

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

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**PROPERTY TAX**

On June 6, 1978, California voters approved Proposition 13, which added Article XIII A to the State Constitution and placed restrictions on the valuation of real property and on the imposition of ad valorem property tax. Under current law, all taxable real and personal property is subject to a tax rate of one percent of the assessed value. (In June 1986, California voters approved a Constitutional Amendment, which provides for an exception to the one-percent limitation. The Amendment allows local governments and school districts to raise property taxes above one percent to finance general obligation bond sales. A tax increase can only occur if two-thirds of those voting in a local election approve the issuance of bonds.) The assessed value of real property that has not changed ownership adjusts by the change in the California Consumer Price Index up to a maximum of two percent per year. Property which changes ownership, property which is substantially altered, newly-constructed property, State-assessed property, and personal property are assessed at the full market value in the first year and subject to the two percent cap, thereafter.

In 1979, in order to mitigate the loss of property tax revenues after approval of Proposition 13, the State Legislature approved Assembly Bill 8 (AB 8). This action was approved to provide a permanent method for allocating the proceeds from the 1% property tax rate, by allocating revenues back to local governments based on their historic shares of property tax revenues. AB 8 shifted approximately \$772 million of school district property tax revenue to local governments and backfilled schools' lost revenue with subsidies from the State General Fund. Actions taken by the State in order to balance the 1992-1993 and 1993-1994 State budgets partially reversed the AB 8 formula. The 1992-1993 action reduced the City's Property Tax proceeds by nine percent, and shifted this funding to schools in order to reduce the amount of State backfill required. As part of the State's 1993-1994 Budget, the AB 8 formula was again altered requiring another ongoing shift in City Property Tax revenue to K-12 schools and community colleges.

In November 1993, the City Council elected to participate in the Teeter Plan, which is an alternative method for County property tax apportionment. Under this alternative method authorized by the State Legislature in 1949, the County apportions property tax on the basis of the levy without regard for delinquencies. With the adoption of the Teeter Plan in 1993-1994, the City received a one-time buy out of all current, secured property tax delinquencies as of June 30, 1993, which totaled \$3.5 million. Under this system, the City's current secured tax payments are increased for amounts that typically were delinquent and flowed to the secured redemption roll, but the City gave up all future penalties and interest revenue derived from the delinquencies.

In 2004-2005, the State budget included a permanent reduction of the Motor Vehicle In-Lieu (MVLIF) tax rate from 2% to 0.65% (its current effective rate). As part of the State budget action, the loss of MVLIF was approved to be replaced with a like amount of property tax revenue, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, which now grows based on assessed valuations.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

**SALES TAX**

The Sales Tax is an excise tax imposed on retailers for the privilege of selling tangible personal property. The Use Tax is an excise tax imposed on a person for the storage, use, or other consumption of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer. The local Sales and Use Tax is collected and administered by the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration and is authorized by the Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law and the Bradley-Burns Uniform Local Sales and Use Tax Law. The proceeds of sales and use taxes imposed within the boundaries of San José are distributed by the State to various agencies, with the City of San José receiving one percent.

On November 2, 1993, Proposition 172 (Public Safety Fund) was approved allowing for the permanent extension of the half-cent State sales tax that was originally imposed on July 15, 1991, and was to sunset on June 30, 1993. (On July 1, 1993, a six-month extension of the tax was granted by the State in order to provide a source of one-time funding for cities and counties to partially offset 1993-1994 ongoing property tax reductions.) The passage of the Proposition 172 legislation, effective January 1, 1994, required that the proceeds from the 0.5% tax be diverted from the State to counties and cities on an ongoing basis for funding public safety programs.

The current distribution of the sales tax proceeds is outlined below, which includes a voter-approved 1/4 percent local transaction and use tax enacted by the City of San José effective October 1, 2016 (limited to 15 years) to fund essential City services such as: improving police response to reduce violent crimes and burglaries; improving 911/emergency medical and fire response times; repairing potholes and streets; expanding gang prevention; and maintaining the City’s long-term financial stability.

