

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
(CAL. ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 9280)
CITY OF DESERT HOT SPRINGS MEASURE B**

The City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs has placed Measure B on the November 7, 2017, ballot to ask voters to consider extending the existing, voter-approved Public Safety Special Tax ("Public Safety Tax"), with certain adjustments including a reduced rate for single family residential units, and an increased rate for certain vacant parcel land use categories. Measure B would only become effective if approved by two-thirds of the voters casting a vote on the Measure.

A "Yes" vote is to extend the Public Safety Tax.

A "No" vote is to allow the tax to expire on June 30, 2020.

If passed, Measure B would extend the current Public Safety Tax, until repealed by voters, providing approximately \$2,000,000 annually, with an additional \$91,138.44 annually. All Measure B proceeds would specifically fund public safety, and would be subject to independent audits and public oversight.

If Measure B does not pass, the loss of funds will likely have a significant impact on the levels of public safety services, such as investigating and preventing crime, anti-gang/anti-drug enforcement operations, rapid emergency response times, youth violence prevention, sex-offender and parolee monitoring programs, graffiti removal, animal control, code enforcement, and other support services.

In June 2010, the City's voters extended the Public Safety Tax (codified in Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code Section 3.32), which terminates on June 30, 2020. Currently, the tax is levied on all real property located within the City, except property exempt under state or federal law. The Public Safety Tax provides funding for police and fire protection, emergency response times, anti-gang and anti-drug programs, and youth violence prevention programs.

Measure B would extend the Public Safety Tax, making certain adjustments to certain tax rates as described below. The adjustments are also subject to Consumer Price Index. The amount of the Public Safety Tax is based on each property's land use classification, including residential, commercial, industrial, and hotel properties. If Measure B passes, the rates for the following land use classifications will change, but all other land use classification rates would remain the same:

- Single Family Residential, measured per dwelling unit, will be decreased from \$138.64 to \$103.00;
- Residential Vacant, measured per dwelling unit, will be increased from \$9.82 to \$19.14;
- Commercial Vacant, measured per acre, will be increased from \$133.80 to \$267.60



- Industrial Vacant, measured per acre, will be increased from \$2.71 to \$5.42
- Hotel Vacant, measured per acre, will be increased from \$11.25 to \$22.50

By placing Measure B on the ballot, the City of Desert Hot Springs complies with Article XIII C of the California Constitution, which requires the voters to approve an amended ordinance extending a special tax. The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure B. If you desire a copy of the measure, call the City Clerk's office at 760-329-6411 and a copy will be mailed to you at no cost.

Dated: August 21, 2017

Jennifer Mizrahi
City Attorney

