

MEASURE Q FACT SHEET



WHAT IS MEASURE Q?

Measure Q on the March 2, 2004 ballot is a reauthorization of the Library Services Retention and Enhancement Act of 1994 (Measure O). It states that, if passed, it will increase the parcel tax rate to retain and enhance public library services in Oakland, expand the library services funded by the act, and extend the life of the measure.

WHAT WILL BE FUNDED BY THE PROPOSED MEASURE?

Measure Q states that it will maintain and enhance the following library services:

- Keep the Main Library open 7 days per week
- Expand branch hours to 6 days per week with more branches open weekend hours
- Restore and increase the library's materials budget
- Retain a professional children's librarian in every library
- Operate the Library's African American Museum and Library and the adult literacy program (Second Start)
- Upgrade and enhance information technology in all libraries and improve access to computers and other technology
- Increase joint educational activities with local schools
- Support the **PASS!** after-school homework program and other educational and cultural programs for youth
- Support the Teen Services Program
- Operate a new joint school-public library in East Oakland
- Set aside a 5% reserve

HOW MUCH WILL MEASURE Q COST CITY RESIDENTS?

If approved by voters, until 2024, property owners will pay:

- For single family residential properties, the cost will be \$75 per year, or \$6.25 per month.
- For multiple-dwelling properties, the tax will be \$51.24 per residential unit or 50% of this rate if the majority of units have been vacant for a period of six months or more during the year.
- For non-residential properties, the tax will be approximately \$38.41 for every single family residential unit equivalent (based on land use category and a formula calculating frontage and square footage). The "single family residential unit equivalent" for nonresidential property is calculated according to a formula set forth in the measure. A commercial property with a frontage of 160 feet and an area of 12,800 square feet, for example, would have to pay \$153.64 per year.

Low income families and properties that support the housing of low income families will be exempt from the tax.

WHY DID THE CITY COUNCIL PUT MEASURE Q ON THE BALLOT?

The City Council resolution placing Measure Q on the ballot stated that:

- Operating and labor costs for library services have escalated at a pace far greater than the revenues generated by Measure O;
- The City anticipates a \$1.1 million dollar revenue shortfall for programs funded by Measure O during FY 2004-05;
- Such shortfalls, if realized, will impact library hours, book collections and programs;
- The City values its public library system and its contributions to community education programs, literacy programs, lifelong learning, information technology and the literary heritage of our City.

WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE PAST YEAR TO THE LIBRARY'S BUDGET?

During the past year, the City of Oakland made reductions to its budget due to a number of economic factors. More than 22 FTE positions and operation and book budget funding were reduced, resulting in:

- Reduced weekend hours at many branch libraries with elimination of 6-day service at 3 of the busiest branches;
- Reductions in the Library's materials (book) budget;
- Elimination of 275 magazine and newspaper subscriptions;
- Longer waits for check-out and reference assistance;
- Longer waits before new books get cataloged and on the shelves for patrons;
- Relocation of the Second Start Adult Literacy Program from downtown Oakland to the West Oakland Branch.

CAN THE CITY REDUCE ITS GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATION TO THE LIBRARY IF THIS MEASURE PASSES?

According to the measure, in order to collect the revenues raised from the Measure O tax, the City has to maintain its support for Library services at the 1991-92 level, or \$7.8 million. Measure Q would raise the minimum General Fund support for library services to the FY 2000-01 appropriation, or \$9,059,989.

DOES MEASURE Q PROVIDE FOR ANY AUDITING OR CITIZEN OVERSIGHT?

The City Auditor will perform an annual audit to assure accountability and proper usage of the proceeds from this tax. The City Council will also appoint a citizens' oversight committee to monitor and make recommendations on Measure Q expenditures.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

The full text of Measure Q will appear in the official Voters' Handbook for the March elections. Also included will be impartial analyses by the City Attorney and City Auditor, as well as ballot arguments.

To contact the proponents or opponents: The City Clerk's Office at (510) 238-3611 has contact information for any groups that have filed for or against the measure.

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