

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

The City Council of the City of Desert Hot Springs has placed Measure C on the November 7, 2017, ballot to ask voters to consider extending the existing Utility Users Tax (“UUT”) at the current tax rate, specifically for public safety services. Measure C 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 existing UUT, with no increase or decrease in rates.

A “No” vote is to allow the UUT to expire on June 30, 2020.

In May 2009, Desert Hot Springs voters approved a modernization and expansion of the City’s UUT, which is codified in Chapter 3.28 (Utility Users Tax) of the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code. The tax was set at 7% of the cost of telecommunications, water, sewer, electric, gas, and cable utilities services. Utility service providers collect the tax as part of the monthly service bill and remit the proceeds to the City. As a special tax, the revenue from the UUT will be for public safety services.

If passed, Measure C would extend the existing, voter-approved UUT, without an increase or decrease in the tax rate, until repealed by voters, producing approximately \$2,831,534 annually. All proceeds generated by Measure C would specifically fund public safety, including increasing police training, police recruitment and retention, crime investigation, crime prevention, maintenance of rapid police, fire and 911 emergency response times. If passed, all funds generated by Measure C would be subject to independent audits and public oversight.

If Measure C does not pass, the loss annually in public safety funding for police officers and emergency dispatch operators would likely have a significant impact on the levels of services for investigating and preventing crime, anti-gang/anti-drug enforcement operations including drug house investigations, rapid emergency response times, graffiti removal, animal control, code enforcement, and other support services.

By placing Measure C 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 C. 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

