

WEBVTT

100

00:13:36.610 --> 00:13:38.430

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Hi, guys, welcome

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00:13:40.280 --> 00:13:43.879

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: welcome to balance and bruise the Oakland spotlight.

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00:13:44.240 --> 00:14:09.240

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Um. My name is Jackson Napier, and I am one of Spurs public programming associates. So thank you so much for joining us today. Um. Many of you here today are sperm members. If you're not a member, I encourage you to join to support spurs, ongoing work and using education, policy, analysis, and advocacy to make our cities and region more prosperous, sustainable, and equitable place to live.

103

00:14:09.250 --> 00:14:14.510

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Your financial support enables us to continue our work, including the hosting of programs like today's

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00:14:14.680 --> 00:14:20.450

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: you'll find more information about membership online as spurred dot org slash. Join.

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00:14:20.780 --> 00:14:27.580

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Our next form is scheduled for Monday at six Pm. It is titled The Oaklands next leader, a candidate Forum,

106

00:14:27.590 --> 00:14:57.310

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: with Mayor Libby Shafts final term coming to a close. Oakland residents will soon have the opportunity to cast their votes for a new mayor. Join Spur East, pay for everyone Seamless Bay area, East Bay Young Democrats, Greenbell Alliance and transport Oakland for a virtual mayoral candidate Forum, moderated by K. Qeds Priya, David Clemens. At this event candidates Ignacio de la Pointe, Gregory Hodge Trap A. Reed Lauren Taylor and Ching Tao will share their views on the most press

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00:14:57.320 --> 00:15:02.890

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: civic issues in Oakland, such as housing, transportation, and sustainability.

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00:15:02.950 --> 00:15:18.899

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Uh, today's total discourse is the balance and bruise Oakland spotlight. Every year the spur of the guide provides an in-depth analysis and recommendations on the complex measures up for vote uh tonight we're joined by some of the members of our policy staff, and a beloved tradition,

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00:15:19.550 --> 00:15:27.660

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: as they explain the local measures. On the November eight Oakland ballot and spurs stance on each one. Uh today we are joined by

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00:15:27.670 --> 00:15:50.289

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Sarah Harper, our sustainability, Resilience Policy Associate Augustina Olman, Our local Impact assistant, Jessica Peyton our public Programming Associate Ronnick, David I. Koyer, our Chief of Innovative strategies, and Acting Oakland, Director, Jacob Denny, our Economic Justice Policy Director and Paloma Sisnaros the Bato our Senior Policy associate on the food, food and agriculture team.

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00:15:50.300 --> 00:16:03.029

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: And lastly, we are going to have this be an interactive discourse using a breakout room. So at the end of every. At the end of our presentations we'll divide each each of you up into three breakout rooms. Um!

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00:16:03.190 --> 00:16:19.400

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: That we will rotate each of our panelists, and so we'll have about eight minutes. Um for Q. A. For um two of the panelists, so it'll be three rounds of eight for everyone. Um. So Now I want to turn it over to Paloma to uh get a started on the process.

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00:16:20.330 --> 00:16:45.879

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Great Thank you, Jackson, and Hello, everyone. Thank you for joining us this evening. My name is Uh Paloma Cicaro Slobato, and as Jackson mentioned, I'm. The Senior Policy Associate on the Food and Agriculture team. But I'm, also the project manager of Spurs voter, guide, and about analysis process. So I have seen this through from beginning to end, and also did some of the analysis myself on a couple of the measures, so you'll see me presenting um later today as well.

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00:16:46.230 --> 00:17:03.189

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So in advance of a big election. I'm pleased to kind of be here with you today to share Spurs recommendations that all of the Oakland measures. But before we dig into

kind of that content, I wanted to share some background on the importance of ballot measures and more about the spur ballot analysis, process as well.

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Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So ballot measures are really important part of policy making in the State of California, which isn't necessarily true in all other States, and because of that providing a ballot measure, analysis is a critical service for California voters,

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00:17:17.300 --> 00:17:39.149

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: as we know. Um, not. Everyone has the time to dedicate to do their own independent research. It can be really time consuming. There's a lot of nuance to the history um the political dynamics. And um, because we really think that everyone deserves an opportunity to better understand the history and nuances behind all of the measures, so that they can really be an informed voter.

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00:17:39.670 --> 00:17:50.479

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um spur have been doing our bout analysis for more than twenty years now, and this for Voter Guide, therefore, has become one of our signature publications, and we take a lot of pride in putting it out for the public.

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00:17:50.640 --> 00:18:03.760

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Uh, We now analyze the ballot measures in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose, as well as any regional or state measures, and there are ten Oakland and measures on the November ballot that we will be covering together today.

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00:18:04.610 --> 00:18:18.199

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: What I really think is exciting about the ballot analysis process from the spur perspective is that it involves both for staff and our Spur Board member, and there is some really amazing collaboration that has throughout the process.

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00:18:18.280 --> 00:18:23.959

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So we organize about analysis committees for each jurisdiction that has ballot measures.

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00:18:24.060 --> 00:18:27.080

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So, for example, the Um Oakland

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Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um Ballot Analysis Committee is comprised of Oakland Board members, and so on. So forth. It for the other jurisdictions, and the analysis process is as follows: So for staff conducts research and outreach on each of the ballot measures and presents

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00:18:42.310 --> 00:18:48.219

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: um to each of the about Analysis Committee members with the background as well as with their staff recommendation,

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00:18:48.400 --> 00:18:59.019

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and then each measure is deliberated in committee, and then that committee presents that to the relevant board who votes, and that um helps determine our final uh position on each measure.

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00:18:59.720 --> 00:19:06.840

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: And as you all, i'm sure are aware, our final voter guide is now available on our website at Spur Org Slash voter, guide,

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00:19:07.460 --> 00:19:22.079

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: so that kind of um encompasses the the scope of the process and the culmination of what? Just sharing it with the public which we're doing here now. So, after all of our months about analysis, i'm. Pleased to kick off this election season by sharing more with you all.

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00:19:22.090 --> 00:19:32.189

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: And, as Uh. Jackson mentioned, we'll be running through all ten measures, hopping between the different Uh presenters that we have, and then the end we'll do our breakout rooms for some questions and answers,

128

00:19:32.940 --> 00:19:41.629

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: so that kind of concludes my introductory portion. And uh, Jackson. Let me know if you want me to jump right in, and I know i'm um upstated for the first one.

129

00:19:44.540 --> 00:19:56.179

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Great, wonderful! I will go ahead and kick it off. So first off we have Measure H, which is the Oakland Unified school, district, college, and career readiness for all act.

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00:19:56.190 --> 00:20:08.820

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So this is an ordinance that would reauthorize an existing parcel tax for fourteen additional years to continue funding the Oakland unified school, district, college and career readiness program for high school students,

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00:20:09.470 --> 00:20:12.059

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: so i'll dig into what the measure would do.

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Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um! As I mentioned this would reauthorize an existing parcel tax, which this was measure n, and this is passed in two thousand and fourteen. This um established one hundred and twenty-five. Excuse me, one hundred and twenty per personal parcel tax,

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00:20:27.480 --> 00:20:35.169

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and that tax revenue um funds, a college and career readiness program to schools throughout um Oakland unified school district

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00:20:35.690 --> 00:20:42.029

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: there are in measure and some exemptions for low income folks as well as for seniors

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00:20:42.180 --> 00:20:45.090

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: um exemption from paying that parcel tax itself.

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00:20:45.400 --> 00:21:04.220

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: And then how the this new measure is structured. Um! A lot of it maintains some of the original components that were in manager, and and some of them um, I think, build on it in a way that was really thought through. So that may it maintains the current tax rate structure of that one hundred and twenty dollars per personal tax rate.

