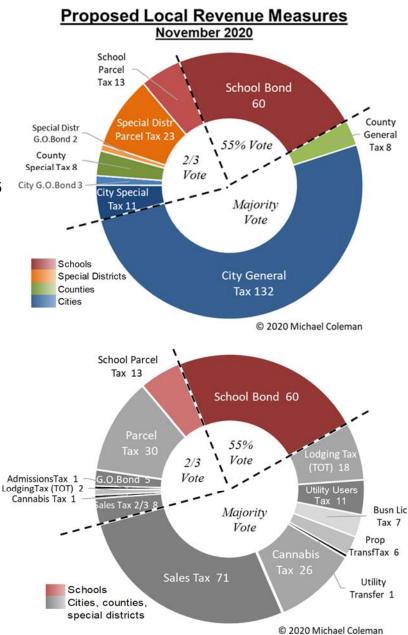
# Local Revenue Measure Results November 2020

There were over 400 measures on local ballots in California for the November 3, 2020 election including 260 local tax and bond measures.

Over half of these measures (146) were proposed by or for cities. There were also 16 county, 25 special district and 73 school tax or bond measures. In prior elections, typically about one-third of measures were majority vote general taxes, one-third were special taxes, and one third 55 percent school bonds. But in this election there was a notably higher proportion of majority vote general tax measures and most passed. These include a record 71 measures to increase local sales taxes, 20 lodging occupancy tax increases and 26 taxes on cannabis.

There were five city, county and special district general obligation bond measures seeking a total of \$1.9 billion in facility improvements for affordable housing, community pool improvements, a hospital, and fire stations. There were 30 city, county and special district parcel taxes, including 20 for fire /emergency medical response.

Among the school measures were 60 bond measures seeking a total of \$13.4 billion in school facility improvement funding, substantially fewer than in November 2018 (112) or November 2016 (184). There were 13 measures to increase or extend (renew) school parcel taxes compared to 14 in 2018 and 22 in 2016.



## **Overall Passage Rates**

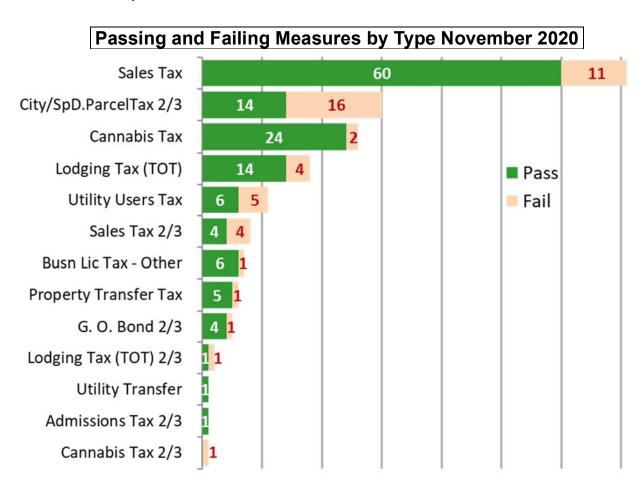
After tallying nearly 18 million ballots, 198 of the 260 tax and bond measures passed. Local tax measures passed in similar proportions to prior general presidential and gubernatorial elections in California, with the exception that majority vote general purpose taxes from cities and counties fared somewhat *better* than in past elections.

## **Local Revenue Measures November 2020**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Pass</u>	Passing%
City General Tax (Majority Vote)	132	108	82%
County General Tax (Majority Vote)	8	8	100%
City SpecialTax or G.O.bond (2/3 Vote)	14	6	43%
County Spec.Tax, G.O.bond (2/3 Vote)	8	5	63%
Special District (2/3 vote)	25	13	52%
School ParcelTax 2/3	13	10	77%
School Bond 55%	60	48	80%
Total	260	198	76%

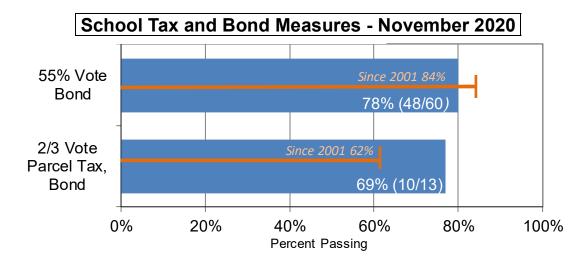
## **Measure Outcome by Category**

The common tax measure in this election was a majority vote general purpose transactions and use tax (sales tax) and there were more sales taxes approved than any other type. Sixty of the 71 general sales tax measures passed.



#### **School Measures**

There were 60 school bond measures this election, all requiring 55% voter approval. Overall, statewide, school bond measures succeeded similarly to the average passage rate since 2001: about 4 out of 5 pass. Voters this election approved \$12.168 billion of school bonds of the \$13.83 billion requested including a \$7 billion measure in the Los Angeles Unified School District.



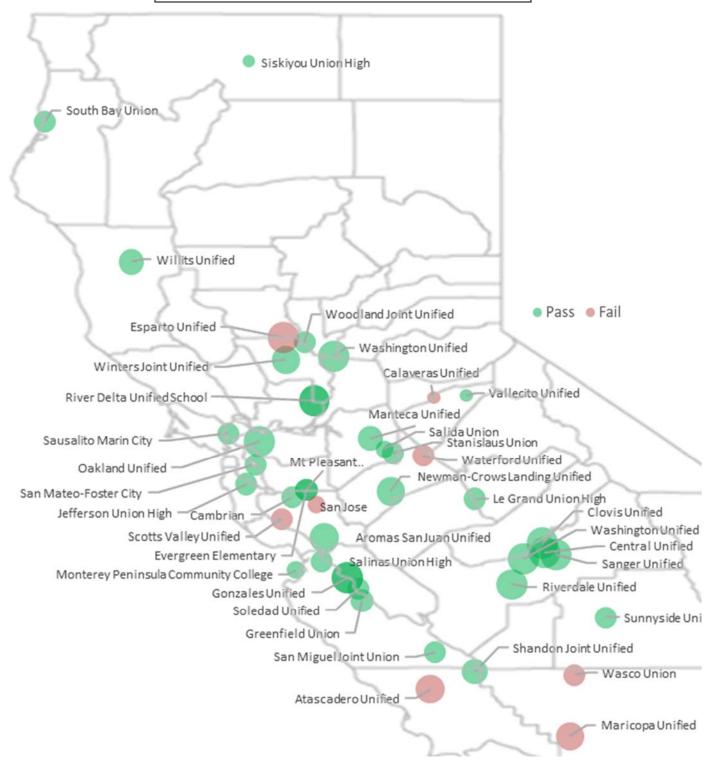
## **School Bonds** ✓

School District	County	<u>Measure</u>	<b>Amount</b>	Tax Rate	YES%	<u>NO%</u>
Inglewood Unified School District	Los Angeles	Measure I	\$240m	\$60/\$100k	79.9%	20.1% PASS
Oakland Unified School District	Alameda	Measure Y	\$735m	\$60/\$100k	77.7%	22.4% PASS
Sausalito Marin City School Distric	Marin	Measure P	\$41.6m	\$30/\$100k	72.8%	27.3% PASS
Calexico Unified School District	Imperial	Measure Q	\$47m	\$60/\$100k	71.5%	28.5% PASS
Goleta Union School District	Santa Barbara	Measure M	\$80m	\$19/\$100k	71.5%	28.6% PASS
Los Angeles Unified School Distri	Los Angeles	Measure RR	\$7billion	\$22/\$100k	71.2%	28.8% PASS
Greenfield Union School District	Kern	Measure G	\$21m	\$30/\$100k	68.0%	32.0% PASS
Bassett Unified School District	Los Angeles	Measure BB	\$50m	\$60/\$100k	66.9%	33.1% PASS
Whittier Union High School Distric	Los Angeles	Measure AA	\$183.5m	\$30/\$100k	66.2%	33.8% PASS
Riverdale Unified School District	Fresno / Kings	Measure J	\$25.9m	\$60/\$100k	65.3%	34.7% PASS
Vallecito Unified School District	Calaveras	Measure I	\$2.8m	\$10/\$100k	65.2%	34.8% PASS
Mt Pleasant Elementary School Dis	Santa Clara	Measure Q	\$12m	\$30/\$100k	64.8%	35.2% PASS
Jefferson Union High School Distr	San Mateo	Measure Z	\$163m	\$30/\$100k	64.2%	35.8% PASS
San Mateo-Foster City School Dis	t San Mateo	Measure T	\$409m	\$30/\$100k	64.0%	36.0% PASS
River Delta Unified School	Sacramento /	Measure J	\$45.7m	\$60/\$100k	63.8%	36.2% PASS
District SFID #1	Solano	Measure J	\$ <del>4</del> 3./III	\$00/\$100K	03.070	30.270 FA33
River Delta Unified School	Sacramento /	Measure K	\$14.6m	\$60/\$100k	63.6%	36.4% PASS
District SFID #2	Solano / Yolo	Wicasule K	ψ1 <b>-</b> .0111	\$00/\$100K	03.0 /0	
Siskiyou Union High School Distri		Measure K	\$3m	\$8/\$100k	63.5%	36.5% PASS
La Mesa - Spring Valley School Di	San Diego	Measure V	\$136m	\$24/\$100k	63.3%	36.7% PASS
Monterey Peninsula Community C	Monterey	Measure V	\$230m	\$18/\$100k	62.9%	37.1% PASS
Pasadena Unified School District	Los Angeles	Measure O	\$516.3m	\$45/\$100k	62.9%	37.1% PASS

