



Bakersfield Public Safety & Vital Services Measure Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Public Safety & Vital Services Measure?

A: Based on extensive community feedback and discussion, on June 20th the Bakersfield City Council placed the Public Safety & Vital Services Measure on the November 6, 2018 ballot.

If enacted, the Measure would provide reliable, locally-controlled funding to maintain and enhance community priorities including public safety, retaining/attracting jobs and businesses, and other quality of life services.

Q: Why was the Public Safety & Vital Services Measure placed on the ballot?

A: The Measure was placed on the November ballot to maintain and enhance vital city services. This was done after gathering community feedback about their priorities for vital services in the City, including over 25 community-based meetings and receiving input from over 1,000 residents.

Top priorities included:

- Increasing police staffing
- Improving rapid response to assaults and robberies
- Maintaining/improving rapid response to gang violence
- Preventing and investigating property crimes, like theft and burglaries
- Keeping public area safe and clean
- Retaining/attracting jobs and businesses
- Working with community partners to address homelessness

Q: How would the Measure impact neighborhood police and fire service?

A: Bakersfield has fewer police officers than other comparable cities. According to a national study in 2016, Bakersfield had the third highest rate of auto thefts of *any* city in the United States and a property crime rate that is 55 percent greater than comparable California cities. With the State releasing parolees and shortening sentences, now is not the time to make cuts to police protection and the number of officers on our streets. The Public Safety & Vital Services Measure, if enacted, would help stop this gap from rising and keep our neighborhoods safe.

The Measure would also keep City fire stations open and fully staffed, ensuring that firefighters can quickly respond to emergencies and save lives as in an emergency, seconds count.

Q: Does the Measure address drugs and gang violence?

A: Yes. As drug trafficking and youth violence has reached epidemic levels in the Central Valley with prisoners being released early and more and more gang members coming to our community, the Measure would put more police officers on the streets and fund anti-drug and gang teams to improve safety in our city.

Q: How can we be sure the funding would go to local services?

A: In keeping with the City's fiscally-conservative, award-winning budget approach, the Measure requires:

- Establishment of a nine member citizens' oversight committee
- Publishing of an annual report
- Annual financial audits
- Distinct accounting procedures

These requirements ensures the proceeds of any revenue generated by the Measure are expended in a manner consistent with the priorities of the community.

Q: When is the election?

A: November 6, 2018. For more election information and online voter registration information, visit the Kern County Elections page at <https://elections.co.kern.ca.us/elections/>

Q: Where can I get more information about the Public Safety & Vita Services Measure?

A: For more information visit BakersfieldCity.us/VitalServices. If you have specific questions, or would like to request a presentation for a community organization, contact the City Manager's Office at (661) 326-3751 or AdmMgr@bakersfieldcity.us