| <b>Sales Tax Rates</b>   |                |
|--|----------------|
| State – General Fund   | 3.9375%        |
| State – Local Revenue Fund   | 1.5625         |
| State – County Transportation Funds  | 0.2500         |
| State – City of San José   | 1.0000         |
| Public Safety Fund (Proposition 172) <sup>(1)</sup>  | 0.5000         |
| <b>Sub-Total Statewide Sales and Use Tax</b>   | <b>7.2500</b>  |
| Local – City of San José <sup>(2)</sup>  | 0.2500         |
| Santa Clara County Transit District <sup>(3)</sup>   | 0.5000         |
| Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority <sup>(4)</sup>  | 0.5000         |
| Santa Clara VTA BART Operating and Maintenance Transactions and Use Tax <sup>(5)</sup>   | 0.1250         |
| Santa Clara County Retail Transactions and Use Tax <sup>(6)</sup>  | 0.1250         |
| Silicon Valley Transportation Solutions Tax <sup>(7)</sup>   | 0.5000         |
| Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (Caltrain) <sup>(8)</sup>  | 0.1250         |
| <b>Total Sales and Use Tax</b>   | <b>9.3750%</b> |
| <sup>(1)</sup> City of San José receives a portion of this Sales and Use Tax revenue that varies from year to year.<br><sup>(2)</sup> Approved by voters in June 2016, and effective October 1, 2016, (limited to 15 years) to fund essential City services.<br><sup>(3)</sup> Approved by voters in 1976; does not expire. Imposed by VTA.<br><sup>(4)</sup> Approved by voters in November 2000, and effective April 1, 2006 (limited to 30 years). Imposed by VTA.<br><sup>(5)</sup> Approved by voters in November 2008 to support BART and effective on July 1, 2012 (limited to 30 years). Imposed by VTA.<br><sup>(6)</sup> Approved by voters in November 2012 and effective April 1, 2013 (limited to 10 years).<br><sup>(7)</sup> Approved by voters in June 2016, and effective April 1, 2017 (limited to 30 years). Imposed by VTA.<br><sup>(8)</sup> Approved by voters in November 2020, and effective July 1, 2021 (limited to 30 years). Imposed by Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, which owns and operates Caltrain. |                |

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

---

**SALES TAX**

Major items, such as services, are exempt from the tax code. As part of a 1991-1992 legislative action, tax exemptions were removed from candy and snack foods, bottled water, newspapers and periodicals, and fuel and petroleum products sold to certain carriers. The removal of these exemptions became effective July 1991. On November 3, 1992, however, the voters approved Proposition 163, which partially repealed the prior action, re-establishing the exemption for snack foods, candy, and bottled water effective December 1, 1992.

**TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX**

The Transient Occupancy Tax is assessed as a percentage of the rental price for transient lodging charged when the period of occupancy is 30 days or less. The combined tax rate is currently 10%, of which 6% is placed in the Transient Occupancy Tax Fund and 4% is deposited in the General Fund. The General Fund portion (4% of rent) of the tax is authorized by Title 4 of the Municipal Code, Section 4.74, Ordinance number 21931. The Transient Occupancy Tax Fund portion of the revenues (6% of rent) is authorized by Title 4 of the Municipal Code, Section 4.72, Ordinance number 23481, with the use of funds restricted to the following uses:

- 1) Approximately 50% shall support the City's operating subsidy to the convention and cultural facilities of the City of San José.
- 2) The remaining 50% shall the support the following uses, with respective funding levels determined by the City Council:
  - a. Funding of the Convention and Visitors Bureau (historically, approximately 25%); and
  - b. Funding for the cultural grant program and fine arts division programs, including funding of cultural grants and expenses of the fine arts division, including, but not limited to, personal and non-personal/equipment expenses, fringe benefits, and overhead (historically, approximately 25%).

The General Fund portion, or 40% of the Transient Occupancy Tax, was enacted as a general tax. The other 60% of the Transient Occupancy Tax is restricted for the support of arts and cultural development, operation of a convention and visitors bureau and the convention and cultural facilities of San José. Although not specifically related to the Transient Occupancy Tax, many hotels in San José also belong to the Convention Center Facilities District, which assesses an additional special tax on daily room rates of 4%. Revenues from the Convention Center Facilities District are restricted for debt service payments or capital improvements related to the Convention Center. Of the approximately 14% total tax assessed on room rates at most hotels, only the 4% portion of the Transient Occupancy Tax is deposited into the General Fund.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

---

**FRANCHISE FEES**

The City collects compensation from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for the use of City streets in the distribution of natural **gas** and **electricity**. PG&E is assessed 2.0% of the gross receipts representing its sale of electricity and natural gas for a calendar year within the City limits. The taxes are authorized by Title 15 of the Municipal Code, Chapter 15.32, and no authorized exemptions exist.

On February 9, 2010, the City Council approved ordinances amending the franchises with PG&E for the sale of natural gas and the sale of electricity. These amendments added a franchise fee surcharge of 0.3%, resulting in a total franchise fee remitted to the City of 2.3% of gross receipts from the sale of gas and electricity in the City through 2021. The 0.3% surcharge was approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) effective May 5, 2010. Implementation of the surcharge began in September 2010.

From the sale of **nitrogen gas**, the City collects an annual fee of \$0.119/linear foot of gas-carrying pipe installed within public streets. In addition, each customer is required to pay an annual per connection fee of \$118.76 multiplied by the inside diameter of pipe expressed in inches at the property line. A minimum of \$1,000 total franchise fees per calendar year is required. The fee is authorized by City Ordinance number 20822 and amended by Ordinance number 25054; there are no authorized exemptions.

