

MEASURE M – IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS

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MEASURE TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT

Measure M is a proposal from the Board of Directors of the Arcata Fire Protection District to increase the District's annual appropriations limit in the amount of the taxes collected from Measure F, a special tax approved by the voters in 2020. The appropriations limit is the maximum amount a government is allowed to budget, and therefore spend, in a particular year. Not all funds are subject to this limit, but most are.

In 1979, California voters approved Proposition 4, which added Article XIII B to the California Constitution. This article limits the amount of money a local government can appropriate in each year to the amount that government was allowed to appropriate in the year prior, adjusted for cost of living and population growth. When a government implements a new tax, as the District did in 2020 with Measure F, this limit often needs to be raised in order for the government to appropriate the new money. The Constitution allows a government to raise this limit with voter approval for a maximum of four years. Measure F raised the limit for four years. Now the District is asking the voters to approve another increase for four more years. The Measure requires approval of a simple majority of the voters voting in the election to pass.

If voters reject this Measure, it may result in the District raising tax revenues in excess of its appropriations limit. If this were to happen, Article XIII B, Section 2 requires the District return the money by revising the tax rates or fee schedules.