



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 17, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

PREPARER: Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

DATE: July 10, 2024

TITLE: **Adopt Resolution No. 245-04, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Arcata Ratifying the Final Ballot Measure Language for the General Municipal Election to be held November 5, 2024.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt Resolution No. 245-04, A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Arcata ratifying the final ballot measure language for the general municipal election to be held November 5, 2024.

INTRODUCTION:

During a Council meeting on June 12th, the City Council passed two resolutions calling for the Municipal Election and adding a ballot measure to the consolidated election to be held on November 5, 2024.

As is customary, the City Clerk worked with the County staff from the Elections Office to finalize the ballot measure language based on current election code and county election software criteria. To continue public engagement on this item and ensure transparency, staff requests that the Council ratify the final ballot measure language.

DISCUSSION:

During the June 12th city Council Meeting, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 234-57 and No. 234-52 which

- **Pursuant to Section 10403 and 10002 of the Elections Code, requests the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt to consent to the consolidation of the Municipal Election with the Statewide General Election on November 5, 2024, including the publishing of all election materials, the mailing of sample ballots, the hiring of election officers, and conducting the Election; and**
- **Includes the election of three (3) City Councilmembers, each for a full term of four (4) years; and**

- And submits to the voters a question relating to the imposition of a three-fourths (3/4th) of one cent Transactions and Use (“sales”) Tax for general purposes; and

Subsequent to that meeting the City Clerk worked with the staff from the County Election Office as authorized through Resolution No. 234-52 to finalize the Ballot Measure language to comport to current election code regulations and Humboldt County’s ballot preparation software.

With the intent to continuously share the progress of the ballot measure with the community and provide open transparency, the final language is being presented to the City Council for ratification. Below is a copy of the language amendments in track changes (~~strike through~~ for removed items and **bolded/underlined** for additions) and the final language for ratification.

Track Changes Version of Ballot Measure Language Amendments:

<u>THE CITY OF ARCATA SALES TAX MEASURE</u>	
Arcata Essential Services Measure	
To maintain and improve Arcata’s essential city services and facilities, such as	YES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency, disaster and climate change preparedness and response, • services addressing homelessness and its impacts to the city, • clinical mental health response to people in crisis, • youth diversion counselor programs, • sidewalks, bike lanes, transit, roads and trails, • recreation and local parks, and • other vital city programs 	NO
shall the City of Arcata enact a measure, by adopting <u>enacting</u> a 3/4 cent sales tax, for general government purposes <u>be adopted</u> , providing approximately \$2.6 million annually until ended by voters, requiring public <u>audited</u> spending <u>reports</u> disclosure , citizens' oversight, annual <u>audits</u> , and all funds used <u>to be spent</u> locally?	

Final Ballot Measure Language for Ratification:

CITY OF ARCATA SALES TAX MEASURE	
To maintain and improve emergency and climate change response; services addressing homelessness and its impacts; mental health response to crisis; sidewalks, bike lanes, transit, roads and trails; recreation and parks; and other vital programs: shall the measure enacting a 3/4 cent sales tax for general government purposes be adopted, providing approximately \$2.6 million annually until ended by voters, requiring audited spending reports, citizens' oversight, and all funds to be spent locally?	YES
	NO

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

This action will not affect the cost of the election to the City. 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 includes \$20,500 in Activity 05, Account No. 101-10-05-52501, for the November 2024 General Municipal Election.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. 245-04 Ratifying Ballot Measure Language (DOC)