



CITY OF BERKELEY **Council Special Meeting**



2026 Community Survey II Results & Ballot Measure Considerations
May 19, 2026

Recommended Actions

Background and Context

Community Survey

Presentation by Lake Research Partners

Council Questions on Survey

GO Bond Impacts

Revised Project Portfolio

Overview of Process and Projects

Council Questions on Projects

Sales & Use Tax Impacts

Next Steps & Timeline

Discussion & Direction

Agenda



Above Image: Berkeley & East Bay Cityscape.

- **Affirm the direction to prepare ballot language for a potential \$300 million General Obligation bond** measure for the November 3, 2026, ballot to fund priority infrastructure investments;
- **Provide input on the list of infrastructure projects** for the \$300 million General Obligation bond; and
- **Affirm the direction to prepare ballot language for a potential 0.5 percent increase in the City’s sales and use tax** for the November 3, 2026, ballot to address the City’s projected General Fund structural deficit and support essential City services.

Recommended Actions



Above Image: Berkeley Ballot Drop-Box

*The City is evaluating two potential November 2026 revenue measures through a multi-step process grounded in **Council direction**, **community input**, **voter survey research**, and **infrastructure/fiscal need**.*

Why this is before Council:

- Berkeley faces significant unfunded infrastructure needs, estimated at over \$1.5B
- The City is managing a General Fund structural deficit
- Two potential measures are under consideration:
 - **\$300M GO Bond** for capital infrastructure
 - **0.5% Sales Tax** for essential services/staff

Background and Context



Above Image: City leadership and staff presenting the proposed project list to community members for feedback.



2026 Community Survey II Presentation by Lake Research Partners

\$300M General Obligation (GO) Bond Impacts

Infrastructure Funding: Limited Annual Resources, Proven Delivery, Continued Need

Current Funding Gap

- Only ~2% of need funded
- Existing funding is limited, restricted, and often one-time

Measure TI Track Record

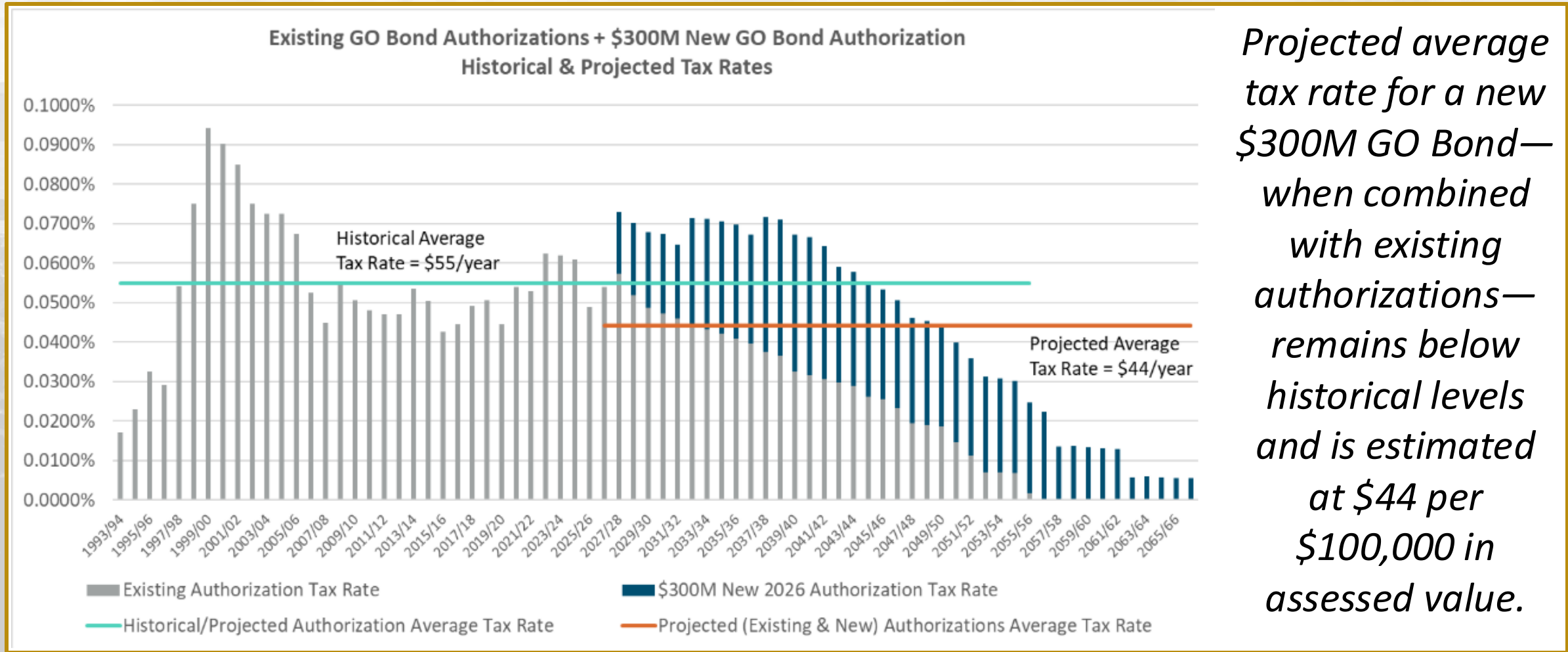
- \$100M TI bond → \$183M total investment (via grants)
- Delivered parks, sidewalks, streets, public facilities, and community assets (75 projects)

