



Local Ballot Measure: A

Full Text of Measure A

ORDINANCE NO. 780

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOLEDAD ADDING CHAPTER 3.60 TO TITLE 3-REVENUE AND FINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOLEDAD MUNICIPAL CODE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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

SECTION 1. NEW CHAPTER ADDED. Chapter 3.60 is added to Title 3 of the Soledad Municipal Code to read as follows:

CHAPTER 3.60

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PARCEL TAX

3.60.010 **IMPOSITION OF SPECIAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PARCEL TAX**

3.60.020 **MAXIMUM TAX AMOUNTS**

3.60.030 **ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES**

3.60.040 **COLLECTION WITH PROPERTY TAXES**

Section 3.60.010 **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 Soledad. 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 3.60.020 **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 Two Hundred and Thirty-Three Dollars (\$233.00) 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 or 3%, whichever is less. A "single-family residential parcel" shall mean a parcel zoned to accommodate single-family residences.
- B. A tax of One Hundred and Seventy-Four Dollars (\$174.00) 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 or 3%, whichever is less. 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 Ninety-Nine Dollars-One Hundred and Thirty-Four Dollars (\$99.00-\$134.00) 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 or 3%, whichever is less.

Section 3.60.030 **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 protection services as authorized by the 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 ensure accountability and the proper disbursement of the proceeds of the Special Tax. The Annual Review Report shall be presented to the City Council not later than January 31 following each fiscal year in which the tax is collected. The Annual Review Report shall be filed with and maintained in the City Clerk's office. Additionally, the use of all revenues received from the tax enacted by this article shall be subject to review and recommendation of the Soledad Tax Citizen Oversight Committee. The City Manager shall provide staff for the committee, and the Finance Director shall provide all relevant data regarding revenue from the tax and expenditure thereof.

Section 3.60.040 **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



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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 Soledad. 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 Soledad hereby declare that they would have adopted each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion 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 DATES. 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, at a 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 Soledad Municipal Code.

SECTION 5. PUBLICATION. The Clerk of the City of Soledad 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 Soledad:

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 \$233 per single-family unit, \$174 per multi-family unit, and between \$96-\$126 plus \$.07 per building square foot for nonresidential parcels, subject to annual adjustment for inflation in an amount not to exceed 3%, with all tax revenues dedicated exclusively to staffing and updated lifesaving equipment for 911 emergency fire and medical response. The ordinance requires independent annual audits, annual public expenditure reports and review and recommendation on the use of revenue by a citizens' oversight committee. Once approved, the tax would remain in place until extinguished by the voters.

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

ADOPTED by Declaration of the vote by the City Council of the City of Soledad on ____, 2026:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Anna M. Velazquez, Mayor

Megan Hunter, City Clerk