



Statement on County Measure J (Community Investment and Alternatives to Incarceration Minimum County Budget Allocation) on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

1. The development of Measure J was rushed, and lacked transparency and stakeholder engagement. Only one stakeholder drafted Measure J, without time for other stakeholders to fully review its impacts or engage in a comprehensive dialogue before the measure was approved for the ballot. Similarly, there was insufficient opportunity for the general public to participate in the debate regarding this important issue.

2. The Board of Supervisors has existing authority to prioritize its unrestricted funds. Like city councils, the Board of Supervisors has existing authority to spend its discretionary funds according to its policy priorities through an annual budget process. Seeking to budget by voter initiative, as we have learned in the state budget process, surrenders the flexibility to modify future budgets to accommodate changing priorities or exigent circumstances.

3. Measure J's fiscal implications have not been analyzed. Municipalities and county residents have no way to assess the charter amendment's positive or negative impacts on existing county services, because an analysis was not developed to fully understand Measure J's fiscal or policy impacts.

Addressing social justice and equity in Los Angeles County is a laudable goal and worth the attention of every local government in the county. However, the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities opposes Measure J due to the foregoing concerns.