



CITY OF INGLEWOOD

OFFICE OF CITY CLERK



DATE: July 21, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: City Clerk's Office

SUBJECT: Initiative Measure Amending City Admissions Tax for Large Venues

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive and file a report certifying the results of an examination of signatures submitted in support of an initiative petition entitled: "Initiative Measure Amending City Admissions Tax for Large Venues; Removes Annual Tax Cap and Establishes Tiered Rates" (the "Ordinance");
2. Receive and file the report pursuant to Elections Code Section 9212, which the City Council ordered on May 12, 2026, and has been completed by staff for Council review;

-AND-

3. **Take one of the following actions consistent with Elections Code 9215:**
 - a. Adopt the Ordinance, without alteration; or
 - b. Submit the Ordinance, without alteration, to the voters at the November 3, 2026 Statewide General Election and take other actions authorized by Elections Code sections 9280-9287, as detailed in the staff report.

BACKGROUND:

On March 3, 2026, the City Clerk's Office received a Notice of Intent to Circulate Petition and other documents required under State law proposing an initiative measure entitled "Inglewood Fair Share Admissions Tax Tier Reform and Cap Removal Initiative." The proposed ordinance was forwarded to the City Attorney's Office for preparation of a ballot title and summary.

Following an impartial review, the City Attorney's Office prepared the following ballot title "Initiative Measure Amending City Admissions Tax for Large Venues; Removes Annual Tax Cap and Establishes Tiered Rates."

The ballot title and summary were returned to the proponents for use in circulating the petition for signature gathering.

On March 18, 2026, the City Clerk's Office accepted the petition for filing. Pursuant to Elections Code Section 9215, an initiative petition must be signed by at least 10 percent of the City's registered voters to qualify for the ballot. The City of Inglewood currently has 64,416 registered voters; therefore, a minimum of 6,442 valid signatures is required.

CC-3.

The City Clerk's Office conducted a random sample and face review of the petition in accordance with Elections Code Section 9210. The signatures were subsequently submitted to the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk for verification. Upon completion of the review, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk certified the results and determined that the petition contained 7,170 sufficient signatures, which exceeds the 10% threshold.

Accordingly, the City Clerk's Office presents this report as certification of the sufficiency of the initiative petition.

ELECTION CODE 9212 REPORT:

At the City Council meeting of May 12, the City Council authorized an informational report under Elections Code 9212 regarding the initiative. The report is attached and addresses the potential impacts of the proposed initiative.

DISCUSSION:

Elections Code 9215(c) requires that once the Report is presented, the City Council must either adopt the Ordinance or order the election within ten days—by July 31, 2026.

Option 1

Adopt the Ordinance, without alteration, at the regular meeting at which the certification of the petition is presented, or within 10 days after it is presented. Because this initiative ordinance involves a tax "increase," there is an additional consideration.

Article XIII C Section 2(b) of the California Constitution (Proposition 218) provides that no local government may impose, extend, or increase any general tax until it is submitted to the voters.

Inglewood Municipal Code 9-6(5) currently provides for an admissions tax of 10% on venues with a seating capacity of 22,000 persons or more. That section contains a cap on the admissions tax. The Ordinance proposes to impose a 10% admission tax on venues with a seating capacity of 20,000 persons or more, with no cap. While the Ordinance proposes to change the seating capacity threshold from 22,000 to 20,000, there is only one venue to which this 10% tax would apply.

Separately, the Ordinance proposes to impose an admissions tax of 2.5% on ticket sales to venues with a seating capacity of 10,000 but less than 20,000. Currently there are two venues this size in the City. This 2.5% admission tax would not apply to one of the venues because it is subject to a development agreement with the City until 2041. The 2.5% admission tax would apply to the newer venue upon effect.

Research indicates that under Government Code section 53750(h) (the Proposition 218 Omnibus Implementation Act), removing the annual cap on the 10% admissions tax likely would not constitute an "increase" requiring voter approval under Article XIII C, because that statute defines "increased" by reference to the applicable tax rate, and the 10% rate itself would not change—only the annual ceiling on the amount collected.

