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IS HANFORD ABOUT TO SPEND \$100K ON ONE SPICAL ELECTION - JUST TO RAISE A HOTEL TAX?



August 2, 2025

The Hanford City Council is scheduled to hold a study session on **Tuesday, August 5**, to evaluate when to place a proposed increase to the city's Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) before voters. The TOT is the tax collected from guests who stay in hotels or similar lodging within city limits. The current rate is 8 percent, and the proposal would increase it by 4 percent, raising the total to 12 percent.

Back on **July 1**, the [council approved Resolution 25-39-R](#), which called for a special election on **November 4, 2025**, to present the TOT increase to voters. However, following that action, [council members requested](#) further analysis on the costs and benefits of holding a special election versus waiting until the regularly scheduled **June 2026** general election.

According to updated figures in the city's August 5 agenda report, a standalone special [election in November would cost the city](#) an estimated **\$92,100 to \$107,500**. This full cost would be borne solely by the [City of Hanford](#), since no other jurisdictions are placing items on the ballot that month.

In contrast, adding the measure to the **June 2026** general election would cost the city an estimated **\$43,800 to \$58,300**, with costs shared among multiple agencies.



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However, the timing decision also carries potential financial impacts. According to city staff, delaying the tax measure until June 2026 could result in **lost revenue of approximately \$120,000 to \$200,000** for the general [fund](#). City officials noted that waiting could allow more time for public education and might result in higher voter turnout, while an earlier election could bring in new revenue sooner.

The purpose of the study session is for the [City Council](#) to review the data and **provide direction** to staff on which election date to pursue. No final vote will be taken during the session, and the measure itself is not yet scheduled for voter consideration.

The meeting will be held at **7:00 p.m. on August 5** in the Council Chambers at **400 N. [Douty Street](#)**. The public may attend in person or view the meeting via livestream at <http://livestream.hanford.city>.

[Kings Network News](#) will continue to follow this issue as council members weigh their options on the timing of the proposed tax increase.