

Argument Against Measure EE

Measure EE proposes to charge the owner of a 750 square foot one bedroom condominium the same amount as the owner of a 4,500 square foot, five bedroom, five bathroom house. Due to the likely lower income of the owner of the small condominium, this regressive tax will make them bear a much larger burden than the owner of the five bedroom house. Additionally both would pay almost as much as the owner of a large commercial property, such as Target.

This backward and unjust proposition comes at a time when the State and many cities nearby are taking decisive action to correct regressive tax measures instead of worsen them. At the state level, Proposition 15 seeks to finally amend our state constitution, which currently charges lower taxes on large commercial properties than residential. Concurrently, other cities in the state have voted to tax all residences and commercial property based on square footage. Our neighbors in Berkeley approved two such tax measures just last March with over 80% of votes in favor.

Instead of taking similar steps to make our taxes more progressive, equitable, and just, Albany's City Council has persisted in putting regressive measures like EE on the ballot. While the services funded by this measure are vital, providing them in this way is not; there are more progressive options. Please show that Albany wants to make our taxes more fair and send a clear message that we want a better measure by voting NO on Measure EE.

Thank you for considering.

/s/ Aaron Tiedemann, Albany resident

/s/ Preston Jordan, Albany resident

