



County Clerk
Elections

Aimee X. Espinoza
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK



Ballot Measure Primary Argument Submission Form

A ballot argument will not be accepted unless accompanied by this completed **typed** form, which shall contain the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the person(s) submitting it or, if submitted on behalf of a bona fide association of citizens, the name of the association and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers. **Please make sure you are using proper format before submitting to the Elections Division.**

Word count limit = 300 words

Word count limit for Primary Arguments = 300 words

Ballot Measure J for the General Election to be held on November 3, 2026 .

☐ Primary Argument in Favor ☐ Primary Argument Against ☐ Rebuttal to Argument ☐ Rebuttal to Argument Against

This Argument is Submitted by (check only one):

☒	The Kern County Board of Supervisors or the Governing Body of a School or Special District
	Name of Governing Body: California City City Council
	Contact Person's Printed Name: Marquette Hawkins
	Phone: 760-338-1405
	Email: mhawkins@californiacity-ca.gov
☒	Member(s) of the Kern County Board of Supervisors or the Governing Body of a School or Special District
	Name of Governing Body: California City City Council
	Contact Person's Printed Name: James Creighton
	Phone: 760-338-1405
	Email: jcreighton@californiacity-ca.gov
☐	Bona Fide Association of Citizens
	If this argument is filed by a bona fide association of citizens, the signer of the argument must be affiliated with the association and be authorized to sign the argument on its behalf. Provide the printed name and signature of at least one principal officer of the association
	Name of Association:
	Contact Person's Printed Name:
	Phone:
	Email:
☐	Individual Voters Eligible to Vote on the Measure
	Contact Person's Printed Name:
	Phone:
	Email:
☐	Combination of Voters and Associations
	Contact Person's Printed Name:
	Phone:
	Email:

GROUND  BOUNDLESS

1115 Truxtun Ave, 1st Floor, Bakersfield, CA. 93301 | 661.868.3590 | elections@kerncounty.com |

661.868.3588 | www.kerncountyclerk.com

Primary Argument Signers Form		Author	Verified
No more than five signatures shall appear with any argument. If more than five signatures are submitted, the first five listed shall be printed. Names and titles listed will be printed in the order that they are listed below. Place a checkmark in the author column if the signer is author of the argument. A signer can only list one title. Honorifics such as M.D., Dr., Esquire, etc. with a name are not accepted. If the signers are part of a bona fide association, there is no requirement that they be eligible to vote on the measure. However, for each such signing individual, the title under the signer's name must list the name of that bona fide association and may include their position within that association. By signing below, the undersigned state that they have read the argument and believe it not to be false or misleading. Type information clearly.		Check if the signer is the author of the argument. Authors must be signers.	(FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY) Staff Initial once the eligibility of the signer is verified.
1.	Name: <u>Margarette Hawkins</u> Title: <u>Mayor</u> Phone: <u>760-338-1405</u> Address: _____ Signature: _____ Date: <u>8-11-2026</u> Email: <u>mhawkins@californiacity-</u>	☒	☐
		For translation purposes only He/His: ☒ She/Her: ☐	
2.	Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ Email: _____	☐	☐
		For translation purposes only He/His: ☐ She/Her: ☐	
3.	Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ Email: _____	☐	☐
		For translation purposes only He/His: ☐ She/Her: ☐	
4.	Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ Email: _____	☐	☐
		For translation purposes only He/His: ☐ She/Her: ☐	
5.	Name: _____ Title: _____ Phone: _____ Address: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____ Email: _____	☐	☐
		For translation purposes only He/His: ☐ She/Her: ☐	

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE J

A YES vote on Measure J will allow visitors to California City to contribute a greater share toward the cost of the public services they use while visiting our community.

The Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT), commonly known as the "hotel tax," is paid by guests staying fewer than 30 days in hotels, motels, inns, and short-term rentals. The tax is collected by lodging operators and remitted to the City. Residents are not subject to this tax unless they choose to stay in local lodging.

California City's Transient Occupancy Tax rate has remained at 6% since 2006, making it one of the lowest rates in Kern County and well below the rate charged by most California cities. Measure J would update the City's hotel tax to a rate more consistent with surrounding communities and statewide standards.

Revenue generated by Measure J will remain local and be deposited into the City's General Fund, where it may be used to support essential municipal services such as public safety, street and roadway maintenance, parks, infrastructure, emergency response, code enforcement, and other general governmental services as determined through the City's annual public budget process.

As visitors continue to utilize California City's roads, parks, public safety services, and other community amenities, it is reasonable that they contribute toward the costs of maintaining those services.

Measure J is a tax requiring a simple majority vote for approval. It does not create a special tax, nor does it dedicate funds to a single purpose.

A YES on Measure J will help ensure that visitors contribute their fair share while keeping locally generated revenue in California City to support the services our community relies upon.

Vote YES on Measure J

/s/ Marquette Hawkins, Mayor

/s/ James Creighton, Mayor Pro Tem