#### **School Bond Measures** continued **School District Bond Amount Tax Rate YES%** County Measure Cambrian School District 37.6% PASS \$30/\$100k 62.4% Santa Clara Measure R \$88m Shandon Joint Unified School Monterey / SLO Measure H \$4m \$40/\$100k 62.2% 37.8% PASS 38.5% PASS Gonzales Unified School District (F Monterey Measure K \$37m \$60/\$100k 61.5% Woodland Joint Unified School Di Yolo / Sutter Measure Y \$44.2m \$24/\$100k 38.7% PASS 61.3% Stanislaus Union School District Measure Y \$21.4m \$30/\$100k 61.3% 38.7% PASS Stanislaus Oceanside Unified School District San Diego Measure W \$160m 38.8% PASS \$30/\$100k 61.2% 38.9% PASS Winters Joint Unified School Distri Yolo / Solano Measure W \$19m \$49/\$100k 61.1% 39.2% PASS Washington Unified School Distric Yolo Measure Z \$150m \$60/\$100k 60.8% 39.3% PASS Measure W \$140m \$30/\$100k Salinas Union High School District Monterey 60.7% \$13.75m \$26/\$100k 39.4% PASS Soledad Unified School District Monterey Measure N 60.6% 39.5% PASS Ojai Unified School District Ventura Measure K \$45m \$27/\$100k 60.5% 39.7% PASS South Bay Union School District Humboldt Measure D \$5m \$30/\$100k 60.3% 39.7% PASS Clovis Unified School District Fresno Measure A \$335m \$60/\$100k 60.3% 39.9% PASS Central Unified School District Fresno Measure D \$120m \$60/\$100k 60.1% Willits Unified School District Mendocino Measure I \$17m \$40/\$100k 60.0% 40.0% PASS 40.1% PASS Le Grand Union High School Distri Merced Measure S \$6m \$29/\$100k 60.0% Newman-Crows Landing Unified Sc Stanislaus Measure X \$25.8m \$48/\$100k 59.9% 40.1% PASS Aromas San Juan Unified School Monterey / San Measure O 40.2% PASS \$30.5m \$51/\$100k 59.8% Benito / S.Cruz District 40.5% PASS Washington Unified School Distric Fresno Measure K \$46m \$60/\$100k 59.5% 40.9% PASS Sunnyside Union Elementary Scho Tulare Measure O \$2m \$30/\$100k 59.1% Measure J 41.8% PASS Gonzales Unified School District (E Monterey \$24.5m \$60/\$100k 58.2% \$60/\$100k 42.1% PASS Sanger Unified School District Measure C \$150m 57.9% Fresno 42.6% PASS Citrus Community College Los Angeles Measure Y \$298m \$25/\$100k 57.4% \$260m 42.6% PASS Manteca Unified School District San Joaquin Measure A \$45/\$100k 57.4% Duarte Unified School District Los Angeles Measure S \$79m \$50/\$100k 57.1% 42.9% PASS 43.8% PASS Salida Union School District Stanislaus Measure U \$9.24m \$20/\$100k 56.2% 43.8% PASS Measure P Evergreen Elementary School Distr Santa Clara \$80m \$30/\$100k 56.2% Monterey / SLO Measure I 55.1% 44.9% PASS San Miguel Joint Union School \$6.2m \$30/\$100k Waterford Unified School District Stanislaus 55.0% **45.0%** FAIL Measure T \$5.35m \$30/\$100k Atascadero Unified School District San Luis Obispo Measure C \$40m \$50/\$100k 54.4% **45.6% FAIL** Measure P \$39m 53.5% **46.5% FAIL** Romoland School District Riverside \$30/\$100k Cajon Valley Union High School D San Diego Measure T \$125m 53.3% **46.7% FAIL** \$13/\$100k Scotts Valley Unified School Distri Santa Cruz Measure A \$49m \$32/\$100k 52.9% **47.2% FAIL** San Jose - Evergreen CCD Santa Clara Measure J \$858m 317.5/\$100k 52.7% **47.3% FAIL** Esparto Unified School District Yolo Measure X \$19.9m \$60/\$100k 52.5% **47.6% FAIL** Measure L \$7.8m 52.2% **47.8% FAIL** Cold Spring Elementary School Dis Santa Barbara \$13/\$100k 51.1% **48.9% FAIL** Calaveras Unified School District Calaveras Measure H \$32.8m \$10/\$100k Wasco Union School District Kern Measure H \$16m \$30/\$100k 48.5% **51.5% FAIL** Maricopa Unified School District \$14m 47.2% **52.8%** FAIL Kern Measure F \$50/\$100k Dehesa School District Measure U \$3.1m 37.7% **62.3% FAIL** San Diego \$30/\$100k

<sup>\*</sup> Waterford Unified School District's Measure T failed by just 6 votes.

## School Bond Measures - November 2020



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## **School Bond Measures – November 2020**



## School Parcel Taxes ✓

There were just 13 school parcel tax measures. Parcel taxes require two-thirds voter approval and 10 passed. The Fort Ross School District measure pulled into the "pass" column with the ballots counted after election eve.

#### School Parcel Taxes (2/3 vote)

School Lateel Laxes (2/3 voic	• •					
Agency Name	County		<u>Rate</u>	Sunset	YES%	NO%
Shoreline Unified School District	Marin / Sonoma	Measure L	\$212+/parcel	8yrs	79.4%	20.6% PASS
Palo Alto Unified School District	Santa Clara	Measure O	\$836+/parcel	6yrs	78.5%	21.5% PASS
Sebastopol Union School District	Sonoma	Measure N	\$76/parcel	8yrs	74.8%	25.3% PASS
San Francisco Unified School District	San Francisco	Proposition J	from \$320 per parcel to \$288 per parcel	17.5 yrs	75.0%	25.0% PASS
Fremont Union High School District	Santa Clara	Measure M	\$98/parcel	8yrs	74.3%	25.7% PASS
Tamalpais Union High School Distric	Marin	Measure M	\$469+/parcel	9yrs	73.6%	26.4% PASS
Mammoth Unified School District	Mono	Measure G	\$59/parcel	5yrs	73.6%	26.4% PASS
Ventura Unified School District	Ventura	Measure H	\$59/parcel	4yrs	73.2%	26.8% PASS
Franklin-Mckinley School District	Santa Clara	Measure K	\$72/parcel	5yrs	70.9%	29.1% PASS
Fort Ross School District	Sonoma	Measure M	\$48/parcel	8yrs	67.3%	32.7% PASS
Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District	Santa Clara / Santa Cruz	Measure N	\$164/parcel	7yrs	64.6%	35.4% FAIL
Campbell Union High School District	Santa Clara	Measure L	\$85/parcel	none	63.6%	36.4% FAIL
San Jose - Evergreen CCD	Santa Clara	Measure I	\$18/parcel	9yrs	61.5%	38.5% FAIL

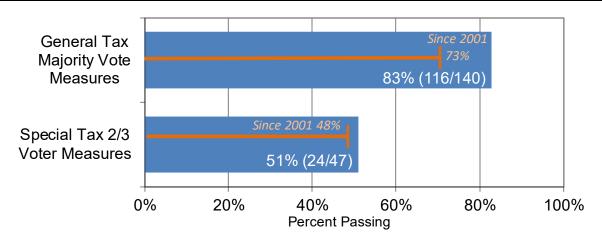
## **School Parcel Taxes - November 2020**



## City, County and Special District Measures

More non-school majority vote general tax measures passed than in prior years. Of the 140 majority vote tax measures, 116 (83%) passed. Most general purpose cannabis, sales, business license, property transfer and hotel occupancy taxes passed. The few utility user taxes did not fare as well. Among the two-thirds vote city, county and special district special tax and bond measures - about half - passed, similar to historic patterns.

## City, County, Special District Tax and Bond Measures - November 2020



## Local Add-On Sales Taxes (Transaction and Use Taxes) ✓

Voters in 68 cities and three counties considered general purpose majority vote add-on sales tax rates ranging from 1/4 percent to 1 ½ percent. Sixty-one were approved including all those that extended without increase an existing sun-setting tax.