Potential \$300M GO Bond Impact

- Next phase of capital investment across core infrastructure
- Public safety facilities, community facilities, accessibility, seismic safety, waterfront resilience

Annual capital allocations are insufficient to address infrastructure needs at the scale and pace required, resulting in increased risk of facility failure, escalating repair costs, service disruptions, and inequitable conditions across neighborhoods.

General Obligation (GO) Bond Analysis



Community Facilities & Quality of Life

Parks, recreation centers, pools, playgrounds, restrooms, waterfront access, open space, and community-serving facilities.

Public Safety

Fire station modernization, emergency response facilities, training infrastructure, backup power, and operational resilience.

Critical Infrastructure & Accessibility

Sidewalk improvements, ADA, seismic upgrades, civic building modernization, and essential facility improvements.

Project Overview

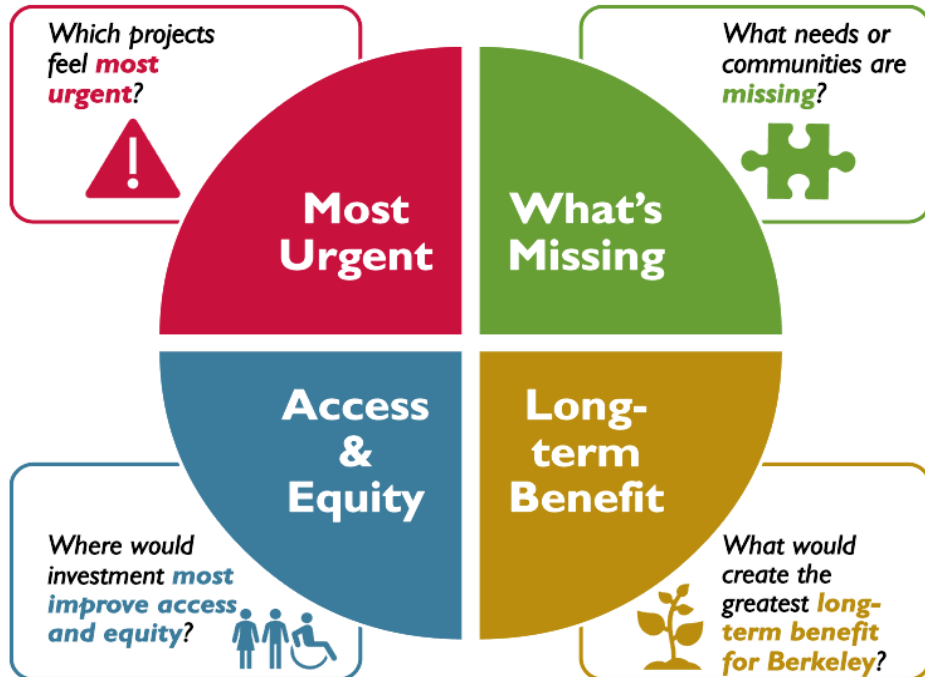


January – March 2026 Engagement:

- 6 City Commissions
- 4 Community Focus Groups
- 4 Joint District Community Meetings
- 1 City webpage & email for collecting feedback

Public feedback comments via

infrastructureprojects@berkeleyca.gov



Community Engagement



Above Image: QR Code for the City of Berkeley Infrastructure Project Webpage.