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00:21:04.230 --> 00:21:14.829

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um, it does include an inflation escalator based on a cost of living adjustment, so there will be slight increases over time, but nothing drastic, right just to keep up with that inflation,

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00:21:15.110 --> 00:21:23.379

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and then it establishes a sunset provision of fourteen years, so that would it send this parcel tax to two thousand and thirty-nine

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00:21:24.570 --> 00:21:35.549

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: it allocates uh funding, using a formula that's based on the number of students living in Oakland. So the idea is that there is kind of a an equitable distribution of the funds throughout the district,

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00:21:35.980 --> 00:21:52.060

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and then it also refines some permissible uses and aims to clarify those as well. So they really um thought through how it is the existing one is currently working, and, as I mentioned, have kind of built off of that in a way to try to make improvements um for this um extension component.

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00:21:53.110 --> 00:22:00.799

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So I will move us into our equity impacts now. So this measure aims to provide an equitable pathway for high school students.

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00:22:00.810 --> 00:22:15.679

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: It aims to reduce disparities between student achievement, and they've actually seen some really significant successes. They've done a lot of um, you know, survey and analysis of the program that's been in place since the original measure passed in two thousand and fourteen.

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00:22:15.690 --> 00:22:32.180

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So I will kind of highlight some of the high level takeaways of what they found. They found an increase graduation rate for all students. They have seen a really significant increase for African-american male students in particular of an increase of twelve percent.

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00:22:32.760 --> 00:22:37.270

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: They've seen an increase in students eligible for four year college by fourteen percent.

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00:22:37.670 --> 00:22:46.250

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: I decrease dropout rate for all students of eleven percent and specifically a higher rate for the African American male students of seventeen,

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00:22:46.410 --> 00:22:58.170

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and then an increase of total internships by seven hundred plus per year. So overall they really haven't proven that the funds that they've raised have had these really tangible successes for students throughout the district,

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00:22:59.280 --> 00:23:14.639

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: so I will move us through to our pros and cons. Now, so on the pro side of things. This measure um does not create a new tax, or in um, or increase the existing parcel tax beyond that cost of living adjustment that I had mentioned. So that accounts for inflation.

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00:23:14.650 --> 00:23:22.530

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um! But what's exciting about this is really It's just a continuation of what's already happening. It's not a new additional partial text that folks will have to take into consideration.

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00:23:23.290 --> 00:23:38.330

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: It also maintains a stable funding stream to operate this uh college and career readiness program as and as I mentioned, I highlighted all of the positive Uh successes that that programming has. Um has shown. Um, especially for those African American male students,

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00:23:39.320 --> 00:23:46.459

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and this measure will also enable the continuation of a program eliminating disruptions to positive outcomes for students.

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00:23:46.470 --> 00:24:10.539

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So it would be unfortunate, you know, after ten years of seeing this programming, to have students who are maybe right about to go into high school, or who are maybe about to graduate, and really in their senior year, could use some of these resources to um determine what their next steps are after graduation are. It would be a shame for that to just be disrupted in the midst of that, and there would certainly be a lot of um students impacted

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00:24:10.550 --> 00:24:12.150

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: if that were to be the case.

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00:24:12.980 --> 00:24:31.760

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: And then, lastly, on the pros Um. The funding is the subject to annual reporting and independent monitoring. So there is um a lot of assurance that there is appropriate usage of the funds, and we can see that already, with the reporting that came out with how the

funding has already been monitored, and that would continue to be the case. Um, with this extension.

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00:24:37.300 --> 00:24:38.200

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Great

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00:24:40.000 --> 00:24:59.180

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: um! So that takes us sorry. I will go back one really fast to our cons measure. Um parcel taxes our regressive taxes, which we know, and they should not supplant support for essential services that should come out of the Oakland General fund we definitely want to acknowledge that fact that they are in fact progressive. But we think in this instance

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00:24:59.190 --> 00:25:10.130

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: especially because this is a continuation and not a new parcel tax, and we've seen these really significant successes that it should continue. Which is why we're recommending a yes vote on measure. H:

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00:25:11.720 --> 00:25:13.320

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Great. Thank you.

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00:25:17.700 --> 00:25:22.989

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Awesome. Thank you so much, Paloma. Next we're going to go to

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00:25:23.040 --> 00:25:42.129

Augustina Ullman: measure queue uh Augustina. I think that is a your measure, so i'll pass it over to you to get it started. Thanks, Jackson. That is me. So measure queue is the affordable housing authorization. It would allow the city of Oakland to develop up to thirteen thousand new units of city owned affordable housing.

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00:25:46.090 --> 00:26:04.259

Augustina Ullman: Under Article thirty- of the California State Constitution. Any city in California that wishes to create more affordable housing must go to the voters to ask for approval. This measure would secure the authorization required for the city of Oakland to unlock thirteen thousand potential new units of affordable housing,

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00:26:04.270 --> 00:26:11.940

Augustina Ullman: no revenue sources tied to this measure. Nor does this measure impose new or increased taxes to fund housing development

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00:26:12.010 --> 00:26:26.969

Augustina Ullman: for context. Article thirty-four is considered a message of California's races to land use and planning history, and as it has delayed and blocked affordable housing development across the State, especially in its most exclusive suburban communities.

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00:26:26.980 --> 00:26:39.699

Augustina Ullman: There's currently no State cons, no other State constitution that requires voter approval for public housing. A number of attempts have been made in California in recent years to repeal the article thirty-four without success,

164

00:26:43.790 --> 00:26:57.230

Augustina Ullman: in terms of the equity impacts to the extent that this measure could result in thirteen thousand affordable homes, it would directly benefit Oakland's low income Renters who face challenges from the cities rising rent and displacement pressures.

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00:26:57.240 --> 00:27:08.690

Augustina Ullman: People of color are over represented in this group and face intersecting barriers and structural inequality in the housing, education and criminal justice systems. Among others,

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00:27:11.400 --> 00:27:24.310

Augustina Ullman: the pros of this measure include clearing the legal roadblock for the city to develop, acquire, and operate new affordable units, and potentially increase the number of homes available to Oakland's low income renters,

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00:27:24.320 --> 00:27:37.039

Augustina Ullman: However, the measure only authorizes affordable housing development, which could send a false signal of success without addressing the zoning, permitting, and financing challenges that continue to hinder development.

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00:27:39.530 --> 00:27:51.479

Augustina Ullman: However, given the affordability crisis both in Oakland and the Bay area at large. Both spur recommends a yes vote to increase Oakland's ability to develop new homes.

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00:27:55.990 --> 00:28:17.589

Jessica Peyton: Awesome. Thank you so much. Augustina. Um. Next we will turn it over to Spurs own Jessica Payton to uh give us a quick overview of measure. Our Yes, Hello,

everybody, Thank you. As Jack. My name is Jessica. And today i'm talking about measure our which is the gender neutral language charter amendment uh next slide, please Jackson.

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00:28:18.940 --> 00:28:40.470

Jessica Peyton: Okay. So this measure, uh would remove gendered language from the city's charter. Uh, currently the charter uses he him or his pronouns from referring to city employees or officers, or uses a variation of the phrase his or her when referring to an individual, so the measure would move to replace all of these instances of binary pronouns with they or them pronouns

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00:28:40.480 --> 00:28:47.849

Jessica Peyton: uh the measure would also replace gender terms with non-gendered versions of those terms. For example, replacing the word fireman with the word firefighter

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00:28:47.860 --> 00:29:07.940

Jessica Peyton: um. Finally, the measure would also delete two articles of the Charter Article fifteen, which is the Police Relief and Pension Fund, and Article sixteen, which is the fireman's relief and pension fund. These articles were combined into a single system in one thousand nine hundred and fifty-one, but they were never removed from the charter. So um! This measure would need to clean that up a little bit next slide, please.