Transactions and Use Tax (Add-on Sales Tax) - General Tax - Majority Approval									
City	County	Measure	Rate	incr/ex	Sunset	YES%	NO%		
			1/2c for						
San Pablo	Contra Costa	Measure S	5yrs, then	extend	10yrs	79.2%	20.8% PASS		
			5yrs at 1/4c						
Wheatland	Yuba	Measure O	1/2 cent	extend	10yrs	78.3%	21.7% PASS		
Cotati	Sonoma	Measure S	1 cent	extend	none	74.5%	25.5% PASS		
Beverly Hills	Los Angeles	Measure RP	3/4 cent*	increase	none	74.1%	25.9% PASS		
Trinidad	Humboldt	Measure E	3/4 cent	extend	4yrs	73.8%	26.2% PASS		
West Hollywood	Los Angeles	Measure E	3/4 cent	increase	none	73.6%	26.4% PASS		
Daly City	San Mateo	Measure Q	1/2 cent	increase	none	72.3%	27.7% PASS		
Bishop	Inyo	Measure P	1 cent	increase	none	72.3%	27.7% PASS		
Santa Rosa	Sonoma	Measure Q	1/2 cent	extend	10yrs	71.8%	28.2% PASS		
Guadalupe	Santa Barbara	Measure N	by 3/4c to 1c		none	70.9%	29.1% PASS		
South El Monte	Los Angeles	Measure ES	1/4 cent	increase	none	70.6%	29.4% PASS		
Imperial Beach	San Diego	Measure I	1 cent	increase	none	70.2%	29.8% PASS		
Exeter	Tulare	Measure P	1 cent	increase	none	69.8%	30.2% PASS		
Fortuna	Humboldt	Measure G	3/4 cent	extend	8yrs	69.7%	30.3% PASS		
Commerce	Los Angeles	Measure VS	1/4 cent	increase	none	69.5%	30.5% PASS		

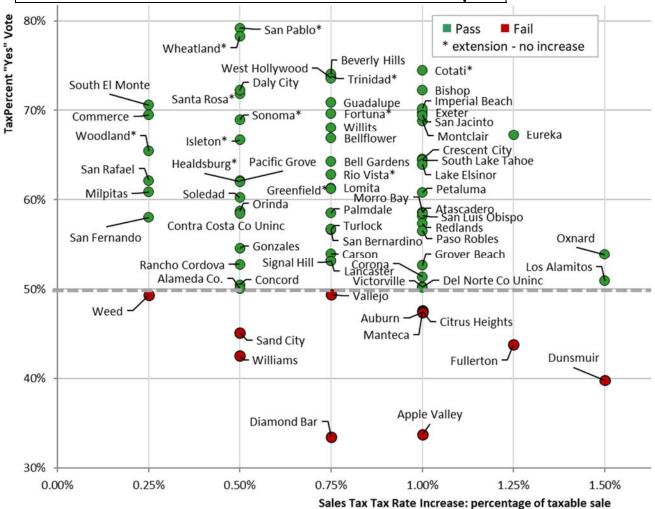
<sup>\*</sup>The city of Beverly Hills ¾ rate may only take effect "if another local governmental entity seeks to increase the transaction and use tax (sales tax) in Beverly Hills."

Transactions and Use Tax (Add-on Sales Tax) - General Tax - Majority Approval									
City	County M	easure	Rate	incr/ex	Sunset	YES%	NO%		
San Jacinto	Riverside	Measure V	1 cent	increase	none	69.5%	30.5%	PASS	
Sonoma	Sonoma	Measure V	1/2 cent	extend	none	68.9%		PASS	
Montclair	San Bernardino	Measure L	1 cent	increase	none	68.8%	31.2%	PASS	
Willits	Mendocino	Measure K	3/4 cent	increase	10yrs	68.1%	31.9%	PASS	
Eureka	Humboldt	Measure H	1 1/4 cent	increase	none	67.3%		PASS	
Bellflower	Los Angeles	Measure M	3/4 cent	increase	none	66.9%	33.1%	PASS	
Isleton	Sacramento	Measure L	1/2 cent	extend	5yrs	66.7%		PASS	
Woodland	Yolo	Measure R	1/4 cent	extend	10yrs	65.4%		PASS	
Crescent City	Del Norte	Measure S	1 cent	increase	none	64.5%	35.5%	PASS	
South Lake Tahoe	El Dorado	Measure S	1 cent	increase	none	64.4%	35.6%	PASS	
Bell Gardens	Los Angeles	Measure A	3/4 cent	increase	none	64.3%	35.7%	PASS	
Lake Elsinor	Riverside	Measure Z	1 cent	increase	none	64.0%		PASS	
Rio Vista	Solano	Measure O	3/4 cent	extend	5yrs	62.8%		PASS	
San Rafael	Marin	Measure R	1/4 cent	increase	9yrs	62.2%	37.8%	PASS	
D :C C	3.4		by 1/2c to 1			(2.10/	27.00/	DACC	
Pacific Grove	Monterey	Measure L	1/2c	ıncrease	none	62.1%		PASS	
Healdsburg	Sonoma	Measure T	1/2 cent	extend	none	62.0%		PASS	
Lomita	Los Angeles	Measure L	3/4 cent	increase	none	61.3%	38.7%	PASS	
Greenfield	Monterey	Measure T	3/4 cent	extend	6yrs	61.2%		PASS	
Milpitas	Santa Clara	Measure F	1/4 cent	increase	8yrs	60.9%		PASS	
Petaluma	Sonoma	Measure U	1 cent	increase	none	60.8%		PASS	
Soledad	Monterey	Measure S	1/2 cent	increase	none	60.3%	39.7%	PASS	
Orinda	Contra Costa	Measure R	by 1/2 cent to 1 c	increase	20yrs	58.7%	41.3%	PASS	
Atascadero	San Luis Obisp	Measure D	1 cent	increase	none	58.6%	41.4%	PASS	
Morro Bay	San Luis Obisp	***************************************	1 cent	increase	none	58.6%		PASS	
Palmdale	Los Angeles	Measure AV		increase	none	58.5%		PASS	
County of Contra (	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~ <del>~~</del> ~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	Measure X	1/2 cent	increase	20yrs	58.5%		PASS	
San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obisp		by 1c to 1 1/2 c	increase	none	58.2%		PASS	
San Fernando	Los Angeles	Measure SF	by 1/4c to 3/4c	increase	none	58.0%	42.0%	PASS	
Redlands	San Bernardino	Measure T	1 cent	increase	none	57.4%	42.7%	PASS	
San Bernardino	San Bernardino	Measure S	by 3/4c to 1c	increase	none	56.7%		PASS	
Turlock	Stanislaus	Measure A	3/4 cent	increase	none	56.7%	43.3%	PASS	
El Paso de Robles	San Luis Obisp	Measure J	1 cent	increase	12yrs	56.6%	43.4%	PASS	
Gonzales	Monterey	Measure X	by 1/2c to 1 cent	increase	20yrs	54.6%		PASS	
Carson	Los Angeles	Measure K	3/4 cent	increase	none	54.0%	46.0%	PASS	
Oxnard	Ventura	Measure E	1 1/2 cents	increase	none	53.9%	46.1%	PASS	
Lancaster	Los Angeles	Measure LC	3/4 cent	increase	none	53.2%	46.8%	PASS	
Signal Hill	Los Angeles	Measure R	3/4 cent	increase	none	53.2%	46.9%	PASS	
Rancho Cordova	Sacramento	Measure R	1/2 cent	increase	none	52.8%		PASS	
Grover Beach	San Luis Obisp		1 cent	increase	none	52.7%		PASS	
Corona	Riverside	Measure X	1 cent	increase	none	51.4%	48.6%	PASS	
Los Alamitos	Orange	Measure Y	1 1/2 cent	increase	none	51.0%		PASS	
Concord	Contra Costa	Measure V	by 1/2 cent to 1 c	increase	none	50.5%		PASS	

#### Transactions and Use Tax (Add-on Sales Tax) - General Tax - Majority Approval

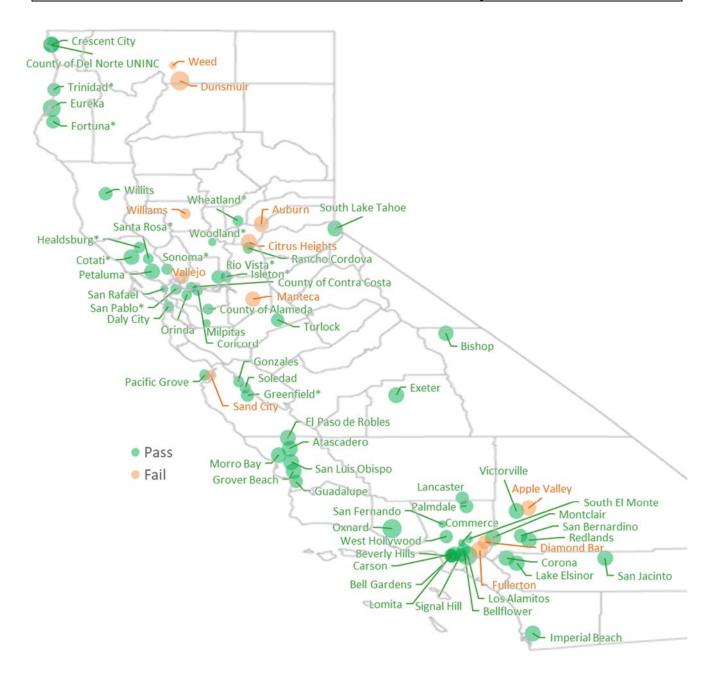
City	County Me	easure	Rate	incr/ex	Sunset	YES%	NO%	
County of Del Nor	te UNINC	Measure R	1 cent	increase	none	50.2%	49.8%	PASS
Victorville	San Bernardino	Measure P	1 cent	increase	none	50.2%		PASS
County of Alamed	la	Measure W	1/2 cent	increase	10yrs	50.1%		PASS
Vallejo	Solano	Measure G	3/4 cent	increase	none	49.4%	50.6%	FAIL
Weed	Siskiyou	Measure M	1/4 cent	increase	none	49.3%	50.7%	FAIL
Manteca	San Joaquin	Measure Z	1 cent	increase	none	47.6% :	52.4%	FAIL
Citrus Heights	Sacramento	Measure M	1 cent	increase	none	47.5%	52.5%	FAIL
Auburn	Placer	Measure S	1 cent	increase	7yrs	47.4%	52.6%	FAIL
Sand City	Monterey	Measure U	by 1/2c to 1 1/2c	increase	none	45.2%	54.8%	FAIL
Fullerton	Orange	Measure S	1 1/4 cent	increase	none	43.8%	56.2%	FAIL
Williams	Colusa	Measure B	by 1/2 cent to 1 c	increase	none	42.6%	57.5%	FAIL
Dunsmuir	Siskiyou	Measure H	1 1/2 cents	increase	none	39.8%	60.2%	FAIL
Apple Valley	San Bernardino	Measure O	1 cent	increase	none	33.7%	66.3%	FAIL
Diamond Bar	Los Angeles	Measure DB	3/4 cent	increase	none	33.5%	66.5%	FAIL

