

Measure C

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did the City Council place Measure C on the November 8, 2016 ballot? In April 2015, the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District ended an 11-year co-staffing arrangement by withdrawing three firefighters assigned to Station 54, Nevada City's only fire station. Attempts to operate with the City's remaining three professional firefighters and implementing rotating brown-outs (station closures) adversely affected response times. This prompted the City Council to authorize hiring three new full-time firefighters to operate the station 24/7 with minimum staffing of at least two firefighters per shift. This added approximately \$275,000 in new annual operating expenses to the City's budget. Pending a permanent solution, the City has used temporary Measure L general sales tax revenues to cover the added expense. With Measure L expiring March 31, 2018, the City Council placed Measure C on the ballot to provide a sustainable funding source for these replacement firefighters. The City Council also expressed an interest in augmenting the City's 10-member sworn police staffing by an additional officer. An additional \$120,000 is allocated for Police staffing, with the remaining \$37,000 available for public safety equipment, training, and facility maintenance. Measure C is expected to generate approximately \$432,000 annually

What can Measure C proceeds be used for? Measure C proceeds must be used exclusively for professional fire and police protection purposes: including the operation, maintenance, and improvement of fire and police facilities within the City; maintenance, replacement, and upgrading of fire and police equipment; staffing and training of professional career fire and police personnel and support staff; and expenditures necessary to support mutual aid from and to like agencies in other jurisdictions in time of need, and for no other purpose.

What accountability provisions are there to ensure Measure C proceeds will be used appropriately? Measure C requires the City Council establish a citizens' oversight committee to assure expenditures are used only for the purposes outlined above.

How much will Measure C cost? Measure C is a 3/8 of one cent transactions and use tax. This translates to \$0.38 (38 cents) for every \$100.00 spent on taxable goods.

What will the Nevada City sales tax rate be if Measure C passes? Passage of Measure C will result in a sales tax rate of 8.875% for twelve months until Measure L expires when the rate will drop back to the current 8.5% rate. If the County's library tax proposal passes, it will add an additional 1/8 cent to the existing 1/8 cent rate (an additional 0.125%).

If I have an additional question about Measure C, who should I contact? Please contact City Manager Mark Prestwich via email at mark.prestwich@nevadacityca.gov.