173

00:29:08.950 --> 00:29:25.390

Jessica Peyton: So moving to the equity impacts um the amendment would impact women non-binary people, or any person who falls anywhere outside of traditional male or female pronouns uh the charter's. Current language is exclusionary and not representative of the diverse, make up of city government.

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00:29:25.400 --> 00:29:44.369

Jessica Peyton: Uh, and it applies to anyone who doesn't use. The pronouns set forth by the Charter is unfit to hold office. For example, the charter currently uses. He and him pronounce to refer to the Mayor. Uh, but the current Oakland mayor is Mayor libby chef uses she and her pronouns demonstrating that the Charter Doesn't accurately represent the city's constituents or employees.

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00:29:44.520 --> 00:29:54.500

Jessica Peyton: So passing the amendment ensures that the language of the city charter is broad enough to encompass all individuals within the city, regardless of their gender identity. Next side, please.

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00:29:55.870 --> 00:29:59.490

Jessica Peyton: So the pros and cons Um, starting with the pros

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00:29:59.500 --> 00:30:16.280

Jessica Peyton: adopting general mutual language, would ensure that all individuals are recognized in the city's charter um. Next, Other cities have already updated their city charters in recent years to include gender neutral language. So passage of this measure could continue setting that precedent for inclusionary language and government.

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00:30:16.290 --> 00:30:26.689

Jessica Peyton: Um, and finally, the measure would also help clean up the city charter by removing old sections. That Haven't been valid for decades, and moving on to the cons. We could not identify any cons to this measure.

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00:30:27.380 --> 00:30:29.189

Jessica Peyton: Next slide, please,

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00:30:29.840 --> 00:30:48.669

Jessica Peyton: because of all those reasons Spur recommends a vote of Yes on measure. Are women and people who don't identify with traditional binary binary pronouns, hold positions in the city's government, and the passage of the amendment would ensure that all individuals, regardless of their gender identity, are properly included and acknowledged for their goals;

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00:30:48.680 --> 00:30:59.960

Jessica Peyton: and because spur supports an equitable bay area for all inclusive of all genders, we believe the language of our laws should reflect this inclusivity. Um, and we recommend a vote of Yes, a measure of

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00:31:00.120 --> 00:31:01.290

Thank you.

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00:31:03.180 --> 00:31:13.829

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Awesome. Thank you so much, Jessica. Next we're going to go over, we're going to go back actually to Paloma to give us a presentation on measure as plummet all you

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Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: wonderful all right moving on to measure s, which is the non-citizen School board voting measure.

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Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So What this measure does is it gives non-citizens who are the parents, legal guardians, or legally recognized caregivers of a child that attends an Oakland public school, the right to vote for the Oakland unified School Districts Board of Education Directors.

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00:31:38.940 --> 00:31:54.020

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So what does that really mean? So. Um! This would amend the election section of the Oakland City charter, and by doing so it would establish in the Charter um the voting rights for those non citizen residents, as I mentioned

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00:31:54.030 --> 00:32:01.190

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: um to vote in those um o usd uh Board of Education elections.

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00:32:01.400 --> 00:32:09.750

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: And um what the measure also does is it directs the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County to make the necessary changes. Um! To accomplish this,

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00:32:09.920 --> 00:32:28.819

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: what is interesting about that? Is it just says that the um that Alameda County will take care that that the board of supervisors of Alameda county will take care of that but it doesn't require any specific outreach to non-citizen communities, and it doesn't specify anything about how they changes. Should be implemented it really leaves it up to

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00:32:28.830 --> 00:32:31.080

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: um up to them at the county level.

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00:32:32.410 --> 00:32:51.740

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um great. I will go to the next slide, which will share a little bit about the recent happenings. Um, for any of you all who keep up with the news. There has been a lot um happening in and around this space because there um was a similar measure that was passed in San Francisco. I can't remember the exact year, but in and around five to ten years ago,

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00:32:51.750 --> 00:33:10.110

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and just this summer in July, the San Francisco Superior Court judge, declared San Francisco's measure unconstitutional. So this um San Francisco city of San

Francisco has kind of been reviewing that currently. And um that's been working it that case has been working its way through the courts,

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00:33:10.120 --> 00:33:26.099

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and then, similarly, in August, two thousand and Twenty-two a lawsuit was filed against this particular measure. The Oakland measure challenging implementation ordinance that would be passed if the measure succeeds. So what I want to clarify here is that it? What Isn't actually

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00:33:26.260 --> 00:33:41.699

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: filed against the ballot measure itself, but rather, if this bout measure were to pass it um mandates that then the city council would need to pass an implementation ordinance, and then there's the threat of the lawsuit in and around that implementation ordinance

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00:33:41.730 --> 00:33:59.199

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: which means everyone still gets to vote on this, and there are still some other, you know, legal things kind of happening. Um in the background of all of this. So I bring this up because I again, I know this is really been in the news, but I want to just um assure you that, uh, we truly don't think this should undercut um

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00:33:59.210 --> 00:34:11.939

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: the city's ability and voters ability to pass this and um also we believe that um our recommendation of Yes, we still think is really important for a lot of equity reasons which i'll go into momentarily.

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00:34:12.150 --> 00:34:29.889

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: And so we do know that there is some uncertainty for the city about whether or not they have the legal authority to enact. This measure advocates, including the San Francisco City Attorney, argue that there are other ways to interpret the State law that do in fact, permit non citizen voting in School Board elections,

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00:34:31.219 --> 00:34:34.690

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: so I will move us into those equity impacts.

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00:34:35.719 --> 00:34:48.959

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So there are many decisions made at the Um School District Board level That impact not only the public schools, but, of course, everyone in involved in those as well. So the students, and then the trickle down effect to families as well.

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00:34:48.969 --> 00:35:02.819

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: So we really see this measure as having an um, an ability to increase equity for those non-citizen parents, and having a say in those decisions that are being made that impact not only them directly, but their students, of course, and their children as well.

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00:35:03.840 --> 00:35:21.779

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um, we do acknowledge that there are some challenges um for implementation. There are some uncertainties about how communication we go out to non citizen voters, and there is a potential of a lower turnout. If eligible voters are concerned about how voting might negatively impact their immigration status.

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00:35:22.840 --> 00:35:27.359

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: It's really a truly a complicated issue, And so I wanted to kind of acknowledge those pieces

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Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and moving to some of the pros and cons, so non-citizen parents would be given the same rights as citizen parents like I said before, and would have a say in choosing the School Board that governs their children's education in the Usd Schools.

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00:35:43.110 --> 00:36:00.609

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: It would also increase the number of parents who can participate in those board elections overall. So you know, there is potential to increase overall parental involvement and investment in Oakland school system which also could stand to have really positive impacts for families and schools overall.

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00:36:01.580 --> 00:36:17.379

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um. As for the cons um, as I mentioned these new rights for these non-citizen folks might not be well communicated, and um are likely to require some complicated administrative steps for um Alameda County to implement.

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00:36:18.310 --> 00:36:27.829

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: And as the summers Court decision Um, you know, there is a little bit of that uncertainty. Um at the At the state level with all those things in the background.

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00:36:27.990 --> 00:36:37.649

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: But despite all of those things, we still think This is a really important move towards increasing equity in the city of Oakland, and we are recommending a yes vote on measures

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00:36:40.460 --> 00:37:09.299

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): awesome. Thank you so much. Paloma Um. Next I will welcome up to the figurative stage Jacob Tinny spurs at Atomic Justice Policy director to talk about Measure T. Uh Jason. It's all you. Thanks, Jackson. Hi! Everyone uh Jacob Teddy him Um! So we're going to talk about one of my favorite things to talk about, which is taxes. Um, the progressive and equitable business tax. It would create a tiered tax system based on a company's total revenue.