Project Evaluation Methodology & Rubric

Criteria	Weight	What It Evaluates
<i>Health, Life & Safety</i>	20%	Immediate risk reduction, public health, emergency response
<i>Infrastructure Condition, Accessibility & Resilience</i>	20%	Asset condition, ADA access, lifecycle performance
<i>Community Use & Equity</i>	20%	Public benefit, high-use facilities, equitable access
<i>Green Resiliency & Sustainability</i>	20%	Direct climate, adaptation, decarbonization benefits
<i>Deliverability & Readiness</i>	10%	Scope clarity, approvals, timing, feasibility
<i>External Funding Potential</i>	10%	Grants, matching funds, leverage

Scoring Approach

Rated Low (1) / Medium (2) / High (3) across six criteria

$$\text{Weighted Score} = (\text{Rating} \div 3) \times \text{Weight}$$

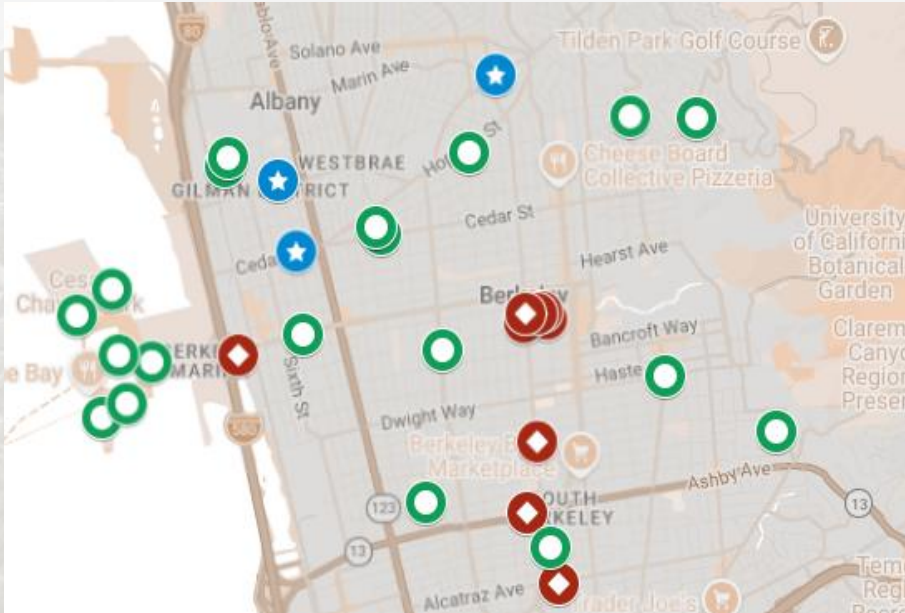
Priority Bands

High: 75–100 | **Medium:** 50–74 | **Low:** Below 50

Working Financial Framework for the GO Bond

Category	Amount
Sources of Funds	
Total Bond Sales	\$300,000,000
Assumed Bond Interest	\$13,000,000
Total Sources of Funds	\$313,000,000
Uses of Funds	
Community Facilities & Quality of Life Project Costs	\$90,697,000
Public Safety Project Costs	\$106,665,849
Critical Infrastructure & Accessibility Project Costs	\$75,135,000
Total Project Costs	\$272,500,000
Staffing and Implementation Costs	\$40,500,000
Total Uses of Funds	\$313,000,000

