MEASURE X
Local Control/Public Safety

Impartial Analysis
Argument For
Argument Against
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY

Measure ___ was placed on the ballot by the Torrance City Council. This Measure, if approved by the Torrance voters, would raise revenue for general City purposes by authorizing a ¼ cent transfer and use tax (“sales tax”) within Torrance. The tax is paid by purchasers of goods in Torrance that are subject to sales tax. The tax, however, would only be collected if a district such as the County of Los Angeles or other governmental entity (“District”) places a sales tax measure on a ballot and would only continue to be collected if the District’s sales tax measure was legally approved by a majority of District voters. Under current law, Measure ___ if passed would prevent a District from imposing a sales tax within Torrance and would instead result in the City collecting available sales tax revenues as explained below.

The current sales tax in Torrance is 9.50%. The legal maximum rate for sales taxes currently is 10.25%. Consequently, there is a maximum of .75% (or ¼ cent) of sales tax that can potentially be imposed in Torrance. A District can impose taxes both within unincorporated areas and cities. If, however, a city already collects sales taxes up to the maximum 10.25% rate, a District regional tax cannot be collected within that city.

Measure ___ proposes to approve a .75% (or ¼ cent) sales tax to potentially reach the maximum tax rate of 10.25%. The Measure provides the tax is suspended upon passage and collection would commence only if a District places a regional sales tax measure on the ballot and continue to be collected if a District tax measure is approved by a majority of District voters. The approval of Measure ___ would, under current law, provide for the City to receive the maximum sales tax available to be collected and prevent the District from imposing additional sales tax in the City.

If Measure ___ is collected, as provided above, there is no sunset clause on the taxes passed by Measure ___. However, all the taxes implemented by Measure ___ may be suspended or reduced by City Council action. Any increase of the tax above .75% (or ¼ cent) would first require a change in California law and then additional voter approval.

Measure ___ would impose a “general tax.” It is anticipated that if passed and collection is commenced, based upon the conditions outlined above, that it will generate approximately $30 million in annual City sales tax revenues. All tax revenue would be available for use by the City to pay for general City operations and services. The City would not be legally bound in any way to use the tax monies for any special purpose or for any particular facilities or programs. Since this ballot measure proposes a “general tax” rather than a “special tax,” it requires approval by a simple majority of the City’s voters.

A YES vote on Measure ___ favors the Measure. A NO vote on Measure ___ opposes the Measure.

Patrick Q. Sullivan
City Attorney
KEEP FUTURE TORRANCE TAX MONEY IN TORRANCE.

Vote YES on “X”. YES on “X” maintains your LOCAL CONTROL over YOUR taxpayer dollars, for the services YOU need.

Torrance is the fourth largest sales tax revenue generator in LA County. Yet our City only receives 13 cents for every dollar raised in the last two County sales tax measures. That is patently unfair.

Torrance tax revenue should be used for essential local services and projects - where there is accountability.

YES on “X” is Torrance’s Taxpayer Protection Act—it isn’t triggered unless regional politicians try to grab Torrance’s local tax dollars first.

YES on “X” gives you - the Torrance taxpayer - Local Control to protect our quality of life, by ensuring taxpayer dollars are kept IN TORRANCE to fund essential services we need, such as:

- Maintaining First Responders (911, fire and paramedic services)
- Maintaining safe schools
- Keeping parks and public areas safe and clean
- Repairing streets and potholes
- Addressing homelessness and coyote control

Every dime raised by Measure “X” is legally required to be spent in Torrance – preventing it from being taken by the County, Sacramento, Washington D.C. or other Southern California agencies.

Here’s what Measure “X” won’t do:
- Measure “X” WON’T raise your taxes right now —a ¾ cent local sales tax is triggered only if other regional politicians try to take this money first.
- Measure “X” ISN’T a tax on your home or property.
- Measure “X” DOESN’T apply to food groceries or prescription medication.

Stop political money grabs, keep our tax dollars local, and maintain our City’s financial stability and the services we rely on by voting YES on “X”.

