Argument in Favor of Measure L

The City of Albany worked hard to maintain fiscal stability after the 2008 financial crisis and to avoid the dire fiscal consequences that other cities faced. A large part of our success was due to Measure F, the one-half percent local sales tax passed by Albany voters in 2012.

Because of the support of voters, Albany has been able restore and enhance city services including fire and police protection, emergency response, recreational programs, senior and youth programs, community development and environmental preservation, maintenance of parks and playgrounds, and other general city services.

We are asking Albany voters to continue to support our city by renewing our half-cent sales tax with Measure L. This measure is not a tax increase. It simply asks to maintain the one-half percent local sales tax that Albany voters approved in 2012. Even with our local half-percent sales tax, Albany’s total sales tax rate is 9.75 percent. This is the same rate as our neighboring city, El Cerrito, and less than the rate of many cities in California.

Measure L’s one-half percent sales tax goes directly to the City of Albany’s general fund, where it helps support the core services of the city, including police and fire fighters. The rest of the sales tax goes to the State of California and Alameda County. Some of this state and county revenue does find its way back to Albany in the form of restricted grants. However, if Measure L is not approved, the city’s general fund will lose $1.3 million annually.

The City of Albany has spent the sales tax revenue thoughtfully. With your help, the city will continue to do so. Albany is a good place to live. Please help keep it that way by voting yes on Measure L.

Michael Barnes, Albany City Council Member

Peter Maass, Albany City Council Member

Peggy McQuaid, Albany Mayor

Rochelle Nason, Albany Vice Mayor

Nick Pilch, Albany City Council Member