

MEASURE ER

LA County — Essential Services Restoration Act

General Sales Tax Measure | Vote Required: Simple Majority (50% + 1) | June 2, 2026

WHAT MEASURE ER WOULD DO

- Raise the County sales tax by one-half cent (0.5%) for five years (October 2026 – October 2031).
- Generate approximately \$1 billion per year to replace major federal funding cuts that threaten hospitals, clinics, and public health programs.
- Include annual independent audits and a nine-member citizens' oversight committee.
- Be a general tax — revenue goes into the County general fund, not a restricted healthcare fund.

INTENDED USES OF REVENUE (Board of Supervisors spending plan, subject to budget process)

Up to 47% — Dept. of Health Services: no-cost/reduced-cost care through nonprofit partners for low-income uninsured residents
22% — DHS public hospital and clinic services
10% — Dept. of Public Health: public health functions
5% — School-based health needs and programs via L.A. Care Health Plan
5% — Nonprofit safety-net hospitals meeting specified need-based criteria

5% — Dept. of Public Social Services: Medi-Cal outreach, enrollment, work and volunteer programs
2.5% — Correctional Health Services
2.5% — In-home supportive services for elderly and disabled residents (priority: provider wages and benefits)
1% — Pasadena Public Health and Long Beach Health and Human Services

A YES VOTE MEANS

Los Angeles County would impose a temporary 0.5% general sales tax for five years beginning October 1, 2026, raising ~\$1 billion annually. Revenue could be used for healthcare, public health, and other County health-related services, with oversight committee and annual independent audits.

A NO VOTE MEANS

Los Angeles County would not impose the additional 0.5% sales tax. The County would not receive new revenue from this measure and would need to respond to projected budget losses through other actions.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

Supporters argue that Measure ER would provide urgently needed temporary local funding to stabilize the County's healthcare and public health system after major federal cuts.

Protects healthcare access: The County's hospitals, clinics, and safety-net providers serve millions of uninsured, low-income, and medically vulnerable residents who would lose critical services without replacement funding.

Responds to a real funding gap: Federal changes to Medi-Cal and CalFresh through H.R. 1 (the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," July 2025) have created a major budget shortfall for County health services.

Automatically expires: Tax sunsets in October 2031 and cannot be extended without a vote of the people.

Built-in accountability: 9-member citizens' oversight committee and annual independent audits filed publicly with the Board of Supervisors.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST

Opponents argue that the measure would increase the sales tax burden on consumers and fall more heavily on lower-income households.

Regressive tax: Sales taxes take a proportionally larger share of income from people with fewer resources, worsening affordability in an already high-cost county.

General fund — not legally restricted: Because Measure ER is a general tax, revenue is not legally required to go to healthcare. The Board of Supervisors retains final say over spending each year.

Local taxpayers covering federal obligations: County residents should not be asked to make up for federal funding cuts through a local sales tax increase.

Weak oversight: The citizens' oversight committee is advisory only. Critics also note there is no automatic rescission if federal funding is restored before 2031.

SUPPORTERS INCLUDE

St. John's Community Health · Planned Parenthood Advocacy Project · Los Angeles County Medical Association · California Nurses Association · SEIU Local 721 & 2015 · California Community Foundation

OPPONENTS INCLUDE

Los Angeles Taxpayers Association · Supervisor Kathryn Barger · April Verlato Cheng, Arcadia Mayor Pro Tem · Sandra Armenta, Rosemead Mayor · Cynthia Sternquist, Temple City Mayor