Local Ballot Measures: Measure O

City of Wheatland Half-Cent Sales Tax Extension

Ballot Question
To continue voter-approved, existing funding (which cannot be taken by the State) and protect/maintain essential City services - including disaster preparedness; 911 emergency response; police officers/neighborhood patrols/crime prevention; fire protection; roads/pothole repair; parks maintenance; and other services - shall the existing half-cent City sales tax generating approximately $330,000 per year be renewed for 10 years, with ongoing required audits and public review and no increase in the tax rate?

Impartial Analysis

WHEATLAND CITY ATTORNEY
TITLE AND IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF
CITY OF WHEATLAND HALF-CENT SALES TAX EXTENSION MEASURE

Title: City of Wheatland Half-Cent Sales Tax Extension

In 2010, the Wheatland City Council adopted and the City voters approved an ordinance that imposed a one-half cent transactions and use tax (a.k.a. sales tax) within the City of Wheatland (the Tax). The Tax is a general tax that is used for essential City services. The Tax is imposed upon retailers in the City at the rate of 0.5% of the gross receipts of any retail sale of personal property. The Tax is collected with the regular sales tax. The Tax expires on March 31, 2021.

The City Council has determined to extend the Tax for 10 years. The Tax extension requires approval by both City Council and City voters. The City Council approved the Tax extension (Ordinance No. 476) on July 28, 2020. At that time, the City Council also called an election for the City voters to consider approval of the Tax extension ordinance. The voters will be asked vote on a measure about whether or not to extend the Tax for 10 years (without any change to the tax rate). The extension of the Tax requires approval by a majority vote of the qualified voters of the City voting on the measure.

A “Yes” vote would be a vote to extend and continue the Tax.

A “No” vote would be a vote to not extend and continue the Tax.

The current Wheatland sales tax rate is 7.75% (which includes the 0.5% Tax). If the voters approve the Tax extension, the sales tax rate would remain at 7.75% through March 31, 2031 and the City would continue to receive the sales tax revenue attributable to the 0.5% Tax. If the voters do not approve the Tax extension, the City sales tax rate would be 7.25% starting April 1, 2021 and the City sales tax revenue would be reduced by the amount attributable to the 0.5% Tax.

This statement is a summary and impartial analysis of Wheatland Ordinance No. 476. If you desire a copy of the ordinance, please call the Wheatland City Clerk’s Office at (530) 633-2761 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

July 29, 2020

Prepared and submitted by: /s/ Richard P. Shanahan
Wheatland City Attorney