



Redlands voters to decide revenue measure on November ballot

Facing some of the most difficult budget decisions in more than a decade, the Redlands City Council voted in August to place a ½ cent sales tax measure on the November ballot.

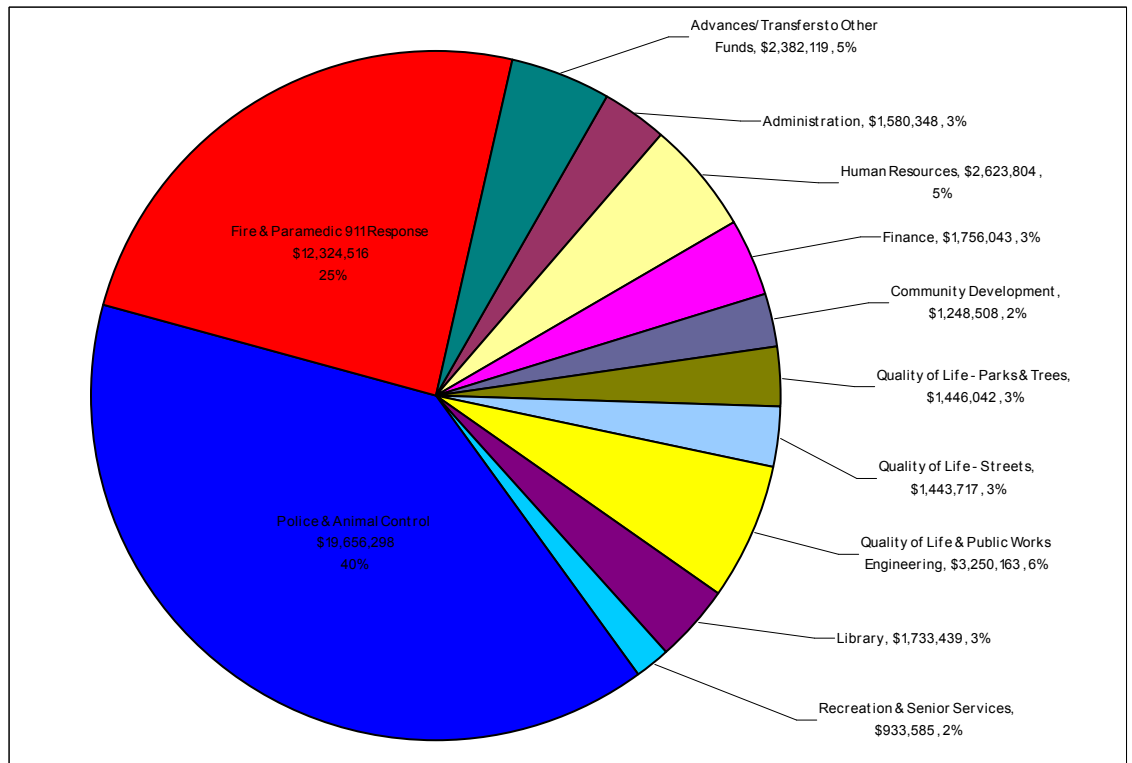
Due to the State budget crisis and worst economy since the Great Depression, the City of Redlands' major revenue sources — sales tax, property tax, and other vital funding — have fallen dramatically over the past few years, significantly impacting the City's General Fund. The General Fund is the City's largest operating fund for providing basic City services.

The City has no control over the economic trends gripping our nation, but it must address them to maintain a balanced budget and continue delivering City services. To this end, even before the nation fell into the current economic recession, the City of Redlands took deliberate steps to make fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget among its top priorities.

Implementing a Plan for Fiscal Discipline

Early in 2007, the City Council approved a Financial Management Plan,

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Council seats, City Treasurer appointment up for vote

Three Council Seats on ballot

When Redlands voters go to the polls Nov. 2 they will be choosing three Council members from among two incumbents and six challengers, and deciding two local ballot measures, including a measure to change the City Treasurer position from an elected post to appointed one.