On July 1, 1996, **Commercial Solid Waste** (CSW) collection franchise fees were converted to a volume basis. This revision amended the previous structure (which had been in effect since January 1, 1995) that assessed a franchise fee equal to 28.28% of gross receipts in excess of \$250,000. With that change, fees were set at \$1.64 per cubic yard per collection for cubic yards in excess of 43,000 (the cubic yard basis is tripled if the waste has been compacted) in a fiscal year, and were assessed on any commercial business engaged in the collection, transportation, or disposal of garbage and/or rubbish (solid waste) accumulated or generated in the City of San José. In December 1997, the City Council increased the rate to \$2.41 effective on January 1, 1998. In 1999-2000, this fee was increased to \$2.84 per cubic yard. In 2002-2003, a three-year gradual shift in the revenue distribution between the CSW and AB 939 fees (also known as the “commercial source reduction and recycling fee” collected and deposited in the Integrated Waste Management Fund) was approved, which increased the amount collected for CSW to \$3.34 per cubic yard in 2004-2005. In 2005-2006, the City Council increased the fee by 4.5% (\$0.15 per cubic yard) to \$3.49 per cubic yard.

In 2006-2007, an additional 5.0% increase was approved by the City Council, which brought the fee to \$3.67 per cubic yard. In 2009-2010, the elimination of the fee exclusion for the first 20,000 cubic yards hauled in the fiscal year was approved.

On October 19, 2010, the City Council amended the CSW franchise fee to a fee for franchises based on geographic collection districts rather than volume. The volume-based fee remains for franchisees that do not have a franchise based on geographic collection district, such as non-exclusive franchise holders that collect construction and demolition and residential clean-out material. However, this fee is Zero Dollars (\$0.00) per cubic yard, or fraction thereof, of construction and demolition debris or residential clean-out material with twenty percent (20%) or

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

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**FRANCHISE FEES**

less incidental contamination. The base fee of \$5.0 million per year for each of two geographic collection districts, plus a supplemental fee of \$1.0 million for the right to conduct CSW services in both the North District and the South District became effective July 1, 2012, and is subject to an annual adjustment not to exceed the percentage increase in the annual Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CSW fee is authorized by Title 9 of the Municipal Code, Chapter 9.10.1710.

The City collects a **Cable Television Franchise Fee** from any company that provides cable television (Municipal Code, Title 15, Chapter 15.34). The current fee requires each State video franchise holder to pay the city a franchise fee that is 5% of gross revenues derived from subscriptions. Excluded from the gross receipts are amounts derived from installation, late charges, advertising, taxes, line extensions, and returned check charges.

The **Water Franchise Fee** was established in 1995-1996 (effective July 27, 1995, Title 15 of the Municipal Code, Section 15.40). The assessment of the fee is allowable under State law, which asserts that a city can collect a franchise fee from a water utility company for laying pipelines and operating them in public right-of-ways. The fee is equal to the greater of either: 1) 2% of the utility's gross annual receipts arising from the use, operation, or possession of facilities located in public streets within the City limits established on or after October 10, 1911, or 2) 1% of all gross receipts derived from the sale of water within the City limits. Those portions of the water company's system that are established in private right-of-ways or utility easements granted by private developers are exempted from the franchise fee assessment. It should be noted that the City is not assessing a Water Franchise Fee on the San Jose Water Company due to a Santa Clara County Superior Court ruling that states San José cannot impose a franchise fee on that company.

**UTILITY TAX**

The Utility Tax is charged to all users of a given utility (gas, electricity, telephone, and water) other than the corporation providing the utility (i.e., a utility company's consumption of all utilities used in the production or supply of their service is not taxed). For the electricity, gas, and water categories, consumers pay 5% of their utility charges to the utility company that acts as a collection agent for the City. For the telephone utility tax, consumers pay 4.5% on all intrastate, interstate, and international communication services regardless of the technology used to provide such services. Private communication services, voice mail, paging, and text messaging are treated the same as traditional telephone services. In November 2008, voters approved Measure K that reduced the telephone utility rate from 5.0% to 4.5% and broadened the base for the tax and the definition of technologies covered by the tax. The tax is not applicable to State, County, or City agencies. Also, per State regulations, insurance companies and banks are exempted from the tax. This tax is authorized by Title 4 of the Municipal Code, Section 4.68.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

**BUSINESS TAXES**

The **General Business Tax** was first adopted on July 15, 1963. The methodology used for calculating the Business Tax (Chapter 4.76 of the San José Municipal Code) was adopted in 1984 and adjusted in 1986. In November 1996, the rates were increased to reflect an annual inflation factor as part of the New Realities Task Force recommendations contingent on voter approval. Because the voters did not approve the continuation of the increase in November 1998, the rates were returned to the levels prior to November 1996. Those rates stayed in effect until San José voters approved the Business Tax Modernization measure on November 8, 2016. In addition to expanding the application of tax to more business classes, the Business Tax Modernization measure increased the base tax, the incremental tax, and the cap (the maximum amount of tax affecting large businesses). The Business Tax Modernization measure rates went into effect July 1, 2017, and will be adjusted annually on July 1<sup>st</sup> for inflation changes.