Project Overview



Major Community & Recreation Facilities

Frances Albrier Community Center ~\$36.85M

Replaces and modernizes a high-use, undersized community facility at San Pablo Park.

King Pool & Locker Room ~\$5.0M

Upgrades aging pool infrastructure to improve safety, reliability, and long-term use.

Harrison Field Turf Conversion ~\$6.6M

Replaces failing grass fields with artificial turf to expand year-round recreation capacity.

Restroom Improvements ~\$3.2M Total

Upgrades or replaces restrooms at **Cedar Rose, Codornices, Harrison Park, and Berkeley Marina/Waterfront Restrooms** to improve access, security, and public convenience.

Community Facilities & Quality of Life Project List



Before: Aging Facility, Current State of Frances Albrier Community Center



After: Modern Community & Resilience Center, Concept Design of Frances Albrier Community Center (Siegel & Strain Architects)

Park Access, Play Areas & Pathways

Cedar Rose Play Structure ~\$2.6M

Modernizes the heavily used 2–5 play area for safety and accessibility.

Glendale La Loma Improvements ~\$3.9M

Improves play areas, parking, and pathways in a multi-level park.

Monkey Island / Garber Path ~\$3.3M

Improves ADA access, pathways, stairs, landscaping, and connectivity.

Open Space & Greening

Adeline Corridor Open Space ~\$6.0M

Expands open space in an equity-priority area.

Dwight/Telegraph Open Space ~\$3.5M

Creates a more usable public space in a high-traffic urban corridor.

Native Plant Median Conversions ~\$1.57M

Adds native landscaping on Sacramento St. and University Ave. medians.

Community Facilities & Quality of Life Project List cont'd.



Above Images: Glendale La Loma Park older play equipment and sand surfacing (bottom) alongside San Pablo Park with recent playground and safety improvements (top)

Waterfront & Shoreline Resilience

Waterfront Park Perimeter Pathway ~\$2.28M

Modernizes the park pathway and helps close grant funding gap.

Marina Blvd Sea Level Rise / Bay Trail ~\$1.9M

Improves the pathway for sea-level-rise resilience and Bay Trail access.

Marina Docks Timber Pile Replacement ~\$3.0M

Replaces timber piles with concrete piles to stabilize and extend the life of the docks.

Seawall Drive / Bay Trail Improvements ~\$5.25M

Improves the Bay Trail connection from Adventure Playground to the Pier and advances Seawall Drive upgrades.

South Cove Seawall ~\$5.7M

Replaces the seawall to prevent failure and protect public access to South Cove.

Total Recommended Investment: \$90,697,000

Community Facilities &
Quality of Life
Project List cont'd.



Above Images: Bay Trail showing pavement damage (bottom left) alongside sections that have received recent improvements (top right)

Community Facilities & Quality of Life: What Changed & Why

Change Type	Examples	Why
Kept / Advanced	Frances Albrier, Open Space, Restrooms, Harrison Field, Waterfront pathways, Marina/Bay Trail, Seawalls	Strong community support, equity value, readiness, safety/accessibility, or climate resilience
Scaled / Reduced	King Pool shifted from full replacement to targeted infrastructure improvements; Marina Timber Pile Replacement reduced by 50%	Better fit within \$300M framework; prioritize urgent/ready needs
Removed / Deferred	Dog Parks, Live Oak improvements, San Pablo irrigation, University Ave Sea-level Rise & Bike Park, Aquatic Park Dreamland	Lower survey priority, limited identified support, or potential future Parks Tax/grant funding
Added / Incorporated	Dwight/Telegraph Open Space, Sacramento/University medians, Monkey Island/Garber Path	Council/community priorities, resilience neighborhood access, open space, greening, and equity

Public Safety Project List

Fire Station 4 Replacement ~\$56.2M

Replaces a 66-year-old station that no longer meets operational, staffing, health/safety, or EMS capacity needs; supports addition of an ambulance and includes solar, battery storage, and backup power.

