

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2012-2013 ADOPTED OPERATING BUDGET**

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**STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS**

Following is a list of significant State and local voter-approved initiatives.

**2010s INITIATIVES**

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**Measure B** allowed the City Charter to be amended to modify retirement benefits of City employees and retirees by: increasing employees' contributions, establishing a voluntary reduced pension plan for current employees, establish pension cost and benefit limitations for new employees, modify disability retirement procedures, temporarily suspend retiree COLAs during emergencies, and require voter approval for increases in future pension benefits. Measure B was passed by the voters in 2012.

**Measure K** increased the Cardroom Tax rate on gross revenues from 13% to 15%, allowed each cardroom to seek City approval to increase the number of tables from 40 to 49, removed the limit on the number of permissible card games to allow any card game permissible under State law consistent with City regulations, and increased the betting limit from \$200 to that allowed under State law. Measure K was passed by the voters in 2010.

**Measure U** allowed the City Council to impose a business tax on marijuana businesses in San José at a rate of up to 10% of gross receipts. The revenues from the marijuana business tax are subject to an annual audit. Measure U was passed by the voters in 2010.

**Measure V** changed the mandatory arbitration process regarding the selection of the Chair of the Board and required all hearings and documents submitted in arbitration to be accessible to the public. Further, it requires that the Arbitration Board consider the City's financial condition and ability to pay; provide consideration to the rate of increase or decrease of compensation approved by the City Council for other bargaining units; be precluded from

rendering a decision, or issuing an award that increases the projected cost of compensation at a rate that exceeds the rate of increase in certain revenues, retroactively increases or decreases compensation, creates a new or additional unfunded liability; and interferes with the discretion of the Police or Fire Department to make managerial, operational or staffing decisions. Measure V was passed by the voters in 2010.

**Measure W** allowed the City Council to adopt an ordinance to exclude future City officers and employees from any existing retirement plans or benefits and to establish retirement plans for future employees that do not provide for the current minimum requirements set forth in the San José City Charter. Measure W was passed by the voters in 2010.

**Proposition 22** reduces or eliminates the State's authority to delay or redirect the distribution of tax revenues for transportation, redevelopment, or local government projects and services, even during periods of severe fiscal hardship. The proposition requires the State Controller to reimburse local governments or accounts, if a court rules that the State violated a provision of Proposition 22. Proposition 22 was passed by the voters in 2010.

**Proposition 26** requires that certain State fees be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature and certain local fees be approved by two-thirds of voters. The proposition broadened the definition of a State or local tax to include some fees and charges that governments previously could impose with a majority vote. Proposition 26 was passed by the voters in 2010.

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**2000s INITIATIVES**

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**Measure J** replaced the Emergency Communication System Support Fee of \$1.75 per telephone line per month with a tax of \$1.57 per telephone line per month. The City ceased collecting the fee and began collecting the tax on April 1, 2009. The tax is collected from telephone users on their phone bills. Exemptions to the tax include low-income seniors and disabled persons who receive lifeline telephone service. Measure J was passed by the voters in 2008.

**Measure K** reduced the telephone utility rate from 5% to 4.5% (10% reduction) in San José. This measure broadened the base for the utility tax and the definition of technologies covered by the tax. The utility company collects the tax from consumers on a monthly basis and is required to remit the tax to the City by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the following month. The tax is not applicable to State, County, or City agencies. Measure K was passed by the voters in 2008.

**Proposition 1A** prohibits the State from reducing local governments' property tax revenue. The provisions may be suspended only if the Governor declares a fiscal necessity and two-thirds of the Legislature approves the suspension. Suspended funds must be repaid within three years. Proposition 1A also requires local sales tax revenues to remain with local governments, and for the State to fund legislative mandates. Proposition 1A was passed by the voters in 2004 but became effective 2006.

**Measure S** authorized the collection of a parcel tax to enhance the City's library services and facilities. The tax is collected twice per year on each parcel of real property and deposited into the Library Parcel Tax Fund. All proceeds, including interest, must be expended for Library purposes. This tax sunsets in 2014. Measure S was passed by voters in 2004.

