



CITY of CALABASAS

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City of Calabasas to Hold Second Study Session on Fiscal Sustainability, Public Invited to Join Study Session

Calabasas, Calif., Oct. 1, 2025 — The Calabasas City Council will convene for a second special study session to discuss the City's financial future, focusing on long-term financial trends and potential revenue options to sustain public safety services, enhance wildfire mitigation efforts and support community services. The session will be held Monday, Oct. 6, at 5 p.m. at City Hall, and residents are strongly encouraged to attend, share ideas and ask questions. Study sessions are a more casual form of council meetings that encourage collaboration and dialogue amongst council members and ease public participation.

"Our top priority is maintaining the quality of life Calabasas residents expect — from safe neighborhoods to strong community programs. Public safety costs are rising, so we need to adapt," Mayor Peter Kraut said. "The City has been fiscally prudent over the years, but our ten-year projections show concerns on the horizon for our fiscal health. That is why we need to talk now about proactively addressing our future."

The City Council conducted its first special meeting study session on Sept. 10. The Calabasas City Council reviewed long-term financial projections, examined the process to place a ballot measure choice before voters and considered possible revenue options. Any ballot measure that raises revenues will require over 50% voter approval and, in some cases, may require 66.6% support.

Updated financial projections presented at that meeting showed Calabasas must generate approximately \$2 million annually to cover ongoing costs and an additional \$3–4 million each year to restore healthy reserves and address deferred maintenance projects. Rising expenses — including sheriff contract increases, insurance premiums and attorney fees — have placed additional pressure on the City's general fund. [See full staff report here.](#) Council members expressed interest in more information about a sales tax measure, a hotel tax measure (TOT) and requested details on key timelines for such measures to appear in the June or November 2026 elections and suggested a TOT increase as a potential future alternative.

"In my nearly three decades on the City Council, I can affirm we have consistently watched the bottom line and focused on excellent but fiscally responsible management of our city," said Mayor Pro Tem James Bozajian. "Changing consumer patterns have affected our sales tax revenues — our primary source of general funds — and they have

not kept up with our costs and services. The math is clear, and I appreciate that we are being proactive in raising these matters now.”

During the Sept. 10 session, residents suggested creative non-tax solutions such as event sponsorships and naming rights. Councilmembers expressed interest in forming an ad hoc community working group to explore such solutions and support public outreach.

"Public input and community outreach will be a priority as we tackle this challenge," City Manager Kindon Meik said. "Calabasas is fortunate to have fiscally astute and wonderfully engaged residents who are passionate about the future of Calabasas. We want residents to fully understand the City's financial position, the trade-offs and all options being evaluated before any decision is made."

The upcoming special meeting will include a follow-up presentation by City staff outlining options for timing of a sales tax measure, including timelines, ballot requirements and estimated election cost. The City also plans to prepare a public outreach plan to assess residents' priorities and ensure residents are fully informed throughout the process.

For details on upcoming meetings and opportunities to provide input, residents are encouraged to visit cityofcalabasas.com or attend future City Council meetings.

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About the City of Calabasas

The City of Calabasas is a thriving community in the suburbs of Los Angeles with more than 23,000 residents. Its proximity to the natural beauty of the Santa Monica Mountains and to Los Angeles offers tranquil living, just minutes from the city. Calabasas' excellent schools, recreational opportunities and access to the greater Los Angeles area make it an ideal place for both families and businesses to thrive.