Fire Station 6 Replacement ~\$20.4M

Replaces an aging, undersized station to support modern apparatus, expanded staffing, firefighter safety, and reliable emergency response capacity.

Fire Training Center Replacement ~\$30.1M

Creates a purpose-built training facility to meet modern Fire Department training needs, improve operational readiness, and reduce impacts from the current undersized residential location.

Total Recommended Investment: \$106.7M

*Dispatch/ECC improvements have been incorporated into the larger 2100 MLK infrastructure project and are no longer shown as a standalone item in the Public Safety category.



Before: Constrained, outdated training site, including water damage (top right image)



After: Concept Drawing of a purpose-built modern fire training center

Citywide Accessibility & Safety

50/50 Sidewalk Program ~\$14.6M

Addresses unsafe sidewalks while advancing accessibility.

ADA Barrier Removal Projects ~\$4.53M

Removes access barriers in City facilities.

Essential Service Facilities

Animal Services Facility Modernization ~\$3.65M

Upgrades major building systems.

Berkeley Mental Health Annex Renovation ~\$3.39M

Supports replacement of an aging behavioral health facility, leveraging State grant funding.

South Berkeley Senior Center Improvements ~\$3.59M

Replaces end-of-life HVAC/mechanical systems.

African American Holistic Resource Center ~\$1.5M

Closes the remaining funding gap for the TI-funded resource center.

Critical Infrastructure & Accessibility Project List



Before: Damaged sidewalks and long repair waitlist



After: Safer, accessible sidewalks delivered faster citywide

Civic & Public Safety Building Modernization

1947 Center Street Elevator Replacement ~\$8.3M

Replaces aging elevators to improve safety, reliability, and accessibility.

2180 Milvia / City Hall Modernization ~\$11.75M

Replaces major building systems and addresses ADA, waterproofing, and hazardous materials needs.

2100 MLK Public Safety Building ~\$18.43M

Modernizes the 24-hour public safety facility, including 911 Dispatch Center upgrades.

Historic Civic Center Restoration

Maudelle Shirek Building ~\$3.6M

Supports upgrades and future civic/community use. Grant match.

Veterans Memorial Building ~\$1.8M

Supports upgrades and future cultural, assembly, and community use. Grant match.

Total Recommended Investment: \$75,135,000

Critical Infrastructure & Accessibility Project List cont'd.



Before: Constrained, outdated dispatch workspace



After: Modernized, efficient 911 operations center (concept rendering)

Critical Infrastructure & Accessibility: What Changed & Why

Change Type	Examples	Why
Kept / Advanced	Sidewalks, ADA, Animal Services, BMH Annex, South Berkeley Senior Center, 1947 Center, 2180 Milvia, Public Safety Building	Addresses high-priority accessibility, seismic, life-safety, and essential service needs.
Scaled/Reduced	Old City Hall, Veterans Memorial Building	Maintains important civic projects in the framework while focusing on minimum funding needed for grant match.
Reclassified / Integrated	911 Dispatch Center folded into Public Safety Building modernization	Avoids duplication and reflects facility-wide emergency operations needs
Removed	West Berkeley Family Wellness Center	Recently improved; lower near-term bond priority.
Added / Incorporated	African American Holistic Resource Center	Closes a known funding gap for a priority community-serving project.