However, the Ordinance separately seeks to impose a new 2.5% admissions tax on venues with a seating capacity of 10,000 but less than 20,000, which constitutes an “increase” of a general tax subject to Article XIII C. It is unclear whether the City Council may adopt this particular initiative tax ordinance directly under Elections Code Section 9215(a)—without submitting it to a vote of the electorate—consistent with Article XIII C. The California Supreme Court expressly left this issue unresolved in *California Cannabis Coalition v. City of Upland* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 924, 947–948, declining to address a hypothetical in which a city council adopts a tax-increase initiative outright under Elections Code sections 9214(a) and 9215(a) without any vote of the electorate. Two justices in a separate opinion in that case (Kruger, J., joined by Liu, J.) would have held that Article XIII C “applies equally to all local general taxes, without regard to the manner of proposal or enactment,” meaning direct Council adoption would not satisfy the Constitution’s voter-approval requirement. Consequently, there is a meaningful risk of litigation if the City Council chooses to adopt the Ordinance directly under Option 1, as to the new 2.5% tier.

If the City Council chooses Option 1, it should adopt the Ordinance in Attachment No. 3.

Option 2

Submit the Ordinance, without alteration, to the voters pursuant to Elections Code Section 1405, which would be the November 3, 2026, Statewide General Election. In order to be enacted, this Ordinance would need a simple majority of votes in the Election.

If the City Council chooses Option 2, it shall adopt the Resolution in Attachment No. 4.

The City Council may also decide the following today:

1. If the measure should be transmitted to the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis per Elections Code Section 9280; and/or
2. If the City Council wants to prepare an argument against the ordinance per Elections Code Section 9282(a), and which Councilmember(s) should be appointed to prepare the argument.

FINANCIAL/FUNDING ISSUE AND SOURCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment No. 1 – Letter of Findings from the Los Angeles County Registrar Recorder’s Office

Attachment No. 2 – Election Code 9212 Report

Attachment No. 3 – Ordinance

Attachment No. 4 – Resolution

PREPARED BY:

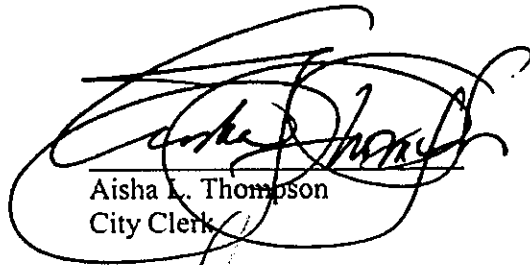
Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

Destinee Wesley, Deputy City Clerk

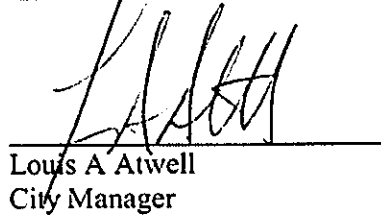
COUNCIL PRESENTER:

Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk

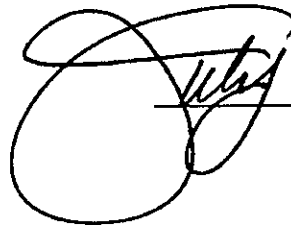
APPROVAL VERIFICATION SHEET



Aisha L. Thompson
City Clerk



Louis A Atwell
City Manager



July 16, 2026
Date

7/16/2026
Date

Attachment 1



Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

July 6, 2026

**Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk
City of Inglewood
One West Manchester Boulevard
Inglewood, California 90301**

Dear Aisha Thompson:

We have completed the signature verification submitted on June 2, 2026, for an Initiative Measure Amending City Admissions Tax for Large Venues; Removes Annual Tax Cap and Establishes Tiered Rates.