City Council seats currently held by Pat Gilbreath, Jon Harrison and Mick Gallagher are up for election. Gilbreath and Harrison are running for reelection. Also running are Paul Foster, Robert Gardner, Mike

Layne, Doug Pew, Mike Saifie and Nancy Ruth White.

Redlands City Council seats are elected at large. Five council members serve staggered four-year terms. The mayor is chosen from among the five members by a vote of the Council following each election cycle.

City Treasurer

On Sept. 8, 2008, City Finance Director Tina Kundig was appointed by the City Council to fill the remaining term of the

elected City Treasurer, who resigned in August 2008. On Aug. 3, 2010, the City Council voted to place a measure on the November ballot asking voters to decide whether the City Treasurer's position should be changed from an elected office to an appointed one. If voters approve Measure B on the Nov. 2 ballot, the change would take effect when the current City Treasurer's position expires in December 2012.

City begins ambitious Downtown Reinvestment Program

An ambitious multiphase project to reinvest in the City's historic downtown core took a major first step over the summer with street resurfacing and sidewalk and landscape improvements along Redlands Boulevard and Orange Street, paid for without the use of any of the City's beleaguered General Fund.

In June, the City began phase one of its Downtown Reinvestment Program, with resurfacing and sidewalk improvements along Redlands Boulevard from Texas Street to State Street and Orange Street from Pearl Avenue to Olive Avenue, median improvements and landscaping along both streets and a gateway entry statement on Orange Street and Pearl Avenue.

The Orange Street and Redlands Boulevard Street Improvements included the removal and replacement of the deteriorated brick pavement veneers at the intersections along Orange Street with new, more attractive and resilient pavers.

The project also included an attractive entry statement on Orange Street south of Pearl Avenue, featuring an entry monument, improved landscaping and a symbol of Redlands' connection to the region's historic citrus industry that will enhance a main gateway into the heart of Redlands' Historic Downtown Business

District.

In September, the City started additional repair work on severely damaged sidewalks in the area of the Redlands Bowl, Joslyn Senior Center and A.K. Smiley Public Library.

The reinvestment in Redlands Downtown core was identified as a high priority by the City Council and the City Manager.

Other components of the Downtown Reinvestment Program include landscape improvements on East State Street, which began in late September, and park improvements to Ed Hales Park, set to begin early next year to create a more pedestrian friendly downtown piazza.

Funds for the approximately \$2.55 million Downtown Reinvestment Program come from a variety of sources including federal, state and local stimulus money, transportation improvement and traffic congestion relief funds, Redevelopment funds and park development funds.

No General Fund money is being applied to this improvement program. This investment is part of the City's local stimulus program, designed to stimulate economic well-being in the downtown by generating job, business and tourism opportunities. The funds applied to this project entail an investment of Tax Incre-

ment Funds collected from property owners within the Redevelopment Agency Downtown Project Area to be used specifically on improvements to the Downtown and to enhance economic development. The Park Development Funds are collected from new development to be used on Park Development improvements. The SANBAG "Local Stimulus" funding is a pass-through related to President Obama's National Stimulus Funding Program and the Traffic Congestion Relief, and SANBAG Local Measure "I" funds are generated through State and Local voter approved Transportation Funding Measures.

The City's investment in the downtown is intended to create jobs and economic activity within Redlands by enriching the business district and enhancing the Redlands experience of excellent restaurants, specialty shopping and community pride that is Redlands' character.

Information on the Downtown Reinvestment Project can be found on the City's website at <http://ci.redlands.ca.us/downtownproject.htm>.

Questions regarding street, sidewalk and landscape improvements on Orange Street and Redlands Boulevard can be directed to the project supervisor, Ross Wittmann, at (909) 798.7585, ext. 7.

Ramps make it easier for everyone to get around downtown

Redlands residents may be noticing the newly constructed and refurbished handicap ramps around the downtown and other areas of the City. And if you haven't noticed, you can be sure that those who rely on wheelchairs to move about the City are noticing.

