



Frequently Asked Questions

MEASURE A OVERVIEW

Measure A is a proposed housing tax placed on the ballot by the San Diego City Council. It will appear on the June 2, 2026 municipal special election ballot, with vote-by-mail ballots expected to arrive in early May.

The measure would impose an annual tax of up to \$10,000 on residential properties that are vacant for more than half the year, with higher rates for certain properties. Revenue would be deposited into the City's General Fund.

WHAT IS THE CORE ISSUE WITH MEASURE A?

Measure A adds a new tax without addressing the main drivers of housing affordability, such as supply, construction costs, and regulatory barriers.

DOES MEASURE A CREATE MORE HOUSING?

No.

Measure A does not:

- Build new housing
- Lower construction costs
- Reduce regulatory barriers
- Speed up permitting
- Increase overall housing supply

HOW DOES MEASURE A AFFECT HOUSING COSTS?

Adding new costs to housing can place upward pressure on prices in an already supply-constrained market. Policies that do not increase supply risk making affordability challenges worse over time.

IS THE REVENUE GUARANTEED TO BE USED FOR HOUSING?

No.

Measure A is structured as a general tax, meaning revenue is not legally restricted to housing-related uses. Funds may be allocated at the discretion of politicians at City Hall.

Can City Hall be trusted to manage these new funds responsibly? Most San Diegans have little or no trust in the City Council to manage our tax dollars or to spend new tax revenue as intended.

Without clear safeguards or dedicated funding requirements, voters are being asked to approve a permanent tax without assurance that it will deliver the promised results.

HOW IS SUCCESS MEASURED UNDER MEASURE A?

It is not clearly defined.

The measure does not establish specific benchmarks for housing production or affordability outcomes, making it difficult to evaluate effectiveness.



DOES MEASURE A CREATE ADDITIONAL GOVERNMENT COSTS?

Yes. The City would need a whole new bureaucracy to track the occupancy of over half a million homes.

Implementation would require administrative systems, compliance processes, and enforcement, adding complexity and massive new costs.

WHO COULD BE AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY?

- Renters and residents in an already expensive housing market
- Property owners having their privacy invaded by having to prove to the City each year how many days you lived in your own home
- Military families who can't occupy their homes for portions of the year due to deployments and not able to file complex exemption requests
- Small and local housing providers
- The broader San Diego economy

WHAT ARE THE BROADER ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS?

- Potential impacts on housing availability
- Reduced incentives for housing investment
- Increased administrative and compliance costs
- Continued upward pressure in a high-cost market

HOW DOES THIS FIT INTO SAN DIEGO'S CURRENT COST ENVIRONMENT?

San Diegans are already facing rising costs across housing, utilities, and everyday expenses. Measure A adds another layer of cost and complexity.

WHAT WOULD ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOCUS ON?

- Increasing housing supply
- Streamlining permitting
- Reducing red tape and regulatory barriers
- Lowering the cost of construction
- Encouraging new housing investment

IS MEASURE A A TEMPORARY POLICY?

No.

The measure does not include a sunset clause and would remain in effect unless changed by future action.

WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE FOR VOTERS?

San Diego's housing challenges are real.

Measure A adds costs and complexity without clearly addressing the underlying issues.

WHAT SHOULD VOTERS DO?

Vote NO on Measure A.

www.StopMeasureA.com