209

00:37:09.310 --> 00:37:19.569

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): How much money they bring in before expenses or anything else. It would raise taxes for Oakland's largest businesses. Uh, while slightly lowering taxes for many small businesses in the city.

210

00:37:23.640 --> 00:37:42.329

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): So what would the measure do? Uh the measure will establish a tiered, gross receipt or gross revenue tax system. The taxes, businesses by gross receipt, by business sector, so again, gross receipts refers to the total revenue. So how much money you have coming in before you account for any of your expenses or other things? Um!

211

00:37:42.340 --> 00:38:01.520

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): The measure would create six different tax brackets based on gross receipts. And then within those tax brackets fifteen different business sector categories, fourteen different business sector categories. Um. The good news is for ninety point nine of businesses. You're either going to receive a small tax cut or see no changes in their taxes.

212

00:38:04.840 --> 00:38:34.820

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): So this table kind of lays out what some of the proposals are. Um! So you see that for most businesses who operate uh under your total revenue of zero to one million dollars. Um, You see that they either uh get a tax cut based on the current tax per one thousand dollars, or their taxes remain the same as businesses get larger, and certainly uh in in certain business sectors the amount of taxes they're going to have to pay per thousand dollars in gross.

213

00:38:34.830 --> 00:38:41.189

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): The new goes up. Uh for some it goes up quite a bit for others it's It's a pretty moderate increase

214

00:38:42.370 --> 00:38:43.710

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): next slide.

215

00:38:45.520 --> 00:39:14.519

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): So what are the equity impacts Uh, for many small businesses in the city of Oakland are owned by people of color. They're going to see a tax cut or their taxes remain the same. You're actually going to see Increase City funding, which will help provide services for all people in Oakland. The increased revenue from this uh goes to the general fund, and it'll include spending on things like homelessness services, housing, stream, sidewalk, maintenance, trash, collection, small business, assistance, and other things uh that folks living in the city need.

216

00:39:18.830 --> 00:39:25.229

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): So what are the pros? It raises a lot of Well, it doesn't raise a lot. It raises much needed revenue for city services

217

00:39:25.430 --> 00:39:34.380

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): provides a a tax cut for small businesses. In particular, those who likely impacted by the Covid nineteen pandemic will are more likely to see that tax cut.

218

00:39:34.440 --> 00:39:50.649

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): We shift more of the tax burden to larger and wealthier businesses is that have a higher revenue stream. Um! And then, you know, majority of the businesses are unaffected by the policy chain, which is always a good thing. Um! The cons are. The tax breaks are really small.

219

00:39:50.660 --> 00:39:55.829

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): Uh, you know, most businesses are just going to see a tax break of around hundred dollars a year.

220

00:39:55.890 --> 00:40:10.440

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): And the the other problem is, there are concerns that reason taxes and larger businesses can discourage big investments from those large companies, so particularly for business headquarters that would see the largest tax increase on the proposal. This could discourage businesses from investing in Oakland.

221

00:40:11.220 --> 00:40:12.250

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): Uh,

222

00:40:13.340 --> 00:40:14.630

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): let's move on,

223

00:40:15.070 --> 00:40:30.039

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): but overall spur recommends yes, and measure T. What ends up happening is the measure builds a more progressive tax system and ask people to most to pay their fair share. Anytime taxes go up on large employers as a chances that there's a chance that businesses will move away,

224

00:40:30.050 --> 00:40:46.280

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): but Oakland remains in a healing location to Headquarters Bay area businesses. It has lower cost in San Francisco. It's taxes are lower than San Francisco, Um and so businesses will still continue to want to open and operate in Oakland. Um.

225

00:40:46.290 --> 00:41:04.320

Jacob Denney, SPUR (he/him): Oakland also needs more money, and the amount of tax revenue here would help can drive up the city's budget. Allow them to spend on the things that you all know are really important for Oakland. Um. And how in improve things for small businesses who need any kind of help they can. And so, for that reasons for recommending the smoke

226

00:41:07.880 --> 00:41:24.579

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: awesome. Thank you so much, Jacob. We really appreciate it. Next we will welcome back onto the screen. The big screen spurs, local policy, local Impact Policy Assistant Augustine Olman, Augustina. It's all you

227

00:41:24.590 --> 00:41:39.199

Augustina Ullman: um measure. You would authorize the city to issue an eight hundred and fifty million dollars Um! Eight hundred and fifty million dollars in general obligation bonds to fund very supportable housing, transportation and infrastructure projects.

228

00:41:41.200 --> 00:41:58.500

Augustina Ullman: Specifically the bond would provide funding for affordable housing, transportation projects like street page, May street paving and complete street improvements and other infrastructure, like recreation and senior centers, parks and outdoor spaces, public safety facilities

229

00:41:58.510 --> 00:42:18.059

Augustina Ullman: and environmental and seismic improvements to public facilities, to advance oakland's energy and climate action, plan. The bond measure would not impose new or increase taxes, and would limit the issuance of new bonds until older bonds are paid off for the tax rate, the tax base grows to support the new debt

230

00:42:18.590 --> 00:42:34.940

Augustina Ullman: for context in two thousand and sixteen um Oakland voters approved, measured Kk. Which authorized six hundred and six hundred million dollars in bonds for similar affordable housing, transportation, and infrastructure projects. However, many under funded

231

00:42:34.950 --> 00:42:50.899

Augustina Ullman: housing projects remain in the pipeline while measured Kk provided the initial investment to address much of Oakland's essential infrastructure. The meaningful improvement of affordable housing streets and public facilities will require a significant increase in funding

232

00:42:50.910 --> 00:42:58.930

Augustina Ullman: which brings us to the equity impacts. Projects funded by this measure would be prioritized by how each investment addresses social

233

00:42:58.940 --> 00:43:11.619

Augustina Ullman: and geographic equity to provide greater benefit to underserved communities, especially since there are significant disparities in street and paving conditions between low income and affluent neighborhoods In Oakland.

234

00:43:14.330 --> 00:43:34.250

Augustina Ullman: The pros of this measure include allocating a significant amount of funding to Oakland's greatest infrastructure needs, like affordable housing, street improvements in smaller public works, projects prioritizing projects that advance, social and geographic equity to ultimately address segregated and desperate infrastructure conditions across the city,

235

00:43:34.260 --> 00:43:47.800

Augustina Ullman: and providing funding for projects that otherwise would not be completed or completed within their projected timeline. However, the distribution of funding may be slow, because it's contingent on the time required to pay off existing bonds.

236

00:43:48.250 --> 00:43:49.410

Augustina Ullman: Um,

237

00:43:49.540 --> 00:43:52.410

Augustina Ullman: yes, next slide, please.

238

00:43:53.410 --> 00:44:00.870

Augustina Ullman: Ultimately Spur recommends a yes vote, since much of Oakland's infrastructure continues to suffer deeply from a lack of investment.

239

00:44:04.660 --> 00:44:12.779

Augustina Ullman: Thank you, and on to measure v. Measure. B. Would amend the just cause for eviction organs to establish new tenant protections.

240

00:44:13.940 --> 00:44:33.069

Augustina Ullman: These these protections would extend to all new housing development, including Rv's and A. To use except for the first ten years after construction. It would eliminate landlord's ability to evict a tenant if they decided not to renew their lease, and it would prohibit evictions of educators and children. During the school year

241

00:44:33.080 --> 00:44:48.639

Augustina Ullman: Oakland would join cities like San Francisco and San Jose, that have already extended the just cost protections to newly constructed units. Although, unlike those cities, these protections would not cover all rental units, because there is a ten year exemption

242

00:44:49.320 --> 00:44:59.359

Augustina Ullman: for context. In two thousand and two Oakland voters passed the initial just Cause eviction ordinance which established the city's first tenant protections.

