

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE E.

The City Council of the City of Brisbane has placed Measure E on the ballot to amend an existing Ordinance to increase the business license tax on certain recycling businesses in the City of Brisbane.

The City imposes on businesses in the City a tax. In Chapter 5.20 of the Brisbane Municipal Code, the City imposes a business license tax on “recycling establishments” engaged in the business of collecting, sorting, cleansing, treating, processing or reconstituting waste or other discarded materials for the purpose of reuse in an altered form. The current tax for these recycling establishments that recycle 100,000 or more tons of material during any single calendar year is up to \$3,000,000, subject to certain adjustments. The City Council determines annually the actual amount of the tax to be imposed on companies that recycle the threshold amount of material. In each of the last three years, the City Council has imposed a tax in the amount of \$2,100,000 on the recycling establishment (Recology) that has recycled 100,000 or more tons of material.

This measure that would amend the existing Ordinance to increase the business license tax from \$3,000,000 (plus adjustments due to the percentage changes in the Consumer Price Index) to \$4,000,000 (plus similar adjustments). As currently provided in the existing Ordinance, this amendment would authorize the City Council to set the actual amount of the business license tax in any given calendar year up to the maximum amount of the tax.

If this measure passes, City staff intends to recommend to the City Council in fiscal year 2019/2020 that the tax be more than \$3,000,000 which, under the existing Ordinance, could not be imposed.


Because this tax is for general municipal purposes and the proceeds deposited into the City’s General Fund, it will be adopted only if a majority of voters voting on the measure vote in favor of it. If the voters approve this tax increase, the tax cannot be increased in the future without voter approval.

A “Yes” vote is a vote in favor of increasing the business license tax on certain recycling establishments.

A “No” vote is a vote against increasing the business license tax on certain recycling establishments.

A complete copy of the proposed Ordinance is printed in the ballot pamphlet.

Dated: August 1, 2017


Michael H. Roush
City Attorney, City of Brisbane