The results of the signature verification are as follows:

Number of signatures filed	12,761
Number of signatures verified	12,761
Number of signatures found sufficient	7,170
Number of signatures found not sufficient	5,591

Please call Tiffany Olsen, Head, Data Entry and Signature Verification at (562) 462-2376 if you have any questions regarding the signature verification of this petition.

Dean C. Logan

**DEAN C. LOGAN
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
County of Los Angeles**

Attachment 2



CITY OF INGLEWOOD

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



DATE: July 21, 2026

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: **IMPACT REPORT** - Pursuant to California Elections Code Section 9215(c)
Regarding the Proposed "Inglewood Fair Share Admissions Tax Tier Reform and
Cap Removal Initiative"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A citizen-led initiative petition, titled the "Inglewood Fair Share Admissions Tax Tier Reform and Cap Removal Initiative," seeks to amend Chapter 9, Article 2 of the Inglewood Municipal Code. This impact report, prepared pursuant to California Elections Code Section 9215(c), evaluates the administrative, fiscal, and operational impacts of this proposed measure.

The primary purpose of the initiative is to eliminate the arbitrary annual cap on admissions tax collections for large venues (that was established by an adopted initiative in 2015) and re-establish an equitable, tiered rate structure based on seating capacity. (Based upon recent years' ticket sales, this would result in a \$47 – \$50 Million annual increase in Admissions Tax receipts) This report establishes the substantive factual and legal basis demonstrating how the current cap structure deprives the City of critical resources, shifts municipal cost burdens onto local residents, and creates severe auditing distortions in modern ticketing markets. Enactment of this initiative will immediately restore tax equity, protect the General Fund, and position the City on a resilient long-term financial footing.

Pursuant to California Elections Code Section 9215(c), this report establishes the substantive factual and legal basis explaining why this initiative is beneficial to the fiscal health and overall public welfare of the City of Inglewood.

BACKGROUND AND STATUTORY CONTEXT

Under California Elections Code Section 9215, when a qualifying initiative petition is presented to the City Council, the Council has specific legal pathways: adopt the measure without alteration, order an election, or immediately commission a report under Section 9212 to analyze the measure's impact on the municipality.

The subject measure targets two foundational pillars of local governance:

1. **Chapter 9, Article 2 of the Inglewood Municipal Code:** The specific fiscal and regulatory provisions governing the administration, assessment, levy, and collection of the municipal admissions tax imposed on tickets sold for events held within the City.
2. **The Discretionary General Fund:** The central operational mechanism of the City, which receives all admissions tax proceeds to fund general municipal services and critical neighborhood assets.

This report documents the findings across all key areas of impact.

DISCUSSION / COMPREHENSIVE IMPACT ANALYSIS

1. The Fundamental Purpose of Admissions Taxation and the Rationality of Tiered Rates

The municipal admissions tax is fundamentally designed as a regulatory and compensatory mechanism. Large sports and entertainment venues generate immense, concentrated, and recurring demands on city infrastructure and vital public services, including police deployment, fire protection, emergency medical response, traffic synchronization, street maintenance, and sanitation services. Because these impacts scale directly with the size of the crowd and the frequency of events, venue-seating capacity serves as the most accurate, objective proxy for the strain placed on public resources.

Implementing a tiered rate structure ensures that mega-venues generating the largest regional impacts contribute an appropriate, proportional share to the citywide systems supporting them. Under the proposed reform, venues with a capacity of 20,000 or more will be assessed a ten percent rate, while mid-sized venues between 10,000 and 20,000 seats will be assessed a two and one-half percent rate. This aligns municipal revenue collection with actual operational footprint, correcting a historical imbalance where the largest operations failed to cover the community impacts that they generate.

2. The Legal Reality of Pass-Through Taxation and Consumer Transparency

A critical point of clarity for the public and the City Council is the legal structure of the admissions tax levy. Per Inglewood Municipal Code Section 9-8, the admissions tax is levied strictly upon the purchaser of the ticket, not the venue operator or event promoter. The venue functions solely as a collection agent on behalf of the municipality. Consequently, removing the cap or modifying the rate tiers does not increase the operational cost of doing business for the venue, nor does it impact their private corporate revenue.