The following charts present the business tax rate structure after the Business Tax Modernization, along with the inflation adjusted rates for the periods listed.

**Employee Count**

Every person engaged in business in the City shall pay a business tax based on employee count, unless the basis of the tax is otherwise prescribed in the San José Municipal Code.

| <b>Businesses:<br/>Employee Count<sup>1</sup></b> | <b>July 2023 - June 2025</b> | <b>Effective July 1, 2025<sup>3</sup></b> |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| Base Tax: 1-2 employees                           | \$216.35                     | <b>\$219.60</b>                           |
| Incremental Tax: 3-35 <sup>2</sup>                | \$36.09                      | <b>\$37.06</b>                            |
| Incremental Tax: 36-100 <sup>2</sup>              | \$48.11                      | <b>\$49.40</b>                            |
| Incremental Tax: 101-500 <sup>2</sup>             | \$60.13                      | <b>\$61.75</b>                            |
| Incremental Tax: 501+ <sup>2</sup>                | \$72.21                      | <b>\$74.15</b>                            |
| Cap   | \$180,674.26                 | <b>\$185,532.59</b>                       |

<sup>1</sup> Businesses choose between calculating the number of employees based on full-time equivalent (FTE) or based on the number employers report to the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

<sup>2</sup> Incremental tax rates are applicable per employee.

<sup>3</sup> As prescribed in San José Municipal Code Section 4.76.485, the base tax rate shall be adjusted annually if the cost of living in the City has increased over the base period, as shown by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers for All Items for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Area), using February to February data; limited to 1.5% per year on the minimum base tax, 3.0% per year on the incremental tax brackets, and 3.0% per year on the cap. For the period February 2024 to February 2025, the CPI grew by 2.68%, which resulted in the minimum base tax increasing by 1.5% and the incremental tax bracket increasing to 2.68%, in line with the prescribed limits.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

**BUSINESS TAXES**

***Residential Rental Property Units***

Every person in the City engaged in the business of renting or leasing any residential real estate shall pay a business tax based on the number of rental units held for rental, unless the basis of the tax is otherwise prescribed in the San José Municipal Code.

| <b>Residential Landlords:<br/>Rental Units</b> | <b>July 2024 - June 2025</b> | <b>Effective July 1, 2025<sup>2</sup></b> |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Base Tax: 1-2 units                            | \$216.35                     | <b>\$219.60</b>                           |
| Incremental Tax: 3-35 <sup>1</sup>             | \$12.02                      | <b>\$12.34</b>                            |
| Incremental Tax: 36-100 <sup>1</sup>           | \$18.03                      | <b>\$18.51</b>                            |
| Incremental Tax: 101-500 <sup>1</sup>          | \$24.04                      | <b>\$24.69</b>                            |
| Incremental Tax: 501+ <sup>1</sup>             | \$30.06                      | <b>\$30.87</b>                            |
| Cap  | \$180,674.26                 | <b>\$185,532.59</b>                       |

<sup>1</sup> Incremental tax rates are applicable per unit.

<sup>2</sup> As prescribed in San José Municipal Code Section 4.76.485, the base tax rate shall be adjusted annually if the cost of living in the City has increased over the base period, as shown by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers for All Items for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Area), using February to February data; limited to 1.5% per year on the minimum base tax, 3.0% per year on the incremental tax brackets, and 3.0% per year on the cap. For the period February 2024 to February 2025, the CPI grew by 2.68%, which resulted in the minimum base tax increasing by 1.5% and the incremental tax bracket increasing to 2.68%, in line with the prescribed limits.

***Commercial (Non-Residential) Rental Property Units***

Every person in the City engaged in the business of renting or leasing any non-residential real estate shall pay a business tax based on the square footage of space held for rental, unless the basis of the tax is otherwise prescribed in the San José Municipal Code.

| <b>Commercial Landlords</b>                           | <b>July 2024 - June 2025</b> | <b>Effective July 1, 2025<sup>2</sup></b> |
|---|------------------------------|---|
| Base Tax  | \$216.35                     | <b>\$219.60</b>                           |
| Flat Incremental Tax:<br>per Square Foot <sup>1</sup> | \$0.0300                     | <b>\$0.0308</b>                           |
| Cap   | \$180,674.26                 | <b>\$185,532.59</b>                       |

<sup>1</sup> Incremental tax rates are applicable per square foot.

