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# New city audit shows how Long Beach spends Measure A tax dollars



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PUBLISHED: July 16, 2025 at 2:54 PM PDT | UPDATED: July 16, 2025 at 2:58 PM PDT

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If you've ever wondered how Long Beach spends its tax dollars, a new city audit can help residents understand where the money goes.

The report, released by City Auditor Laura Doud's office on Tuesday, July 15, specifically focuses on [money generated by Measure A](#) — a sales tax originally approved by voters in 2016 and later extended indefinitely in 2020.

The measure generated \$521 million from fiscal years 2017 to 2024, according to the audit. The tax's yearly projections, though, show an increase annually over the next five years or so — with [the city estimating about \\$101 million](#) during fiscal year 2030 alone.

When Measure A was initially brought to voters, the city positioned it as a

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The Long Beach Police Department received 65% of the Measure A dollars allocated to public safety needs, according to the audit — or \$168 million. The LBPD has [been dealing with staffing shortages](#) — a problem many police departments across the nation are facing — in recent years.

That money was used to “restore and maintain public safety positions for patrol, emergency response, investigation, apprehension and law enforcement, and added new dedicated positions to Police Academies,” the report said.

Measure A dollars were also used to [reestablish LBPD’s South Patrol Division](#), which, prior to receiving the funding, lacked its own station and had to work out of the West Division’s headquarters — far removed from the patrol area for South Patrol officers. The LBPD also created a new [Neighborhood Safety Bike Team](#) in 2023.

The Long Beach Fire Department, meanwhile, has received \$90 million, or 30%, of the Measure A funds allocated to public safety needs, the audit said. That money helped restore Fire Engines 18 and 17, Rescue 12, and paramedic positions. Another \$10 million helped pay for costs associated with public safety dispatchers, communication technology and administration.

The remaining \$176 million allocated to infrastructure upgrades has been allocated to many different projects as part of Long Beach’s five-year Measure A-funded infrastructure investment plan, which has recently been rolled into the city’s [Elementary 20 infrastructure plan](#).

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While Elevate '28 includes millions in Measure A funding, another [\\$440 million for the plan's projects](#) is expected to come from other sources, including various LA Metro Transportation funds, LA County Measure W and grants, according to the city.

So far, \$50 million in Measure A funding have been spent on street repairs and slurry seal projects, the audit said, with another \$36 million funding citywide sidewalk improvements, and another \$4 million for citywide tree maintenance.

Various parks — including [Drake](#), Los Cerritos, Recreation, Veterans, [Bixby](#), Whaley, Heartwell and [Romona](#) parks — have been improved and upgraded with \$21 million from Measure A, the audit said.

Another \$8 million funded improvements to the [El Dorado Park Duck Pond](#), while Houghton Park received \$6 million for [improvements to its Community Center and playground](#).

Long Beach has also spent \$21 million on improvements for various city buildings, including health facilities, libraries, City Place and more, the audit said. Another \$14 million helped fund the ongoing construction of LBFD's new [Fire Station 9](#) and renovations to [Fire Station 14](#), which reopened in March.

Another \$2 million went to repairs for stormwater pump stations and drains throughout the city, the audit said; those repairs were necessary to decrease flooding risk and potential property damage.

The audit also highlighted the purpose of Long Beach's Transactions and Use Tax Citizens' Advisory Committee — which is charged with reviewing Measure A spending and making recommendations to the City Council about how the money is allocated.

Residents can provide their input about Measure A spending during committee meetings, City Council meetings and community budget meetings, the report said.

"We encourage the public to be aware that they can provide valuable input regarding the use of Measure A funds," Doud said, "to help create a safe and sustainable community."

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