



**CITY OF COSTA MESA
FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Suggested Timeline to Place Measure on the November 3, 2026 Ballot:

- October 1, 2025: FIPAC takes action to create an ad hoc committee for two ballot measures (Hotel Tax and Business License Tax).
- November 2025: Potential FIPAC special meeting
- November 12, 2025: FIPAC ad hoc committees provide feedback on potential ballot measures.
- December 2, 2025: City Council provides direction for staff to explore placement of two ballot measures on the November 3, 2026 ballot; **Hotel Tax** (Transient Occupancy Tax) and **Business License Tax**.
- December 2025 to March 2026: Work with outside consultant to receive public input/polling.
- March/April 2026: Presentation to City Council.
- June/August 2026: City Council approves election resolutions calling for the November 3, 2026 election.
- June/August 2026: Suggested day for ballot measure to be approved to be placed on the November 3, 2026 ballot, approving ballot title and summary, directing City Attorney to prepare impartial analysis.
- June/August 2026: Last date to file direct arguments and impartial analysis with the City Clerk
- June/August 2026: Last date to file rebuttal arguments with the City Clerk.
- August 2026: Absolute last date for City Clerk to deliver resolution placing a measure on the ballot to Registrar and request election consolidation. [*Note: highly suggested to file earlier*]
- November 3, 2026: Election Day
- December 1, 2026: City Council accepts certification of the election results by the ROV (alternative December 8, 2026).