

City of Westminster
PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL PLACES LOCAL REVENUE MEASURE TO
MAINTAIN LOCAL SERVICES ON THE NOVEMBER 2016 BALLOT**

If Approved by Voters, Measure Would Enact Locally Controlled Funding and Prevent
Additional Budget Cuts to Police, Roads and Economic Development

The Westminster City Council placed a local funding measure on the November 2016 ballot for consideration by voters. The measure, if approved by Westminster voters, would enact locally-controlled funds allowing the City to address Westminster's structural deficit and protect key resident service priorities. The measure would expire in six (6) years.

While the economy has turned a corner, historical State takeaways and the slow recovery from the recession have impacted Westminster's ability to address basic City needs. While the City Council has prudently cut services and utilized reserves to make ends meet, the City cannot continue to operate in this way. The City will need to either make additional deep cuts to core services our residents have told us they want maintained, or give voters the opportunity to consider providing additional funding. The Council voted to allow voters to decide.

Recently, the City of Westminster concluded a budget study session study which showed as much as a \$17 million "sales tax trough" in revenue as a result of the recession, creating a backlog of service needs filled by emergency funding, as well as an estimated takeaway of \$11 million dollars by the state in redevelopment funds. The study session also showed that the City faces continual budget deficits for the foreseeable future without additional revenue.

Additional, locally-controlled funding, that cannot be taken by the State, would allow the City to address these issues and maintain basic services residents have indicated they wish to maintain, such as preventing the elimination of Police Narcotics, Domestic Violence, Sex Crimes, and Human Trafficking units, preserving Westminster's local Police

Department, fighting gangs and drugs, maintaining 9-11 emergency response times and fire protection services, repairing streets and potholes, and investing in programs that attract businesses and create jobs, among other items.

The measure placed on the ballot by the Council includes stringent accountability provisions, including mandatory financial audits, and reports to the community. City officials have also added a Citizens' oversight committee to the measure, to ensure that all voter-approved funds are spent appropriately, as well as a six (6) year sunset.

The City Council has additionally directed the City to enact informational outreach to the community to regarding the City's fiscal situation. Below are documents related to this issue. Please take the time to review them and also sign up to receive email updates regarding the City's finances and important meeting dates.

For additional information, visit www.westminster-ca.gov.

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