## Transactions and Use Tax Measures – General Purpose



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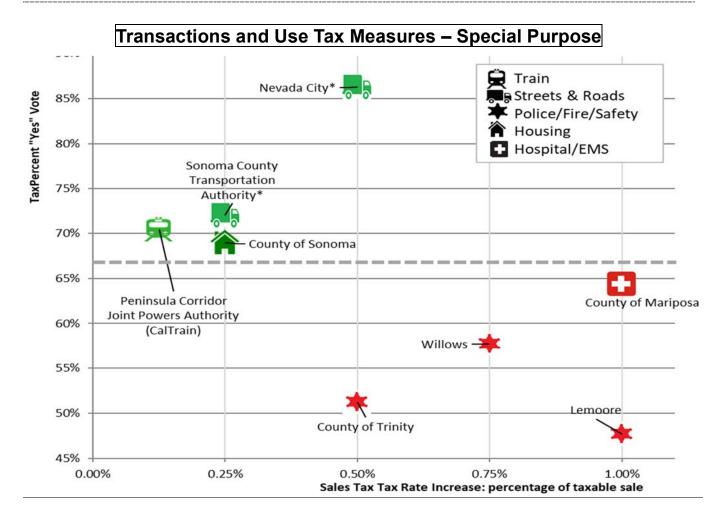
## Transactions and Use Tax Measures – General Purpose – November 2020



There were eight add-on sales tax measures earmarked for specific purposes including two extensions of previously approved rates three countywide measures for transportation improvements. Voters in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties approved a 1/8 percent tax for CalTrain. Four measures, all in more rural locations, could not achieve the two-thirds vote threshold required for special tax increases.

Transactions and Use Tax (Add-on Sales Tax) - Special Tax - Two-Thirds Approval

<b>Agency Name</b>	County		Rate		Sunse	t <u>Use</u>	YES%	NO%
Nevada City	Nevada	Measure M	1/2 cent	extend	none	streets	88.1%	12.0% PASS
Sonoma County Transportation	Sonoma	Measure DD	1/4 cent	extend	20yrs	transportation	72.0%	28.0% PASS
Penninsula	San Francisco							
Corridor JPA	/ San Mateo /	Measure RR	1/8 cent	increase	30 yr	rail	<b>70.4%</b>	29.6% PASS
(CalTrain)	Santa Clara							
County of Sonoma	a	Measure O	1/4 cent	increase	10yrs	aff housing / homeless	68.1%	31.9% PASS
County of Maripo	sa	Measure	1 cent	increase	none	hospital/ems	64.4%	35.6% FAIL
Willows	Glenn	Measure H	3/4 cent	increase	none	fire/ems	57.7%	42.3% FAIL
County of Trinity		Measure K	1/2 cent	increase		Sherriff/DA/Probation	51.2%	48.8% FAIL
Lemoore	Kings	Measure K	1 cent	increase	7yrs	police/fire	47.7%	52.3% FAIL



## Transient Occupancy (Lodging) Taxes ✓

There were 22 measures to increase Transient Occupancy (Lodging) Taxes (TOT), including 20 for general purposes (majority approval) and two two-thirds vote special taxes. The small central valley towns of Farmersville and Tulelake, among the few cities in California not to have a TOT, failed in their proposals for new taxes.

Transient Occupancy	Tax	Tax	Measures	- Major	ity Vote	General Use

Agency Name	County		Rate	YES%	NO%
Truckee	Nevada	Measure K	by 2% to 12%	84.5%	15.5% PASS
Pismo Beach	San Luis Obispo	Measure B	by1%to11%	80.8%	19.2% PASS
Novato	Marin	Measure Q	by 2% to 12%	77.1%	22.9% PASS
San Mateo	San Mateo	Measure W	by 2% to 14%	76.1%	23.9% PASS
Santa Clara	Santa Clara	Measure E	by 4% to 13.5%	75.1%	24.9% PASS
Half Moon Bay	San Mateo	Measure U	by 3%to 15%	74.0%	26.0% PASS
Monterey	Monterey	Measure Y	by 2% to 12%	73.2%	26.8% PASS
San Bruno	San Mateo	Measure X	by 2% to 14%	72.6%	27.4% PASS
Hayward	Alameda	Measure NN	by5.5%to14%	72.2%	27.8% PASS
Chino Hills	San Bernardino	Measure M	by 2% to 12%	64.9%	35.1% PASS
Malibu	Los Angeles	Measure T	by3%to15%	59.2%	40.8% PASS
Sutter Creek	Amador	Measure B	by 2%to12%	58.4%	41.6% <b>PASS</b>
Sonora	Tuolumne	Measure T	by 2% to 12%	56.8%	43.2% PASS
County of Tuol	umne	Measure U	by 2% to 12%	54.2%	45.8% PASS
Farmers ville	Tulare	Measure Q	10% new	49.0%	51.0% FAIL
Porterville	Tulare	Measure S	by 4% to 12%	47.5%	52.6% FAIL
Pico Rivera	Los Angeles	Measure TT	by5%to15%	42.8%	57.2% FAIL
Tulelake	Siskiyou	Measure O	8% new	34.5%	65.5% FAIL

#### Transient Occupancy Tax Tax Measures: Two-thirds Vote Special Purpose

<u>City</u>	County	<u>Measure</u>	<u>Rate</u>	Sunset	<u>Use</u>	YES%	<u>NO%</u>	Pass/F
County of Sierra	Sierra	Measure E	by3.5%to12.5%	none	fire/ems	<b>74.4%</b>	25.6%	PASS
East Palo Alto	San Mateo	Measure V	by 2% to 14%	none	affd housing	63.0%	37.0%	FAIL

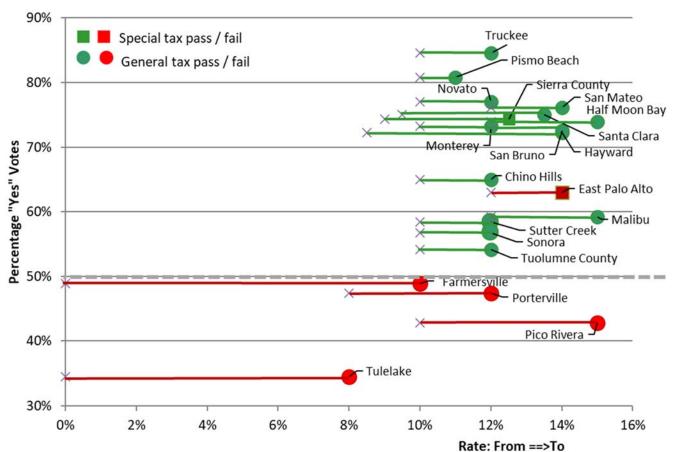
## Admissions Tax ✓

Voters in the island city of Avalon approved a \$2 per passenger surcharge on visitors with the proceeds to go to their hospital.

#### Admissions Tax - Special - Two-thirds Approval

<u>Agency</u>	<u>County</u>		Rate	Sunset	<u>Use</u>	YES%	<u>NO%</u>
Avalon	Los Angeles	Measure H	\$2/passenger	none	Hospital	72.1%	27.9% PASS

## Transient Occupancy (Lodging) Tax Measures- November 2020



#### Cannabis - Local Excise Taxes ✓

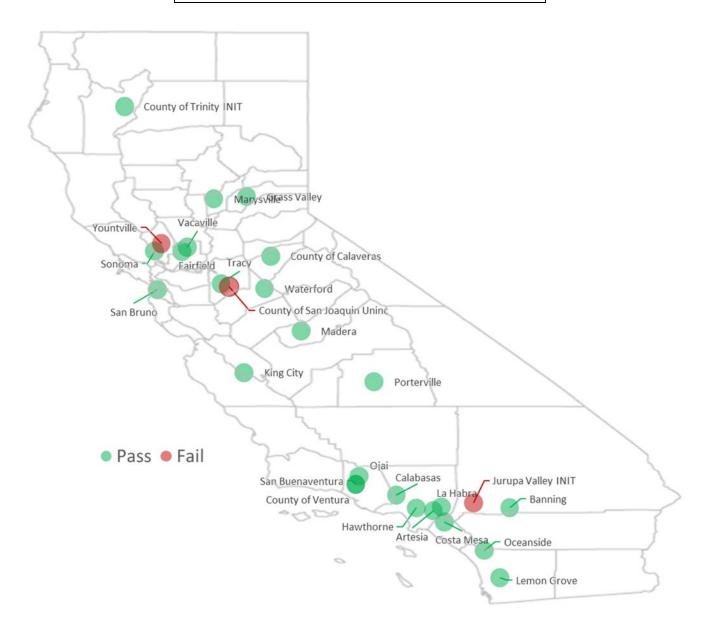
There were 27 measures taxing cannabis, all majority general purpose except in San Joaquin County where the tax increase was earmarked for "early childhood education and youth programs, including literacy, gang reduction, after-school programs, and drug prevention, with emphasis on children facing the greatest disparities, and promoting public health, homeless mitigation, and enforcing cannabis laws." That measure is failing narrowly.