Imposing an aggregate financial cap on a pass-through consumer tax is highly unusual in municipal finance. Under current practices, major operators like SoFi Stadium do not break out the specific admissions tax portion as a distinct line item on individual consumer tickets. This lack of itemization effectively conceals the tax from the consumer, obscuring the exact moment the annual

revenue cap is reached. Once the cap is hit (at their discretion), the venue has been permitted to cease remitting these funds to the City, creating an opaque financial environment that frustrates basic consumer transparency and local regulatory oversight.

3. Correcting the Regressive Structural Subsidies Borne by Local Residents

The existing annual tax cap creates an inequitable operational environment where local residents are forced to subsidize major commercial entities. The municipal costs associated with traffic management, public safety, and road wear do not cease once a venue hits an arbitrary revenue threshold. Every single concert, game, and tournament hosted after the cap is met costs the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in active staff hours and infrastructure degradation.

When the revenue stream is cut off by a cap, the City must draw from its unrestricted General Fund to cover these event-related public safety and public works expenses. This diverts scarce tax dollars away from residential neighborhood repairs, senior centers, youth programming, and local parks. By removing the cap, the initiative ensures that visitors attending events continuously fund the municipal services they utilize, preventing the financial exploitation of Inglewood taxpayers.

4. Resolving Secondary Ticketing Market Auditing Failures

The modern entertainment economy relies heavily on secondary ticketing marketplaces and resale platforms such as Ticketmaster, StubHub, and Vivid Seats. These decentralized, third party platforms process thousands of transactions daily for events occurring within the City.

Under the current system, secondary market platforms have no technical mechanism to track the cumulative, real-time tax remittance balance of a specific physical venue. They cannot detect when a venue is approaching or has officially reached its annual tax cap. This tracking failure creates severe auditing friction, resulting in situations where taxes are either erroneously collected from consumers and withheld from the City, or missed entirely. Removing the cap establishes a predictable, uniform, and continuous rule across all primary and secondary sales, eliminating tracking errors and maximizing collection compliance.

5. Unlocking Monumental General Fund Revenue for Long-Term Fiscal Solvency

The fiscal benefit of removing the annual cap and implementing the tiered structure is profound, introducing a transformative shift in the City's long-term financial capacity.

Projected Revenue Growth

Financial modeling indicates that removing the restrictive cap will increase recurring municipal revenue by an estimated \$47 million to \$50 million annually. Per Inglewood Municipal Code Section 9-16, one hundred percent of these proceeds are credited directly to the General Fund, providing the City Council with flexible, discretionary resources.

Strategic Allocation and Financial Stability

An annual influx of this magnitude permanently secures the fiscal health of the City, allowing for the execution of long-deferred priorities, including:

- **Comprehensive Infrastructure Modernization:** Securing robust funding to accelerate citywide street resurfacing, neighborhood sidewalk reconstruction and long-term water and storm drain pipeline replacements.
- **Public Safety Enhancement:** Expanding baseline funding for emergency response personnel, modernizing municipal traffic control networks, and upgrading public safety equipment without depleting General Fund reserves.
- **Community Investment Expansion:** Establishing permanent, dedicated funding mechanisms for local parks, public libraries, senior assistance programs, and youth development initiatives. Adoption of this measure will allow us to continue and expand our Blue Zone program that maintains the health and quality of life of our seniors.
- **Structural Reserve Integrity:** Positioning the City to establish a resilient rainy-day fund, shielding municipal operations from future economic recessions and reducing long-term debt liabilities.

6. Capitalizing on the Impending Global Event Lifecycle

The timing of this initiative is highly advantageous to the City. Inglewood is positioned as the epicenter of the global sports and entertainment landscape, continuing to host massive high-profile events including the 2026 FIFA World Cup, the 2027 Super Bowl, and the LA28 Olympic Games.

