

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE H

In 1998, the citizens of Davis first approved a \$49 parks tax, which has been successfully renewed over the years. Measure H will renew this existing tax, allowing the City to continue to fund parks maintenance, including family parks, greenbelt maintenance, open space and habitat maintenance, tree planting and maintenance, recreational programs and facilities, and vandalism repair.

This is the same tax rate the voters first approved twenty years ago, and has been renewed multiple times since. The current tax expires in June of 2018.

This tax generates \$1.4 million in annual revenue, used to offset parks maintenance costs. In 1998, this funding source generated 75% of park maintenance costs. Today it covers 18% of this cost, which is why small inflator is included (not to exceed 2% annually). Since 1998, we've seen total park acreage grow by one third.

Meanwhile, for more than a decade, the state has been shifting a large share of our local property taxes away from our city. At the beginning of the last decade, the state returned about 27% of local property taxes to our city. Today, approximately 18% is returned. The state has shifted more than \$3 million in property tax revenue away from our city.

Our city has seen its share of fiscal uncertainty, but economic development efforts to generate revenue are underway, as well as continued efforts to prudently manage city costs.

Think for a moment about the reasons you enjoy living in Davis. Surely, among them is our amazing parks and greenbelt system, and our many recreational opportunities, programs and services. Without Measure H, these essential civic and cultural amenities, along with other General Fund services, risk severe cutbacks.

Please join us in voting Yes on Measure H.

/S/

Brett Lee, Mayor Pro Tem City of Davis

Robb Davis, Mayor, City of Davis

Lucas Frerichs, Councilmember

Rochelle Swanson, Councilmember

Will Arnold, City Councilmember