Handicap ramps have been renovated and, in some cases, added as part of projects such as the City's Downtown Reinvestment Program and the North Redlands Revitalization Program, using federal, state and local transportation and Safe Routes to Schools funding.



The effort dovetailed with the recent formation of an advisory subcommittee comprised of City staff and local residents, some of them with disabilities or with friends and family members who deal with disabilities. The subcommittee's task is to help City staff pinpoint specific infrastructure issues in the City with regard to the ADA, develop a method of prioritizing ADA compliance issues and build the recommendations into a master planning document for implementation and construction when funding becomes available.

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Revenue from Page 1

designed to reverse years of structural budget imbalance and declining reserves. The Plan included a balanced budget ordinance, and mandated emergency reserves along with strict criteria and vote requirements for their use. The City also conducted a reorganization of City Hall functions and departments, combining positions and eliminating duplication of services in order to reduce expenses, increase efficiency and improve customer service.

By the end of FY 2006-2007, the City had increased its reserves to more than 11 percent of operating budget and in June 2007, the Council passed its first budget balanced on ongoing revenues in many years. (Today reserves have increased to nearly 13 percent of operating budget.) As a direct result of the City's Financial Management Plan, Standard & Poor's increased the City's bond rating, potentially resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars additional savings in debt service.

That same year, a Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission of local residents and business owners, examined the City's operations and revenues. After months of public hearings and deliberations, the citizens group, recognizing the need for stable, ongoing funding sources to provide essential public safety, street repair and maintenance, and development and upkeep of public park facilities, recommended three revenue measures to the City Council, including a local sales tax increase. The City Council placed one of those measures on the ballot, an increase in license fees to local warehouses, which voters approved in November 2007.

During FY 2007-2008, every City employee, from the City Manager and department directors to line level workers, including police officers and firefighters, agreed to the equivalent of 10 days unpaid furlough. Each furlough day represented about \$100,000 in savings to the City. The City's general employees, management, department directors and the City Manager have since extended their furlough commitment through FY 2011-2012. In addition, all general employees have since committed to no merit pay raises through FY 2010-2011.

Personnel reductions through early retirements, a partial hiring freeze for all but essential positions, layoffs and vacancies

have reduced City jobs by more than 18 percent, from 612 in FY 2007-2008 to 500 in the current fiscal year. Vacancies in the Police Department resulted in nearly 25 percent fewer sworn police officers, from a high of 98 in 2007 to 76 currently. Police overtime, excluding reimbursable overtime, was reduced by nearly half, from more than \$1 million in FY 2006-2007 to an estimated \$550,746 in FY 2010-2011.

Today Police patrol teams are stretched to the limit, response times have increased and many "non-essential" calls are held, sometimes for hours, as officers respond to more urgent incidents. The department's nationally recognized community policing model, intended to enhance public safety by controlling the causes of crime has been cut to the point that its continued effectiveness is in question.

In addition to cuts in the Police and Fire departments, recent cuts to Municipal Utilities and Engineering, Finance, Human Resources, City Manager, City Attorney, Library, Quality of Life, Community Development, IT, and Redevelopment departments ranging from 12 to 17 percent resulted in elimination of 47 jobs and layoffs of more than 30 fulltime employees. These and previous layoffs resulted in cutbacks in hours for the library and recreation centers, elimination of youth sports programs and reduction in other recreation programs, cutbacks in landscape maintenance and elimination of tree trimming and street sweeping crews.

In summary, over the past three years the City of Redlands has successfully built up economic reserves and passed balanced budgets while at the same time taking aggressive actions to cut over \$9 million from the annual budget. In that time, more than 100 City positions have been eliminated or remained vacant, while employee unions have agreed to concessions, including a reduction in the City's contribution to medical and retirement benefits for future employees and a cap on medical premiums for current employees in some units.

City Council Seeks New Revenue

Despite these cost-cutting efforts, a Gen-

eral Fund deficit created by declining revenues continues to threaten a number of essential city services. At risk today are critical City services including police, fire, and emergency response; paving, maintaining and repairing City streets; reducing crime and criminal gang/drug activity; trimming trees and keeping public areas well maintained.

