

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure EE

Measure EE is not the first regressive tax Albany has considered, and at the current rate, it looks like it will not be the last. While some on the Council advocate for this measure as a stopgap before a more progressive measure can be passed, they were presented the opportunity to pass such a measure before putting EE on the ballot, but responded that such a tax was too complicated for you, the voter. While we support funding our emergency services, we as a city have to send a message that our taxes need to be equitable for all residents. Passing EE now means there is no impetus to pass a more progressive measure in the future, especially when our Council has repeatedly failed to do so in the past.

The City Council has stated that this measure is necessary to make up for the budget shortfalls COVID-19 is causing in our City and County budget. But EE cannot fully respond to this gap, and it cannot do so equitably. Furthermore, between the funds made available through the CARES act and possible if we take a hard look at our own budget and priorities, we can meet the needs of the moment without further harming the members of our community already most hurt by this crisis.

/s/Aaron Tiedemann, Albany resident

/s/Preston Jordan, Albany resident

