



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 12, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

PREPARER: Rhea Varley, City Clerk

DATE: June 06, 2024

TITLE: **Adopt Resolution No. 234-57 Calling for a General Municipal Election to be Held November 5, 2024, and Consider Appointing a Subcommittee to Draft Arguments in Favor of the Transactions and Use Tax (TUT) Measure.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 234-57, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Arcata Calling for a General Municipal Election to be Held November 5, 2024, Requesting the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Consolidate the Election with the Statewide General Election, Establishing Policies for the Election, and Requesting the Humboldt County Office of Elections Conduct Said Election; and
- 2) Appoint a subcommittee of two Councilmembers to draft a primary argument in favor of the Transactions and Use Tax ballot measure and bring it to the Council's July 17, 2024, regular meeting for approval; and, if a rebuttal argument is necessary, authorize the subcommittee to draft it and schedule a special meeting before July 30, 2024, to approve it.

INTRODUCTION:

The Elections Code of the State of California provides that the local governing body shall establish policies concerning the conduct of municipal elections. Resolution No. 234-57 specifies those policies and requests the general municipal election be consolidated with the statewide general election to be held on November 5, 2024.

Additionally, arguments may be submitted for or against ballot measures, and this is the opportunity for the Council to decide if it wishes to create a Council subcommittee to prepare an argument in favor of the Transactions and Use Tax measure as well as a rebuttal argument if necessary.

DISCUSSION:

By adopting Resolution No. 234-57, the City Council calls for a general municipal election to be held in the City of Arcata on the 5th day of November, 2024, and requests the election be consolidated with the Statewide General Election and be conducted by the Humboldt County Office

of Elections. The purpose of the election is to elect three City Council members, each for a full term of four years, and to submit ballot measures to the registered voters of Arcata.

Ballot Measure Arguments

Arguments for and against ballot measures may be filed by the proponents of a measure, the City Council, a registered voter of Arcata, a bona fide association of citizens, or a combination of voters and associations. No more than five signatures are allowed on an argument. Primary arguments are limited to 300 words with rebuttal arguments limited to 250 words. Further requirements for submitting arguments are laid out in Attachment B to this staff report.

Primary arguments are due July 19, with rebuttal arguments due July 30, 2024. If it so wishes, the Council may appoint a subcommittee of two Councilmembers to draft primary and rebuttal arguments in favor of the TUT ballot measure. The primary argument's wording shall be brought to the Council at its July 17 regular meeting for approval. If a rebuttal argument is necessary, the Council shall schedule a special meeting before July 30, 2024, to approve its wording.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

In the past, elections have cost the City from \$5,600 to \$35,000. The election in November 2022, which consisted of two Council positions and two measures cost \$11,785.77. The cost of an election cannot be precisely foretold because it depends entirely on how many items are on the ballot and how much it costs the County to conduct the election overall. The fiscal year 2024/2025 budget is anticipated to include \$20,500 in Activity 05, Account No. 101-10-05-52501, for the November 2024 General Municipal Election.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution No. 234-57 Calling for Election Nov 5, 2024 (DOC)
- B. Instructions for Arguments(DOCX)