

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-2909

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA MESA ADDING A NEW SECTION 5.28.135 TO THE LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE EXTENDING THE EXISTING TRANSACTION AND USE TAX (ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO LA MESA MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 5.28) TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

WHEREAS, since 2008, the City of La Mesa (“City”) has relied on approximately \$12,000,000 in annual local funding from a voter-approved sales tax called Proposition L and this funding is now set to expire;

WHEREAS, to keep La Mesa safe, clean, and well-maintained, the City Council believes this funding needs to be renewed at the current rate — without raising tax rates;

WHEREAS, if renewed, this funding will continue to protect essential city services such as maintaining over 153 miles of streets and 53 miles of storm drains in the City;

WHEREAS, if renewed, this funding will continue to protect essential city services such as keeping 133 acres of parks, recreation areas, and community facilities safe, clean, and well maintained;

WHEREAS, if renewed, this funding will continue to protect essential city services such as repairing aging infrastructure, including storm drains, pipes, sidewalks, and public facilities;

WHEREAS, if renewed, this funding will continue to protect essential city services such as providing police services, including crime prevention and investigations;

WHEREAS, if renewed, this funding will continue to protect essential city services such as providing fire protection, paramedic services, and quick responses to 911 emergencies;

WHEREAS, beautifying and keeping La Mesa clean by removing graffiti and cleaning up litter, sidewalks, and public areas;

WHEREAS, if local sales tax funding expires, the City will lose approximately \$12 million in annual local funding and could need to make significant reductions to public safety services and delay the maintenance of local streets, sidewalks, parks, storm drains, and other infrastructure;

WHEREAS, all funds from the City’s local $3\frac{1}{4}\%$ sales tax stay local to fund local services only and the cost is paid by both residents and visitors who shop in La Mesa, adding 7.5¢ to a \$10 purchase or 75¢ to a \$100 purchase;

WHEREAS, the measure to renew local funding will continue and strengthen fiscal accountability requirements, including an independent oversight committee, public disclosure of all spending, mandatory annual audits, all funds must stay in La Mesa, and no funds can be taken away by the State;

WHEREAS, essential purchases like groceries, prescription medicine, and diapers are exempt from sales tax, helping to ensure a sales tax renewal measure is not a burden to those on fixed or limited incomes; and

WHEREAS, for all the reasons and authority stated and cited in Resolution No. 2024-083; and, specifically, pursuant to California Constitution Article XII C Section 2(b) and Elections Code Section 10201, the City Council has determined to submit a measure to the voters to extend the existing transactions and use tax established pursuant to La Mesa Municipal Code Chapter 5.28.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California as follows:

SECTION 1: A new section 5.28.135 is hereby added to the La Mesa Municipal Code to read as follows:

“Transaction and Use Tax – Extended.

The Transaction and Use Tax established pursuant to this Chapter shall be extended to April 1, 2049 if a majority of the qualified voters of the City voting on the measure vote to approve the imposition of said extension at an election called for that purpose.”

SECTION 2: Effective Date.

This Ordinance relates to extending the levying and collecting of the City transactions and use tax; and, therefore, shall take effect immediately and be published within 15 days after adoption in a paper of general circulation published and circulated within the City of La Mesa.

SECTION 3: Termination Date.

The authority to levy the transaction and use tax imposed by this Ordinance shall expire twenty (20) years following the Effective Date, on April 1, 2049.

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED at a Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Mesa, California, held the 9th day of July 2024 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers Dillard, Lothian, Parent, Shu, and Mayor Arapostathis

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

APPROVED:

MARK ARAPOSTATHIS, Mayor

ATTEST:

MEGAN WIEGELMAN, CMC, City Clerk

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, MEGAN WIEGELMAN, City Clerk of the City of La Mesa, California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 2024-2909, duly introduced and adopted by the City Council of said City on the date and by the vote therein recited and that the same has been duly published according to law.

MEGAN WIEGELMAN, CMC, City Clerk

(SEAL OF CITY)