243

00:44:59.370 --> 00:45:10.220

Augustina Ullman: The next two sets of amendments would continue to expand these protections in two thousand and sixteen voters, extended protection to tenants in rental units before one thousand nine hundred and ninety, six,

244

00:45:10.230 --> 00:45:21.760

Augustina Ullman: then in two thousand and eighteen voters removed the just cause. Exemption for owner occupied duplexes and triplexes, and gave the city council authority to add eviction. Requirements

245

00:45:24.400 --> 00:45:43.629

Augustina Ullman: just cost protections, help stabilize low the lowest income communities where gentrification and displacement pressures may be especially strong, the expansion of just cost protections could benefit by Pop residents most as black hispanic and Asia Renters make up the majority of Renter households in Oakland.

246

00:45:43.640 --> 00:46:01.540

Augustina Ullman: A two thousand and eighteen study found that there was a much higher rate of eviction. Notices filed in majority black census tracts than Latinx or white tracts. Most evictions were also found to disproportionately occur in lower neighbor lower income neighborhoods like West Oakland and Chinatown.

247

00:46:04.480 --> 00:46:21.519

Augustina Ullman: The pros of this measure include Redisco, reducing the risk of displacement and homelessness, especially for Rv. And eighty residents extending tenant protections to units built after one thousand nine hundred and ninety-six, and preventing evictions of educators and children during the school year,

248

00:46:21.530 --> 00:46:41.470

Augustina Ullman: while the cons include a disproportionate impact to small landlords and homeowners who may have trouble evicting problem tenants, and since homeowners would have less control over occupancy, they may be less likely to build a to use, which has been a major housing production strategy, heavily encouraged by the State of California and the city of Oakland

249

00:46:41.480 --> 00:46:49.579

Augustina Ullman: if you're not familiar, eighty-six or accessory dwelling units are attached to detached units adjacent to a primary residence

250

00:46:49.590 --> 00:47:01.549

Augustina Ullman: abus, have become an increasingly popular strategy for expanding the housing, supply, particularly in single family neighborhoods that otherwise may not welcome or be able to accommodate new development.

251

00:47:04.170 --> 00:47:14.359

Augustina Ullman: Spur recommends a yes vote to ensure that the people who live in Oakland have a chance at remaining in their homes, especially once the pandemic moratorium is lifted.

252

00:47:16.610 --> 00:47:34.390

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Awesome. Thank you so much. A Kristina. We really appreciate it. Uh Next, I'd like to welcome our chief of strategic initiatives and acting open Director Runic. Okay, uh, to give presentations on measures. W. And X. Run it. It's all you

253

00:47:34.610 --> 00:48:02.849

Ronak Okoye: Um, Jackson, you have a wonderful radio voice. By the way, thank you. I actually get that a lot. People are like you should do a podcast, so Maybe i'll do it one day. Okay, Um. So I will be presenting the analysis for Measure W. Oakland's Campaign Reform Ordinance, which is formerly known as the Oakland Fair Elections Act. This measure establishes public financing for city, official and School Board elections, and it promotes transparency and campaign contributions

254

00:48:02.860 --> 00:48:14.890

Ronak Okoye: and strengthens lobbying restrictions for former city officials and directors. This measure was placed on the ballot by the Oakland City Council, and it requires a simple majority to pass, or fifty percent plus one.

255

00:48:16.390 --> 00:48:33.360

Ronak Okoye: This measure would create a public financing program for local elections um known as democracy dollars. Every Oakland voter would be given the opportunity to donate up to a hundred dollars in the form of four, twenty-five dollars. Vouchers to their preferred preferred local candidate

256

00:48:33.440 --> 00:48:40.330

Ronak Okoye: and every two-year budget, cycle, Oakland would allocate four million dollars for the program from the general purpose fund.

257

00:48:40.340 --> 00:48:55.830

Ronak Okoye: This measure also requires the city to fund the Public Ethics Commission staff and technology to administer the program, which is estimated to cost seven hundred thousand dollars in one time. Startup costs and one point six million in annual operating costs.

258

00:48:55.840 --> 00:49:05.590

Ronak Okoye: Any unspent revenue would remain in the programs fund until it exceeds double It's budgeted amounts, after which excess funds would be returned to the general purpose fund.

259

00:49:07.130 --> 00:49:27.989

Ronak Okoye: This measure also contains good government provisions aimed at increasing transparency and fairness. Local campaign contribution limits would be lowered to six hundred

dollars for individuals and twelve hundred dollars for political committees campaign contribution limits are currently nine hundred dollars for individuals and eighteen hundred dollars for political committees.

260

00:49:28.000 --> 00:49:43.550

Ronak Okoye: Independent expenditures supporting or opposing a local candidate would be required to disclose their three highest contributors, and this also extends lobbying restrictions. Um to four more city officials and directors. It extends them from one year to two years

261

00:49:46.090 --> 00:50:09.460

Ronak Okoye: significant. Racial and income disparities exist in Oakland's campaign finance system. And if you would like to learn more about that, um, please see this for Voter Guide, which does outline what was found in various reports and a little bit more detail. Um. This measure also draws influence from a similar democracy voucher program in Seattle, which was passed by voters in two thousand and fifteen

262

00:50:09.470 --> 00:50:24.340

Ronak Okoye: um, So, as it relates to those inequities Um. This measure would provide every Oakland voter with the opportunity to donate to local candidates, giving political power to all voters, regardless of their personal income,

263

00:50:24.350 --> 00:50:36.129

Ronak Okoye: and also would reduce the disproportionate influence that high income donors have in local elections, and would make the donor pool better. Reflect Oakland's racial and socioeconomic diversity.

264

00:50:36.220 --> 00:50:58.450

Ronak Okoye: Um. It would encourage candidates to pursue the support from all Oakland voters rather than just those with wealth or a strong voting record, and it also would encourage Canada more candidates to run for office, which was found in that Seattle pilot as well. Um, since it provides qualifying candidates access to public funding, lessening, the need for access to traditional wealth or donor networks

265

00:51:01.300 --> 00:51:17.819

Ronak Okoye: pros include um The fact that all voters could now be able to donate to candidates. Um, regardless of their personal income. Um again, that there may be an increase in the size of candidate pools to really better reflect Oakland's diversity. Um!

266

00:51:17.830 --> 00:51:40.409

Ronak Okoye: That there's provisions in the measure itself to really allow the program to be amended over time. Um, and part of those amendments amendments. Um also include the ability to uh make budget provisions. So in the case that Oakland was experiencing tightening of its budget belt. Um! There would be a provision to allow the budget for this program to shift

267

00:51:40.420 --> 00:51:56.819

Ronak Okoye: um it. There's increases in transparency um around fundraising for candidates, and it also limits lobbyists influence, and then particularly um kind of that extension from one year to two years um for former city officials and directors,

268

00:51:56.900 --> 00:52:12.599

Ronak Okoye: the cons um for this measure, really that it doesn't create a new revenue source. So we are talking about general fund dollars here. Um! And it's not an insignificant amount. So again, we're talking about that four million dollars in um every two year. Budget cycle

269

00:52:15.720 --> 00:52:45.709

Ronak Okoye: overall spur uh recommends a yes vote on this measure. Oakland's current campaign finance system is imbalanced and inequitable. Again for more data on what that looks like. Currently, please see the voter guide. Um. Most campaign contributions have come from wealthy residents or donors. Um, and also those that do not live in Oakland um leading to those donors having a disproportionate amount of control over local elections. So we support this measure because we believe it builds equity into our democratic system,

270

00:52:45.720 --> 00:53:07.889

Ronak Okoye: and it includes some good sound um provisions. Um that align with our good government principles. Um. And we also appreciate the multiple safeguards that are um built into this measure to allow um and to design for the prevention of abuse in the program, and to adopt to Oakland's economic climate changes.

