

Argument in Favor of Measure A

Charter Amendment will hold elected officials to higher standard for raising taxes

You are overtaxed. With Measure A we can guarantee that special interests or a simple majority of politicians cannot put a tax vote to the public without overwhelming support from your elected county representatives. Your vote for Measure A closes a loophole in State law. If a special tax is to be imposed on taxpayers, there should be a public vote and a strong consensus on record from those you elect to serve your interests.

Under Article XIII of the current California State Constitution, two-thirds voter approval is required for general obligation bonds, parcel taxes, and non-value-based taxes on real property. These requirements were approved in 1986 by voters eager to protect themselves from increased local taxes. This amendment will ensure that this threshold applies to Board of Supervisors' votes as well.

According to CalTax, there were 228 local tax measures on the ballot statewide in 2016, over \$3 billion in tax increases. According to the California Local Government Finance Almanac, of 28 special tax measures on the ballot in June of 2018, 15 were approved. Since 2001, 60% of County majority-vote measures passed compared with 45% of two-thirds vote measures.

With this charter amendment, the Board of Supervisors adds taxpayer protections to County law. Today, it takes a two-thirds approval from voters to pass a special tax, but the Board can put a special tax on the ballot with a simple majority. Measure A closes that loophole.

Requiring a supermajority on the ballot makes sure that raising special taxes at the public's expense will be more challenging. This charter amendment will require a higher level of review before special taxes get on the county ballot. Orange County will be joining many cities in ensuring this constitutional protection in defending our already overburdened taxpayers.

s/ Michelle Steel
Supervisor, Second District
Orange County Board of Supervisors

s/ Donald P. Wagner
Supervisor, Third District
Orange County Board of Supervisors

s/ Jon Coupal
President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association