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Measure H, Which Combats Homelessness, Looks Like It Will Pass. Here's What Happens Next.

The quarter-cent sales tax could have a big impact

[March 10, 2017 Julia Herbst](#)

Measure H, the countywide quarter-cent sales tax to fund anti-homelessness efforts, looks like it will be approved by a narrow two-thirds majority of voters. The estimated \$355 million per year in revenue will go to preventing and ending homelessness across the county.

But what does that look like exactly? We spoke with Stephanie Klasky-Gamer, President and CEO of [L.A. Family Housing](#), to get a better sense of the measure's impact:

Measure H is unique: It's about providing homeless *services* specifically—unlike the city's [Measure HHH](#), which is intended for the construction of new permanent supportive housing and other facilities (including bridge housing and crisis housing).

It's designed to be flexible: Like with Measure HHH, an oversight panel will decide how the funding is allocated to homeless providers and L.A. County departments. It was designed to be adjustable, so money can be directed to the areas of greatest need—whether that's more outreach, or better data management and tracking to improve coordination between the city, county, and nonprofits. That flexibility is critical, Klasky-Gamer says.

“What we invest in this year, next year, and the following year might be really different than what we invest in four years from now,” she says. “The county built in a good amount of flexibility to come back to this oversight panel and say, ‘Ok, this has been working,’ or ‘This hasn't,’ or ‘This worked so well that now we can allocate half the resources to that strategy and funnel the rest to this other strategy.’”

The effects of Measure H could be felt within a year: Things are already moving forward, according to Klasky-Gamer. “Within a year I imagine there would be some tangible changes. For those of us who are working in the system, we'll start to feel the infrastructure support sooner than that.”

She's appreciative that voters took action. “This is the first time in our history that we have a dedicated revenue stream to apply to this crisis. We have seen that homelessness is a crisis that responds to resources, and we're appreciative that Los Angeles saw that.”

Local advocates energetic push for Measure H made a difference: Supporters included the California Community Foundation, Children's Defense Fund, Chrysalis, Climate Resolve, Community Corporation of Santa Monica, Corporation for Supportive Housing, Downtown Women's Center, Heal the Bay, Hospital Association of Southern California, IBEW Local 11, Inner City Law Center, Jovenes, Inc, L.A. County Democratic Party, LA Family Housing, LA Voice – PICO, the LA Community College District, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles County Business Federation, the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, the LA County division of the League of California Cities, the League of Women Voters, the Mental Health America of Los Angeles, New Direction for Veterans, One LA, Pacoima Beautiful, Skid Row Housing Trust, South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness, St. Joseph Center, UFCW Locals 770 and 1442, Union Station Homeless Services, the United Way of Greater Los Angeles, a Community of Friends, the American Academy of Social Work, Bend the Arc, and the Beverly Hills/Greater LA Association of Realtors.