<sup>2</sup> As prescribed in San José Municipal Code Section 4.76.485, the base tax rate shall be adjusted annually if the cost of living in the City has increased over the base period, as shown by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers for All Items for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Area), using February to February data; limited to 1.5% per year on the minimum base tax, 3.0% per year on the incremental tax brackets, and 3.0% per year on the cap. For the period February 2024 to February 2025, the CPI grew by 2.68%, which resulted in the minimum base tax increasing by 1.5% and the incremental tax bracket increasing to 2.68%, in line with the prescribed limits.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

**BUSINESS TAXES**

**Mobile Home Parks Rental Units**

Every person in the City engaged in the business of renting or leasing any mobile home parks shall pay a business tax based on the number of lots held for rental, unless the basis of the tax is otherwise prescribed in the San José Municipal Code.

| Mobile Home Parks –<br>Rental Lot     | July 2024 - June 2025 | Effective July 1, 2025 <sup>2</sup> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Base Tax: 1-2 lots                    | \$216.35              | <b>\$219.60</b>                     |
| Incremental Tax: 3+ lots <sup>1</sup> | \$12.02               | <b>\$12.34</b>                      |
| Cap                                   | \$180,674.26          | <b>\$185,532.59</b>                 |

<sup>1</sup> Incremental tax rates are applicable per unit.

<sup>2</sup> As prescribed in San José Municipal Code Section 4.76.485, the base tax rate shall be adjusted annually if the cost of living in the City has increased over the base period, as shown by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers for All Items for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Area), using February to February data; limited to 1.5% per year on the minimum base tax, 3.0% per year on the incremental tax brackets, and 3.0% per year on the cap. For the period February 2024 to February 2025, the CPI grew by 2.68%, which resulted in the minimum base tax increasing by 1.5% and the incremental tax bracket increasing to 2.68%, in line with the prescribed limits.

**Water Meter Connections**

Every person engaged in the business of a public water utility in the City shall pay a business tax based upon the number of active metered connections within the city, unless the basis of the tax is otherwise prescribed in the San José Municipal Code.

| Water Companies                                   | July 2024 - June 2025 | Effective July 1, 2025 <sup>2</sup> |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Base Tax  | \$216.35              | <b>\$219.60</b>                     |
| Flat Incremental Tax: per connection <sup>1</sup> | \$1.19                | <b>\$1.22</b>                       |
| Cap   | \$180,674.26          | <b>\$185,532.59</b>                 |

<sup>1</sup> Incremental tax rates are applicable per unit.

<sup>2</sup> As prescribed in San José Municipal Code Section 4.76.485, the base tax rate shall be adjusted annually if the cost of living in the City has increased over the base period, as shown by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers for All Items for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Area), using February to February data; limited to 1.5% per year on the minimum base tax, 3.0% per year on the incremental tax brackets, and 3.0% per year on the cap. For the period February 2024 to February 2025, the CPI grew by 2.68%, which resulted in the minimum base tax increasing by 1.5% and the incremental tax bracket increasing to 2.68%, in line with the prescribed limits.

**Out of Town Businesses**

Every person engaged in business in the City shall pay a business tax based on an employee count, unless the basis of tax is otherwise prescribed in the San José Municipal Code.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

**BUSINESS TAXES**

***Out of Town Businesses***

| Out of Businesses:                    | Effective July 1, 2025 <sup>3</sup> |              |              |              |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Employee Count <sup>1</sup>           | 120+ days                           | 90-119 Days  | 30-89 days   | 6-29 days    | 5 or less days <sup>4</sup> |
| Base Tax: 1-2 employees               | \$219.59                            | \$109.80     | \$82.35      | \$54.90      | \$0.00                      |
| Incremental Tax: 3-35 <sup>2</sup>    | \$37.06                             | \$18.53      | \$13.90      | \$9.26       | \$0.00                      |
| Incremental Tax: 36-100 <sup>2</sup>  | \$49.40                             | \$24.70      | \$18.53      | \$12.35      | \$0.00                      |
| Incremental Tax: 101-500 <sup>2</sup> | \$61.75                             | \$30.87      | \$23.15      | \$15.44      | \$0.00                      |
| Incremental Tax: 501+ <sup>2</sup>    | \$74.15                             | \$37.08      | \$27.81      | \$18.54      | \$0.00                      |
| Cap                                   | \$185,532.59                        | \$185,532.59 | \$185,532.59 | \$185,532.59 | \$0.00                      |

<sup>1</sup> Businesses choose between calculating the number of employees based on full-time equivalent (FTE) or based on the number employers report to the California Employment Development Department (EDD).

<sup>2</sup> Incremental tax rates are applicable per employee.

<sup>3</sup> As prescribed in San José Municipal Code Section 4.76.485, the base tax rate shall be adjusted annually if the cost of living in the City has increased over the base period, as shown by the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers for All Items for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA Area), using February to February data; limited to 1.5% per year on the minimum base tax, 3.0% per year on the incremental tax brackets, and 3.0% per year on the cap. For the period February 2024 to February 2025, the CPI grew by 2.68%, which resulted in the minimum base tax increasing by 1.5% and the incremental tax bracket increasing to 2.68%, in line with the prescribed limits.

