



Measure R Questions & Answers

What is Measure R?

Measure R is the Mammoth Lakes initiative to raise and secure a stable funding source for local trails, parks, and recreation.

Why was Measure R placed on the ballot?

The Tourism and Recreation Commission unanimously recommended that the Town Council place Measure R on the ballot as a way to secure an on-going funding source for the development and maintenance of Mammoth's trails, parks, and recreation.

When is Measure R on the ballot?

Measure R will be on the June 3, 2008 ballot in Mammoth Lakes, and must receive 66 percent of the vote to pass.

Why does Measure R require a two-thirds majority to pass?

In order to ensure that Measure R funding can only be used for local trails, parks, and recreation, state law requires a super majority which is a 66 percent "yes" vote in favor of Measure R.

How will Measure R secure new funding for local trails, parks, and recreation?

Measure R will increase the local sales tax by one half of one percent. That increased revenue, by law, can only be used for the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of the recreational infrastructure of Mammoth Lakes.

What happens to existing funding for local recreation if Measure R passes?

The Measure R initiative specifically forbids local representatives from cutting existing funding to local parks and recreation if Measure R passes. Measure R is designed to be a new source of trails, parks, and recreation funding for Mammoth Lakes.

Yes on Mammoth Measure R Committee

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How much will Measure R cost?

Because Measure R only increases the sales tax by one half of one percent (from 7.25% to 7.75%), the same rate as in Bishop, the cost will be an extra nickel for every ten dollars.

Will tourists in Mammoth Lakes have to pay the additional sales tax?

Yes. In fact, the great majority of the sales tax revenue in Mammoth Lakes comes from tourist dollars. When Measure R passes, visitors to Mammoth Lakes will contribute nearly \$700,000 per year in additional sales tax revenue to our local trails, parks, and recreation. And the sales tax rate of 7.75% will still be lower than what they typically pay in Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco which is 8.25%.

How much will Measure R raise for local trails, parks, and recreation in Mammoth Lakes?

It's estimated that Measure R will secure an additional one million dollars per year to create, improve, and maintain local trails, parks, and recreation infrastructure here in Mammoth Lakes.

Will property taxes increase through Measure R?

No. But leaders in the local real estate industry here in Mammoth Lakes predict that property values in Mammoth Lakes will increase after the passage of Measure R.

Won't it be more expensive to live in Mammoth Lakes if Measure R passes?

Measure R will only increase the sales tax by one half of one percent – which will be the same rate that the community of Bishop now pays. However, the funds will be used to improve the recreational infrastructure here in Mammoth Lakes which will increase property values, and tourist dollars. Business owners and local wage earners will both benefit.

Can Measure R funding be spent on affordable housing, childcare, or transportation?

No. Funding secured through Measure R can only be used for local trails, parks, and recreation.

Will Measure R funds be funneled into the Town's General Fund?

No. Measure R funds must remain separate and, by law, can only be used for local trails, parks, and recreation. The Town Council has no opportunity to use Measure R funds for anything other than trails, parks, and recreation.

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Can Measure R funds be used outside of Mammoth Lakes?

Measure R funds can only be used for trails, parks, and recreation managed by the Town of Mammoth Lakes. This will give our community control over exactly where and how Measure R funding is used.

Who decides how Measure R funds are spent?

By law, Measure R funds can only be used for trails, parks, and recreation. Once Measure R is passed, the Mammoth Lakes Tourism and Recreation Commission will solicit input from the public to consider projects and establish priorities for expenditures. After input and discussion, the Commission will then provide formal recommendations to the Town Council for allocation of funds. Although the Town Council can modify those recommendations, the use of Measure R funds is restricted to local trails, parks, and recreation.

Can the Town Council ignore the recommendation of the Tourism and Recreation Commission and use Measure R funding for things such as balancing the Town budget or other local projects?

No. The Town Council must follow the language of the Measure R ordinance because, by law, those funds can only be used for trails, parks, and recreation.

Why not include specific projects in the language of Measure R?

The intent of Measure R is not to favor one particular project over another, but instead to create a stable source of revenue so that the Mammoth Lakes community can develop specific and detailed plans as to how the new trails, parks, and recreation funding will be allocated.

How will the public know how the Measure R funds are being spent?

In addition to the legal restrictions limiting Measure R funds to trails, parks, and recreation, the allocation decisions for Measure R funding will be open to the public, and subject to public review and open debate. Measure R funds are also subject to annual financial audits which will be available to each member of the community.

Will Measure R hurt local businesses?

No. In fact, Measure R is endorsed by the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce, as well as many local business. They know that recreation is the engine that drives our local tourism-based economy, and that the investment in the recreation infrastructure of Mammoth Lakes will increase tourist-generated dollars. They also know that even with the sales tax

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increase, it's less than visitors to Mammoth Lakes pay at home, and in most other areas in California.

Won't Measure R inspire more development here in Mammoth Lakes?

No. Development is already restricted by the Town's boundaries as well as the public lands that border Mammoth Lakes.

Shouldn't we force the builders of the new hotels and developments to pay for the recreational infrastructure of Mammoth Lakes?

By securing specific funding for our own recreational infrastructure, the people of Mammoth Lakes – and not outside interests – will be in control of the trails, parks, and recreation in our own community.

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