271

00:53:11.670 --> 00:53:28.719

Ronak Okoye: So now we're moving on to Measure X. Um, which is the governance reform measure. This is a charter amendment. Um. So this would amend the city charter to create term limits for city council members. It closes the mayor, all tie, breaker, loophole, and add to the duties of the city auditor.

272

00:53:28.730 --> 00:53:41.529

Ronak Okoye: Um, creating City council meeting requirements before measures are placed on the ballot. This was also introduced by the city Council um, and requires a fifty percent plus one um vote in order to pass.

273

00:53:44.540 --> 00:54:07.689

Ronak Okoye: So what the measure would do. The measure. X makes a series of changes to the Oakland City charter. So, in particular, there's actually ten discrete changes that this measure would do. Um, They're a little bit complicated, so i'm going to take my time going through these. Um. So the first is City Council term limits. Oakland has Seven District Council members currently and one at large.

274

00:54:07.700 --> 00:54:08.839

Ronak Okoye: Um.

275

00:54:08.970 --> 00:54:27.379

Ronak Okoye: And currently, there are no term limits for those Council members. So this measure would limit Council members to no more than three consecutive four year terms in one council position, and it would also allow a termed out District Council member to then run for the at large Council seat immediately after the previous term.

276

00:54:27.790 --> 00:54:55.329

Ronak Okoye: Um. The second change to the charter would be closing the mayoral tie breaker loophole so currently the mayor can serve as a tie breaker vote if the city council is split four to four on an item. But this power is actually rarely exercised. So, under the charter. The City council can only pass a resolution or an ordinance by an affirmative vote of five or more members. This means that a measure fails if anyone Council member abstains,

277

00:54:55.340 --> 00:55:20.209

Ronak Okoye: and since the measure would not have received those five amount affirmative votes, so by having one Council member of stain, um basically opponents of a measure um, or of any legislation, eliminate the Mayor's opportunity to vote, and possibly cast a fifth vote in order of passage. So there's a little bit of a loophole in the system right now. By the way, we treat abstentions um in council.

278

00:55:20.220 --> 00:55:31.159

Ronak Okoye: Um. So this charter amendment would automatically make abstentions and absences count as a no vote which would allow the mayor to break a tie should a tie exist.

279

00:55:31.370 --> 00:55:37.400

Ronak Okoye: Um! And any legally required recrusal recusal, sorry it would also count as a Nobel.

280

00:55:38.130 --> 00:55:49.320

Ronak Okoye: The next change would be an updated mayoral succession. So this just essentially formalizes what happens if in any, for any reason the mayor is unable to serve

281

00:55:49.330 --> 00:56:10.289

Ronak Okoye: Um. This would formalize the fact that Um, the City Council President would become the acting mayor in that case, and that the President pro tem. Would then serve as the Acting Council President. So it just kind of formalizes that um hierarchy of what would happen in the case of um I may or not being able to serve their duties,

282

00:56:10.300 --> 00:56:15.649

Ronak Okoye: and these people would stay in those positions until the mayoral vacancy was filled.

283

00:56:16.760 --> 00:56:25.990

Ronak Okoye: The fourth change is the ballot measure um meeting requirements. So this measure would require charter, amendments, bonds, and parcel tax measures

284

00:56:26.000 --> 00:56:55.990

Ronak Okoye: to be considered at two council meetings, but before being sent to voters. Um! This is in an effort to increase the transparency and assessment of the measures to allow the public the chance in those meetings to also review what's being proposed? Um, you know, do what they do in terms of public comment. Um, and also have an opportunity to potentially also influence. Um. And so all of this would be, uh a a change in terms of what the what's required, and to add transparency into the system

285

00:56:56.000 --> 00:56:56.750

system.

286

00:56:57.850 --> 00:57:15.659

Ronak Okoye: And then the final item on this slide is the fifth item which is setting salaries for council members. Um, the auditor and the attorney. And so the current salaries of Council members are um much lower than commensurate roles in the region, and this is something that we found in Spurs

287

00:57:15.670 --> 00:57:19.820

Ronak Okoye: report that was published last year, making government work in Oakland.

288

00:57:20.010 --> 00:57:35.879

Ronak Okoye: Um. Under this measure the Public Ethics Commission would review the salaries of City Council members by annually and adjust them, based on a set of parameters, and that would also include the salaries of the auditor and the city attorney, which right now are set by City Council

289

00:57:36.760 --> 00:57:38.589

Ronak Okoye: next slide, please.

290

00:57:40.480 --> 00:57:53.470

Ronak Okoye: So the sixth change would be regarding campaign restrictions for the city, auditor and city attorney. This measure prevents the city auditor and the city attorney from endorsing, donating, or participating in campaigns.

291

00:57:53.480 --> 00:58:04.209

Ronak Okoye: Um and ballot measures um, and for people running for office. So it just really limits what the city, auditor and city attorney are able to do in terms of um using their influence.

292

00:58:04.380 --> 00:58:21.390

Ronak Okoye: There's a series of um changes as it relates to the city auditor. Um. So there would be a changes to the city auditor's office minimum staffing. So it would ensure that there's enough staff to really fill the role and the duty of an auditor in the city

293

00:58:21.400 --> 00:58:27.060

Ronak Okoye: Um. Creating a minimum of fourteen staff positions, not including the city auditor.

294

00:58:27.680 --> 00:58:37.939

Ronak Okoye: It would also add requirements for who may run for city auditor, and so that would include um, ensuring that the person has at least three years of public sector, experience

295

00:58:37.950 --> 00:59:07.939

Ronak Okoye: and auditing policy, analysis and performance evaluation as well as other um requirements, and it also clarifies the scope of the city auditor and their duties. Um. So this is more clearly describes the types of audits that they can do, and also allows a relationship between Um, the city administrator and the city auditor in terms of what can be requested. Um! So there can be the addition by the city administrator um to request a review of city departments, commissions, and pro

296

00:59:07.950 --> 00:59:13.009

investigate allegations of waste fraud and abuse things of that nature.

297

00:59:13.190 --> 00:59:42.889

Ronak Okoye: And then finally, this um this measure i'm sorry this is along when I told you, but this measure would also include Council appointed vacancies um on boards and commission, so to provide some um opportunity for um. Again, more transparency and a more formal process for appointments to um boards and commissions, and for more details on exactly um how that would happen again. You can see our voter guide um essentially.

298

00:59:42.900 --> 01:00:03.920

Ronak Okoye: Uh, there's just a a process that's outlined in terms of how Council would provide a list of nominees. The mayor would have it ninety days to review um. The Council nominated uh um candidates, boards, and commissions. Um, If the mayor doesn't like them, they can put forward their own name. So there's a whole process that's outlined in the measure, and again outlined

299

01:00:03.930 --> 01:00:05.920

Ronak Okoye: um in the Voter guide

300

01:00:06.050 --> 01:00:07.370

Ronak Okoye: next slide

301

01:00:09.700 --> 01:00:35.959

Ronak Okoye: in terms of equity impacts on this one. Um. This measure could indirectly improve outcomes for Oakland's residents of color. Um, a majority of the So it is of the city's residents. Sorry are people of color, as we know, and yet there are less favorable outcomes for communities of color relative to white communities, and nearly all areas of civic life, including economics, public safety, education, and housing.

