

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO CHAPTER 4-8
OF THE ALBANY MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADD
SECTION 4-8.11 AND MODIFY 4-8.10
MEASURE EE**

EE MEASURE EE: Shall the Albany Municipal Code, Chapter 4-8 entitled "Paramedic Advanced Life Support Fire Engines and Ambulance Special Tax" be amended to provide that the City Council may increase the tax commencing in fiscal year 2010-2011 and on an annual basis thereafter by 4%?	YES
	NO

**CITY ATTORNEY IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF
MEASURE EE**

**PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO THE PARAMEDIC
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT FIRE ENGINES
AMBULANCE SPECIAL TAX, SECTION 4-8.10 ET
SEQ. OF THE ALBANY MUNICIPAL CODE**

A "Yes" vote would authorize the City Council to adjust the Advanced Live Support Fire Engine and Ambulance special tax by 4% per year commencing in fiscal year 2010-2011.

A "No" vote would reject an amendment to Chapter 4-8 of the Albany Municipal Code allowing the City Council to adjust the tax by 4% per year starting in fiscal year 2010-2011.

This is a special tax and requires a 2/3 approval of the voters voting.

Background

In 2000, the voters approved a special tax to support the costs of a program for advanced life support for fire engines, ambulances, and credentialed employees. The tax is imposed as a parcel tax. The average residential parcel pays \$18.00 per year. At the time this tax was approved, the ordinance contained no provision for adjusting this amount to reflect cost of living increases. The tax has not been adjusted since its inception.

Proposed Modification

If approved, commencing fiscal year 2010 – 2011, the City Council could increase the base tax by 4% per year.

Fiscal Impact

If passed, a single family residential property's tax would increase by about \$0.72 per year. Over a ten year period, the increase would average 87¢ per year. A commercial property currently paying \$200.00 per year in tax would increase by \$8.00 per year.

s/ROBERT ZWEBEN
Albany City Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE EE

Amendment to Measure N, 2000

On November 7th of 2000, 78% of Albany voters approved an \$18.00 annual fixed assessment to provide Advance Life Support (ALS) Paramedic Fire Engines. This annual assessment cost projected future staffing, ambulance replacement, training, and medical supplies until July 2010. Since 2001, Measure N has staffed paramedics on fire engines, which respond to all medical calls. This allows continuing paramedic response when there are multiple medical calls, multiple injury incidents, or when the City's ambulance is not available due to a hospital transport, and provides Albany residents with a preeminent Advance Life Support medical response.

Measure EE seeks a (not to exceed) 4% annual increase of Measure N, beginning in July 2010. This would amount to approximately \$0.87 per year for each residential unit and commercial equivalent. By 2020 the Measure N's \$18.00 annual assessment will have increased by \$8.70, to \$26.70 per year. The annual adjustment provided by Measure EE will allow the City to accommodate increasing costs and will provide funding for future replacement of paramedic fire engines.

Measure EE has been placed on the ballot with the unanimous approval of the City Council and deserves your support. We, the undersigned, strongly support this amendment to Measure N, 2000, and ask you to join us in voting YES on Measure EE, so that we can maintain, at nominal cost, Albany's preeminent Advance Life Support response capabilities.

Our paramedics currently respond to every emergency medical call in approximately three and a half minutes. They seek community support to continue improving service. The request is small . . . less than a dollar per year increase. No insurance comes close to matching this . . . the emergency medical service we receive saves lives.

- s/Doug Donaldson
35 year Albany Resident
- s/Nan Wishner
Former Chair, Integrated Pest
Management Task Force
- s/Robert Cheasty
former Mayor of Albany
- s/Margaret (Peggy) McQuaid
Albany Resident and Volunteer
- s/Jack A. Rosano
Civil Service Commission

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE EE WAS
SUBMITTED**