REBUTTAL for Argument Against Measure L

The author of the argument against Measure L, Dan Walden, does not live in Albany and does not understand our city finances. Walden’s generic anti-tax arguments attempt to obfuscate the reality of our City’s finances. Measure L is no more a “FOREVER” tax than continuing payment for an online newspaper is a “forever” charge. Both can be cancelled at will. If Measure L passes, and at some point in the future Albany voters want to repeal it, either the citizens or the city council can place a repeal measure on the ballot. This is how, in 2016, Albany voters modernized parking standards when they approved Measure N1. Measure L is not a charter amendment and has nothing to do with pension liabilities, the topic of the report by Orange County’s Senator Moorlach. What drives the numbers in the Moorlach report is a quirk in how long-term pension liabilities are reported. Albany has its own police and fire departments and responsibly reports and monitors long-term pension liabilities. Albany is fiscally responsible. California state law requires a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) of city spending. Albany’s CAFR is conducted by independent, professional auditors and is the standard for ironclad accountability. Albany’s most recent CAFR showed that the city’s budget is balanced. Anyone interested in learning more about city finances can review these reports on the City’s website, and attend, or view on line, Council Meetings. The Albany City Council welcomes your participation. Please vote 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