



## Stanton Budget Review Questions and Answers

**Q: What is Stanton's mid-year budget outlook?**

A: The two-year budget adopted by the Council last year remains balanced. This is the first balanced budget Stanton has had in seven years, due to funding from Measure GG, a one-cent local sales enacted by Stanton voters that went into effect on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The current budget has been able to maintain and improve essential city services and avoid millions in service cuts.

However, while the current budget is balanced, the City is facing the future potential loss of these locally-controlled funds. On October 13, 2015 the City was notified that an initiative measure to terminate Measure GG funding qualified for the November 2016 election. The 2015-2017 Adopted Budget details the impacts of this potential loss of funding in its "Alternative Budget" section. The full 2015-2017 Adopted Budget can be viewed on the City's website at [www.ci.stanton.ca.us](http://www.ci.stanton.ca.us).

**Q: Have city service levels been maintained or increased in the current budget?**

A: Yes. With the help of voter-enacted funding, the current budget authorizes increases to Stanton's public safety and other essential services, while preventing cuts to existing services. Service improvements include adding the following services:

- Motorcycle Sheriff's Deputy
- Community Enhancement Sheriff's Deputy
- Code Enforcement Officer
- Funding for school crossing guards
- Additional economic development programs

The current budget also maintains existing levels of fire protection services/9-1-1 response, gang/youth violence prevention programs, senior services and other programs.

**Q: How would service levels be impacted by the potential repeal of voter-enacted funding?**

A: While the 2016-17 budget would remain balanced if voter-enacted funding were repealed, the City would no longer receive an estimated \$3.2 million annually from the local transactions and use tax. As outlined in the "Alternative Budget" section, this loss of funding would impact service levels for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Substantial reductions to nearly every City service would need to be made in order accommodate the loss of \$3.2 million in revenues while still maintaining a balanced budget.

Each department would face cuts relative to its share of the City budget. For example, because public safety services represent over 70% of the City's budget, these services would sustain over 70% of the cuts. The following service cuts have been outlined:

- \$1.72 million in cuts to Orange County Sheriff's Department services for Stanton (which would equate to a 30% reduction in sheriff's deputies)
- \$560,000 in cuts to Orange County Fire Authority services for Stanton (which would equate to a 20% reduction in firefighters)
- \$910,000 in cuts to other essential City services

Both the OC Sheriff's Department and OC Fire Authority have indicated that these cuts would put both departments below minimum recommended staffing levels.

**Q: When does the transactions and use tax repeal initiative come before voters?**

A: By California statute, it will be on Stanton's November 8, 2016 ballot.

**Q: What is Stanton's new budget website OpenGov?**

A: In September 2015 Stanton launched its innovative new budget website that provides residents unprecedented access to the city's finances. The OpenGov platform offers complete transparency to the City's budget, displaying financial data from 2007 to the current budget of City spending and revenue in a user-friendly portal. Users can view historical revenue and expenditure trends over time and explore multiple views of financial data, including by fund, department, expense, or revenue type. Visit [www.ci.stanton.ca.us/opengov](http://www.ci.stanton.ca.us/opengov) to access this interactive budget platform.

**Q: How can I get more information?**

A: To learn more about the mid-year budget review process, please contact Stephen Parker, Administrative Services Director, at (714) 890-4226.

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