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Nonpartisan Information on
Ballot Measures

*League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville
1414 University Ave., Suite D., Berkeley, CA 94702*

**GENERAL ELECTION,
TUES. NOV. 7, 2006**

MEASURE
C

**RENOVATION AND EXPANSION OF FIRE STATION
BOND MEASURE (2/3 approval required)**

The Question

Should the City issue \$5 million in general obligation bonds

with moneys used only to: renovate and expand the Fire Station to better accommodate emergency equipment and personnel, construct an Emergency Operations Center at the Fire/Police complex to better serve the community during and after an emergency, and add sustainable building features to the Fire/Police/Civic Center complex?

The Way It Is Now

The Fire Station is 40 years old, and over that time, service calls have increased from 500 to 1,500 per year. The Department has expanded its responsibilities in paramedic transport, hazardous materials management, and disaster/emergency planning and response. The City's current emergency coordination center is located in a basement room in the community center which does not provide dedicated or adequate space.

What This Measure Does

If passed, this measure would raise \$5 million to renovate the City's fire station, to construct an Emergency Operations Center at the police/fire facilities at the Civic Center, and to add sustainable building elements by replacing all windows with double-paned glass, furring and insulating the existing masonry walls, upgrading the roof insulation and adding solar collector and photovoltaic systems. It would provide improved space for

public safety personnel, equipment, supplies and training, while enhancing staff capacity for response on a daily basis as well as during a disaster.

Fiscal Effect

The estimated cost of the construction is \$5 million, to be raised by a bond measure. This would call for an added property tax, based on assessed valuation, for each parcel in the City. This tax would add between \$18.47 and \$23.66 per \$100,000 of assessed value over the next 25 years.

Supporters say

- Measure C would enable critical improvements to be made in the 40-year old Fire Station and would reduce the City's energy use by adding sustainable building elements to Civic Center buildings.
- Effective operations are hampered by inadequate space.
- The addition of an Emergency Operations Center will allow police, fire and other public safety personnel to better train for and handle critical incidents on a daily basis while also effectively coordinating public safety, public information, and emergency response to a disaster.

Opponents say

No arguments have been filed in opposition to Measure C.

MEASURE D

MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY ADVISORY MEASURE (majority vote required)

The Question:

Do you support the establishment of a medical marijuana dispensary in the City of Albany, to be subject to regulations that the City Council will incorporate into the Municipal Code prior to consideration of any permit for such a dispensary?

The Way It Is Now

In 1996, Albany residents approved State Proposition 215, the “Compassionate Use Act,” by 80%. The City Council is considering amending the Zoning Ordinance to permit and regulate medical marijuana dispensaries, which are not currently regulated by any specific zoning provisions. A draft ordinance has been prepared to permit medical marijuana facilities that are subject to the granting of a conditional use permit, to allowing no on-site use of marijuana and to restricting facilities from locations near parks or schools.

What This Measure Will Do

This measure seeks the advice of voters asking whether the City should permit a medical marijuana dispensary subject to a conditional use permit. If approved by a majority of voters, the

City will evaluate its legal authority to establish such facilities, the desirability of such facilities, and the extent of appropriate regulatory controls. The Planning Commission and City Council would then hold public hearings and consider adopting an amendment to the Zoning ordinance.

Fiscal Effect

No estimate has been made of the fiscal effect of actions to be taken, should the measure be approved by the voters.

Supporters say

- It would ensure that seriously ill residents have the right and the opportunity to obtain and use marijuana for medical purposes when recommended by a physician.
- It would ensure that such use would not be subject to criminal prosecution or sanction.
- It would encourage the State and Federal governments to implement a plan for safe and affordable distribution of marijuana for medical purposes.

Opponents Say

No arguments have been filed in opposition to Measure D.



VOTE

POLLS are OPEN

7A.M. to 8:00 P.M.

The address of your polling place is above the mailing label on your sample ballot.

Who May Vote?

A person entitled to vote must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of California
- Not in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- At least 18 years of age on the date of the election

And you must be **registered** to vote

Last day to register to vote in the November 2006 election is Monday, October 23rd.