<sup>4</sup> For businesses in San José only 5 or less days, there is no fee, but the business is still required to submit registration. They will receive an account number, but a certificate will not be issued. These accounts automatically expire annually.

***Exclusions and Exemptions***

There are several exclusions (by Federal or State regulations) or exemptions (by the City Council) from the General Business Tax. The major types of exempt organizations include banks and insurance companies, charitable and non-profit organizations, interstate commerce, and low revenue generation businesses.

***Specialty Business Taxes***

On May 26, 1987, the City Council enacted a new **Disposal Facility Tax**, which became effective July 1, 1987. The rate structure is based on the weight of solid waste disposed. On July 1, 1992, the City Council increased the Disposal Facility Tax from \$3.00 per ton of disposed waste to \$13.00 per ton. This tax is assessed on landfills located in the City of San José. Beginning 2002-2003, waste previously classified as alternate daily cover was made subject to the Disposal Facility Tax. After a legal challenge, the City reinstated the alternate daily cover exemption in August 2005.

During 1991-1992, the City Council approved a cardroom ordinance, which contained the provision of a **Cardroom Business Tax** to tax gross receipts from cardrooms located in the City. On June 9, 1992, the City Council amended the cardroom ordinance, increasing the tax rate schedule and expanding the permissible games authorized. A gross receipt monthly tax schedule

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

**BUSINESS TAXES**

**Specialty Business Taxes**

was established with taxes ranging from 1% to 13% of gross receipts. In 1993-1994, the City Council approved a revision to the cardroom ordinance, instituting a flat 13% gross receipts tax for all cardrooms located in the City with annual gross revenues in excess of \$10,000. In June 2010, voters approved a ballot measure that increased the tax rate from 13% to 15% and increased the maximum number of card tables from 80 to 98. In November 2020 voters approved a ballot measure to increase the tax rate from 15% to 16.5% and extend the cardroom tax to those businesses providing Third-Party Proposition Player Services in the cardrooms. Further, voters approved increasing the maximum number of card tables from 98 to 128; however, this increase was subsequently denied by the State Gambling Control Commission.

On November 2, 2010, San José voters approved Ballot Measure U, which allowed the City to tax all marijuana businesses (medical and non-medical; legal and illegal) at a rate of up to 10% of gross receipts. On December 13, 2010, the City Council approved an ordinance that set the **Cannabis Business Tax** (formerly Marijuana Business Tax) at 7%, and on June 4, 2013, the City Council increased the rate to 10% effective on July 1, 2013. On May 21, 2019, the City Council approved an ordinance that amended Chapter 4.66 to rename the Marijuana Business Tax to the Cannabis Business Tax (CBT) and to establish a tiered CBT rate structure for various categories of cannabis business activities. Effective July 1, 2019, the following CBT rates are applicable on the gross receipts:

| Business Activity       | July 2013 - June 2019 | Effective July 1, 2019 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Cultivation             | 10%                   | 4%                     |
| Manufacturing           | 10%                   | 3%                     |
| Distribution            | 10%                   | 2%                     |
| Laboratory Testing      | 10%                   | 0%                     |
| Retail / Delivery Sales | 10%                   | 10%                    |

**REAL PROPERTY TRANSFER TAX**

On March 3, 2020, San José voters approved Measure E, Real Property Transfer Tax. This tax, which became effective on July 1, 2020, is imposed at a tiered level for property transfers (sales) over a specific threshold. The Real Property Transfer Tax is a general tax, which means the City of San José can use the revenue for any governmental purpose.

The rate for the Real Property Transfer Tax as of July 1, 2025 is as follows:

- 1) Up to \$2.3 million – Exempt;<sup>1</sup>
- 2) Over \$2.3 million to \$5.0 million – 0.75% of the transferred property value;
- 3) Over \$5.0 million to \$10.0 million – 1.0% of the transferred property value; and
- 4) Over \$10.0 million – 1.5% of the transferred property value

<sup>1</sup> Beginning July 1, 2025, the original exemption threshold of under \$2,000,000 automatically adjusts based on a consumer price index every five years. The Finance Director will publish the exemption threshold as adjusted no later than April 30 prior to the July 1 date on which the adjustment to the exemption threshold becomes effective. Beginning July 1, 2025 the exemption threshold increased from \$1,999,999.99 to \$2,300,000. The next consumer price index adjustment will occur on July 1, 2030.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

---

**TELEPHONE LINE TAX**

In November 2008, voters approved Measure J that replaced the Emergency Communication System Support (ECSS) Fee with a tax in an amount that is 10% less than the ECSS Fee. The tax amount is \$1.57 per telephone line per month and \$11.82 per commercial type trunk line. The City ceased collecting the fee and began collecting the tax by April 1, 2009. The tax is collected from telephone users on their telephone bills. Exemptions to the tax include low-income seniors and disabled persons who receive lifeline telephone service.

