



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

02/09/2026

500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Opposition to Item 15, Proposed Countywide 0.5% General Sales Tax

Honorable Members of the Board:

We write to express our concerns regarding Item 15 on February 10th's agenda, the proposal to place a countywide 0.5 percent general sales and use tax before voters in the June 2026 primary election. Although we recognize the fiscal challenges facing Los Angeles County and share a commitment to ensuring access to essential public services, we cannot support a measure that raises taxes without clear safeguards, oversight, or assurances of how the revenue will be used.

According to the text of the proposed ordinance, all revenue generated by this tax would be deposited into the County general fund, where it may be used for any county purpose. This stands in contrast to public descriptions of the measure that frame it as a way to support healthcare services, emergency response capacity, and safety net programs. If the County intends to dedicate new revenue to specific services, those commitments must be clearly defined, legally binding, and supported by transparent oversight.

Recent countywide tax measures, such as Measure A in 2024 and Measure M in 2016 demonstrated the need for stronger accountability mechanisms to ensure that new revenue is spent as promised. Placing an additional half percent general tax on the ballot without a detailed spending plan, independent audits, or performance reporting makes it difficult for residents to have confidence that these funds will be managed responsibly.

We are also concerned about the timing of this proposal. A June primary election, which typically has low turnout, does not provide adequate opportunity for public engagement or meaningful debate about a billion dollar revenue measure. In addition, several cities across Los Angeles County are evaluating their own local fiscal strategies for the November ballot. Introducing a countywide tax in June risks crowding out local measures and limiting municipalities' ability to address their own budget needs.

Finally, it is important to recognize the burden that repeated sales tax increases place on working families and small businesses. Los Angeles County already has one of the highest combined sales tax rates in the nation. Any proposal to increase this rate further must include strong fiscal controls, clear objectives, and transparent oversight that allow voters to make an informed decision.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors not to place the current 0.5 percent general sales tax proposal on the June ballot. If the County determines that additional revenue for healthcare or other essential services is necessary, we encourage the development of a dedicated special tax with defined purposes, enforceable spending protections, and comprehensive accountability measures.

We remain willing to collaborate on solutions that strengthen essential services while maintaining public trust and ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds.

Sincerely,

Aidan Chao
Chairman, LA County Taxpayers
Association

Steve Tye
Mayor, Diamond Bar

Becky A. Shevlin
Mayor, Monrovia

Denise Menchaca
Mayor, San Gabriel

Eric Chan
Vice Mayor, San Gabriel

Ollie Cantos
Mayor Pro Tem, West Covina

Sandra Armenta
Mayor, Rosemead

Margaret Clark
Council Member, Rosemead

Rosario Diaz
Council Member, West Covina

Patsy Ayala
Mayor Pro Tem, Santa Clarita

Kaylee May Law
Council Member, Walnut

Vartan Gharpetian
Council Member, Glendale

Claudia M. Frometa
Mayor, Downey

Jason Gibbs
Councilmember, Santa Clarita

Marsha McLean
Councilmember, Santa Clarita

Keith Eich
Councilmember, La Cañada
Flintridge

Hector Sosa
Councilmember, Downey

Nico Ruderman
Venice Neighborhood Council
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Sharon Kwan
Councilmember, Arcadia

Andrew Mendez
Councilmember, Azusa

Barbara Ferraro
Councilmember, Rancho Palos
Verdes

Michael Allawos
Councilmember, Glendora

Walter Allen III
Councilmember, Covina

John Cruikshank
Former Mayor, Rancho Palos
Verdes

Ed Chen
Councilmember, Temple City

Eric Ching
Former Mayor, Walnut

April Verlato
Former Mayor, Arcadia

Andrew Lara
Councilmember, Pico Rivera

Jeff Wood
Vice Mayor, Lakewood