

Argument in Favor of Measure 01

Please vote YES to protect our children's health.

Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that consumption of sugary drinks causes widespread health problems, starting in childhood. In addition to diabetes, obesity, tooth decay and heart disease are also linked to sugary drink consumption. Two of every five Americans are now predicted to develop diabetes in their lifetimes as the epidemic spreads.

To help address this, this measure places a 1 cent per ounce tax on distributors (not on consumers) on the volume of high-calorie, low-nutrition sugary drinks and syrups they sell. It does not tax natural fruit or vegetable juices, milk products, baby formula, or drinks taken for health reasons. It is NOT a sales tax.

It is estimated that the tax may generally reduce the availability of sugary drinks in Albany and help shift people to healthier beverages. Additionally, the measure will generate needed revenue for Albany that can be spent on physical fitness, health and nutrition programs, or on other priorities identified by residents. These activities can save lives by preventing diabetes and other sugary drink related disease. It is estimated that the tax will raise \$223,000 a year or more.

By passing this measure the City of Albany will unite with the efforts of neighboring cities in our region. Berkeley passed and successfully implemented a similar measure in 2015 that is now funding nutrition and health programs, and Oakland and San Francisco are voting on similar measures in this election.

This measure requires the City Council to hold an annual public process to consider how best to spend the funds raised by tax. Participation by public health professionals, a representative from the schools, several city bodies is called for.

Vote YES for health.

Jon Guhl, Albany Restaurant Owner

Robert S. Lieber, R.N.

Dr. Patricia Low, Member, Board of Education, Albany Unified School District

Rochelle Nason, Council Member, City of Albany

Dr. Immi Song, D.D.S.

FILED

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ALBANY CITY CLERK