
From: Bruce England
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 12:20 PM
To: City Council; Showalter, Pat; Matichak, Lisa; Hicks, Alison; Ramirez, Lucas; Kamei, Ellen; Abe-Koga, Margaret; Ramos, Emily Ann
Cc: Bruce England
Subject: Re City Budget and Ballot Measure Amending Real Property Conveyance Tax

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Dear City Council members:

With regard to 6.3 Adoption of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budgets, Fee Modifications, and Funding for Fiscal Year 2024-25 Capital Improvement Projects and 7.1 Call a Municipal Election for November 5, 2024, and Place a Ballot Measure Amending Real Property Conveyance Tax at your meeting this week, I'd like to share a few comments with you.

I was not entirely comfortable with the questions that were included in the revenue measure surveys, as I'm not confident they adequately capture the complexities and potential trade offs that need to be considered in just about any decision the City makes, as you certainly know.

That said, what I'm concerned about at this stage is that responses seem to reflect more a desire to fix and patch things rather than seek ways to make Mountain View the best city we can have as we head into the future. Do we need to ensure public safety and fix potholes? Sure. But we also need a thriving and healthy community, with all aspects of our environment taken into account as well. Environmental sustainability, active transportation, biodiversity and wildlife protection, and affordable housing for all, just to name a few, are essential components of the kind of community that we can be proud of and that makes sense to us.

Accordingly, I urge you to be cautious about putting too much emphasis on fixing and patching, and, instead, look for funding opportunities that lead us to a future that means more than just maintaining the status quo and rather puts focus on the aspirational. If we want the Community for All that we talk about, we need to work toward all this phrase implies.

The part of the ballot language that says "provide additional funding for services that protect local property values" could be taken to include some or all of the above, at least in spirit, so I will remain hopeful, and I look forward to seeing how projects play out in the course of future planning as a result of additional funding through the ballot measure, assuming it passes.

Thanks!
Bruce England