302

01:00:35.970 --> 01:00:53.999

Ronak Okoye: So what this all of these charter amendments together are trying to do is really to make a more efficient and transparent um a local government to enhance oversight and just to overall improve the operations of the city um and city leadership to the benefit of all Oaklanders

303

01:00:54.010 --> 01:01:19.580

Ronak Okoye: um, and particularly those that are most directly impacted by the legislative actions of elected officials. So whether or not this actually would provide benefits to oak um.

People of color in Oakland really also depends on what is getting legislated? Um, which we can't. You know we don't have that crystal ball. Um! But again, there's this entire measure has an indirect the possibility for indirect improvements to quality of life in our city

304

01:01:22.750 --> 01:01:52.079

Ronak Okoye: in terms of pros This measure increases clarity, fairness, transparency, and accountability. City cap uh Council term limits is um would be a really big change for the city and encourage new leadership and the cultivation of that um pipeline in our city. Um eliminating the tie breaker provides the mayor more important um input into legislation, and allows a little bit more um legislative power um of the mayor which um they don't really uh currently possess in that way.

305

01:01:52.200 --> 01:02:22.190

Ronak Okoye: Um. And the cons, in our opinion, is that we just don't feel like this measure goes far enough, and addressing the challenges of Oakland's form of government. Um. Again, in that report that I mentioned earlier making government work in Oakland, we recommended um some additional uh changes to the workings of city government, which would um include the Mayor. Uh having um the uh the ability to veto legislation. Um Also the establishment of an office of controller um to

306

01:02:22.200 --> 01:02:34.920

Ronak Okoye: really help um with some of our financial challenges in our city. Um! So there's a lot more that could be done in a measure like this that's addressing the workings of our government. But overall next slide, please.

307

01:02:35.540 --> 01:02:51.310

Ronak Okoye: Uh, we recommend Yes on Measure x um. We feel like, uh, all of the changes for all of the pros that we mentioned. Um, you know this is really an improvement to how government is working in Oakland Um, and could be a really positive thing for our city.

308

01:02:53.500 --> 01:03:04.280

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Awesome. Thank you so much. We really appreciate it. Next to like to welcome to the screen uh Harper, who's going to give a presentation on measure? Why,

309

01:03:04.310 --> 01:03:06.039

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Harper, it's all you

310

01:03:06.170 --> 01:03:23.029

Sarah Harper: Thank you, Jackson. Um. I am going to be presenting on the Oakland zoo animal care, education, and improvement ordinance. Uh, this ordinance essentially creates a twenty year parcel tax in the city of Oakland to fund the Oakland Zoo

311

01:03:24.140 --> 01:03:25.729

Sarah Harper: Next slide, please

312

01:03:26.320 --> 01:03:40.470

Sarah Harper: um the measure would apply a uh for single and multi-family residential housing units. It would apply a sixty-eight dollar per year uh parcel tax to those units

313

01:03:40.480 --> 01:03:51.099

Sarah Harper: uh for non-residential units. Um, That exact cost of the parcel tax would be based on a formula that considers size and the use of the parcel

314

01:03:51.110 --> 01:04:05.869

Sarah Harper: um. A couple of notes are that the tax would apply only to parcel unit owners or sorry um personal owners and um would be applied per unit, and it cannot be passed on to the unit. Renters

315

01:04:05.880 --> 01:04:17.870

Sarah Harper: uh exemptions also exist for low income, single family, home, home owners, low income, seniors, religious organizations, schools, and foreclosed single family homes.

316

01:04:17.880 --> 01:04:47.199

Sarah Harper: Um! The use of the revenue from the parcel tax would be used by the Oakland zoo to construct, maintain, and improve facilities, namely, fireproofing them um increase their capacity to take in additional wildlife uh reach and educate children and um improve access. Uh, namely, they want to use some revenue to make um a program that would allow low income and senior um

317

01:04:47.210 --> 01:04:50.450

Sarah Harper: visitors to access the zoom for free

318

01:04:50.560 --> 01:04:52.759

Sarah Harper: next slide, please.

319

01:04:54.840 --> 01:05:15.459

Sarah Harper: Equity impacts are um as I just mentioned. Uh, it would allow the Oakland Zoo to create a program to provide free admission to low income families, students and lower income seniors um that people would apply for uh, some other zoos have programs like that. But the Oakland zoom currently does not.

320

01:05:15.470 --> 01:05:41.609

Sarah Harper: Um. And then, while exemption uh for those communities exists. Uh, the tax would take a larger percent of income from moderate income households, since there are not um. There are no exemptions for moderate income households. Uh, so it would take a larger portion of income um from those moderate family as opposed to higher income households.

321

01:05:41.620 --> 01:05:53.940

Sarah Harper: Um. And then, of course, the landlords would not be able to pass on that parcel tax on to their renters. Um! So the financial impact would fall primarily on property owners.

322

01:05:54.000 --> 01:05:55.539

Uh next slide, please,

323

01:05:56.370 --> 01:06:14.619

Sarah Harper: uh pros for this measure are um that it would allow the Oakland Zoo to have a more sustainable funding source uh to improve their infrastructure. Um! The tax revenue would allow them to create that free admission program. Um for low income families, students and seniors.

324

01:06:14.630 --> 01:06:31.159

Sarah Harper: Um. It would also allow low income, families and lower income, senior homeowners to um apply for exemption from the actual tax, and it also would expire in twenty years which would provide some form of accountability for the measure based off of this success.

325

01:06:31.190 --> 01:06:43.850

Sarah Harper: Um, the cons are that the tax rate does not take into account the value of the residential unit Um, or the income of the home owner besides uh low income phone home owners.

326

01:06:43.860 --> 01:06:57.790

Sarah Harper: Um! So it would unfairly burden those in the middle income uh bracket. Then this measure would also perpetuate Oakland's over reliance on parcel taxes to fund public goods.
Um! And again

327

01:06:57.800 --> 01:07:07.579

Sarah Harper: um move things away from the general fund, and the role that that plays um in funding things like um parks and and recreation

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01:07:07.590 --> 01:07:22.140

Sarah Harper: um. Also, it would uh create a disproportionate financial Bourbon on Oaklanders to from the Zoo uh, and especially because there, uh visitors of the Zoo are not always Oaklanders,

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01:07:22.700 --> 01:07:34.810

Sarah Harper: and uh, the Oakland Zoo is not guaranteeing free admission to all Oakland residents who are paying the tax uh, but only to the low income and lower income Seniors

330

01:07:34.980 --> 01:07:37.359

Sarah Harper: uh! So moving on to the next slide.

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01:07:38.050 --> 01:07:55.329

Sarah Harper: Um! We ended up landing uh that the spur position is no position. Um, simply because balancing the educational value of zoos for Oakland um, but also some of the regressive nature of personal taxes and some of the burden that it would have on Oaklanders.

332

01:07:55.340 --> 01:08:11.549

Sarah Harper: Uh, we decided to leave a yes or no vote in your hands. Um. Given that this has some pretty pretty good benefits, but then also some pretty significant um downturns in terms of the parcel tax.

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01:08:11.850 --> 01:08:12.859

Thank you.

334

01:08:13.990 --> 01:08:16.330

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Awesome. Thank you so much, Harper.

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01:08:16.380 --> 01:08:35.150

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Okay. Now, we're gonna transition to the Q. A. Portion of ballots and bruised Oakland spotlight. So how this is gonna work. We'll just randomly assign each person breakout rooms. Um, which you'll get momentarily, and then I will place two of our

336

01:08:35.350 --> 01:08:48.190

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: policy staff into each of the rooms. Um! So you guys can ask some questions, so give me one second. I will get folks in there, and so you should automatically receive

337

01:08:49.160 --> 01:08:51.179

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: a invite to it.