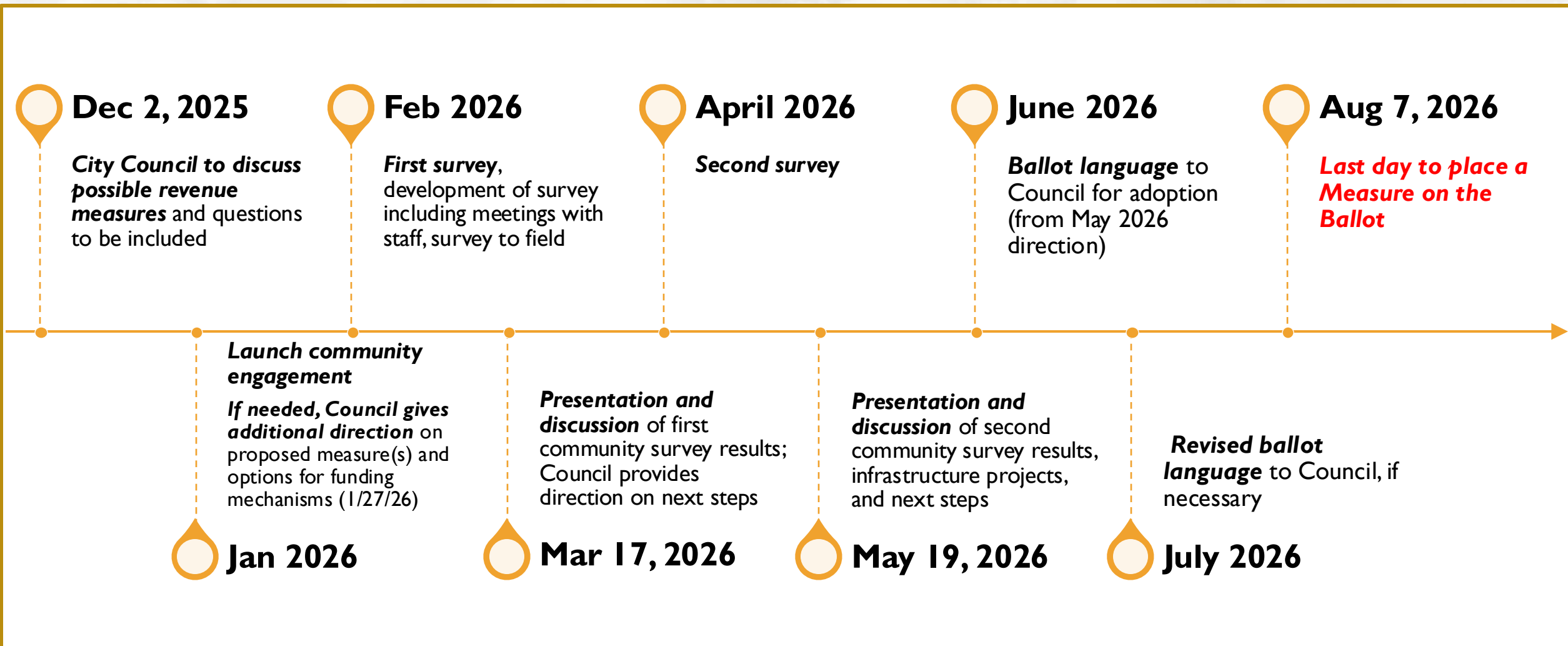
Sales and Use Tax Impacts

Department	Approx. Sales & Use Tax Allocation	Baseline FTE	FTE After Proposed Reduction	FTE After Sales & Use Tax	FTE Preserved
PRW	~\$475K	116	110	113	3
Police	~\$5.4M	290	251	272	21
Fire	~\$3.7M	206	192	201	9
Total	~\$9.5M	612	553	586	33

*Resources from the Sales & Use Tax are proposed to preserve **33 positions** to avoid the closure of Fire Station 4, diminished capacity to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service and proactively address crime, and reductions in programs and services for youth and adults.*



Illustrative Timeline



Recommended Actions

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Thank You!