Rebuttal to Argument In Favor of Measure M/ Parcel Tax

This Measure is NOT simply ‘designed as an extension of the annual assessment for parks that Albany voters enacted in 1996 as Measure R, and which is now expiring’ as the Argument in Favor claims. The new parcel tax is a FOREVER tax. The existing [Measure R] parcel tax must be renewed by the voters who approve the performance of City leadership. The Ordinance explains that ‘The tax does not have an automatic expiration date; it would remain in effect unless terminated by the voters.’ The Argument in Favor skipped right over this critical legal issue. The City Attorney’s ‘Impartial Analysis’ downplayed the huge task voters will have to ever terminate this tax with the statement ‘The tax does not have an automatic expiration date; it would remain in effect unless terminated by the voters.’ The City Attorney fails to explain that future dissatisfied voters of Measure L will be required to launch an initiative process, pay legal fees and collect thousands of signatures to challenge this sales tax.

This Special Tax and must be spent for specific purposes. However, the vaguely stated multiple purposes ‘including maintaining: City parks, ballfields, play structures, picnic areas and restrooms; vegetation management’, are not specific purposes. The word ‘including’ creates a loophole not a specific purpose.

The City Attorney explains that ‘Tax proceeds may also be used to fund related administrative expenses’. The ‘related administrative expenses’ are boundless. The City Council must present an honest Special Tax with specific purposes. Vote NO.

Submitted by
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