**LICENSES AND PERMITS**

The City requires payment for the issuance of various health and safety-related licenses and permits. For most licenses and permits, the various fees charged by a given department are based on full recovery of the estimated costs for providing each service. For example, the City requires fire safety inspections of all commercial property. The fee provides for inspection charges and a number of special charges. Authorized exceptions include the addition and/or alteration of under 20 sprinkler heads and the installation of portable extinguishers. The fee is authorized by Title 17 of the Municipal Code, Chapter 17.12. Where appropriate, license and permit fees take into consideration approved exceptions to the City Council's full cost recovery policy, as well as applicable State laws. Specific prices and rates are determined by ordinance and each of the charges is fully explained in the City's Fees and Charges Report, which is released in May of each year.

Prior to 2020-2021, this category included development-fee revenue related to the Fire Department and Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department. However, beginning in 2020-2021, all revenue and expenditures related to the Development Fee Programs are no longer captured in the General Fund, and are instead allocated to specific Development Fee Program Funds. As before, the Development Fee Programs remain at 100% cost recovery.

**FEES, RATES, AND CHARGES**

Fees, Rates, and Charges are comprised of fees charged for services, which are primarily provided by the following departments: Police; Transportation; Library; and Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services. Prior to 2020-2021, this category included development-fee revenue related to the Planning, Building and Code Enforcement Department and Public Works Department. However, beginning in 2020-2021, all revenue and expenditures related to the Development Fee Programs are no longer captured in the General Fund, and are instead allocated to specific Development Fee Program Funds. As before, the Development Fee Programs remain at 100% cost recovery.

The fees in this category are determined by ordinance and described in the City's annual Fees and Charges Report, which is released in May of each year. In addition, it should be noted that the fees assessed by the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Department can be found on the internet ([www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/parks-recreation-neighborhood-services](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/parks-recreation-neighborhood-services)).

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

---

**FINES, FORFEITURES AND PENALTIES**

The City receives a portion of the fines collected in connection with violations of the State Vehicle Code on city streets. Various fines may be assessed in addition to those imposed by the Santa Clara County bail schedule and judges' sentences. The County court system collects the fines as authorized by the State Vehicle Code and makes monthly remittances to the City. Only "on call" emergency vehicles are exempt from Vehicle Code street laws. State legislative action in 1991-1992 reduced the amount (by approximately 50%) of Vehicle Code fine and forfeiture revenue forwarded to the City. On October 10, 1997, however, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 233 (AB 233), which became effective on July 1, 1998. AB 233 changed how the State and its counties and cities share in traffic citation fine revenues. This legislation essentially resulted in the doubling of the City's revenue collections in this area, reversing the impact of the 1991-1992 State legislative action.

The City receives fines and forfeitures of bail resulting from violation of State Health and Safety Codes and City Ordinances. These fees, authorized by the State Criminal Code and City Ordinances, are collected by the County and remitted to the City on a monthly basis. The City also receives revenue collected in connection with violations of the City's vehicle parking laws. These fines vary according to the nature of the violation. The City pays an agency to process and collect the fines. The only authorized exemption is for "on call" emergency vehicles.

**REVENUE FROM USE OF MONEY AND PROPERTY**

The City invests idle funds in order to earn interest. The total income varies with the market rates for interest and the funds available to invest. The City has established a formalized and conservative investment policy with objectives emphasizing safety and liquidity. This policy provides guidelines for the type, size, maturity, percentage of portfolio, and size of security issuer (among others) of each investment. In addition, the policy statement outlines several responsibilities of the City Council, City Manager, City Auditor, and Finance Director. These policy and monitoring units interact and produce investment performance reports and an annually updated investment policy. All reports and policies must be reviewed and approved by both the City Manager and City Council. Investment of funds is authorized by the City Charter, Section 8066. Revenue is also received from the rental of City-owned property.

**REVENUE FROM LOCAL AGENCIES**

This revenue category includes revenue received from a variety of other local government agencies. For example, the City receives payments from Santa Clara County/Central Fire District for fire services provided to District residents by the San José Fire Department, reimbursement from Santa Clara County for the first responder of advanced life support (Paramedics Program), and reimbursement from the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) for police services at the Berryessa Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

---

**REVENUE FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

The City receives revenue from the State of California in a number of different forms. While the State provides the City with funds through grants and contracts for services, by far the largest source of funds is the Tobacco Settlement payments.

On November 23, 1998, the attorneys general of most states and the major United States tobacco companies signed a Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) to settle more than 40 pending lawsuits brought by states against the tobacco industry. In exchange for the states dropping their lawsuits, and agreeing not to sue in the future, the tobacco companies agreed to pay, in perpetuity, various annual payments to the states to compensate them for some of the medical costs of caring for persons with smoking-related illnesses. Further, the companies have restricted their marketing activities and established new efforts to curb tobacco consumption. The City, along with the other states and local government entities, joined in the settlement. In the MSA, the Original Participating Manufacturers agreed to pay a minimum of \$206 billion over the first twenty-five years of the agreement.