Cannabis Taxes - Majority Vote General Purpose									
Agency Name	County		Rate	YES%	<u>NO%</u>				
Sonoma	Sonoma	Measure X	4%grossRcpts	77.8%	22.2% PASS				
County of Trinity I	NIT	Measure G	2.5%grossRcpts	72.0%	28.0% PASS				
Lemon Grove	San Diego	Measure J	8%grossRcpts	71.9%	28.1% PASS				
San Buenaventura	Ventura	Measure I	8%grossRcpts	71.9%	28.2% PASS				
King City	Monterey	Measure P	5%grossRcpts	71.4%	28.6% PASS				
La Habra	Orange	Measure W	to6%grossRcpts	70.5%	29.5% PASS				
Ojai	Ventura	Measure G	3%grossRcpts	69.2%	30.8% PASS				
Banning	Riverside	Measure L	10%grossRcpts	68.6%	31.4% PASS				
Artesia	Los Angeles	Measure Q	15%grossRcpts	67.5%	32.5% PASS				
Madera	Madera	Measure R	6%grossRcpts	67.0%	33.0% PASS				
Fairfield	Solano	Measure C	6%grossRcpts	66.6%	33.4% PASS				
Costa Mesa	Orange	Measure Q	4%to7%grossRcp	66.0%	34.0% PASS				
Vacaville	Solano	Measure V	6%grossRcpts	65.6%	34.4% PASS				
San Bruno	San Mateo	Measure S	10%grossRcpts	64.1%	35.9% PASS				
County of Calavera	ıs	Measure G	4%to7%grossRcp	64.1%	35.9% PASS				
Hawthorne	Los Angeles	Measure CC	5%grossRcpts	63.7%	36.3% PASS				
Marysville	Yuba	Measure N	6%grossRcpts	63.4%	36.6% PASS				
Tracy	San Joaquin	Measure W	6%grossRcpts	63.3%	36.8% PASS				
Calabasas	Los Angeles	Measure C	10%grossRcpts	63.0%	37.0% PASS				
Oceanside	San Diego	Measure M	6%grossRcpts	61.8%	38.2% PASS				
Grass Valley	Nevada	Measure N	8%grossRcpts	60.3%	39.7% PASS				
Porterville	Tulare	Measure R	10%grossRcpts	59.1%	40.9% PASS				
Waterford	Stanislaus	Measure S	15%grossRcpts	58.6%	41.4% PASS				
County of Ventura		Measure O	4%grossRcpts	57.2%	42.8% PASS				
Jurupa Valley INIT	Riverside	Measure U	6%grossRcpts	48.5%	51.5% FAIL				
Yountville	Napa	Measure T	3%grossRcpts	32.8%	67.2% FAIL				

Cannabis Taxes - Two-Thirds Vote Special Purpose							
Agency Name County		<u>Rate</u>	YES% NO%				
County of San Joaquin Uninc	Measure X	3.5to8%grossRcpt	64.6% <b>35.4% FAIL</b>				

<sup>\*</sup>An initiative measure legalizing cannabis businesses in Solana Beach would have "authorized" a 1.5 percent "sales tax." As structured in the citizen drafted initiative, the tax would have been illegal and could not have been implemented. It is not included here. The measure failed.

## Cannabis Tax Measures – November 2020



### **Business Operations Taxes ✓**

There were seven business operations tax measures other than the cannabis tax measures, all majority vote. All but Lynwood's unusual "for-profit hospital" tax passed.

# Business Operations Tax Measures (other than on cannabis) - Majority Vote, General Use Agency County YES% NO%

San Jose Santa Clara Measure H 73.5% 26.5% PASS

To fund general San José services, including fire protection, disaster preparedness, 911 emergency response, street repair, youth programs, addressing homelessness, and supporting vulnerable residents, shall an ordinance be adopted increasing the <u>cardroom tax rate from 15%</u> to 16.5%, applying the tax to third party providers at these rates: up to \$25,000,000 at 5%; \$25,000,001 to \$30,000,000 at 7.5%; and over \$30,000,000 at 10%, increasing card tables by 30, generating approximately \$15,000,000 annually, until repealed?

#### Richmond Contra Cost: Measure U 72.5% 27.5% PASS

To maintain quality of life in Richmond by continuing certain City services, including 911 emergency response, pothole/street repair, homeless/youth services and other general services, shall an ordinance <u>amending the City's business tax to charge businesses 0.06% to 5.00% of gross receipts, and other rates as stated</u>, with the highest rates on cannabis, firearm and the biggest businesses, providing approximately \$9.5 million annually until ended by voters, be adopted?

#### San Francisco Proposition F **68.3%** 31.7% PASS

Shall the City eliminate the payroll expense tax; permanently increase the registration fee for some businesses by \$230-460, decreasing it for others; permanently increase gross receipts tax rates to 0.105-1.040%, exempting more small businesses; permanently increase the administrative office tax rate to 1.61%; if the City loses certain lawsuits, increase gross receipts tax rates on some businesses by 0.175-0.690% and the administrative office tax rate by 1.5%, and place a new 1% or 3.5% tax on gross receipts from commercial leases, for 20 years; and make other business tax changes; for estimated annual revenue of \$97 million?

#### San Francisco Proposition I 65.2% 34.8% PASS

Shall the City place an additional tax permanently on some <u>businesses in San Francisco when their highest-paid managerial</u> <u>employee earns more than 100 times the median compensation paid to their employees</u> in San Francisco, where the <u>additional tax rate would be between 0.1%-0.6% of gross receipts or between 0.4%-2.4% of payroll expense</u> for those businesses in San Francisco, for an estimated revenue of between \$60-140 million a year?

#### Berkeley Alameda Measure GG 58.8% 41.2% PASS

Shall an ordinance enacting a <u>tax on users of Transportation Network Companies</u> for prearranged trips originating in Berkeley, at a rate of <u>50 cents per trip for private trips and 25 cents per trip for pooled trips</u>, regardless of the number of passengers on the trip, which is estimated to generate \$910,000 annually for general municipal services in the City of Berkeley until January 1, 2041, be adopted?

#### Long Beach Los Angeles Measure US 58.5% 41.5% PASS

To provide funding for community healthcare services; air/water quality and climate change programs; increase childhood education/ youth programs; expand job training opportunities; and maintain other general fund programs, shall a measure be adopted increasing Long Beach's general oil production tax from 15¢ to maximum 30¢ per barrel, subject to annual adjustments, generating approximately \$1,600,000 annually, until ended by voters, requiring audits/ local control of funds?

#### Lynwood Los Angeles Measure LH 46.2% 53.8% FAIL

To protect, maintain and enhance vital public safety services, infrastructure needs including streets, utility maintenance, park and recreation services including programs for youth and seniors, and other essential services, shall the City of Lynwood impose a <u>three percent (3%) privilege tax on the gross receipts of for-profit hospitals</u> operating within the City of Lynwood? All funds to be deposited in Lynwood general fund.

## **Property Transfer Taxes ✓**

Voters in six charter cities considered increasing their taxes on transfers of real estate. Voters in the wealthy enclave of Piedmont turned down their Measure TT.

#### **Property Transfer Taxes**

<u>City</u>	<u>County</u>	Measure Na	<u>Rate</u>	YES%	<u>NO%</u>
Santa Monica	Los Angeles	Measure SM	by \$3 to $6/$ \$1k AV if $<$ \$5m AV	73.1%	26.9% PASS
San Francisco	San Francisco	Proposition I	by 2.75%to5.5% for \$10m- \$25mAV, by3%to6% for	58.0%	42.0% PASS
Albany	Alameda	Measure CC	by\$3.50 to \$15/\$1000AV	57.9%	42.1% <b>PASS</b>
San Leandro	Alameda	Measure VV	by\$5to \$11/\$1000AV	54.2%	45.8% PASS
Culver City	Los Angeles	Measure RE	1.5% on \$1.5m+, 3% on \$3m+, 4% \$10m+	53.3%	46.7% PASS
Piedmont	Alameda	Measure TT	by\$4.50 to \$17.50/\$1000AV	47.8%	52.3% FAIL

## **Utility User Taxes** ✓

Voters in ten cities and one county unincorporated area considered measures to increase or continue utility user taxes for general purposes.

#### **Utility User Taxes**

City	County		Rate		Sunset	YES%	<u>NO%</u>	
South Pasadena	Los Angeles	Measure U	7.5% tele,electr,gas,video,wa	extend	none	77.3%	22.7%	PASS
Newark	Alameda	Measure PP	3.25% tele,electr,gas,video	extend	9yrs	71.7%	28.3%	PASS
County of Alam	eda UNINC	Measure V	6.5% tele, electr, gas	extend	to 6/30/2033	69.1%	30.9%	PASS
Albany	Alameda	Measure DD	by 2.5%to9.5% electr, gas, 7.5% on water	increase	none	58.0%	42.0%	PASS
Union City	Alameda	Measure WW	5% tele,electr,gas,video	increase	8yrs	56.9%	43.1%	PASS
Cloverdale	Sonoma	Measure R	3% tele, electr, gas, video	extend	none	53.4%	46.6%	PASS
Hawthorne	Los Angeles	Measure UU	by 2.5%to7.5% tele,electr,gas,video,water	increase	none	47.8%	52.2%	FAIL
Berkeley	Alameda	Measure HH	by 2.5%to10% electr,gas	increase	none	47.0%	53.0%	FAIL
Brawley	Imperial	Measure R	4% to video*	expand		28.6%	71.4%	FAIL
Calipatria	Imperial	Measure T	5% tele, electr, gas, water, trash, sewer, catv	increase	none	24.8%	75.2%	FAIL
Pomona INIT	Los Angeles	Measure PA	by 0.75%to 9.75% tele,elect,gas,video,water	increase		14.6%	85.5%	FAIL

## **Utility Transfer Taxes** ✓

Voters in Pasadena authorized the continued transfer of 12% of annual revenue from their electric utility to support general fund services such as police, fire, paramedics and parks.

