

COUNTY COUNSEL BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

The County Counsel has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure:

California State University, Fresno Facility and Academic Program Improvement Initiative Measure
The proposed measure, if approved by the voters, would create a Fresno County (“County”) ordinance imposing a 0.2% transactions and use tax to fund certain academic programs, scholarships, and improvements to California State University, Fresno facilities (“Measure”). For the City of Reedley, the tax imposed by the Measure will be at a rate of 0.025%.

The tax will apply to the gross receipts of all retailers’ sales of all tangible personal property sold at retail in the County for the privilege of selling such property, and to the sales price of tangible personal property purchased from any retailer for the storage, use or other consumption in the County of that property.

The tax will be imposed in accordance with and incorporate provisions of state law, and the Measure contains various specified exemptions and exclusions. The California Department of Tax and Fee Administration will administer and collect the tax.

The Measure will establish a five-member Citizens’ Oversight Committee (“Committee”) appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Candidates will have to meet specified qualifications to be appointed to the Committee. The Committee will direct and control the use of the tax proceeds to ensure they are used in a manner consistent with the Measure, oversee the issuance of bonds, and provide an annual audit report on the use of the tax proceeds to the County Board of Supervisors. The tax proceeds will be placed in a special account established by the County and designated for use by the Committee.

The Committee will spend the tax proceeds on the following purposes:

- (1) Expand access in nursing, agriculture, criminology, engineering/STEM programs; repair/upgrade academic and other campus facilities, including women’s and men’s athletic facilities; and provide scholarships for local, low-income students;
- (2) At least two-thirds must be spent on academic programs and facilities and no more than one-third to repair/upgrade women’s and men’s athletic facilities; and
- (3) Recovery of administrative costs to the County for administering the Measure.

The tax proceeds will be spent in an “improvement zone,” defined in the Measure as a two-mile radius around the physical boundaries of the California State University, Fresno campus and similar boundaries around any additional locations within the County that may be owned or leased by California State University, Fresno.

If any part of the ordinance created by the Measure is invalid, it will not affect the rest of the ordinance. The ordinance can only be amended with voter approval. Voters are referred to the initiative documents for details.