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Councilmember

February 9, 2026

Honorable Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed Countywide Sales Tax Measure

Members of the Board:

Thank you for your continued leadership and for your efforts to address the significant fiscal challenges created by H.R. 1. The City of Paramount recognizes the serious impacts described in the County's motion — including reductions in federal Medicaid funding, increased uncompensated care, and the resulting strain on the Department of Health Services and Department of Public Health. These challenges warrant thoughtful, long-term solutions.

However, we must respectfully express concerns with the proposed ½ cent countywide general sales tax measure. While well intentioned, the measure would have substantial and lasting consequences for smaller, lower revenue cities like Paramount and for the residents we collectively serve.

We are also concerned about the impact on residents already facing historic affordability pressures. A countywide sales tax increase would push combined rates in some communities above 11%, further straining households. The County's request for State legislation to exceed the local sales tax cap compounds these concerns and would leave cities with limited future fiscal options.

Additionally, the measure's structure raises issues of transparency and long-term accountability. As drafted, revenue would flow into the County's General Fund as unrestricted dollars. If a tax of this magnitude is pursued, it should be structured as a special tax with clear guardrails. And while described as temporary, recent extensions of other County taxes have created understandable skepticism among residents.

Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.

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Finally, revenue generated from Paramount residents and businesses would be distributed countywide with no guarantee of proportional benefit to our community. We witnessed this inequitable distribution of tax revenue when the County proposed and successfully passed Measure H in March of 2017 with little to no benefit to taxpayers in the City of Paramount.

We respectfully request that the Board reconsider its approach and engage cities in an open dialogue about equitable, transparent solutions that address the healthcare funding crisis without eliminating the last remaining revenue tool available to cities. Paramount stands ready to work collaboratively with the County on alternative or statewide strategies.

Thank you for your consideration and continued partnership.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Peggy Lemons

Mayor