#### **Utility Transfer Taxes**

City	<u>County</u>		<u>Rate</u>	YES	<u> 8%</u>	<u>NO%</u>
Pasadena	Los Angeles	Measure P	12% of gross electric revenue e	extend <b>84.6</b>	<b>%</b>	15.4% PASS

## General Obligation Bonds ✓

There were five non-school general obligation bond measures totaling \$1.9 billion. Four passed. In all, \$1.0 billion in local non-school general obligation bonds were approved. The largest, San Diego's \$900 million measure for affordable and homeless housing failed.

City, County and Special District General Obligation Bond Measures (2/3 vote)								
Agency Name	County		<u>Amount</u>	<u>Use</u>	Rate	YES%	<u>NO%</u>	
San Francisco		Proposition A	\$487.5m	housing, homeless	\$14/\$100k	71.1%	28.9% PASS	
Piedmont	Alameda	Measure UU	\$19.5m	community pool	\$26/\$100k	68.5%	31.5% PASS	
Alameda County Fire	Alameda	Measure X	\$90m	fire/ems	\$16/\$100k	67.7%	32.3% PASS	
Washington Township Health Care District	Alameda	Measure XX	\$425m	hospital	\$10/\$100k	67.2%	32.8% PASS	
San Diego	San Diego	Measure A	\$900m	housing, homeless	\$21/\$100k	57.6%	42.5% FAIL	

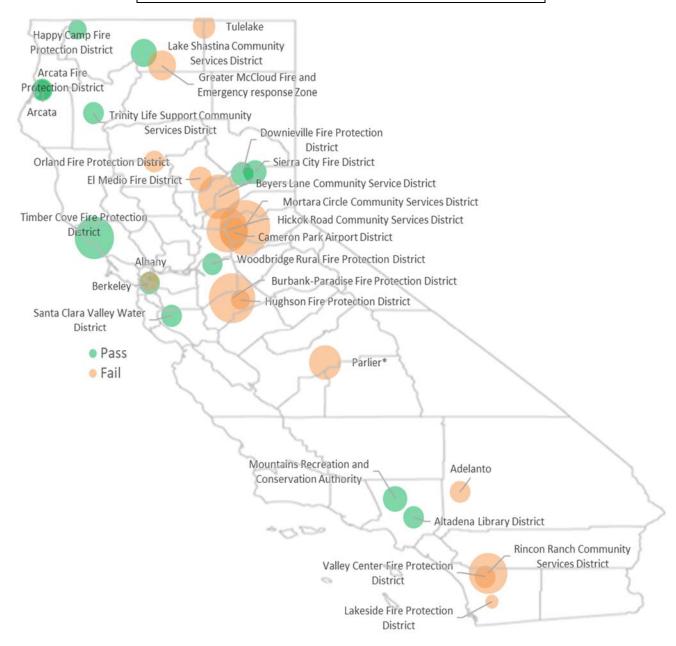
## Parcel Taxes - Non-School ✓

There were 30 parcel tax measures for a variety of public services. Fourteen passed. The Beyers Lane tax received one "yes" among six votes counted on election eve.

City, County and Special District Parcel Taxes (2/3 vote)

Agency Name	County		<u>Amount</u>	Purpose	sunse	YES%	NO%
Mountains Recreation and Conservation	Los Angeles	Measure HH	\$68/parcel	fire	10yrs	83.1%	16.9% PASS
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Author	Santa Clara	Measure T	\$24/parcel	parks/open spac	none	81.8%	18.2% PASS
Arcata	Humboldt	Measure A	\$37/parcel	park/wildlands	none	<b>78.4%</b>	21.6% PASS
Arcata Fire Protection District	Humboldt	Measure F	\$118/parcel \$192rural	fire	6/30/30	77.1%	22.9% PASS
Timber Cove Fire Protection District	Sonoma	Measure AA	\$185/parcel	fire/ems	15yrs	76.5%	23.5% PASS
Sierra City Fire District	Sierra	Measure H	\$60/parcel	fire/ems	none	75.9%	24.1% PASS
Santa Clara Valley Water District	Santa Clara	Measure S	\$.006/sf	water	none	75.7%	24.3% PASS
Berkeley	Alameda	Measure FF	\$0.1047/sf	fire/ems	none	74.2%	25.8% PASS
Altadena Library District	Los Angeles	Measure Z	\$0.10/sf	library	none	73.3%	26.7% PASS
Woodbridge Rural Fire Protection Distr	San Joaquin	Measure U	8c/s f	fire	none	73.4%	26.6% PASS
Trinity Life Support Community Service	Trinity	Measure I	\$45/parcel	ems	none	72.9%	27.1% PASS
Lake Shastina Community Services Dis	Siskiyou	Measure J	\$80/parcel	fire/ems	none	70.7%	29.3% PASS
Downieville Fire Protection District	Sierra	Measure G	\$60/parcel	fire/ems	none	70.1%	29.9% PASS
Happy Camp Fire Protection District	Siskiyou	Measure D	\$39/parcel	fire/ems	none	67.1%	32.9% PASS
Parlier	Fresno	Measure G	\$120/parcel*	police	none	66.2%	33.8% FAIL
Adelanto	San Bernardi	Measure R	\$50+ to \$600+/acre	vacant property	20yrs	65.7%	34.3% FAIL
Greater McCloud Fire and Emergency r	Siskiyou	Measure G	\$94/parcel	fire/ems	none	65.5%	34.5% FAIL
Cameron Park Airport District	El Dorado	Measure P	by \$900 to \$1200/parcel	airport	none	62.7%	37.3% FAIL
Albany	Alameda	Measure EE	by\$44.34to\$68	fire/ems	none	58.9%	41.1% FAIL
Hughson Fire Protection District	Stanislaus	Measure W	\$39.75/rdu	fire	12yrs	61.5%	38.5% FAIL
Rincon Ranch Community Services Dis	San Diego	Measure Z	\$170/parcel+\$6/acre	fire		60.6%	39.5% FAIL
Orland Fire Protection District	Glenn	Measure G	\$45+/parcel	fire	none	57.4%	42.6% FAIL
Valley Center Fire Protection District	San Diego	Measure AA	6c/sf	fire	none	56.6%	43.4% FAIL
Hickok Road Community Services Distr	El Dorado	Measure N	by \$200to\$400/parcel	streets/roads	none	52.2%	47.8% FAIL
Burbank-Paradise Fire Protection Distri	Stanislaus	Measure Z	\$250/parcel	fire	none	54.4%	45.6% FAIL
El Medio Fire District	Butte	Measure D	\$60+/parcel	fire/ems	none	50.8%	49.2% FAIL
Lakeside Fire Protection District	San Diego	Measure Y	by \$15 to \$25+/parcel	fire	none	39.7%	60.3% FAIL
Mortara Circle Community Services Dis	El Dorado	Measure Q	by \$600 to \$950/parcel	streets/roads	none	26.1%	73.9% FAIL
Tulelake	Siskiyou	Measure N	\$60+/parcel	police	none	24.9%	75.1% FAIL
Beyers Lane Community Service Distric	Nevada	Measure O	\$300/parcel	streets/roads		54.4%	45.6% FAIL

## Parcel Taxes - Non-School - November 2020



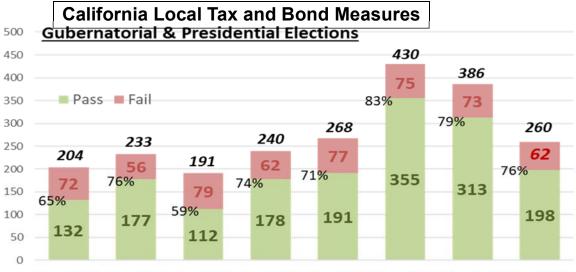
## **Some Historical Context**

The passage rates this election are in dramatic comparison to the anomalous March 2020 election. In March, 96 of the 239 local tax and bond measures passed (40%), a dramatically lower overall passage rate compared to prior elections. Just 44 of 121 school bond measures passed (37%). But the 121 was more than twice as many local school bond measures on a spring primary election ever in California. Interestingly, the *number* of approved measures (44) and the \$6.6 billion of bond authorization are the highest ever for a spring primary election.

## **School Bonds in California - Fall General Elections**

	Nov 2012	Nov 2014	Nov 2016	Nov 2018	Nov 2020
Approved	\$ 13.279	\$ 9.782	\$ 23.236	\$ 15.047	\$ 12.168
Requested	\$ 14.429	\$ 11.775	\$ 25.314	\$ 15.704	\$ 13.383

The unusual March results were, it appears, not so much due to a trend as to the pre-pandemic over-expectations of communities that March 2020 would be a favorable climate for such proposals. In the last presidential primary election, June 2016, 81% (72/89) of measures passed, including 91% of school bonds (42/46). But this perception led to a record number of attempts in March 2020, including many more chancy proposals that would likely not have made it to the ballot in another time.



