



# CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599  
[www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org)

February 4, 2026

Honorable Kathryn Barger  
Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
500 W Temple Street, Room 381B  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Opposition to Proposed Countywide Sales Tax Increase – Healthcare Funding Restoration Act**

Dear Chair Barger and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, I write to formally oppose the proposed countywide sales tax increase described as the Healthcare Funding Restoration Act.

The City acknowledges the fiscal challenges confronting healthcare and public health services across Los Angeles County. At the same time, cities have faced a steady erosion of local revenue authority alongside growing expectations to deliver services without adequate funding. These pressures reflect the combined impact of federal, state, and county actions that redirect local revenues and impose additional responsibilities on cities without providing sufficient financial support.

The imposition of a countywide sales tax compounds the cumulative tax burden on residents and constrains local fiscal flexibility. When additional County taxes are layered onto residents and local businesses, cities face greater difficulty securing voter support for locally controlled funding measures needed to plan for, fund, and sustain essential municipal services such as public safety, street and infrastructure maintenance, and community programs. This dynamic also has the potential to undermine other locally driven ballot measures, including current efforts by the Bonita Unified School District to seek voter approval for a school bond to modernize aging classrooms and facilities. Competing countywide measures risk diminishing voter support for critical local investments, weakening community priorities that directly benefit residents.

While La Verne residents and businesses would bear the financial burden of this countywide sales tax, the structure of the measure provides no mechanism to ensure that funds are returned to communities in proportion to their contribution. The measure's prescriptive, countywide allocation model prioritizes centralized programs and select service areas, limiting the likelihood that La Verne residents would experience meaningful or measurable local benefit. At the same time, the proposed sales tax increase would have direct economic consequences for La Verne's local economy. Higher sales taxes reduce the amount residents are able to spend on everyday purchases and place small, independently owned retailers and restaurants at a competitive disadvantage compared to neighboring jurisdictions,

undermining efforts to support local businesses and sustain economic vitality. Taken together, these impacts would result in La Verne residents and businesses bearing a disproportionate share of the tax burden without receiving corresponding, tangible benefits within the community.

The City is also concerned about the County's ability to effectively administer and implement additional revenues through centralized County programs. Recent challenges associated with the restructuring and transition of County homelessness programming, including the Department of Homeless Services and Housing, underscore the risks inherent in large-scale, county-administered funding models. These experiences raise serious questions regarding transparency, continuity of service delivery, and whether new revenues would result in timely, measurable outcomes for the communities generating the tax.

Funds raised within cities should primarily remain within those cities and be used to directly benefit the communities from which they are generated. The proposed measure does not meet that standard. For these reasons, the City of La Verne does not support the proposed countywide sales tax increase and urges the County to refrain from advancing this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hepburn  
Mayor

CC: La Verne City Council  
Honorable Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Honorable Assemblymember John Harabedian  
Honorable Senator Susan Rubio