



Local Ballot Measure: B

Full Text of Measure B

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-157

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GONZALES ADDING CHAPTER 3.44 TO TITLE 3-REVENUE AND FINANCE OF THE CITY OF GONZALES CITY CODE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GONZALES DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. NEW CHAPTER ADDED. Chapter 3.44 is added to Title 3 of the Gonzales City Code to read as follows:

CHAPTER 3.44 FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PARCEL TAX

- 3.44.010 **IMPOSITION OF SPECIAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PARCEL TAX**
- 3.44.020 **MAXIMUM TAX AMOUNTS**
- 3.44.030 **ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**
- 3.44.040 **COLLECTION WITH PROPERTY TAXES**

Section 3.44.010 **IMPOSITION OF SPECIAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PARCEL TAX.**

A special tax to fund fire and emergency medical services is hereby imposed on every parcel of land in the City of Gonzales. The tax shall be imposed each fiscal year in the amounts permitted by this Chapter. The tax imposed by this Chapter shall be a tax upon each parcel of property within the City and the tax shall not be measured by the value of the property.

Section 3.44.020 **MAXIMUM TAX AMOUNTS.**

The maximum annual amount of the tax imposed on each parcel pursuant to this Chapter shall be determined as follows:

- A. A tax of Three Hundred and Forty-Nine Dollars (\$349.00) shall be imposed on each single-family residential parcel within the City, subject to an annual increase equal to the inflation index as established each year by the City Council. A "single-family residential parcel" shall mean a parcel zoned to accommodate single family residences.
- B. A tax of Two Hundred and Sixty-Two Dollars (\$262.00) per residential unit shall be imposed on each multi-family residential parcel within the City, subject to an annual increase equal to the inflation index as established each year by the City Council. A "multi-family residential parcel" shall mean a parcel zoned for a building or those portions thereof that accommodate or is intended to accommodate two or more residential units.
- C. A tax of One Hundred and Forty-Eight Dollars -Two Hundred and One Dollars (\$148.00-\$201.00), plus \$.07 per building square foot for non-residential parcels shall be imposed on each non-residential parcel within the City, subject to an annual increase equal to the inflation index as established each year by the City Council.

Section 3.44.030 **ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES.**

- A. **Special Fund: Use of Proceeds.** In accordance with Government Code Section 53978, the proceeds of the tax imposed by this Chapter shall be placed in a special fund and shall be dedicated and used only for approved fire and emergency medical services as authorized by majority vote of the City Council.
- B. **Annual Review Report.** An Annual Review Report shall be prepared by the City Manager or her/his designee, setting forth the amount of revenue received under the Special Tax and the amount and purpose of disbursements. The purpose of this requirement is to assure accountability and the proper disbursement of the proceeds of the Special Tax. The Annual Review Report shall be presented to the City Council at a regular Council meeting not later than January 31 following each fiscal year in which the tax is collected. The Annual Review Report shall be filled with and maintained in the City Clerk's office.



Local Ballot Measure: B

Section 3.44.040 **COLLECTION WITH PROPERTY TAXES.**

The special tax imposed by this Chapter shall be due in the same manner, on the same dates, and subject to the same collection penalties and interest as established by law for other charges and taxes fixed and collected by this County of Monterey on behalf of the City of Gonzales. The special tax imposed by this Chapter, together with all penalties and interest thereon, shall constitute a lien upon the parcel upon which it is levied until it has been paid, and shall constitute a personal obligation of the owners of the parcel on the date the tax is due.

SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions of this ordinance shall nonetheless remain in full force and effect. To this end, provisions of this Ordinance are severable. The people of the City of Gonzales hereby declare that they would have adopted each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portions of this ordinance irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases be held invalid or unenforceable.

SECTION 3. TWO-THIRDS APPROVAL-EFFECTIVE AND OPERATIVE DATE. The tax imposed by this ordinance is a special tax. This ordinance shall be effective only if approved by two-thirds of the City's voters voting thereon on June 2, 2026, in the consolidated municipal and Statewide Direct Primary election and shall go into effect immediately after the result of the vote is declared by the City Council. If approved, the tax shall become operative on July 1, 2026. The City Manager is directed to convey to the County information as necessary to ensure the measure is effective on the next available tax roll.

SECTION 4. CODIFICATION. Upon adoption of this ordinance pursuant to the voter approval referenced in Section 3, the City Clerk, in consultation with the City Attorney, is hereby authorized and directed to codify this ordinance in the Gonzales City Code.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION. The Clerk of the City of Gonzales is hereby directed to cause the following summary of the ordinance to be published by one (1) insertion in The Salinas Valley Tribune, a newspaper of general circulation published and circulated in the City of Gonzales:

Contingent upon two-thirds majority voter approval, this ordinance adopts a new annual parcel tax imposed on properties in the City at the rate of \$349 per single-family unit, \$292 per multi-family unit, and between \$148-\$201 plus \$.07 per building square foot for nonresidential parcels, subject to annual adjustment for inflation, with all tax revenues dedicated exclusively to updated lifesaving equipment and staffing for 911 emergency fire and medical response. The ordinance requires independent annual audits, annual public expenditure reports and citizens' oversight. The tax will remain in place until extinguished by the voters.

APPROVED by the following vote of the Voters of the City of Gonzales on June 2, 2026.

ADOPTED by Declaration of the vote by the City Council of the City of Gonzales on _____, 2026:

AYES: **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**
NOES: **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**
ABSTAIN: **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**
ABSENT: **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Jose L. Rios, The Honorable Mayor

ATTEST:

Mary Villegas, Deputy City Clerk