

Measure Y Frequently Asked Questions

How is the City of Santa Fe Springs maintaining a high quality of life for local residents?

Residents have expressed they value their quality of life here in Santa Fe Springs. City sponsored programs for youth and seniors, high-quality local public safety services, maintained streets and roads all foster a strong community and quality of life.

How have state budget cuts impacted city and emergency services?

The State's action to eliminate redevelopment agencies has created a devastating impact on cities across the state, but especially so, for Santa Fe Springs.

In response to this funding loss, Santa Fe Springs has made significant cuts to our city staff, programs and services. Despite these staff and program reductions, the City is still facing a \$5 million structural deficit that is projected to double over the next seven years.

Given that our fire department and other essential city services account for a large portion of the City's general fund budget, there is little left to cut. We know we simply cannot rely on the State to provide critical funding for our local city services.

What has Santa Fe Springs already done to reduce the city budget in response to these cuts?

The City has already taken the following steps to reduce costs:

- Cut city programs
- 25% of workforce was cut in last 6 years
- There is \$80 million in deferred maintenance

How are city services in Santa Fe Springs funded?

Most funding for city services is dependent on revenue generated by property tax, local and state sales tax, and from our utility users tax (UUT). However, the recessions in 2001 and 2008 led to substantial decreases in local sales tax revenue, resulting in significant cuts to the budget and cutbacks to local services. Because of these cuts, the City had to defer funding for critical services like public park maintenance, community policing and programs for senior citizens and youth. Decreased revenues also reduced our overall budget for residential street and sidewalk pavement rehabilitation.

How is the City planning to address our funding needs?

Though the City has taken steps to increase efficiency and cut costs, we are still facing a growing structural deficit. Our City's first priority is maintaining our quality of life and the essential city services our residents depend upon.

In order to provide stable, local funding to meet these needs, the Santa Fe Springs City Council unanimously voted to place Measure Y, a one-cent Neighborhood Safety and Essential City Services Protection Sales Tax Measure, on the November 2018 ballot. It is anticipated that this sales tax would generate approximately \$12 million annually for local city essential services.

What specific city services could Measure Y support?

Funding from Measure Y would support essential city services, such as:

- Retain the current number of police officers patrolling neighborhoods, parks and schools and continue proactive policing to prevent crime
- Preserve current firefighter and paramedic staffing levels and upgrade equipment
- Maintain 911 emergency response times
- Maintain local city streets and intersections to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion and flooding
- Continue youth anti-gang and anti-drug prevention programs and after-school recreation programs

What types of fiscal accountability would Measure Y include?

Measure Y would require strict accountability requirements to ensure transparency and public oversight. Local control and independent annual audits would ensure all funds are used in Santa Fe Springs. By law, no money could be taken away by the State or County. A local sales tax ensures out-of-town visitors would pay for their share of police, fire, street repair and other services when they are in our city. It would not be applied to groceries or prescription medication.

How can I learn more?

To learn more, visit our website at www.SantaFeSprings.org/InfoOnMeasureY or call (562) 409-7582.