What Happens If Measure L Does Not Pass?

Although exact reductions are still to be determined, some items that are funded by sales tax include staffing, materials at the library, and some programs. Elimination of existing sales tax funding would potentially impact the following:

- **Hours of operation.** With fewer staff to keep the library open, the library would need to reduce hours of operation, and the library could potentially revert to being open only 50 hours/week on average.

- **Services for teens and children.** Among the programs that would likely be eliminated is our After School Zone, which provides children 8-19 years old with a place to study, meet with friends, and unwind after school.

- **The number of books and other materials being offered to citizens.** An estimated 30% decrease in the library’s materials budget would reduce the number of items that could be purchased.

- **Technology and computers.** The ability to provide up to date technology and equipment for our residents would be reduced. Public internet computers are paid for with sales tax funds; purchase of new computers could be jeopardized.

More potential reductions

Many of the unique features that add value to our community (i.e. databases for small businesses and programs for those seeking jobs, such as assistance with resumes) could be affected.

Databases like Mango Languages that help our Literacy learners and other language enthusiasts are made possible by existing sales tax funding.

The Benicia Public Library is strongly supported by Benicia residents, as was demonstrated most recently in the 2010 National Citizen Survey. The survey results indicated that 85% of the community use or support the library or the services we offer, and 97% believe our library services are excellent or good.

The promises made in 1998 were kept, and having more books, hours and programs has made a difference in the quality and quantity of services the library is able to offer the community.
What will Measure L do for the citizens of Benicia?

Originally passed in 1998 as Measure B, Measure L will extend the existing transactions and use tax at a rate of one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) to benefit the Benicia Public Library and other public libraries in Solano County. Measure L continues an existing tax for all libraries in Solano County.

The existing sales tax in support of libraries was approved by voters in 1998 for a 16 year period. Revenues were dedicated for funding public library programs, operations and acquisitions as authorized by California Revenue and Taxation Code section 7286.59. This ordinance was “Measure B” and funding from this measure will expire on October 1, 2014. Once Measure B sunsets, Measure L will go into effect, creating an extension of this funding source for libraries in Solano County.

Promises were kept

In 1998, voters in Benicia were promised:

**Increased hours of operation**

The library increased its hours from 48 in the summer and 52 in the winter to a consistent 62 hours of operation per week. The library is open:

- Monday - Thursday, 10 am to 9 pm
- Friday - Sunday, Noon to 6 pm

**More materials**

The budget for library materials has increased from $61,000 per year to $138,400 in 2011. This represents a 127% increase in the amount of money spent on books, DVDs, CDs, and other items.

**More children’s programs**

The number of programs for teens and children expanded from 144 in 1997 to 360 in 2011, equaling a 150% increase. The number of children’s librarians increased 66% during the period between 1998, when Measure B passed, and 2009. Even with recent budget reductions, the library still employs one additional full-time librarian for children’s services — 50% more than in 1993.