

DRAFT Argument in Favor of Measure J (Limit 300 words)

Word count for this draft is 299.

Thanks to Orland voters, the 2016 Measure A (a local ½¢ sales tax) has been a very positive game changer for Orland public safety – especially for fire equipment. Now voters have a chance to “Just Say Yes on Measure J” to support Orland ambulance services, street improvements, libraries and parks.

Measure J is expected to raise \$1.5 million a year with an increase of just ½¢ on taxable sales. Most groceries, medicine and services are not subject to sales tax.

Westside Ambulance needs community assistance to continue operating and to add a second ambulance to serve the north county area. Orland and Glenn County have agreed to share the cost with Westside, but this may cost the City up to \$325,000 a year.

The City receives about \$450,000 per year for street maintenance. After street lighting, traffic signals, street sweeping and pothole repairs, there is not much left over for real street rebuilding and improvement. Measure J can be expected to provide an additional \$750,000 to \$1 million a year for local street projects. We would see real change, real improvement of our roads in town.

Orland Library and parks are important quality-of-life amenities. Measure A would enable the City to acquire more park land, develop more ballfields, and keep our library open with the latest programs and technologies to serve the community.

Like Measure A, Measure J will be locally collected, locally controlled, and locally spent with annual public reports showing how the funds are being utilized. Our local sales tax rate will still be below the state average. The change to our local tax rate will be hard to notice, but improvement to our medical transport, streets, and other excellent features of Orland will be obvious and enjoyed by everyone.

Please “Just Say Yes on Measure J.”

Orland City Council

Chris Dobbs, Mayor