



Newsletter

Summer 2017

For 37 years, the City of Palos Verdes Estates has benefitted from a voter approved tax to help pay for and maintain essential community services. This tax, approved four times since 1980 provided critically necessary funding for a variety of civic needs including public safety services. For the past 20 years, the parcel tax was specifically dedicated to paying the cost of fire and paramedic services.

At the City's municipal election on March 7, 2017, the question of extending the parcel tax for 12 additional years was before voters. The tax, which generates approximately \$5 million a year, required 66.67% voter approval. The measure received 60% approval and thus failed. Therefore, as of July 1, 2017, the City no longer receives the parcel tax. The parcel tax revenue covered approximately 25% of the entire operating budget for City services.

As a result, the City is undertaking four important initiatives:

1. Determining expenses/services that can be eliminated. The structural deficit is currently \$5 million **per year and increasing**.
2. Having an independent, neutral expert evaluate the costs, operations, value, benefits, and efficiencies associated with having a locally controlled Police Department, jail and local dispatch. The study will include an evaluation of alternatives to our local police department such as a contract with the County Sheriff's Department. A report will be publicly available and presented to the City Council by the end of September.
3. Evaluating whether voters would be receptive to a new ballot measure and, if so, what elements would be most important to voters/residents.
4. Implementing efforts to improve communications and engage residents.

In addition to these initiatives, the City Council approved the 2017-18 budget that eliminates several public works projects (e.g., median landscaping at Palos Verdes Drive North and West, and curb and gutter repair), reduces staffing, and lessens weed abatement and tree trimming among a variety of other cost cutting and budget balancing measures.

To obtain broad community input on these issues, the City will be working with the Davenport Institute to develop long-term community engagement efforts. Your ideas are always welcome, [contact us](#) in person, in writing and online.

For more information, visit <http://www.pvestates.org/government/finance/fy-2017-18-budget-shortfall>.

The City's website is the official source for all City information on meetings, agendas, reports and background information, and residents are encouraged to regularly monitor the City's website (www.pvestates.org) for official information. City meetings are recorded and available for viewing at <http://www.pvestates.org/government/city-council/city-meetings>.

In response to the current financial situation, the City's newsletter may differ in size and frequency from its traditional appearance, and future editions may not be mailed. To view past newsletters, please visit <http://www.pvestates.org/community/news/city-newsletter>.



**HOW TO
COMMUNICATE
YOUR VIEWS**

Email: cityclerk@pvestates.org
Online: www.pvestates.org
Phone: (310) 378-0383
Regular Mail: 340 Palos Verdes Drive West

Promoting Public Safety Along Our Coastline

The City of Palos Verdes Estates is committed to protecting public safety in all areas of the City, especially our coastline. Our Police Department has investigated and will continue to investigate any and all complaints of criminal behavior anywhere in our jurisdiction, including the beaches and coastline.



Police officers have increased and will increase patrols and take other affirmative steps as conditions warrant. Increased patrols have occurred when incidents of alleged "localism" or other possible criminal behavior have been reported. Localism, often reported as an act of intimidation to discourage access to local surf locations, will not be tolerated.

The beaches, shoreline and surfing areas along the Palos Verdes Estates coastline are all open to the public. There are no private beaches. If you or anyone with you experiences any form of harassment, intimidation, assault, vandalism, etc., you are strongly urged to contact the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department to immediately report the incident.

Our police officers are committed to assuring beach access and recreational tranquility to all people enjoying the Palos Verdes Estates coastline.

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