



STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 10, 2024

PRESENTER: John Jansons, City Manager

SUBJECT: Consideration of Future Presentation(s) and Council position on Measure E

RECOMMENDATION: Council provide direction if they wish to schedule and hear a presentation from Measure E proponents and/or opponents on the proposed County-wide sales tax increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ cent to fund California State University Fresno improvements and programs and/or take a position as a Council or as individuals on Measure E.

DISCUSSION:

Mayor Pacheco requested City Council consideration of Measure E and on December 13, 2023, the Council agreed to take up this matter. Further direction from the City Council is requested if Council wishes to schedule and hear a presentation(s) by Measure E proponents and from opponents on the proposed County-wide sales tax increase of $\frac{1}{4}$ cent to fund California State University - Fresno improvements and programs, and/or take a position as a Council or as individuals on Measure E.

Measure E is a proposed 0.25% sales tax levied on all taxable purchases in Fresno County that will provide approximately \$63,000,000 annually for 25 years. As stated by the proponents, these funds will be spent on deferred maintenance of critical health and safety facilities, building new state-of-the art classrooms and labs for nursing, engineering, criminology, agriculture, water and other disciplines, an endowment for scholarships to deserving local students and veterans, another endowment to provide sustainable funding for annual maintenance, affordable student housing, athletic facilities and parking among stated priorities.

Opponents may argue that a Countywide, general sales tax surcharge is a regressive tax affecting lower income residents disproportionately, is not the appropriate way to fund State of California college facilities. Alternatively, a statewide bond or tax measure or State Budget appropriation may be considered as the appropriate way to fund State facilities and programs.

After the proposed measure qualified, on October 24, 2023, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors voted to place Measure E on the November 5, 2024 General Election Ballot.

Staff seeks direction as to whether City Council would like to have a presentation(s) at a future City Council meeting by the Measure E proponents and in fairness, and to educate the City Council and Kerman voters, those opposed to Measure E, if available. If directed by Council, staff will identify opportunities and respective dates to hear such presentations.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. Schedule presentations by proponents and / or opponents of Measure E.
2. City Council take a majority position or as individuals on Measure E.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Full Text of “Measure E” and Description of Measure E – by “Yes on Measure E Committee”,
<https://yesonmeasuree.com>