



August 28, 2014

Dear Benicia Residents:

I am writing to update you about Measure C – Benicia’s measure to maintain our quality of life. As you know, Benicia – unlike many cities of similar size in the Bay Area – is a full service city, equipped with its own City-run police, fire, park and water services. But, due to years of reduced State and Federal funding and a changed economic landscape, the City of Benicia is facing tough fiscal and service delivery challenges.

Since 2008 the City of Benicia has been weathering the effects of the Great Recession, taking the necessary measures to preserve, as best as possible, both the quality and quantity of desired City services. The City has been working diligently to structurally reset the City’s General Fund and Enterprise Fund operating budgets in order to provide a sustainable future for City operations and ensure continued service delivery to the community.

The efforts to achieve this goal have not been easy or without sacrifice. Over the last six years the City has implemented employee salary and benefit concessions, with employees agreeing to 10% reductions in compensation, including contributing considerably more toward health care and retirement costs. The City has reduced its full time workforce by 12% through employee lay-offs and freezing positions. Over the last four years these efforts have decreased employee related expenditures by approximately \$11.2 million.

Unfortunately, further action needs to occur to ensure the City can continue to provide the quality of service expected by our residents. To that end, the Benicia City Council unanimously placed Measure C on the November 2014 ballot which, if enacted, would generate locally-controlled funds for local projects and services, with money that could not be taken by the State. Without Measure C, the City will be forced to consider cutting back on locally controlled City services.

ELIZABETH PATTERSON, *Mayor*
Members of the City Council
TOM CAMPBELL, *Vice Mayor* . ALAN M. SCHWARTZMAN . MARK C. HUGHES . CHRISTINA STRAWBRIDGE

BRAD KILGER, *City Manager*
KENNETH C. PAULK, *City Treasurer*
LISA WOLFE, *City Clerk*

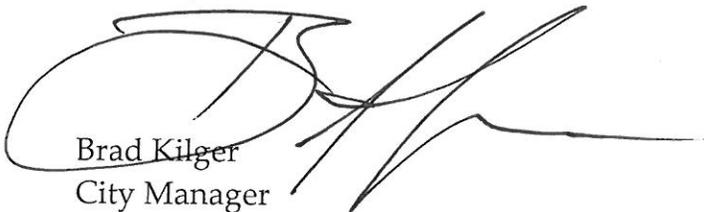
Measure C is a 1 cent on the dollar tax on purchases sold and/or consumed in Benicia. Presently the sales tax rate in Benicia is 7.625%. Of that amount 6.5% goes to the State of California, 1% is returned to Benicia and .125% supports libraries in Solano County.

Maintaining Benicia's financial viability as a full-service city and protecting our small town quality of life is the key purpose for Measure C. This measure will improve public safety and city streets, maintain parks and trim trees, and fund programs to support our historic downtown and community events, attract new businesses.

Additionally, Measure C will address the many streets in Benicia with cracked or buckled sidewalks, no sidewalks at all, and the many roads with potholes. Funding is needed to fix these road conditions and maintain 94 miles of city streets and roads for motorists, pedestrians, buses, cyclists and police and fire safety vehicles. Measure C will also ensure that our 31 local parks are properly maintained as safe spaces for children to play and families to visit.

We will continue to keep you informed about Measure C. For your reference, we have enclosed a "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet. For additional information, visit: www.ci.benicia.ca.us.

Sincerely,


Brad Kilger
City Manager



Frequently Asked Questions About Measure C

Q: What is Measure C?

A: On July 22nd, 2014 the Benicia City Council unanimously placed Measure C on the November 2014 ballot. If enacted, Measure C will provide a locally-controlled source of funding to address community priorities. Measure C is a local 1 percent sales tax measure.

Q: Why was Measure C placed on the ballot?

A: Reduced State and Federal Funding and a changed economic landscape have forced the City to explore several ways to continue to provide the vital services we all rely on. Measure C was placed on the ballot to provide a locally-controlled source of funding to maintain vital public safety and quality of life services, with funding that can't be taken by the State.

Unlike many cities of similar size in the Bay Area, Benicia is a full service city, equipped with its own City-run police, fire, park and water services. Without Measure C, the City will be forced to consider cutting back on locally controlled City services.

Q: How does Measure C impact local services?

A: Measure C is needed to maintain Benicia's financial viability as a full-service city and protect our small town quality of life. It will improve public safety and city streets, maintain parks and trim trees, and fund programs to support our historic downtown and community events, attract new businesses and create jobs. If adopted by voters, Measure C would ensure that critical community priorities would continue, including:

- 9-1-1 emergency response times

- Neighborhood police patrols
- Crime prevention services
- Programs for youth
- Pothole repair efforts

Q: Will Measure C help our local streets and roads?

A: Many streets in Benicia have cracked or buckled sidewalks, no sidewalks at all, and many roads have potholes. If enacted, Measure C will help fix these road conditions and maintain 94 miles of city streets and roads for motorists, pedestrians, buses, cyclists and police and fire safety vehicles.

Q: Will Measure C help address our local parks?

A: Measure C helps ensure our 31 local parks are properly maintained as safe spaces for children to play and families to visit.

Q: How can I get more information about Measure C?

A: For more information or to request a community presentation about Measure C, please call (707) 746-4289 or visit www.ci.benicia.ca.us.

* The Frequently Asked Questions are for information purposes only.

** The City of Benicia neither supports nor opposes Measure C.