



Argument in Favor of Measure Q

Measure Q protects funding for our Fire Department if Golden Gate Fields becomes a park, while also making immediate improvements.

Measure Q protects Albany's emergency medical response and fire protection. In the next year, the State and other entities, not including the City, may buy Golden Gate Fields for hundreds of millions of dollars to transfer to the East Bay Regional Park District. This doubling of our shoreline park is what we have wanted for decades. But public ownership also means a fifth of the local tax funding for emergency medical services, advanced life support, and fire suppression would be lost. If and only if this occurs, Measure Q would restructure the tax to maintain this funding.

Measure Q immediately closes a tax loophole. Since starting operation about a decade ago, Belmont Village, a high-end senior living facility, Sprouts Market, Starbucks, and other retailers operating on UC property have not paid Albany's parcel taxes. Measure Q closes this loophole so they will contribute to services provided by our Fire Department.

Measure Q immediately helps Albany's economically vulnerable residents. It provides very low-income renters the same relief long available to very low-income homeowners. It also reduces the tax by half for low-income homeowners and renters. These help Albany's less well-off continue to make it in Albany.

Measures Q and P together result in a small tax increase if needed. Together with Measure Q, which restructures another tax if Golden Gate Fields becomes publicly owned, the average tax per residence would increase \$12 per month. Condominium owners would continue to pay about half as much in total as house owners. With protections for households with very low- and low-incomes, this is a small amount for the benefit of a historic expansion of the park on our waterfront.

Your City Councilmembers unanimously ask you to **Vote YES on Measure Q.**

/s/Peggy McQuaid, Mayor

/s/Jennifer Hansen-Romero, Vice Mayor

/s/John Miki, Councilmember

/s/Preston Jordan, Councilmember

/s/Robin López, Councilmember