ballot:^[2]

To prevent cuts and preserve and improve city services, including: maintaining and improving services at the *Dunsmuir Public Library* and making improvements to the Dunsmuir Community Building, shall the City of Dunsmuir adopt an ordinance extending and increasing the existing local sales tax by one-quarter percent, for ten years, providing locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the State?^[3]

Siskiyou County

Weed, City of	November 4, 2014	Measure J
Weed, CA	Weed Sales Tax	Approved
Siskiyou County Free Library		60.92% Yes Vote

A [City of Weed Sales Tax Increase, Measure J](#) ballot question was on the November 4, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Weed in Siskiyou County, California. It was narrowly approved.

Measure J authorized the city to increase its sales tax by 0.25 percent. The total rate in the city with Measure J is 7.75 percent. Without Measure J, the tax rate in the city would have remained at 7.5 percent, which is the minimum sales tax rate mandated by the state.^[1]

This tax was designed as a general tax with its revenue meant to go into the city's general fund to be used for any governmental purpose.^[1]

Ballot question

The question on the ballot:^[2]

Shall the City of Weed adopt an Ordinance amending 3.24.040 of the Municipal Code to increase the rate of the City's Sales and Use Tax by 0.25% to fund the operation, maintenance, and improvement of a *public library* operated within the city limits of the City of Weed, to fund a portion of the costs of providing senior programs and services, and for general municipal purposes including police, fire protection and street maintenance and improvements?^[3]

Sonoma County

Sonoma, County of	November 4, 2014	Measure M
Sonoma County, CA	Library Sales Tax Increase	Defeated
Sonoma County Library		63.3% Yes Vote*

A [Sonoma County Library Sales Tax Increase, Measure M](#) ballot question was on the November for voters in Sonoma County, California. It was **defeated**.

Had it been approved, Measure M would have authorized the county to impose an additional 0.125 percent sales tax for ten years. The tax would have been a special tax with the revenue reserved specifically to fund library operations, services, restoration and enhancement.^[1]

According to the county auditor, Measure M would have provided about \$10,225,703 in additional library funding every year, which amounts to a 67 percent increase in the library's budget. Over the ten-year life of the tax increase, the Measure M tax would have brought in approximately \$102.25 million to the library.^[1]

In 2013, the library received \$15,271,523 in revenue, most of which was from property taxes.^[1]

**A two-thirds supermajority vote was required for the approval of Measure M.*

Yolo County

Woodland, City of	June 3, 2014	Measure J
Woodland, CA	Sales Tax, Continuation	Approved
Woodland Public Library		68.6% Yes Vote

A [City of Woodland Sales Tax Continuation, Measure J](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Woodland in Yolo County, California, where it was **decisively approved**.

Measure J authorized the city of Woodland to renew a sales tax increase of 1/4 percent for eight years.^[1]

Rather than requesting a tax for specific purposes, the Woodland City Council decided to put **Measure J** on the ballot as a general tax measure, which meant the revenue it generated was designed to go into the general city fund, and, consequently, the measure only required a simply [sic] majority for approval, instead of the two-thirds supermajority vote required for a special tax. The city council also put four advisory questions on the ballot asking for voter approval of certain proposed uses of the additional revenue. The measures asked if the new revenue should be divided in the following way:^[1]

- 60 percent to youth and teen programs and facilities
- **20 percent to the library to fund educational programs**
- 15 percent to crime prevention services
- 5 percent to support water and sewer rate reductions for low-income residents

This method, in which a city puts a simple-majority, general tax measure on the ballot along with advisory questions directing the expenditure of the tax revenue, was also used in the [June 3, 2014 primary](#) by the [city of Anderson](#) in [Shasta County](#).

The question on the ballot:^[1]

Shall Ordinance No. 1558 which would authorize the City of Woodland to continue to collect a one-

quarter cent sales tax for general city services, for a period of eight years, and would not increase taxes, be adopted?^[2]

The measure only required a simple majority for approval, instead of the two-thirds super majority vote required for a special tax. The city council also put advisory question on the ballot asking for voter approval of certain proposed uses of the additional revenue.

Yolo County

Woodland, City of	June 3, 2014	Measure L
Woodland, CA	Sales Tax Advisory Question	Approved
Woodland Public Library		66.4% Yes Vote

A [City of Woodland Public Library Expenditure of Sales Tax Advisory Question, Measure L](#) ballot question was on the June 3, 2014 election ballot for voters in the city of Woodland in Yolo County, California, where it was **approved**.

Measure L showed voter support for the expenditure of 20 percent of the revenue from the 1/4 percent sales tax renewed by [Measure J](#) on the Woodland Library System, including the enhancement of educational and youth literacy programs.^[1]

Rather than requesting a tax for specific purposes, the Woodland City Council decided to put [Measure J](#) on the ballot as a general tax measure, which meant the revenue it generated was designed to go into the general city fund, and, consequently, the measure only required a simple majority for approval, instead of the two-thirds supermajority vote required for a special tax. The city council also put [four advisory questions](#) on the ballot asking for voter approval of certain proposed uses of the additional revenue. The measures asked if the new revenue should be divided in the following way:^[1]

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This method, in which a city puts a simple-majority, general tax measure on the ballot along with advisory questions directing the expenditure of the tax revenue, was also used in the June 3, 2014 primary by the [city of Anderson](#) in [Shasta County](#).

The question on the ballot:^[1]

Advisory Vote Only. Shall the City Council allocate 20% of the tax revenue collected from any sales tax measure re-authorized in the City of Woodland via the June 2014 ballot to the Woodland Public Library to enhance educational and youth literacy programs and expand hours of operation?^[2]