These historic competitions will bring millions of international visitors into local venues, generating unprecedented ticket sales volumes and premium pricing metrics. If the current cap remains in place, the City will hit its maximum collection threshold almost immediately during the opening days of these events. The venue operators would then enjoy the remainder of these globally televised tournaments completely free of local admissions tax obligations, while Inglewood residents are left to shoulder the immense costs of crowd control, gridlock, and citywide cleanup. Removing the cap ensures that the residents of Inglewood capture their fair share of this global economic activity, transforming international tourism into permanent infrastructure investments for our neighborhoods.

CONCLUSION

The "Inglewood Fair Share Admissions Tax Tier Reform and Cap Removal Initiative" represents a vital, mathematically sound correction to a flawed municipal tax structure. By eliminating a non-negotiated, arbitrary cap, the measure aligns revenue collection with the actual operational demands placed on municipal systems by large-scale venues. It protects local residents from bearing the financial burdens of commercial entertainment, resolves systemic auditing flaws within modern digital ticketing platforms, and unlocks up to \$50 million in annual discretionary revenue to secure the city's infrastructure and public services. Because the current cap was

originally established via a voter initiative, any modification or removal of this limitation similarly requires approval by the electorate.

Attachment 3

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1 paragraphs, sentences, clauses or paragraphs of this ordinance, or its application to any
2 person or circumstance. The City of Inglewood hereby declares that it would have
3 adopted each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause and paragraph
4 hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more of the foregoing sections,
5 subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases hereof be declared
6 invalid or unenforceable.

7 **SECTION 4.** The City Clerk shall certify to the approval, passage and adoption
8 of this Ordinance by the City Council and shall cause the same to be published in
9 accordance with the City Charter; and thirty days from the final passage and adoption,
10 this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect.

11 **PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this _____ day of
12 _____, 2026.

13 _____
14 James T. Butts, Jr., Mayor

15 ATTEST:

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18 Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk
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Attachment 4

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1 official shall select one of the arguments in favor and one of the arguments against for
2 printing and distribution, in accordance with the order of preference and priority in section
3 9287; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Elections Code section 9280 provides that whenever a measure
5 qualifies for a place on the ballot, the City Council may direct the elections official to
6 transmit a copy of the measure to the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis of the
7 measure showing the effect of the measure on the existing law and the operation of the
8 measure, not to exceed 500 words;

9 **WHEREAS**, Elections Code section 9285 authorizes the City Council to provide,
10 by resolution adopted no later than the day the City Council calls the election, for the filing
11 of rebuttal arguments by the persons who submitted the primary arguments for and against
12 the measure, provided such authorization, once adopted, shall remain effective for this and
13 all subsequent municipal elections unless later repealed;

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
15 **INGLEWOOD DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE AND ORDER AS**
16 **FOLLOWS:**

17 **SECTION 1.** That pursuant to the requirements of the Charter, there was
18 previously called and ordered to be held in the City of Inglewood, California, on Tuesday,
19 November 3, 2026, a General Municipal Election to be consolidated with the Statewide
20 General Election.

21 **SECTION 2.** That the City Council, pursuant to its right and authority, does order
22 submitted to the qualified voters at the consolidated election on November 3, 2026, the
23 following question:

24 MEASURE _____
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Ordinance To Amend the Admissions Tax for Large Venues. Shall the ordinance amending the City's admissions tax on large venues to establish tiered rates of 10% and 2.5% based on venue seating capacity, and to remove the existing annual cap on admissions tax revenue, resulting in increased general fund revenues, be approved?	YES	<input data-bbox="1247 310 1370 373" type="checkbox"/>
	NO	<input data-bbox="1247 541 1370 604" type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 3. That the proposed complete text of the measure (ordinance) submitted to the voters is attached as Exhibit A.

SECTION 4. That the vote requirement for the measure to pass is a majority (50% + 1) of the votes cast by the qualified electors of the City of Inglewood.

