RESOLUTION NO. 2010-51

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL OPPOSING PROPOSITION 26, PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT: STATE AND LOCAL FEES AND CHARGES: VOTE REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS, ON THE NOVEMBER 2, 2010 CALIFORNIA STATE BALLOT

WHEREAS, cities are the economic engine of California and the vitality of cities and the state's economic recovery is dependent on their fiscal stability and local autonomy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany supports protecting local control and funding for vital local services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany has its own challenges to maintain service levels upon which local residents depend, which this proposition would threaten; and

WHEREAS, all local taxes, assessments, and property-related fees (such as for water and sewer services) already are required to be subject to local voter approvals; and

WHEREAS, similar voter approval requirements do not apply to tax increases proposed by the state legislature.

WHEREAS, local governments have made the necessary cuts and enacted local balanced budgets on time, which has not been the practice of the state legislature; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature has repeatedly sought to raid local funding rather that adopt balanced budgets that reflect the state's resources; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 26 on the November 2, 2010, California state ballot –while attempting to address the authority of the state legislature to raise revenue – overreaches and seeks to impose additional and unjustified constraints on local governments; and

WHEREAS, by arbitrarily imposing a new definition of "taxes" applicable to local government in the state Constitution, Proposition 26, if approved, will invite additional litigation and destabilize existing funding for local public safety, health, transportation, and environmental protection,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Albany on this 4th day of October, 2010, hereby opposes Proposition 26 on the November 2, 2010, California state ballot.

Joanne Wile, Mayor