



Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

02/09/2026

500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Opposition to Item 15, Proposed Countywide 0.5% General Sales Tax

Honorable Members of the Board:

We write to express our concerns regarding Item 15 on February 10th's agenda, the proposal to place a countywide 0.5 percent general sales and use tax before voters in the June 2026 primary election. Although we recognize the fiscal challenges facing Los Angeles County and share a commitment to ensuring access to essential public services, we cannot support a measure that raises taxes without clear safeguards, oversight, or assurances of how the revenue will be used.

According to the text of the proposed ordinance, all revenue generated by this tax would be deposited into the County general fund, where it may be used for any county purpose. This stands in contrast to public descriptions of the measure that frame it as a way to support healthcare services, emergency response capacity, and safety net programs. If the County intends to dedicate new revenue to specific services, those commitments must be clearly defined, legally binding, and supported by transparent oversight.

Recent countywide tax measures, such as Measure A in 2024 and Measure M in 2016 demonstrated the need for stronger accountability mechanisms to ensure that new revenue is spent as promised. Placing an additional half percent general tax on the ballot without a detailed spending plan, independent audits, or performance reporting makes it difficult for residents to have confidence that these funds will be managed responsibly.

We are also concerned about the timing of this proposal. A June primary election, which typically has low turnout, does not provide adequate opportunity for public engagement or meaningful debate about a billion dollar revenue measure. In addition, several cities across Los Angeles County are evaluating their own local fiscal strategies for the November ballot. Introducing a countywide tax in June risks crowding out local measures and limiting municipalities' ability to address their own budget needs.

Finally, it is important to recognize the burden that repeated sales tax increases place on working families and small businesses. Los Angeles County already has one of the highest combined sales tax rates in the nation. Any proposal to increase this rate further must include strong fiscal controls, clear objectives, and transparent oversight that allow voters to make an informed decision.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors not to place the current 0.5 percent general sales tax proposal on the June ballot. If the County determines that additional revenue for healthcare or other essential services is necessary, we encourage the development of a dedicated special tax with defined purposes, enforceable spending protections, and comprehensive accountability measures.

We remain willing to collaborate on solutions that strengthen essential services while maintaining public trust and ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer funds.

Sincerely,

Aidan Chao Chairman, LA County Taxpayers Association	Steve Tye Mayor, Diamond Bar	Becky A. Shevlin Mayor, Monrovia
Denise Menchaca Mayor, San Gabriel	Eric Chan Vice Mayor, San Gabriel	Ollie Cantos Mayor Pro Tem, West Covina
Sandra Armenta Mayor, Rosemead	Margaret Clark Council Member, Rosemead	Rosario Diaz Council Member, West Covina
Patsy Ayala Mayor Pro Tem, Santa Clarita	Kaylee May Law Council Member, Walnut	Vartan Gharpetian Council Member, Glendale
Claudia M. Frometa Mayor, Downey	Jason Gibbs Councilmember, Santa Clarita	Marsha McLean Councilmember, Santa Clarita
Keith Eich Councilmember, La Cañada Flintridge	Hector Sosa Councilmember, Downey	Nico Ruderman Venice Neighborhood Council Member
Sharon Kwan Councilmember, Arcadia	Andrew Mendez Councilmember, Azusa	Barbara Ferraro Councilmember, Rancho Palos Verdes
Michael Allawos Councilmember, Glendora	Walter Allen III Councilmember, Covina	John Cruikshank Former Mayor, Rancho Palos Verdes
Ed Chen Councilmember, Temple City	Eric Ching Former Mayor, Walnut	April Verlato Former Mayor, Arcadia