The City has also previously received Motor Vehicle In-Lieu (MVLf) Tax revenues, which are license fees collected by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Until 1998-1999, the annual license fee was 2% of the market value of the vehicle as determined by the DMV.

In 1998-1999, the State reduced the license fees by 25%, but agreed to backfill local jurisdictions for the loss in revenue, which represented 67.5% of MVLf revenues received by the City at the time. In 2004-2005, as part of State budget actions, the MVLf rate was permanently reduced from 2% to 0.65% and all future receipts of the backfill were approved to be in the form of increased Property Tax receipts and are reflected in that category. Thus, the backfill amount due to the City has permanently become property tax revenue that now grows based on assessed valuations. The State withholds a portion of these fees for the support of the DMV. The remaining fees are divided equally between counties and cities, and their aggregate shares are distributed in proportion to the respective populations of the cities and counties of the State. The exemptions authorized by the State Constitution, Article 13, include vehicles owned by insurance companies and banks, publicly owned vehicles, and vehicles owned by certain veterans with disabilities. The tax is authorized by the State Revenue and Taxation Code. In late June 2011, the State Legislature approved SB 89, which shifted over \$130 million in annual General Fund Motor Vehicle In-Lieu revenue from cities to support State law enforcement grants effective July 1, 2011. State legislative action in 1992-1993 eliminated local Trailer Coach In-Lieu Tax revenues. These funds were shifted to the State General Fund.

**REVENUE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

Federal grants account for a significant portion of federal revenues. Grant programs must be specifically outlined and proposed for federal sponsorship. Due to the grant process, the volume of grants and level of revenue has been and will be sporadic.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

---

**OTHER REVENUE**

This revenue category contains revenue received from a variety of miscellaneous sources. Significant sources of revenue include reimbursement related to Finance Department staff in the Investment Program, sale of surplus property receipts, one-time and/or varied levels of reimbursements, and miscellaneous revenues associated with the Office of the City Attorney.

**TRANSFERS AND REIMBURSEMENTS**

The Transfers and Reimbursements revenue category is used to account for funds received by the General Fund from other City funds through a combination of means, including operating and capital fund overhead charges, transfers, and reimbursements for services rendered.

Overhead charges are assessed to recover the estimated fair share of indirect General Fund support services costs (staff and materials) that benefit other City program and fund activities. Examples of support activities included in the charges are services provided by the following departments: Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Mayor and City Council, the Office of the City Attorney, and the Office of the City Manager. Each year the charges are calculated using Finance Department developed overhead rates applied to projected salary costs in most City funds. The most significant sources of overhead reimbursements are the Airport Maintenance and Operation Fund, Integrated Waste Management Fund, San José Clean Energy Fund, Sewer Service and Use Charge Fund, Storm Sewer Operating Fund, and San José/Santa Clara Treatment Plant Operating Fund.

Transfers consist of both one-time and ongoing revenue sources to the General Fund. Ongoing transfers include capital fund transfers for maintenance and operating expenses incurred by the General Fund. One-time transfers occur on a sporadic basis and have included the disposition of uncommitted fund balances in several special funds and the transfer of monies to fund a variety of City projects.

Reimbursements from other funds represent the cost to the General Fund for services provided on behalf of the other City funds. This category also includes the State Gas Tax funds that are used to reimburse the General Fund for eligible expenditures. The State Gas Tax is described in the following section.

**CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**2025-2026 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET**  
**GENERAL FUND REVENUE DESCRIPTIONS**

---

**STATE GAS TAX**

A portion of the State Gas Tax is shared with cities and counties under separate sections of the Streets and Highways Code. The 1964 Gas Tax (Section 2106) provides for a \$0.0104 charge on every gallon of gasoline. Revenue is then allocated according to the following formula:

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County Allocation :    **a** No. of Registered Vehicles in County  
                                  **÷ b** No. of Registered Vehicles in State  
                                  **x c** \$0.0104  
                                  **x d** Gallons of Gas Sold

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City Allocation:        **a** Incorporated Assessed Value in County  
                                  **÷ b** Total Assessed Value in County  
                                  **x c** County Allocation

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Individual City Allocation:    **a** Population in City  
  **÷ b** Population of all Cities in County  
  **x c** City Allocation

The 1943 Gas Tax (Section 2107) authorized a per gallon charge of \$0.00725. The State allocates part of these revenues for snow removal; the balance is distributed by calculating the portion of the State population represented by the city's population.

As a result of the passage of Proposition 111, gas and diesel taxes were increased \$0.05 per gallon on August 1, 1990, and increased by \$0.01 per gallon each January 1 until and including January 1, 1994. For the 1990 Gas Tax (Section 2105), cities are apportioned a sum equal to the net revenues derived from 11.5% of highway users taxes in excess of \$0.09 per gallon in the proportion that the total city population bears to the total population of all cities in the State.