

RESOLUTION 2024-0175

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

May 28, 2024

Approving Regulations Pertaining to Ballot Arguments that will be Presented to the Voters in the November 5, 2024 Municipal Election Voter Guide for the Sacramento Public Library Combined Parcel Tax Measure

BACKGROUND

- A. On May 21, 2024, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2024-0013, known as the Sacramento Public Library Combined Parcel Tax Measure, which ordinance is subject to approval by the voters.
- B. On May 28, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution 2024-0160 approving for placement on the November 5, 2024 ballot a question pertaining to the Sacramento Public Library Combined Parcel Tax Measure.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1.

GENERAL PROVISIONS. Pursuant to Sacramento City Code section 1.16.070, the City Council, or a councilmember(s) authorized by the Council, charter officer, department director, or an individual voter who is eligible to vote on the measure, or bona fide association of citizens, or a combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument for or against any city measure.

SECTION 2.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE POLICY. Pursuant to the Federal Voting Rights Act, measures shall be translated into all languages required by the County of Sacramento. The County Office of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections (ROV) is required to translate ballots into Spanish and Chinese.

The ROV shall print and mail official sample ballots containing measures to all voters in English, Spanish, and Chinese. The ROV shall make the official sample ballots in the required languages available at all voting center locations and in the County Office of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections.

SECTION 3.

MISCELLANEOUS. All translations shall be provided by a professionally certified translator procured by the County Office of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections. Authors may not translate their own arguments.

Primary arguments and rebuttals shall be typewritten in block paragraph style on the City's official Argument Form provided by the Office of the City Clerk. Text shall be of uniform size and darkness, and with uniform spacing. Therefore, authors may not use underlining; ALL CAPS; *italics*; **bold print**; dashes (--); bullets (•); stars (★) or other forms of emphasis; multiple punctuation (e.g. "....." Or "-----" or "!!!!!!!!!!"); emojis or emoticons. All paragraphs will be left justified.

There is no maximum number of paragraphs for the written arguments.

Arguments containing endorsements shall be accompanied by a written authorization letter(s) from the person(s) and/or organization(s) offering the endorsement at the time the argument is submitted. Letters must be signed and dated. Arguments containing the name of a person other than the author shall be accompanied by an original letter from the named person granting permission to use their name in this manner. Letters must be signed and dated. Arguments containing the name of any organization must be accompanied by an original letter from the named organization signed and dated by an officer authorized to do so by the organization.

Initial arguments shall not exceed 300 words in length. Rebuttal arguments, if applicable, shall not exceed 250 words in length.

The standard word count as provided in the Elections Code shall be used. All proper nouns, including geographical names, shall be considered as one word; for example, "City of Sacramento" shall be counted as one word. Regularly hyphenated words appearing in any generally available standard reference dictionary published in the United States within 10 years preceding the election shall be counted as one word. Each abbreviation for a word, phrase, or expression shall be counted as one word. Words in statements containing hyphens that are not found in the dictionary as described above shall be counted as individual words. Each part of all other hyphenated words shall be counted as a separate word. Dates, monetary amounts, and whole numbers containing digits shall only be counted as one word. (Ex 01/01/1900, \$100.00 or 100). Telephone numbers, email addresses, and internet addresses shall be counted as one word.

SECTION 4.

Primary and rebuttal arguments that are not in compliance with the formatting guidelines shall be reformatted by the City Clerk. Primary and rebuttal arguments that exceed the allotted word count shall be shortened by removing words from the end of the argument text until the word limit is reached.

SECTION 5.

Rebuttals to primary arguments are permissible only when primary arguments in support and opposition of a measure are submitted.


Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on May 28, 2024, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Guerra, Jennings, Kaplan, Maple, Talamantes, Thao, Valenzuela, Vang, and Mayor Steinberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Attest:  05/28/2024

Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk

The presence of an electronic signature certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy as approved by the Sacramento City Council.