Nov2006 Nov2008 Nov2010 Nov2012 Nov2014 Nov2016 Nov2018 Nov2020

## Local Revenue Measures in California Passed/Proposed

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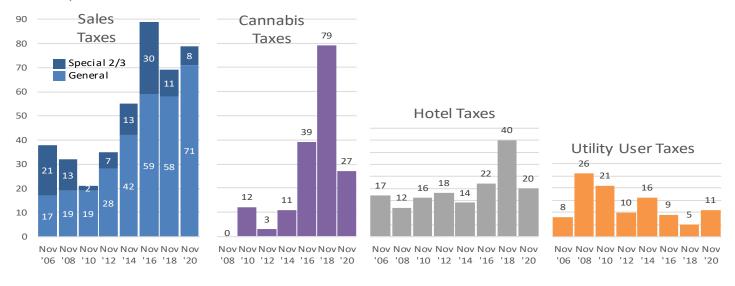
	Nov2006	<u>i</u>	Nov2008		Nov2010		Nov2012		Nov2014		Nov2016		Nov2018		Nov2020	1
City General Tax (Majority Vote)	31/43	72.1%	40/56	71.4%	44/67	65.7%	48/60	80.0%	62/88	70.5%	102/120	85.0%	153/167	91.6%	108/132	81.8%
County General Tax (Majority Vote)	2/5	40.0%	5/9	55.6%	6/12	50.0%	4/6	66.7%	2/6	33.3%	12/15	80.0%	14/19	73.7%	8/8	100.0%
City SpecialTax,GObond (2/3 Vote)	18/34	52.9%	11/21	52.4%	7/11	63.6%	5/15	33.3%	14/23	60.9%	19/33	57.6%	20/33	60.6%	6/14	42.9%
County SpecialTax, GObond (2/3 Vo	e) 5/13	38.5%	7/12	58.3%	0/3	0.0%	7/12	58.3%	4/9	44.4%	10/23	43.5%	6/9	66.7%	5/8	62.5%
Special District 2/3 vote	19/35	54.3%	10/19	52.6%	6/17	35.3%	7/16	43.8%	10/21	47.6%	21/33	63.6%	14/32	43.8%	13/25	52.0%
School ParcelTax 2/3 vote	2/4	50.0%	17/21	81.0%	2/18	11.1%	16/25	64.0%	8/8	100.0%	17/22	77.3%	11/14	78.6%	10/13	76.9%
School Bond 2/3 vote	0/3	0.0%	2/3	66.7%	0/0		1/1	100.0%	0/1	0.0%	2/6	33.3%	3/5	60.0%	0	
School Bond 55% vote	55/67	82.1%	85/92	92.4%	47/63	74.6%	90/105	85.7%	91/112	81.3%	172/178	96.6%	92/107	86.0%	48/60	80.0%
Tot	al 132/204	64.7%	177/233	76.0%	112/191	58.6%	178/240	74.2%	191/268	71.3%	355/430	82.6%	313/386	81.1%	198/260	76.2%

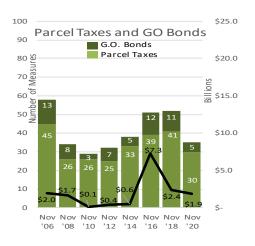
The numbers at this November general election appear more in line with historic trends both in number of proposals and passage rates. The volume and make-up of measures in this election was somewhat lower than the previous two presidential and gubernatorial general elections in 2018 and 2016, but comparable to years prior. The drop off in proposed measures was specific to certain types of measures: 1) those with higher vote thresholds, and 2) cannabis tax measures.

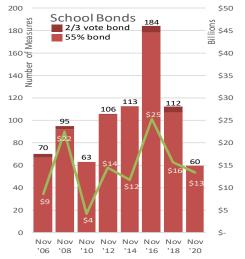
The 79 proposed sales tax measures is comparable to November 2018 (69) and November 2016 (89) and the 71 majority vote sales taxes is actually the highest of this type of tax proposal at any election, ever. Cannabis taxation has been hot for the last several years since legalization and the drop-off in those measures is essentially a function of this area of taxation and regulation running its course.

Other than cannabis tax measures, the most precipitous drop off in proposed measures from November 2016 and November 2018 is in school bonds. There were just 60 school bond measures this election, all 55 percent (i.e. no two-thirds vote school bond measures). This is about half as many as in 2018 and a third of the 184 proposed in 2016. It appears that school boards anticipated this election to be a more difficult one for the higher vote threshold parcel taxes and bonds.

Likewise, there were just 35 non-school parcel taxes and general obligation bonds on local ballots compared to 52 in November 2018 and 51 in November 2016.









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#### Other measures of Note

- There were twelve measures to convert elected city clerk or treasurer positions to appointed (by city council or manager) and one initiative (in Dixon) to revert to an elected city clerk. Seven passed.
- Voters in Sacramento turned down a proposal to move to a "strong mayor" form of governance from their current "council-manager" form, common in all but the largest cities in California.
- Oxnard voters rejected an initiative measure to cede major new powers to that city's elected city treasurer, even as they re-elected him. Oxnard voters narrowly approved a "ballot box budgeting" measure dictating that a previously approved general purpose sales tax be used for streets and roads or repealed.
- Dixon voters approved an initiative repeal of a water rate increase.
- Menifee voters rejected an initiative to repeal a recently approved sales tax increases. Voters in the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District turned down an initiative to repeal a recently enacted (two-thirds voter approved) parcel tax.
- Albany and Eureka approved ranked choice voting.

#### Appointed City Clerk / City Treasurer / etc.

<u>City</u>	<b>County</b>			YES%	<u>NO%</u>
Sierra Madre	Los Angeles	Measure AC	appoint city clerk	67.5%	32.5% PASS
Nevada City	Nevada	Measure L	appoint city clerk and city treasurer	65.6%	34.4% PASS
Placerville	El Dorado	Measure R	appoint city treasurer	63.5%	36.5% PASS
Coalinga	Fresno	Measure B	appoint city clerk	57.4%	42.7% <b>PASS</b>
Yreka	Siskiyou	Measure E	appoint city clerk	55.6%	44.4% PASS
Sonora	Tuolumne	Measure R	appoint city clerk	52.3%	47.7% <b>PASS</b>
Sonora	Tuolumne	Measure S	appoint city treasurer	50.3%	49.7% <b>PASS</b>
Suisun City	Solano	Measure R	appoint city clerk	47.1%	52.9% FAIL
Plymouth	Amador	Measure D	appoint city treasurer	45.4%	54.6% FAIL
Plymouth	Amador	Measure C	appoint city clerk	45.3%	54.7% FAIL
Pittsburg	Contra Costa	Measure Q	appoint city clerk	36.9%	63.1% FAIL
Brawley	Imperial	Measure S	appoint city clerk	34.7%	65.3% FAIL

#### Tax and Fee Initiative to Repeal or Revise

Agency Name	County		Rate	YES% NO%
Dixon INIT	Solano	Measure S	repeal water rate increase	<b>72.8%</b> 27.2% <b>PASS</b>
Oxnard INIT	Ventura	Measure N	use TrUT for streets or end	<b>51.8%</b> 48.2% <b>PASS</b>
San Bernardino County	Fire   San Bernardino	Measure U	repeal tax	48.0% <b>52.0% FAIL</b>
Menifee INIT	Riverside	Measure M	repeal TrUT	36.4% <b>63.6% FAIL</b>

For more information: Michael Coleman 530-758-3952. coleman@muniwest.com

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#### **NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION OBSERVATIONS FROM FM3 RESEARCH**

#### This Election Represented a Return to Normalcy for Local Finance Measures

As noted in Michael Coleman's post-election summary, the passage rates of local finance measures in California rebounded from a disappointing March 2020 primary election. As of the publishing date of this summary, 76% of local finance measures passed in California this past November, a passage rate very comparable to the 2012 (74%) and 2008 (76%) presidential elections and a massive uptick from the abysmal March 2020 and its 40% passage rate.

To put this in a historical context, there were on average 227 local finance measures on the ballot in each November election from 2006-2014, meaning the 260 measures on this November's ballot were modestly on the high side, but definitely in that same range (Figure 1). The real outliers were November 2016 and 2018 with counts more around 400 measures. The same can be said for March 2020. From 2006-2018, there were on average 90 ballot measures for each primary election, but 238 in March 2020—a number much more comparable to a 2006-2014 November election.

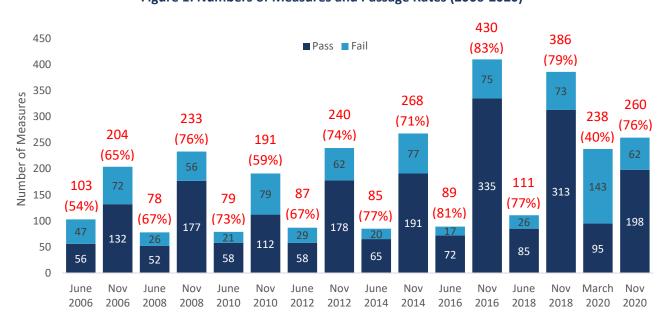


Figure 1: Numbers of Measures and Passage Rates (2006-2020)

While voters seemed undaunted by the high number of ballot measures in the November 2016 and 2018 elections—passing local finance measures at roughly an 80% clip—that rubber band snapped back in brutal



fashion in March 2020 with only a 40% passage rate. Refreshingly, this November's estimated 77% passage rate looks much more similar to those of prior election cycles.

