



CITY OF UPLAND PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Upland City Council Places Business License Reform Measure on the November 2026 Ballot to Modernize 31-Year-Old Structure

Upland, CA – August 6, 2026 – At Monday’s meeting, the Upland City Council took action to place the Upland Business License Reform Measure on the November 2026 ballot for voter consideration. If enacted, the measure will not increase taxes for residents and applies only to Upland businesses.

The last time Upland’s business license tax structure was updated was in 1994 – 31 years ago. The structure is outdated as it no longer matches the current mix of businesses in our community. If enacted, the measure will modernize the existing structure, resulting in lower taxes for most small businesses to help create economic growth and local job creation, while ensuring the largest businesses pay a higher proportional rate for essential city services.

“Thank you to the small business owners who participated in the City Manager’s Small Business Roundtable, as well as the additional business stakeholders who shared their input and perspectives,” said City Manager Michael Blay. “Your feedback helped inform the development of the proposed measure.”

If approved by voters, the measure will generate \$3 million annually in locally controlled funding to help maintain essential services and address community priorities, such as fixing streets and potholes; keeping streets, infrastructure, parks, and community facilities safe, clean, and well-maintained; cleaning up piles of trash and litter in public areas; repairing or replacing aging storm drains and infrastructure; and maintaining quick 911 emergency response.

“The City of Upland has approximately \$241 million in unfunded street maintenance and sidewalk repairs that need to be completed,” added Assistant City Manager Damien Arrula. “The longer we wait to repair our streets, infrastructure, and facilities, the more expensive those repairs will become. The City needs additional local funding to keep these in good condition.”

The measure requires that all funds be reinvested back into the community and no funds can be taken by the State or County. Accountability provisions include independent audits and public disclosure of how all funds are spent.

The measure proposes updating business license tax rates between .065% to 0.2% of gross receipts. Businesses can use an online calculator to preview potential updated Business License rates at www.uplandca.gov/blrcalculator. To view all City of Upland election-related documents, visit www.uplandca.gov/BLReformResolution. ###



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About the City of Upland, California:

The City of Upland, located in San Bernardino County, is known for its rich history, picturesque landscapes, and community-oriented atmosphere. Established in 1906, Upland boasts a population of approximately 77,000 residents and covers an area of 15.6 square miles. The city is situated at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, providing scenic beauty and a range of outdoor recreational activities.

Upland is a community with a rich history and a promising future. Known for its beautiful historic architecture and vibrant community spirit, Upland is a great place to live, work, and play.

City of Upland Mission Statement:

The City of Upland is committed to delivering superior services that meet community needs with transparency and integrity.

City of Upland Vision Statement:

Upland is a safe community with historic character where residents enjoy a high quality of life.

For more information about the City of Upland, please visit our website at www.uplandca.gov or contact us at (909) 931-4100. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. <https://www.facebook.com/CityofUpland>
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