

## LOCAL FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL CITY SERVICES

Since becoming a city in 1891, Hanford has flourished into a community of over 59,000 people. While maintaining its small-town charm and rich history, Hanford has grown into the commercial and cultural center of Kings County. To maintain the City's standing as a great place to live and raise a family, we must continue investing in essential city services, the maintenance of streets and parks, and investment in public safety.












In 2023, the Hanford City Council agreed that a possible revenue measure should be explored, beginning with an advisory body comprised of 15 community members. The Revenue Measure Committee (RMC) studied both the needs and functions of departments and programs funded through the City's General Fund. This includes Police, Fire, Streets, Parks and Community Services and Code Enforcement.



On April 17, the RMC unanimously adopted a draft 10-year Expenditure Plan, which outlines their recommendations for how the potential revenues should be spent, with more than 90% of funding going toward Police, Fire and Streets. On April 24, the majority of the committee voted to recommend to City Council that there is a need for a revenue measure in order to meet the community's growing needs.

### FUNDING PRIORITIES

Based on recommendations from the RMC, a successful revenue measure could fund:

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|  Additional police patrol officers and vehicles |  Additional firefighters and fire engines |  Road and pothole repair                                    |
|  A new public safety building                   |  A new fire station                       |  Graffiti abatement   |
|  Additional code enforcement officers           |  Traffic mitigation and road safety       |  Improvements and additional maintenance for existing parks |



### KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Hanford is one of approximately 30 cities in California without a district (sales) tax
- Current General Fund revenues do not meet budget demands
- Hanford has approximately \$60 million in deferred capital projects over the next five years
- A general sales tax measure requires 2/3 approval by the City Council to place a measure on the ballot
- A general sales tax measure requires support by the majority (50%+1) of voters
- A 1% (one-cent sales tax) would generate \$19 million in annual revenue for the City of Hanford
- Revenue from a sales tax measure will stay local and funding cannot be taken by the State
- If approved by voters, revenue may only be spent on priorities outlined by the Expenditure Plan



### FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY

If a revenue measure is approved by voters it will be overseen by a **Citizens' Oversight Committee** and a **third-party auditor** must review and audit all expenditures annually. This includes ensuring all expenditures are made in accordance with the Expenditure Plan. Projects completed with funding from an approved measure would be eligible for state or federal matching funds, should they be available.

