

Rebuttal to Argument In Favor of Measure O1

The key problem with Measure O1 is that it is not a tax on sodas but a tax placed on local grocers and restaurant owners.

Nothing in this measure prevents all of the tax from being passed onto consumers across any food or grocery item these small businesses sell. And grocers and restaurant owners report that is exactly what they will have to do to stay in business – pass on the cost to consumers.

The proponents of this new tax want you to think it is a “soda” tax because they know that is popular. But that is simply not correct. If you read the measure closely you will see it is a tax on distributors. Nothing at all in the language of the measure prevents the tax from being passed on to you by raising the price of any restaurant meal or grocery item.

In fact, state law prevents local governments from placing a direct sales tax on most beverages. That’s why this is not a direct tax – nor a soda tax – but a tax on distributors.

You will also see that the tax can be spent any way the politicians want – not one cent needs to be spent on health.

The cost of housing and the cost of living is rising rapidly. Long-time Albany residents and businesses are being forced out. The last thing we need is a tax on food and groceries.

Please vote NO on Measure O1 – NO on the Grocery Tax.

Sanjeev Dhungel, Owner, Everest Kitchen

Jas Sikand, Owner, Albany Hill Mini Mart

Sarata Mike Uong, Owner, Royal Grand Coffee