

Dear Council,

Where should I send my \$30k consulting bill to?

- Kyle Falbo

The Measure Text

Measure X:

Shall the City of Sebastopol adopt a measure to impose a quarter-cent sales tax to address the ongoing budgetary mishaps, including but not limited to, recovering from losing over a million dollars to a phishing scheme, paying police overtime for Black Lives Matter protests, defending an anti-homeless law in court, and overall mismanagement of infrastructure funding?

75-Word Ballot Question

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To help Sebastopol recover from a decade of budget blunders, including falling for a million-dollar phishing scam, paying overtime to police protests, racking up legal fees for defending an anti-homeless law, and general infrastructure mismanagement, shall the City implement a quarter-cent sales tax to generate approximately \$760,000 annually, starting April 1, 2025?

Arguments For or Against Ballot Measures

Arguments For:

"Vote Yes on Measure X to help Sebastopol climb out of its financial abyss. It's time to patch the holes left by costly phishing scams, police overtime for protests, and defending absurd laws. Support this tax to ensure our streets don't turn into pothole-ridden obstacle courses and our city services don't become distant memories."

Arguments Against:

"Vote No on Measure X! Why throw more of your hard-earned money into the black hole of Sebastopol's budget? The city has already proven it can't handle money without falling for phishing scams or blowing it on police overtime and legal battles. Let's demand accountability before forking over more cash."

Rebuttals to Arguments For or Against

Rebuttal to Arguments For:

“Don’t be fooled! A sales tax won’t fix the underlying incompetence that led us here. The same folks who fell for a million-dollar email scam now want more of your money. Say No to Measure X and force the city to clean up its act first.”

Rebuttal to Arguments Against:

“While past mistakes are undeniable, rejecting Measure X will only make things worse. Without this tax, we face drastic cuts to essential services. This measure is about safeguarding our future, not rewarding past errors. Vote Yes for a financially stable Sebastopol.”

Impartial Analysis

Impartial Analysis:

The City of Sebastopol proposes Measure X to impose a quarter-cent sales tax starting April 1, 2025, projected to generate \$760,000 annually. This measure aims to address financial deficits exacerbated by a million-dollar phishing scam, police overtime costs, legal fees from defending anti-homeless ordinances, and infrastructure mismanagement. Approval would provide additional revenue to mitigate service cuts and fund city operations. Rejection could necessitate significant budget cuts affecting various city services and operations.

Fiscal Impact Statement

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Approval of Measure X is expected to generate approximately \$760,000 annually, starting April 1, 2025. The additional revenue will address Sebastopol’s ongoing budgetary deficits caused by a combination of financial mismanagement, including losses from a phishing scam, police overtime, and legal fees. This funding is crucial to maintain essential city services and infrastructure. Without this measure, the city will likely face severe service reductions and continued financial instability.