**Measure A**, the Airport Security and Traffic Relief Act, authorized the City to implement infrastructure improvements at the Airport to meet federally mandated security requirements, improve passenger facilities, and add nine new gates once the Airport street system is within three years of completion and funding has been identified for the implementation of the Airport People Mover transit connection. Measure A was passed by the voters in 2003.

**Measure O** authorized the issuance of a \$159 million general obligation bond (Neighborhood Security Act Bond Measure) to improve San José's fire, police, and paramedic response times by adding and improving fire stations and police stations, training facilities, and creating state-of-the-art 9-1-1 communications facilities. Measure O was passed by the voters in 2001.

**Measure K** approved an update to San José's General Plan to modify greenline/urban boundaries. Measure K was passed by the voters in 2000.

**Measure O** authorized the issuance of \$212 million in bonds over 10 years for the establishment of six new and 14 expanded branch libraries in San José. Measure O was passed by the voters in 2000.

**Measure P** authorized the issuance of \$228 million in general obligation bonds for the establishment of new and improved existing public parks and facilities in San José. Measure P was passed by the voters in 2000.

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**1990s INITIATIVES**

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**Measure I** authorized the construction of a new City Hall, located in downtown San José. Measure I was passed by the voters in 1996.

**Proposition 218** extended the two-thirds majority vote requirement for any new user fees or new taxes to be levied at the local level. Assessments, fees, and charges must be submitted to property owners for approval or rejection, after notice and public hearing. Proposition 218 was passed by the voters in 1996.

**Proposition 172** enacted a half-cent sales tax increase. Monies derived from this tax must be utilized solely for public safety services. Revenue is distributed to cities and counties for purposes such as police, sheriffs, fire, district attorneys, and corrections. Proposition 172 was passed by the voters in 1993.

**Measure I** established term limits for the City. City Council members and the Mayor can only serve for two successive four-year terms in office. Measure I was passed by the voters in 1990.

**Proposition 8** allowed a property owner to file an assessment appeal when the market value of the property is less than the current assessed value. If the appeal is successful, the assessed valuation is lowered to reflect current market conditions. Proposition 8 also provided that the value of reassessed properties may be increased to previous levels when market values increase. Proposition 8 was passed by the voters in 1990.

**Proposition 111** enacted a statewide traffic congestion relief program and changed the procedures for calculating the Gann Limit by updating the spending limit on state and local government to better reflect the needs of a growing California population. It provided new

revenues to reduce traffic congestion by building state highways, local streets and roads, and public mass transit facilities. Proposition 111 was passed by the voters in 1990.

**1980s INITIATIVES**

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**Measure C** authorized the City to use public funds to build low-rent housing. Measure C was passed by the voters in 1988.

**Measure H** authorized the City to build a sports arena, currently known as the HP Pavilion at San José. Measure H was passed by the voters in 1988.

**1970s INITIATIVES**

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**Proposition 4**, otherwise known as the “Gann Limit,” stipulated that the City must compute an annual appropriations limit which places a ceiling on the total amount of tax revenues the City can appropriate annually. The limit is adjusted each year using the following criteria: (1) the percentage change in California Per Capita Income or the change in the City’s Assessed Valuation due to new non-residential construction, whichever is greater and (2) the percentage change in the city-wide population, whichever is greater. Proposition 4 was passed by the voters in 1979.

**Proposition 13** placed a substantial limitation on the ability of local governments to collect sufficient property taxes commensurate with the historical role this revenue source has played in funding both municipal operations and new public facilities. Proposition 13 specified that an assessed value may increase at the rate of the Consumer Price Index, not to exceed two percent per year based on the 1979 value, unless the property is improved or sold aligning the newly assessed value to the market value. Proposition 13 was passed by voters in 1979.

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**1890 – 1970 INITIATIVES**

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**1965** – Passed by the voters in 1965, the City Charter reaffirms the Council-Manager form of government in San José. The City consists of 10 council members elected by district and a Mayor elected at large.

**1897** – The City Charter was adopted in 1897. The Charter generally establishes the organization and structure of City government. The Charter also empowers the City Council to make and enforce all ordinances and regulations with respect to municipal affairs subject only to the limitations specified in the Charter.

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