#### **Fewer Local Measures on the Ballot**

As previously noted, the March 2020 election featured roughly double the usual number of local finance measures on a statewide primary election ballot, and the two preceding general elections in November of 2016 and 2018 saw 430 and 386 measures, respectively — while only 260 were on the ballot this November. Clearly, fewer agencies placed finance measures on the November 2020 ballot compared with recent years. However, a number of the measures on the ballot this November garnered support exceeding 70%, suggesting that agencies weren't shy about placing measures that had high probabilities of success on the ballot. If that was the case, why did the total number of local finance measures decline? A few of our theories include:

- The March 2020 results made rolling the dice with "borderline" measures less appealing. This year, FM3 worked with several clients on local finance measures that viability survey research had indicated were likely to receive levels of support at or just above the vote thresholds for passage. While many of our clients who faced similar situations during the 2016 or 2018 November elections opted to place those measures on the ballot, this year a meaningful proportion decided particularly after seeing 60% of local finance measures fail this past March that they weren't willing to take that risk.
- Asking voters to support a tax measure in an evolving recession didn't feel like the right timing. Many
  residents have been struggling financially since the first shelter-in-place order hit California this spring, and
  with federal and state aid packages expiring, many more face uncertainty this winter heading into 2021. We
  repeatedly heard concerns about raising taxes and/or fees in this economic climate. (This is clearly a point of
  tension given that local tax revenues are also decreasing significantly.)
- Many agencies simply had other priorities. For some agencies (e.g., school districts having to adopt distance
  learning protocols) pursuing a local finance measure was a luxury they didn't have the resources to pursue,
  even if one appeared to be viable. They simply didn't have the internal bandwidth to dedicate to the process.
- There was reluctance to pursue property tax-related measures. An enormous number of measures to raise local property taxes were on the ballot in March 2020—partly due to the great success of November 2018; partly due to an anticipated "blue wave" of tax-friendly voters; and partly due to the desire to avoid sharing the November ballot with the statewide initiative on property taxes that would become Prop. 15. Far fewer agencies were willing to put similar measures on the ballot this November, especially after the dismal passage rates for such measures in March and continuing concerns about sharing the ballot with Prop 15. Looking at local G.O. bond measures alone (just one type of local property tax measure), there were 126 such measures on the March 2020 ballot and only 65 on the November 2020 ballot a decline of more than 48%. Further, while there were a handful of success stories of agencies with narrow defeats in March that came back and passed property tax-related measures in November (e.g., Clovis Unified School District and Manteca Unified



School District), many agencies that suffered election disappointments in March opted to hold back on asking their voters for additional funding until a future election cycle.

#### Not Everything Was "Normal" this November

#### Turnout was way, way up

This is a story where the details will matter and we won't be able access the final turnout figures until the official Statement of Vote is available from the Secretary of State, likely in early January. (The March 2020 Statement of Vote was released in early May.) That being said, it's clear that overall turnout was record-setting. In Figure 2, we combined the last official numbers from the Secretary of State on the total number of eligible and registered voters (as of 10/19/20) and the most recent online reporting status numbers from the Secretary of State's website. Based on the percentage of registered voters, it appears that November 2020 will reach or exceed the November 2008 high-water mark of 79.4% turnout, though still in the range of prior presidential elections. However, November 2020 will have roughly 10% more eligible voters participating than in November 2008, and nearly 20% more eligible voters than November 2000 — a clear break with past precedent.

Figure 2: Estimated Statewide Turnout
(Eligible and Registered Totals as of 10/19/20 and Total Votes as of 12/3/20)

Presidential Election	Eligible Voters	Registered Voters	% Registered	Total Votes	% of Registered	% of Eligible
Nov 2020	25,090,517	22,047,448	87.9%	17,783,784	80.7%	70.9%
Nov 2016	24,875,293	19,411,771	78.0%	14,610,509	75.3%	58.7%
Nov 2012	23,802,577	18,245,970	76.7%	13,202,158	72.4%	55.5%
Nov 2008	23,208,710	17,304,091	74.6%	13,743,177	79.4%	59.2%
Nov 2004	22,075,036	16,557,273	75.0%	12,589,683	76.0%	57.0%
Nov 2000	21,461,275	15,707,307	73.2%	11,142,843	70.9%	51.9%

#### The Late Vote Didn't Break in Support of Local Finance Measures

Figure 3 shows the average change in the "Yes" vote share for local revenue measures (Column 2) as well as the change in the proportion of local revenue measures passing (Column 3) between Michael Coleman's preliminary results summaries (compiled from incomplete vote tallies available in the days immediately following each election) to his final results summaries for the past three November elections. In the 2016 and 2018 November elections, we saw the initial "Yes" vote share for local finance measures increase a little after all the votes were



counted, with shifts of +0.62% in November 2016 and +0.87% in November 2018. While there were always exceptions, this meant that measures flirting with their vote thresholds stood a good chance of ultimately passing once the tallying was complete. This was reflected by the fact that in both of these elections, between three and four percent of all local revenue measures on the ballot throughout the state appeared to fall short of passage in the preliminary results, only to secure approval with the required level of support in the final, certified results. This pattern was generally owed to the fact that Democratic-leaning and younger voters—who are frequently more supportive of finance measures—were less likely to vote by mail, and if they were, more likely to wait until the last minute to turn in their ballots.

Figure 3: Change in "Yes" Vote from Preliminary to Final Results Reports for Local Revenue Measures

(Column 1) Election	(Column 2) Change in "Yes" Vote Share for Local Revenue Measures in Preliminary vs. Final Results	(Column 3) Change in Proportion of Local Finance Measures Passing in Preliminary vs. Final Results
November 2020	-0.06%	+0.5%
November 2018	+0.87%	+3.6%
November 2016	+0.62%	+3.5%

This changed in the November 2020 election, when the average shift from late-counted ballots was essentially zero. At least two factors likely contributed to this discontinuity. First, the vast majority of Californians who participated in this year's November election did so by mail — meaning that many more finance measure supporters voted prior to election day than was the case in prior elections. Second, there were so many concerns about ballots being counted—or delivered by the Postal Service—that many voters who might otherwise have held on to their mail ballot until the very end instead sent them in early. Many Democratic campaigns also advised their supporters to cast their ballots early, with high-profile figures such as Nancy Pelosi stating that doing so was critical to preventing Trump from prematurely declaring victory based on unrepresentative early election returns. In California, with so much enthusiasm among Biden voters, that meant that many Democrats didn't want to risk waiting until the last moment.

All of this meant that as the vote has continued to be counted, agencies with measures 1-2 points above or below their vote thresholds were more likely to be disappointed than in prior years.

#### Implications for the 2021-2022 Election Cycle

#### There are probably a lot of potential measures in the queue

We know that there are dozens of agencies that had finance measures defeated in March 2020 and subsequently opted against putting them before voters again on the November 2020 ballot. We also know that numerous other



agencies that were planning finance measures for this November had to temporarily put them on the back burner and focus on their response to COVID-19. Many, if not most will presumably explore their viability once again during the 2021-2022 cycle. Does this mean 2022 will have more measures than is typical, or are we going back to a more conventional pattern of ~90 measures in the primary and ~230 in the general?

#### The turnout and election process going forward is currently uncertain

Given the extraordinary increases in voter turnout for the November 2020 election, will the policy changes that likely contributed to this increase — such as automatic registration and universal vote-by-mail balloting — be further scaled up and made permanent? If so, should we regularly expect much higher participation rates, or was this election and set of circumstances truly unique? In either case, pollsters will need to take a wider range of turnout scenarios into consideration when assessing ballot measure viability in the future.

#### 2022 could look a bit like 2010

While not a perfect comparison, the Great Recession left nearly all of California's local government agencies facing budget shortfalls in 2009-2010 (if not beyond). Many agencies turned to their voters to pass local finance measures to stave off cuts and service reductions to the extent possible. The June 2010 election looked a lot like prior years in terms of total measures (79) and its passage rate (73%). However, the November 2010 election was on the low end of the range of prior November elections, with 59% of 191 measures passing — not an implosion like March 2020, but clearly a more challenging environment. It may therefore be a good baseline for setting expectations; on the other hand, it also seems possible that recent vaccine breakthroughs mean California's economy will rebound more quickly, leading to a better political environment for finance measures in 2022.

#### What will the mix of local finance measures look like in 2022?

We see no reason to doubt that funding measures for school and community college districts will continue to be the most common category of local finance measures on the primary and general election ballots in 2022. The financial needs are still there—especially with the failure of Prop 15—and school bond measures (with their 55% vote threshold) are still generally attainable. The real question is likely to be what types of measures cities and counties will consider. Sales tax measures are likely to continue to be popular, but many communities are running up against their statutory sales tax caps. Coming out of the Great Recession, many municipalities turned to utility user taxes (UUTs) as a minimally volatile source of revenue in economically uncertain times, though a number of those measures were modernizations of outdated ordinances to reflect current communications technology. Looking at the entirety of 2020, cannabis tax measures will likely continue to be common in 2022, as may transient occupancy taxes (TOTs) if the state's hospitality industry recovers substantially during the coming year. That said, more communities may also consider other, less common types of general taxes such as business license taxes and property transfer taxes, as well as (potentially) establishing assessment districts, which can be enacted via a simple majority vote among property owners.

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