



APPROVING ON SECOND READING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA AMENDING SECTION 3-26.120 OF THE SANTA ROSA CITY CODE TO CHANGE THE LEVEL OF FUNDING REQUIRED TO BE DEDICATED FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SAFETY PURPOSES;
APPROVING A RESOLUTION ORDERING SUBMISSION OF BALLOT MEASURE TO SEEK VOTER APPROVAL OF THAT ORDINANCE;
PERMITTING THE FILING OF REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS,
DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY TO PROVIDE AN IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS, AND PROVIDING DIRECTION REGARDING BALLOT ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE

City Council Meeting
August 9, 2016

Deborah Lauchner, Chief Financial Officer
Randy E. Riddle, Acting City Attorney

BACKGROUND

On July 19, 2016, the City Council provided direction to prepare ballot documents for a no tax-rate increase reauthorization of Measure P and an adjustment to the baseline funding formula of Measure O on the November 8, 2016 ballot to strengthen the City's General Fund and provide locally-controlled funding for services the community has indicated are important. The City Attorney has drafted proposed ballot measures and ballot summaries as required for each ballot.

BACKGROUND

On August 2, 2016, an Ordinance was introduced by a 7-0 vote, to amend Measure O to establish a new funding baseline for extend for certain public safety purposes.

MEASURE O Amendment

Would amend the baseline spending provision (Subsection G) of Measure O to reflect current percentages of the budget allocated for specified public safety purposes.

As initially approved by the Council last week, the ordinance to amend Subsection G of Measure O does not include the current language in that subsection that permits the Council, by six votes, to set a spending level lower than the default baseline spending level.

MEASURE O

To add this language back into the ordinance to amend Measure O, a motion would have be made and approved by four members of the Council as follows: *I move that we amend the language of the Proposition O amendment to be submitted to the voters by adding the following language at the end of Subsection G of the proposed ordinance: “unless a lower level of funding is first approved by the affirmative vote of six Council members.”*

MEASURE O

Once amended, the Council could then approve a motion to approve the language of the ordinance language as amended, which would also require four votes; because the proposed amendment does not increase or extend the underlying tax, a single approval is legally sufficient.

Finally, the Council could approve the resolution to formally submit the Measure O amendment to the voters, again by four votes.

BALLOT MEASURE O

The proposed Ordinance shall be submitted to the electors in the form of a measure printed on the ballot as follows:

City of Santa Rosa Public Safety Spending Levels.

Shall the City of Santa Rosa amend the minimum funding requirements for public safety services, including police, fire, and gang-prevention, to reflect City FY 2015-16 spending levels?

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the City Manager and the Finance Department that the Council, approve for submission to the voters an ordinance to amend Measure O to establish a new funding baseline for extend for certain public safety purposes; and

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution to (1) order the submission of a ballot measure to the voters at the November 8, 2016, General Municipal Election to approve that ordinance; (2) provide for the filing of rebuttal arguments on the measure; (3) direct the City Attorney to prepare an impartial analysis of the measure; and (4) direct staff to prepare a draft of the ballot argument in support of the proposed ballot measure.

Questions?