

MEASURE GL IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

PREPARED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY
UNDER ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 9280

The Sierra Madre City Council unanimously placed Measure GL on the June 2nd ballot for voter consideration. The measure asks the voters whether the City should override the State-mandated budget appropriations limit (“Gann Limit”) to allow the City to continue to budget for the expenditure of all tax proceeds that the City receives for general governmental services, including police, fire, emergency medical, and road maintenance and repair.

Background

The Gann Limit requires local governments, including the City of Sierra Madre, to adopt an annual appropriations limit (i.e. a limit on the authorization to spend tax revenue). It uses 1986-1987 as the base fiscal year and is adjusted annually to account for changes in population and inflation. It does not account for economic growth or the increased budgetary needs resulting from the conversion of a volunteer fire department to a professional one. The City cannot spend more than its Gann Limit, even if it has more tax revenue to spend. Any excess tax revenue must be returned by a revision of tax rates or fee schedules.

Summary of Measure GL

The City of Sierra Madre is approaching its Gann Limit. The City’s Gann Limit for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is set at \$14,622,105. The City’s economic forecasts predict an exceedance of the Gann Limit within the next four years. The Constitution authorizes the City’s voters to override the Gann Limit for a four year period to allow the City to appropriate the entirety of its tax revenue. Measure GL is the constitutionally authorized procedure to increase the Gann Limit until June 2, 2030.

Measure GL is not a tax. It does not change the tax rate or the tax methodology. It simply allows the City to use the entirety of its existing tax revenue.

If Measure GL is approved, the Gann Limit would be overridden to allow the City to spend the entirety of its projected tax revenue. According to the staff report of the January 27, 2026 City Council meeting, at a 5.5 percent growth rate, City revenues are projected to grow by the following amounts:

FY 2026-2027:	\$14,982,380
FY 2027-2028:	\$15,806,411
FY 2028-2029:	\$16,674,764
FY 2029-2030:	\$17,591,816

If Measure GL is not approved, the City’s ability to maintain current service levels may be negatively impacted.

To pass, Measure GL requires an affirmative vote of a simple majority (50% + 1) of the electorate.

Vote

A YES vote in support of Measure GL would increase the City's annual appropriations limit to account for year over year growth.

A NO vote against Measure GL would reject the proposed increase and maintain the City's annual appropriations limit subject to annual adjustments under state law.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure GL. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the elections official's office at 626-355-7135 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you. Alternatively, you can download a copy of the Measure at <https://www.sierramadeca.gov/gannlimit>.

Aleks R. Giragosian, City Attorney

Date March 13, 2026