PROPOSITION **P**

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS MEASURE

Safe Neighborhood Parks, Gang Prevention, Youth/Senior Recreation, Beaches and Wildlife Protection Measure on the November Ballot

Every year, more than 70 million people visit parks in LA County including their neighborhood parks, and participate in park-sponsored recreational programs. Millions of children and youth use park facilities for after-school, weekend, and summer programs, and millions of seniors attend programs at nearby senior centers.

While city, state and federal funding for parks and recreation has been decreasing during the past 20 years, LA County voters approved the Safe Neighborhood Parks tax measure in 1992, which generates about $54 million a year for neighborhood and regional parks and recreation. *The tax measure is about to expire–Proposition P is designed to replace it.*

Completed Projects

Since 1992, The Regional Park and Open Space District has funded almost 1,500 projects with funds from that measure and additional funding, including:

- 328 new children's play areas
- 350 new and refurbished recreation centers, senior centers, community centers, nature centers
- 244 trails projects
- About 33,000 acres permanently converted to parks or open space
- 110 water quality and water supply enhancement projects
- 175 tree planting projects (10,000 trees planted)
- 200 restrooms added or refurbished

Visit the County Regional Park and Open Space District website to see new and enhanced local parks in your area: **osd.lacounty.gov**

Proposition P Continues Park Funding

The 1992 funding tax measure expires in June 2015 and that $54 million a year will no longer be available for neighborhood and regional parks. Should Proposition P be approved, it would continue funding $54 million a year through an annual $23 per parcel special tax for 30 years. Proposition P will be on the November 4, 2014 ballot. It requires a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

How Funds from Proposition P Would Be Spent

Proposition P allocates funds across the County for projects related to water quality in rivers, creeks, lakes and beaches; water supply sources; park-poor areas; maintaining existing parks; and for projects that employ local youth (Proposition A employed over 25,000 youth).

- **Parks in Disadvantaged Communities** –10% of all funds are dedicated specifically for projects that increase parks, open space and recreational opportunities in underserved communities that have fewer parks and playgrounds.

- **Neighborhood Parks** – 20% of all funds will go directly to cities and unincorporated communities for local neighborhood parks and arts projects to repair and upgrade fields, gymnasiums and playgrounds; repair and upgrade restrooms; upgrade security lighting; install water-efficient irrigation; and increase accessibility.

- **Clean Beaches, Clean Water** – 15% of funds will go toward County beach, park and clean water projects.

- **Regional Open Space** – 30% of funds will be used to develop and maintain County trails, and fund mountain, river, wetlands and stream projects that protect natural resources and enhance visitor experiences.

- **Nonprofit and Public Agency Projects** – 5% will be made available as grants to organizations engaged in senior/youth facilities, urban tree planting, graffiti prevention, public access to rivers and streams, and natural lands restoration. Priority for projects that employ youth and for groups involved in gang prevention and training programs for at-risk youth.

- **Maintain Parks** – 15% of funds will be used to maintain facilities to improve the usability of these community assets, so that past and future park investments are not degraded or lost.

Accountability

The measure requires annual, independent financial audits of all revenue and expenditures and open, public review to ensure funds are used efficiently, and as voters intend.

All funds must remain local within LA County and can only be used for parks, recreation, and open space projects.

For more information, including the text of Proposition P and the arguments in favor and opposing:

Sample Ballot   Full Text of Proposition P