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01:09:08.029 --> 01:09:16.439

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Jackson. I am, in fact, seeing some folks hop off, so i'm wondering maybe, if it makes sense for us to just stick with the group we have here and have the folks um ask questions.

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01:09:16.490 --> 01:09:23.379

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Um, with everyone on the line with all of our presenters,

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01:09:24.050 --> 01:09:38.370

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: and we do encourage you to be interactive and just like Raise your hands. Um, you know It's an intimate group here, so feel free just to raise your hand and ask us any of the questions. Um, like we said, we have all of our presenters on. So

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01:09:38.510 --> 01:09:45.980

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: if you have any questions about any of the measures that we ran through today any of the ten um we can. We can answer them for you.

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01:09:50.670 --> 01:09:58.940

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Yes, thank you, Jessica, as well. If you're maybe not in front of your screen, or just want to type in a question to the chat. We can answer them that way as well.

343

01:10:22.400 --> 01:10:34.909

Adar Schneider: Hi, um! I could. I just jump in with a question. My name is Adar, and my friends are she her? And thank you so much for doing this analysis. It's very, very helpful. Um,

344

01:10:34.920 --> 01:10:53.680

Adar Schneider: this might be okay. So the infrastructure bond um, and all of the great things that can be done with it. I remember hearing um from this analysis that it is adding millions of dollars worth of hundreds of million dollars, I think worth of revenue. But doesn't

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01:10:53.690 --> 01:11:03.129

Adar Schneider: increase taxes or basically have any fiscal impact on uh Oaklanders. Was that getting that right and like, How does that work?

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01:11:03.460 --> 01:11:25.780

Augustina Ullman: Yeah, Absolutely so essentially what you would be doing as an Oakland voter? Um, if you vote yes, on this measures, you would just be extending the use of these bonds, so it would not increase your taxes. So through measure. Kk: it would essentially just extend the city's ability to continue to issue bonds to provide that funding.

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01:11:33.660 --> 01:11:35.750

Ronak Okoye: Yeah. And so, um,

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01:11:35.960 --> 01:11:48.479

Ronak Okoye: if you're not familiar with bonds, I mean bonds is essentially It's a form of debt that um. And there's kind of the debt administration that goes along with that with the city. And I think. Another thing that's interesting in this measure is that

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01:11:48.490 --> 01:12:09.379

Ronak Okoye: um! There are provisions to kind of allow the debt administration to um actually be less of a burden on. By the way, they're kind of tying this to current um current rates. Um, So that's all kind of in the measure, too. But um! That's a little bit more of the mechanism of why and how it doesn't touch you as a resident

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01:12:09.990 --> 01:12:29.429

Adar Schneider: got it. Thank you. So like, just to make sure i'm understanding. So when we uh because I vaguely remember how bonds work from like Econ class a long time ago. Um! So when we vote for bonds, it's it's time limited for just a certain amount of time. And so this is kind of extending the time for a previous one.

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01:12:29.440 --> 01:12:36.060

Adar Schneider: Um from measure. Kk: like. Say, that was for twenty years, and this would be continuing that for another

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01:12:36.210 --> 01:12:37.749

Adar Schneider: next many years.

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01:12:39.420 --> 01:12:43.559

Adar Schneider: Yes, okay, solid. Thank you so much. Appreciate it.

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01:12:43.770 --> 01:12:45.269

Augustina Ullman: Of course,

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01:13:02.830 --> 01:13:12.459

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: any other takers for questions. Throw them in the chat um, or come off of um mute, and you can feel free to chime in with your questions.

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01:13:12.800 --> 01:13:17.959

Paloma Sisneros-Lobato: Nothing so big or so small that we won't take a chance at at trying to answer it for you.

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01:13:31.760 --> 01:13:48.469

Adar Schneider: Um! I have another one if we let's do it. Uh. So it was measure, queue, affordable housing, authorization, and apologies, if you already went into details about that. But, um! So that's for thirteen thousand new housing units. Do you know what like?

358

01:13:49.140 --> 01:14:04.870

Adar Schneider: Um I Do We have any details about what that looks like in terms of? Does that mean that the city is purchasing whole buildings, or having, like include inclusionary zoning, or doing vouchers, or any kind of um

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01:14:04.880 --> 01:14:12.359

Adar Schneider: break down of what those thirteen it or just building new buildings like. What does that um look like?

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01:14:12.940 --> 01:14:41.940

Augustina Ullman: That's a great question, and please do not ever apologize for asking about housing. It is very complicated, and i'm more than happy to answer. So with these thirteen thousand new units, the city has not, to my knowledge, rolled out any kind of action. Plan. Um, Really, what they would do is, for example, alongside the affordable housing bond. It could provide the city new avenues to potentially utilize a lot of that funding to build these units,

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01:14:41.950 --> 01:14:58.110

Augustina Ullman: and to my knowledge it would be in a variety of ways, as you mentioned. Um, So the city is um really prioritizing preservation, as you mentioned as well, so buying up units that would otherwise return to market rate and otherwise.

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01:14:58.350 --> 01:15:05.539

Augustina Ullman: Um, So that's what I know, Rona. Do you know any more within um Oakland's housing plans,

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01:15:06.990 --> 01:15:33.730

Adar Schneider: and i'm sorry dar. Can you say specifically your question about it again? Yeah, totally. Um. And I I'm kind of like forming my question a little bit, as i'm saying it. But uh, So my understanding is this: basically authorizes the money for thirteen thousand units. But the actual plan about what kind of units are going to be. Is it going to be uh acquisition rehabilitation building? You construction vouchers things like that like that would be determined by

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01:15:33.740 --> 01:15:40.290

Adar Schneider: some other agency afterwards. Or do we have a sense right now of like how that's going to be distributed?

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01:15:40.550 --> 01:15:42.580

Ronak Okoye: So um

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01:15:42.760 --> 01:16:12.749

Ronak Okoye: i'm actually not positive off the top of my head. But i'm happy to um actually get back to you if you want to put your email in the chat, or send it to me as a direct message. Um! Whether the B. This these dollars would be allowed to be used on um kind of predetermined projects. But I will say that what's currently happening is that um Oakland is also finalizing its housing element right? So we're in process of updating our general plan, and it's a process that will take up to twenty twenty-six housing element was the first element to kind of go through

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01:16:12.760 --> 01:16:17.229

Ronak Okoye: this process, and in that housing element, you know we are determining

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01:16:17.400 --> 01:16:47.380

Ronak Okoye: exactly that, right? Like. So we we're talking about how many units, what types of units, Where do those units go all of, and all of that will be determined. And so these things also

kind of um get married at some point in the process. But whether or not. There's a desire within the department of housing to potentially use these dollars on projects that are underway. I'm not. I'm not totally certain about um. I know that there's precedence in other cities, Um, you know, like in San Francisco, when these housing bond measures get passed that they are applied

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01:16:47.390 --> 01:16:52.429

to projects that are already underway. So it is possible that I don't know that list specifically.

370

01:16:53.230 --> 01:17:01.339

Adar Schneider: Thank you. Yeah. I mean, it's obviously it wouldn't change my vote. I'm: just curious. If we have any more information at this stage. I appreciate it. Yeah, Absolutely

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01:17:03.040 --> 01:17:19.269

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: some. Well, thank you so much for our questions. Um. It looks like there's only a couple of people left. So we're gonna get out of here here about twenty minutes early tonight. Uh so we have more information about our protagon online at per dot org slash voter guide. So check it out if you haven't already um and enjoy the rest of your night.

372

01:17:19.900 --> 01:17:20.969

Jackson Nutt-Beers / SPUR: Hi, guys,

373

01:17:22.800 --> 01:17:24.050

Ronak Okoye: Thank you.