For information about voting changes/how to vote, visit: www.torrance.ca.gov/LocalControl

Jeremy Gerson - School Board Member, Torrance Unified School District
Tad Friedman - Retired Torrance Paramedic/Firefighter
Marianne Hamada - President, North Torrance Neighborhood Association
Robert VanLingen - Torrance Business Owner - more than 40 years
Jean Adelsman - Homeowner Association Treasurer, 35-year Community Volunteer
(Titles/positions listed for identification purposes)
Jeremy Gerson
School Board Member, Torrance Unified School District
Marianne Hamada
President, North Torrance Neighborhood Association
Robert VanLingen
Torrance Business Owner - more than 40 years
Jean Adelsman
Homeowner Association Treasurer, 35-year Community Volunteer
ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL FORM

ELECTION DATE: March 3, 2020

JURISDICTION: City of Torrance

(Please mark (x) in the appropriate box)

☐ Argument in Favor  ☒ Argument Against
☐ Rebuttal to Argument Against  ☐ Rebuttal to Argument in Favor

Statements will be printed in uniform type, style and spacing. Use block paragraphs and single space format. Text submitted indented or centered will be typeset in block paragraph form. Entire statements in all capital letters are not acceptable. Indentations, circles, stars, dots, italics and/or bullets cannot be accommodated. However, you may use dashes/hyphens. Words to be printed in boldface type, underscored and/or CAPITALIZED are to be clearly indicated. Any combinations of enhanced words are counted as one word. All statements should be checked by the authors for spelling and punctuation as the elections official is not permitted to edit any material contained therein. NOTE: Rebuttal arguments are not direct arguments. For example, a rebuttal to a direct argument in favor of a measure is NOT a direct argument against a measure. Please also note that rebuttal arguments are allowed only when both a direct argument for AND against a measure are filed.

ALL AUTHORS MUST SIGN ON THE REVERSE SIDE

Please attach typed statement to this form. Statements should be typed in upper and lower case letters. Statement will be typeset in the Official Sample Ballot Booklet using TIMES NEW ROMAN font in 11 point size. However, statements can be submitted using any standard font.
Argument Against City Sales Tax Measure

DO NOT BE FOOLED.

Measure _ will INCREASE our sales tax. If passed, the moment any Los Angeles County regional agency qualifies any sales tax measure, the City of Torrance can collect Measure _ sales tax, whether the regional measure passes or not.

Sure, they must quit if the regional measure is defeated. They keep money. The City Council modifies the ordinance to continue the tax. Measure _ is the “camel’s nose” under the tent.

SPENDING IS THE PROBLEM.

Measure _ supporters want you to believe it funds public safety or other essential City services; however, there are no guarantees on how the revenue is spent.

Police and fire consume 60% of our $322 million annual budget. Unfunded pension costs consume almost $1 out of every $4 of the city’s budget. They currently total $460 million. The average pension benefit since 2004 is about $112,000 for firefighters and $108,000 for police. Some City employees make over $500,000 a year.

REDUCE SPENDING INSTEAD OF RAISING TAXES.

Save $25 million by “civilianizing” and reducing staff in the fire department. We have six fire stations operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, staffed with seven firefighters each or 42 on-duty firefighters. Each firefighter works two 24-hour days with four off. Full coverage requires three teams of 42 firefighters each. Do we really need six fire stations to cover our 25 square mile city?

SPENDING CUTS FIRST.

Make spending cuts before increasing the sales tax. Alignment with other South Bay cities is not the goal. Being a leader is. A tax leader (and retail magnet) is the lowest retail sales tax. City sales tax revenues — a quarter of city income — are about $8 million below estimates now. Raising the sales tax is the wrong way to increase them.

Please vote NO.

zapthesalestaxhike.online
DECLARATION BY AUTHOR(S) OF ARGUMENTS OR REBUTTALS  
(Elections Code Section 9600)

All arguments concerning measures filed pursuant to Division 9 of the Elections Code shall be accompanied by the following declaration to be signed by each author of the argument/rebuttal. Names and titles listed will be printed in the Voter Information portion of the Official Sample Ballot Booklet in the order provided below.

The undersigned author(s) of the:  
☐ Argument in Favor  ☐ Rebuttal to Argument Against  
☒ Argument Against  ☐ Rebuttal to Argument in Favor

of ballot measure  Delayed Sales Tax Measure  at the  Presidential Primary  
(name and/or letter)  

title of election  
election for the  Torrance City Council  
to be held on  
March 3, 2020  
(date)  

hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of his/her/their knowledge and belief.

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<td>G. Rick Marshall</td>
<td>Chief Financial Officer, California Taxpayers Action Network</td>
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IMPORTANT FILING INFORMATION: I, G. Rick Marshall, am the designated filer of the above titled argument/rebuttal. Please notify me of any questions pertaining to this filing. Below is my contact information: 
Mailing Address: 2065 West 235th Street  
E-Mail Address: grmarshall@sbcglobal.net
Contact Numbers: (310) 346-7425 (310) 346-7425
Daytime Evening Fax

OFFICE USE ONLY

NUMBER OF WORDS:  
PROJECT CODE NUMBER:  
ELECTION DEPUTY: