

Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Argument Against Measure R

Vote NO on Measure R

Local governments are responsible for the day-to-day activities of the community. Building and maintaining roadways and public safety is a major function of each city. Adequate funding should be in every agency's budget. The City of Benicia has neglected their responsibilities and now with this sales tax increase wants YOU to cover their negligence.

The city tells you that this sales tax increase "is a general tax, the funds would go to the City's general fund, and be used for any valid municipal government purpose." Really? Is salaries, generous pensions and retiree health benefits a valid municipal government purpose? CAN YOU REALLY TRUST THEM?

This proposed General Fund tax is nothing more than an effort to circumvent the two-thirds vote requirement for special taxes. Measure R can be approved by only the simple majority vote (50%). This also circumvents state accountability laws designed to ensure that taxes imposed for specific purposes are spent as intended.

Sales tax revenues are falling because of the shift to on-line retailing. Increasing the sales tax now will hurt local merchants. There is no need to increase the sales tax!

The measure boasts "independent citizen oversight," but the measure contains no spending guarantees that an oversight committee could enforce since the funds would go to the City's general fund, and be used for any "valid municipal government purpose."

Benicia doesn't need another committee. Your oversight will be voting NO on Measure R!

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