



CITY OF AUBURN

MEASURE J

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

November 8, 2016 Election

****What is Measure J?***

Measure J asks voters in the City of Auburn to make changes to the current “transient occupancy tax.” This tax is often called a “hotel bed tax” since it is paid by guests of hotels, motels and similar lodgings who stay 30 days or less within the city limits.

****What is Auburn’s current tax and how is it paid?***

The City of Auburn currently requires an 8% tax on stays in hotels with three or more rooms for rent. Hotel operators collect the tax when guests pay for their rooms and then pay it to the City.

****How are these taxes used?***

Because this is a general tax, it can be used for any lawful purpose including the City’s police, fire, street maintenance and other services.

****What changes will take place if Measure J is approved?***

Approval of this measure would make three changes to Auburn’s current hotel “bed” tax. It would: 1) raise the rate from 8% to 10%, 2) require online rental services (such as AirBnB, VRBO and Homeaway) to collect the tax, and 3) eliminate the three-room requirement in the current ordinance so that short-term lodgings would be taxed.

****Do other cities or municipalities charge this tax?***

California has 482 cities and nearly every one charges a type of room tax. In addition, California’s 58 counties are allowed to collect such taxes from lodgings in areas outside cities.

****Why is Measure J on the ballot now?***

On June 27, 2016, the City Council discussed the issue and agreed to ask voters during the November 2016 election for approval to increase the rate of the tax from 8% to 10%, and to include language that would cover the newly permitted use of short-term rental lodging such as AirBnB, VRBO, etc. Click [here](#) to watch the discussion or go to www.auburn.ca.gov/129/Agendas-Minutes .

****Questions?***

For more information, visit www.auburn.ca.gov/424/Elections , email Cityclerks@auburn.ca.gov or call 530-823-4211 x112.

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