



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 01, 2020

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Bridget Dory, City Clerk

PREPARER: Bridget Dory, City Clerk

DATE: June 25, 2020

TITLE: **Approve Language of Primary Arguments in Favor of Measure A—Open Space, Parks and Trails Special Tax and Measure B—Article XXXIV Government-Assisted Affordable Housing Limitation.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council review, edit and approve language for primary arguments in favor of Measure A—Open Space, Parks, and Trails Special Tax, and Measure B—Article XXXIV Government-Assisted Affordable Housing Limitation, for the November 3, 2020, general municipal election.

INTRODUCTION:

At its June 17, 2020, regular meeting, the City Council assigned subcommittees to draft primary arguments in favor of two city ballot measures. The subcommittee for the open space, parks, and trails special tax measure consists of Mayor Winkler and Councilmember Watson, and the subcommittee for the measure to increase the limit on Article XXXIV government-assisted affordable housing consists of Mayor Winkler and Councilmember Pereira. Due to time constraints, the arguments are not included in the Council packet, but will be made available for review before the July 1 meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The City Council has authorized two ballot measures to be put forth to the voters at the November 2020 general municipal election. One ballot measure is for an open space, parks and trails special tax (Measure A) and the other is a proposal to increase the Article XXXIV limitation on government-assisted affordable housing (Measure B).

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to Elections Code section 9282, the City Council wishes to submit arguments in favor of both ballot measures and has appointed subcommittees to draft proposed language for the Council's approval. Primary arguments and any rebuttal arguments will be printed in the Voter Information Guide mailed out to each registered voter within the City of Arcata.

Written arguments for or against the measures must be submitted to the City Clerk by noon on Friday, July 17, 2020. After that date, no arguments for or against the City measures may be submitted.

In addition to the City Council, any individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure or bona fide association of citizens, may file a written argument for or against the measure. Arguments must be accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting them, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers. No direct argument shall exceed 300 words in length and no more than five signatures shall appear with any argument submitted.

Rebuttal arguments, not to exceed 250 words, may be submitted by the authors of the opposing direct arguments, and shall be filed no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 28, 2020. Rebuttal arguments must be accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s), or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers.

Arguments submitted must be titled either “Argument in Favor of Measure ___ ” or “Argument Against Measure ____.” Arguments must be typewritten and have the following statement on the heading of the first page: “Arguments in favor of or against the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.” If more than one argument for or more than one argument against the measure is submitted to the City Clerk’s office within the time prescribed, the Clerk selects one argument in favor and one argument against the measure for printing and distribution to the voters of the City as prescribed by the California Elections Code.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

None with this action. Increased costs for the election due to printing costs associated with the Voter Information Guide.