SECTION 5. That the City Clerk is authorized, instructed and directed to coordinate with the County of Los Angeles Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk to procure and furnish any and all official ballots, notices, printed matter and all supplies, equipment and paraphernalia that may be necessary in order to properly and lawfully conduct the election.

SECTION 6. That the polls (vote centers) for the election shall be open at seven o'clock a.m. of the date of the election and shall remain open continuously from that time until eight o'clock p.m. of the same day when the polls (vote centers) shall be closed, pursuant to Elections Code section 10242, except as provided in sections 14212, 14401 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

SECTION 7. That in all particulars not recited in this resolution, the election shall be held and conducted as provided by law for the holding of municipal elections.

1 **SECTION 8.** That notice of the time and place of holding the election is given
2 and the City Clerk is authorized, instructed and directed to give further or additional notice
3 of the election, in time, form and manner as required by law.

4 **SECTION 9.** That in the event the Ordinance is approved by the voters and the
5 article and section numbers specified therein are not available for use for codification in
6 the Inglewood Municipal Code, the City Clerk is authorized to renumber the article and
7 section numbers, and make any other clerical changes that do not alter the meaning, effect,
8 or substance of the Ordinance.

9 **SECTION 10.** That the City Council authorizes the following member(s) of its
10 body to file a written argument, not exceeding 300 words, against the measure described
11 above, in accordance with Elections Code section 9282(a):

12 Against:

13 1. _____

14 2. _____

15 The written argument shall be accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s)
16 of the author(s) submitting it, in accordance with Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the
17 Elections Code. The arguments may be changed or withdrawn until and including the
18 date fixed by the City Clerk, after which no arguments for or against the measure may be
19 submitted to the City Clerk.

20 **SECTION 11.** That the City Council directs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of
21 the measure to the City Attorney, unless the organization or salaries of the office of the
22 City Attorney are affected.

23 a. The City Attorney shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure not
24 exceeding 500 words showing the effect of the measure on the existing law and the
25 operation of the measure. If the measure affects the organization or salaries of the Office
26 of the City Attorney, the City Clerk shall prepare the impartial analysis.

1 b. The analysis shall include a statement indicating whether the measure was
2 placed on the ballot by a petition signed by the requisite number of voters or by the
3 governing body of the City.

4 c. In the event the entire text of the measure is not printed on the ballot, nor in
5 the voter information portion of the voter information guide, there shall be printed
6 immediately below the impartial analysis, in no less than 10-point type, the following:
7 “The above statement is an impartial analysis of Ordinance or Measure _____. If you
8 desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the elections official’s office at (310)
9 412-5280 and a copy will be mailed to you at no cost.”

10 d. The impartial analysis shall be filed by the date set by the City Clerk for
11 filing of primary arguments.

12 **SECTION 12.** That pursuant to Elections Code section 9285, the City Council
13 authorizes the filing of rebuttal arguments concerning the measure described above, as
14 follows:

15 a. The author or a majority of the authors of a primary argument against the
16 measure may prepare and submit a rebuttal argument, not exceeding 250 words, or may
17 authorize in writing another person or persons to prepare, submit, or sign the rebuttal
18 argument.

19 b. A rebuttal argument shall not be signed by more than five persons, shall be
20 printed in the same manner as a direct argument, and shall immediately follow the direct
21 argument which it seeks to rebut.

22 c. A rebuttal argument shall be filed with the City Clerk no later than 10 days
23 after the final filing date for primary arguments.

24 d. This authorization, having been adopted no later than the day the City
25 Council calls the election on the measure, shall remain effective for this and all subsequent
26 municipal elections unless later repealed by the City Council in accordance with Elections
27 Code section 9285.

1 **SECTION 13.** That the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this
2 Resolution and enter it into the book of original Resolutions.

3 **PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this _____ day of
4 _____, 2026.

5 _____
6 James T. Butts, Jr., Mayor

7 ATTEST:

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10 Aisha L. Thompson, City Clerk
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