

# BUDGET & FINANCE

## MOTION

## RULES, ELECTIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

In preparation for the 1984 Summer Olympics, the City of Los Angeles enacted a special 6 percent tax on Olympic ticket sales. The tax applied to the "gross receipts" from distributing tickets to Olympic events and was directed at the organizations promoting and selling admission to the Games. The tax was designed to help the city recover some of the enormous public costs associated with hosting the Olympics, including police, fire protection, transportation, and other municipal services needed during the event.

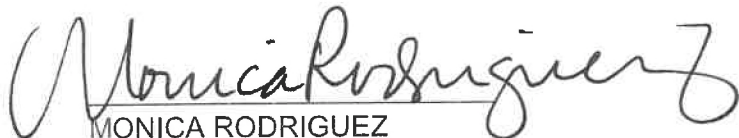
The tax became an important source of revenue as ticket sales exceeded expectations. By mid-1984, officials projected Olympic ticket revenue of at least \$125 million, meaning the 6 percent tax generated millions of dollars for the city. The success of the ticket tax helped make the 1984 Olympics one of the first modern Olympic Games to turn a significant profit rather than leave the host city with debt.

For the LA 28 games, there is a financial risk of major cost overruns that could leave Los Angeles taxpayers responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in unexpected expenses. Although organizers have promoted the Games as privately funded, concerns remain about rising security, transportation, and infrastructure costs, especially as the city already faces budget pressures.

Developing a revenue stream to assist the City building in securing the \$270 million it would need in case of an overrun by LA28 is crucial to maintain basic City services.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present the documents necessary to place on the November 2026 ballot a measure that would impose a 10 percent tax on all Olympic Tickets sold beginning on January 1, 2027. The revenue should be placed in a special fund to cover any cost overruns in hosting the 2028 Olympic Games. If funding is not needed then it would be released to the General Fund on January 31, 2029.

PRESENTED BY:



MONICA RODRIGUEZ  
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



ORIGINAL

MTZ  
MAY 19 2026