

Communication from Public

Name:

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Comments for Public Posting: I support LAFD. Firefighters and paramedics provide basic emergency services, and they should be properly funded. But I am concerned about asking residents for another large sales tax increase. The combined sales tax rate in Los Angeles is already 9.75%. With the County's Measure ER increase, it would go to 10.25%. If this LAFD tax also passes, residents could be paying about 10.75%. That is a lot for regular people. I also understand there is already existing public safety sales tax funding that can support police and fire services. Before creating another permanent sales tax, the City should clearly explain how current public safety funds are being used, how much goes to LAPD versus LAFD, and why LAFD's core needs cannot be prioritized in the regular budget first. The proposed LAFD tax would generate about \$345 million every year and does not appear to have an automatic end date. I recommend considering a smaller tax, such as 0.25%, or adding a clear sunset date so voters can review it again later. I support LAFD, but fire and emergency response are basic City services. Residents deserve a clear explanation before being asked to pay more. A smaller 0.25% sales tax could still generate approximately \$172.5 million annually. That is still a significant amount of funding, but with less impact on residents who are struggling to afford the basic necessities (including housing).