

The Los Angeles Street Vendor Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions



What would this policy do?

This policy would legalize the sale of food and non-food vending on sidewalks in the City of Los Angeles. It would create a permit system to regulate how vendors can sell on sidewalks. The policy would also encourage healthy food vending by setting a lower permit fee for the sale of nutritious items like fruits and vegetables, & establish a formal process for the selling of non-food items.

How will this policy get passed?

To pass a city ordinance, City Council needs 8 or more votes in favor. We are engaging stakeholders now to help craft a smart, inclusive policy that will benefit everyone.

Who developed the policy?

This policy was developed by the LA Street Vendor Campaign – a coalition of more than 40 organizations across the city. The group brought together community-based organizations that work with sidewalk vendors & local businesses; health and environmental advocates; gourmet and lunch truck operators; and staff from the City and County of Los Angeles.

Will food sold by legal sidewalk vendors be safe to eat?

Yes. Sidewalk vendors have to comply with the State of California's Retail Food Code, which sets health standards for businesses that sell food to the public. These regulations are enforced by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. They regulate what kind of carts vendors may use; access to sinks, stoves, hot water, refrigeration and bathrooms; and how vending carts must be stored and cleaned when not in use. This policy would not change these rules.

Would legalizing sidewalk vending cost the city money?

No. Because vendors are operating outside the law, they do not pay for permits or pay sales taxes. Legalizing sidewalk vending would increase City revenue from annual permit fees and from sales taxes, allowing for more effective enforcement.

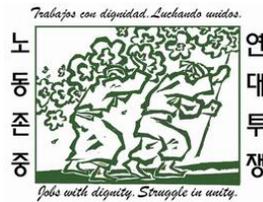
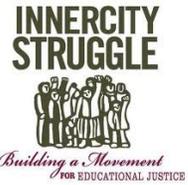
Would legal sidewalk vending harm brick-and-mortar businesses and take away jobs?

No. Comparisons made between brick-and-mortar businesses and mobile vendors are often overstated. Street vendors generally sell smaller-ticket items, while stores, because of their high-fixed costs for rent, generally try to sell higher-priced items. Vendors already operate without having to pay for permits or taxes. With 13% of Angelenos out of a job, creating a permit system would help level the playing field, and increase local purchasing power along business corridors.[1]

Would legal sidewalk vending make sidewalks unsafe?

No. The proposed policy would regulate where sidewalk vendors locate their carts so they do not block pedestrian traffic, doorways or driveways. Vendors give communities more vibrancy and safety by promoting foot traffic. More eyes on the street contributes to safer neighborhoods.

Campaign Partners include



/LAStreetVendorCampaign



@ELAOCorg @LURNetwork @CHIRLA
@goodfoodLA @publiccounsel
@LA2050



#LAStreetVendors

[1] Los Angeles Unemployment, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 11 2012

[2] "Los Angeles, a predominantly African-American and Latino region of Los Angeles, has the highest rates of poverty and obesity in Los Angeles County, with nearly 30 percent of households living in poverty and 35 percent of adults considered obese. By comparison, ten percent of residents in West Los Angeles, a predominantly white region of LA, live in poverty and ten percent of West LA adults are considered obese."; The Good Food for All Agenda: Creating a New Regional Food System for Los Angeles, The Los Angeles Food Policy Task Force, July 2010.

[3] Los Angeles was rated the 2nd greatest street food city in the world; World's best street food, CNN.com, July 19, 2010