While continuing cost-cutting measures, the City Council also recognized the need for a stable revenue source to offset recent declines. To avoid making additional and potentially more significant cuts to City services, the Redlands City Council voted to place Measure A, a ½ cent sales tax, on the November ballot.

Measure A authorizes a temporary half-cent sales tax, adding 50 cents for every \$100 spent. If voters approve the measure, it will go into effect in the spring of 2011, shortly before the State-imposed 1-cent sales tax is set to expire. Measure A would be temporary, lasting only 10 years. It cannot be extended without a new vote of the voters of Redlands. Measure A funds can be used only for Redlands City services and local priorities.

Taxpayer protections are written into the Council resolution authorizing the tax for the ballot. An Independent Citizens' Advisory Committee, mandatory financial audits and annual reports to the community are included in Measure A to ensure transparency and proper spending as voters and taxpayers intended.

Measure A requires 50 percent + 1 vote (a simple majority) to pass. All registered voters in the City of Redlands are eligible to vote on Measure A. The last day to register to vote in this election is Oct. 18, 2010.

For more information, visit the City's website at www.ci.redlands.ca.us or call City Hall at: (909) 798-7633.

October means Fire Prevention Week

Fall has arrived and your Fire Department kicked it off with Fire Prevention week in the beginning of October. The focus during Fire Prevention week is to inform our community about the simple things they can do to be prepared for emergencies. Some things we suggest are to pick a family emergency contact, review you child's personal information with them, test your smoke alarms, prepare an emergency kit and, create a family escape route and practice using it! Contact our Fire Prevention office at (909)798-7601.

The fire department was busy over the summer responding to a combination of medical responses, fire incidents, hazardous conditions, and good intent calls averaging over 45 calls for service per day. Along with responding to calls for services, the Redlands Fire Department was in attendance at a variety of events and had groups and visitors at the stations everyday. If you are interested in visiting our fire stations contact our Fire Administration office at (909)798-7600.

For the most current information about your Fire Department including Fire Prevention, Emergency Services, and Hazardous Waste and Sharps disposal visit us on the web at

Ramps from Page 2

As part of the recent street resurfacing, sidewalk and curb repair and landscaping through the Downtown Revitalization Program, funding was also made available for some of the identified ADA access priorities within the project area. Ramps at driveways and street corners within the project area were inspected. Repairs included the addition of textured warning domes, part of ADA requirements to alert vision-impaired pedestrians that they are about to cross a roadway. Many ramps also had raised lips at the bottom which were ground down to create a smooth transition from the street to the sidewalk for those in wheelchairs or pushing strollers. Three new ramps were constructed west of Orange Street where none had existed. In addition, broken sidewalks in the project area have been repaired to remove tripping hazards and beautify the downtown area.

Funding for the resurfacing, sidewalk, curb and ramp repair and landscaping, totaling \$1.8 million, came from Measure I and from SANBAG Traffic Congestion Relief Funds.

Redlands Connection

24-Hour City Hotline	
(report graffiti, illegal signs, street lights out)	335-4715
Animal Control	798-7644
City Clerk	798-7531
City Council.....	798-7533
City Manager's Office	798-7510
Employment Hotline.....	798-7645
Fire Department/Hazardous Waste Program	798-7600
Housing Programs	335-4755
Market Night.....	798-7629
One Stop Permit Center	798-7551
Police Department (non-emergency).....	798-7681
Quality of Life Department	798-7655
Recreation.....	798-7572
San Bernardino Community Services	
Information Line	211
Utility Billing.....	798-7516

Important City Websites

City

www.ci.redlands.ca.us

Redlands Redevelopment Agency

www.redlandsrda.org

Chamber of Commerce

www.redlandschamber.org

A.K. Smiley Public Library

www.aksmiley.org

Redlands Connection is published by the City of Redlands and is available as a public service to residents, businesses and visitors of the City. The City of Redlands welcomes your comments, suggestions and questions regarding the Redlands Connection. Please call or write:

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