

Paramount City Frequently Asked Questions

How is the Paramount maintaining a high quality of life for local residents?

Paramount maintains a high quality of life for local residents through robust city services that help our residents succeed and thrive in their communities.

Are the residents of Paramount generally happy with the direction of the City?

Yes. In a recent survey, research showed that about 66% of residents believe Paramount provides a better quality of life than other neighboring cities because of its commitment to:

- Public safety
- Well-maintained streets and roads
- Safe, clean parks and other public areas
- A vibrant local business climate
- Services that enhance quality of life for Paramount residents

Has crime in Paramount gone down due to the City's efforts in public safety?

Crime in Paramount has steadily dropped over the years due to the City's proactive public safety efforts. Mostly notably, gang related crimes have dropped by 94%.

What has the City of Paramount done to invest in infrastructure?

In less than a decade, Paramount has invested in numerous successful infrastructure projects that has helped increase medium home values by nearly 95%. The complete remodeling of Downtown, expansion and remodeling of Dills Park and creation of Splash Zone are just few examples of infrastructure projects that have made Paramount a more attractive city to live in.

Is Paramount facing any financial difficulties?

Paramount's top priority is maintaining quality of life and public safety of all our residents, while remaining committed to long-term financial stability. It is a thriving city despite the setbacks due state takeaway of \$6 million per year by eliminating local redevelopment funds, rising cost of Sheriff's Deputies, as well as cost for outsourcing up.

What has Paramount done to address financial challenges?

Paramount takes pride in its track record of being fiscally responsible and is one of the leading cities to cut down on high-paid staff. The City's efforts in eliminating full-time positions by 25%, reforming employee pension, reducing employee benefits, organizational restructuring and building partnerships with entities like the Long Beach transit and YMCA to operate the City's Aquatics program have been substantially successful in addressing financial challenges.

Does Paramount need to do more to address financial Challenges?

While the City has successfully managed its budget, it needs a more long-term revenue enhancement to avoid a budget deficit of \$3 – \$4 million by 2025. That is why the City Council is

considering a 0.75 cent sales tax increase to ensure that we maintain our exemplary public safety and protect vital city services.

Will local funding help keep Paramount safe and well-maintained?

If approved by voters, additional locally-controlled sales tax revenue would:

- Maintain levels of public safety, including maintaining sheriff patrols and school safety officers
- Repair streets, sidewalks and potholes
- Address homelessness in our community
- Prevent cuts to youth violence prevention and after school programs
- Prevent cuts to senior program
- Keep parks and other public areas safe and clean
- Provide quick responses to 9-1-1 emergencies
- Maintain programs to attract new businesses and restaurants

Would a potential sales tax measure ensure local sales tax stays in Paramount?

Yes. Currently Paramount received only one tenth of the revenues collected from the 9.5% sales tax – the rest goes to the state and county. If approved by voters, 100% of the 0.75 increase in sales tax will stay in Paramount.

What happens if Paramount doesn't increase its sales tax?

Other government agencies – such as the County of Los Angeles and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) – may want the 0.75% sales tax increase. Should those entities go for it, Paramount's sales tax could increase from 9.50% to 10.25% without receiving the full benefit to our community.

Is there example of why we should keep local revenue local?

LA County's Measure H, intended for Countywide homeless programs, has collected about \$4 million from Paramount since July 2017. To date, we've only received about \$26,000 in return. Current taxes are largely being used to benefit homelessness programs outside of Paramount.

Have neighboring cities increased their sales tax?

Yes. Neighboring cities like Santa Fe Springs, Compton, Long Beach, Lynwood, South Gate, and Downey have already passed a sales tax and are benefiting from locally-controlled revenue. And the cities of Lakewood, Bellflower and Norwalk are also currently considering a similar sales tax.

Would visitors to Paramount pay local sales tax?

Yes, sales tax is paid by anyone who shops in Paramount. This ensures that both residents and visitors contribute revenue for public safety and other essential services in our city.

How do residents of Paramount feel about a potential local sales tax?

According to polling 77% of Paramount residents would support a sales tax, far above the 50%+1 votes required to pass.

Can we trust that the potential sales tax will be locally funded?

All funds from the measure will be used solely to fund city services here in Paramount. By law, no money could be taken away by the State or the County. Independent financial audits will ensure public disclosure of all spending.

How can I receive more information or provide feedback?

Community input is a critical component of our planning process. Please contact Public Information Officer Chris Callard at ccallard@paramountcity.com with questions or feedback or visit <http://www.paramountcity.com/home>.