

## IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE I

Measure I would enact the Santa Barbara Essential Local Services Measure (“the Measure”). The Measure would increase the City’s sales and use tax by one-half percent, from 8.75% to 9.25%. The Measure was placed on the ballot by a unanimous vote of the City Council. The Measure requires approval by a majority of the voters voting on the Measure.

The Measure proposes a general tax that may be used for any lawful City purpose. However, according to the Measure, the City Council proposed the Measure to enable the City of Santa Barbara to provide essential local services including:

- Making contributions to the City’s Local Housing Trust Fund
- Improving housing affordability
- Maintaining 911 emergency fire, paramedic, and police response
- Keeping local fire stations open
- Maintaining library services
- Addressing homelessness
- Keeping public areas and parks safe and clean
- Stormwater protection
- Improving natural disaster preparedness
- Retaining local businesses and jobs
- Meeting budgeted expenses for general City services and general governmental uses

Proceeds and expenditures of the proposed tax are required to be audited annually by an independent accounting firm and the results of the audit discussed by the City Council at an open, public meeting. The audit report must also be posted on the City’s website. Use of proceeds of the tax will be determined based on spending priorities established by the City Council. State law prevents the City Council from legally binding future councils to any particular spending program.

All funds collected under the Measure would be used locally for the benefit of the City of Santa Barbara and its residents and businesses. The California Constitution prevents the state government in Sacramento from taking local tax revenues. The proposed tax increase would be collected in the same manner as the existing local sales and use tax and would be subject to all of the same tax exemptions, such as services, rent, groceries, prescription medicine, utilities, diapers, and feminine hygiene products.

A “yes” vote is a vote to approve the Santa Barbara Essential Local Services Measure imposing a one-half percent increase of the existing local sales and use tax.

A “no” vote is a vote to not approve the Santa Barbara Essential Local Services Measure and not impose a one-half percent increase of the existing local sales and use tax.

Sarah J. Knecht  
City Attorney  
City of Santa Barbara