

# City Beat

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 (209) 577-5200  
 TDD (209) 526-9211

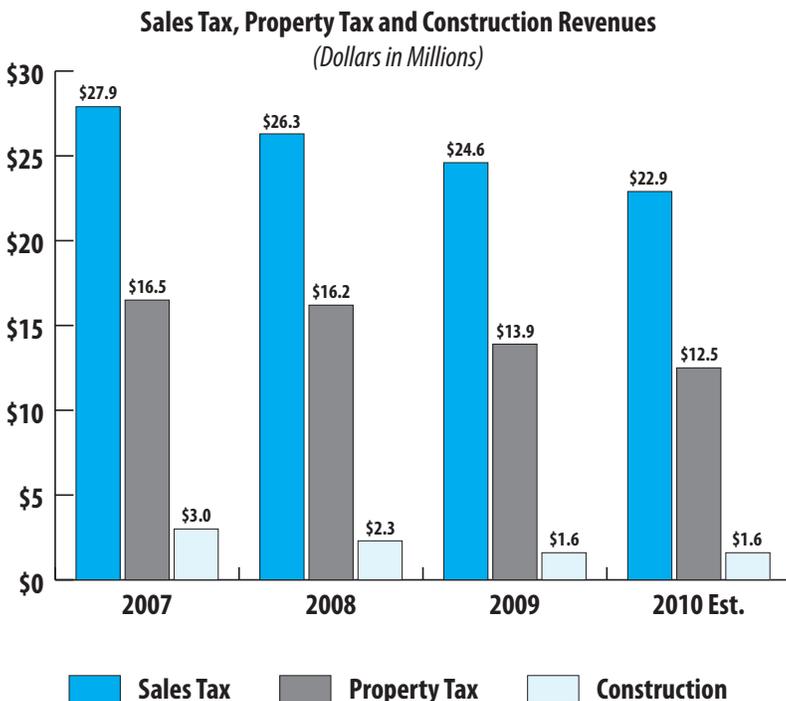
## THE CITY BUDGET

*Budget Workshops to be held May 17, 18, 20 and 21*

The national and global financial crisis continues to unfold in 2010 and everyone - individuals, companies and governments – feel the anxiety of an uncertain financial future. As we've seen vividly in the last few years, financial stability requires constant and disciplined monitoring and quick action. That is what the City of Modesto has provided over the past two years and will continue to provide as it navigates through these economic challenges.

Across all City funds, the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009/2010 adopted budget included staff reductions of over 150 employees from the prior year and expense reductions of over \$15 million.

The General Fund, which had the majority of the staff and expense reductions in the FY 2009/2010 budget, supports a wide variety of general government programs and activities including public safety programs in the Police and Fire department, recreation programs, park maintenance, graffiti abatement, street maintenance, planning and economic development. Sales tax and property tax, two of the largest revenues for the General Fund have experienced the most visible decline in recent years and continue to trend downward. Other revenues are also trending lower than expected. The chart below illustrates the dramatic declines in revenues over the past few years.



Also impacting the City's budget will be any actions taken by the State in response to its own budget shortfall.

The City of Modesto is again taking a hard look at all of its revenues, expenses, services and programs to determine the most prudent path going forward on behalf of the community. As the effect of staffing and service cuts has accumulated over the last several years, expense cuts have had to go deeper into important services. Tough choices will be made, and Modesto citizens have a chance to be part of the discussions by participating in the May Budget Workshops with the Finance Committee of the Modesto City Council.

For more information on the Budget Workshops, refer to the back of this insert, or go online to [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) and click on "Budget Information."

## GET INVOLVED!

The Mayor and City Council need to know what services you value most. Would you prefer to see less park restroom maintenance and more recreation programs for children? How about graffiti abatement? Is that more important to you than pothole patching? Your input on the budget will help the Council as the budget for next year is put into place.

We want to partner with you to make our community better. After all, we all live and work here! There are many ways to get involved, how much is up to you. Here are just a few ways in which you can get involved:

### ATTEND THE WORKSHOPS!

The Finance Committee of the Modesto City Council will hold a series of workshops on the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 proposed budget as presented by the Mayor and City Manager.

Modesto citizens are encouraged to attend the Finance Committee Budget Workshops, which are scheduled\* as follows:

- Monday, May 17
- Tuesday, May 18
- Thursday, May 20
- Friday, May 21

*\* All workshops are tentatively scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the Council Chambers of Tenth Street Place. For up-to-date start times and topics, visit [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) and click on "Budget Information."*

The City Council will hold a public hearing at its regularly scheduled meeting on May

25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers to hear additional public comments regarding the proposed budget.

Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2010/2011 budget is tentatively scheduled for June 1 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Tenth Street Place.

For more information on the Budget Workshops or public hearings, call the Finance Department at (209) 577-5369, or visit [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) and click on "Budget Information."

### BE INFORMED!

City services, policies and spending are discussed year-round at the City Council meetings. Come to meetings, view them on the local cable channel (Comcast Channel 7 / Charter Channel 19), view them live online, or review archived meetings online.

### KNOW YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS!

Go online to [www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com) and click on "City Council" under the Government tab to view the biographies of your elected officials. You can also find out information on the various committees of the Council, the terms of office, review current agendas and/or past Council meeting minutes.

### CONTACT YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS!

You are encouraged to call or write your City Council Members. Call the Modesto City Council Office at (209) 571-5169.