

**November 5, 2002  
General Election**

**Total Yes Votes: 2,457 39.89%**  
**Total No Votes: 3,703 60.11%**

**CITY OF TULARE**  
(required to pass: majority of votes cast)

**MEASURE C**

Shall the City Code pertaining to the charging of a Utility User's Tax be amended to increase the maximum amount of tax for each utility service that a larger utility customer must pay in any calendar year?

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY TULARE CITY ATTORNEY  
MEASURE C**

The City of Tulare imposes a Utility User's Tax on persons, including individuals and businesses, who receive telephone, electricity, natural gas, water and/or cable television utility services within the City limits. The applicable tax is 7% of the user's utility bill. This percentage will not change as a result of this Measure.

However, the current maximum tax any one party can be required to pay on any individual utility service in a given calendar year is \$560.00. This maximum amount was set more than 20 years ago and has not been increased since then.

The Tulare City Council is seeking voter approval to increase this maximum amount by \$150.00 per year until it reaches the amount of \$2,060 per year in 2012 and to allow the City Council to increase the maximum tax thereafter as it deems appropriate and necessary.

This increase is expected to affect only a small percentage of the largest utility users within the City and is intended by the City Council to have such larger utility customers pay their "fair share" when compared to the Utility User's Taxes paid by other utility customers.

s/ S.L. Kabot  
City Attorney  
City of Tulare

## **ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C**

On November 5, 2002, you will be voting on a matter of fairness in our community. We encourage you to vote YES on election day.

About 70 utility users pay the maximum tax of \$560 per utility, the same since 1978. This means as the rates rise, they pay no more tax even though the rest of us do. State law now requires any change in taxes to be approved by the voters.

To bring the maximum closer to its value in 1978, this measure increases the maximum over a ten-year period to \$2,060. It ensures that everyone, including big utility users, pay an appropriate amount towards city services. This is particularly true for our streets and new library proposal. The Council agreed to not suspend 1% of the utility user tax, as it has in past years. This caused the tax to go from 6% to 7% on July 1, 2002 for ten years to pay for those unmet needs. By voting YES on Measure C large utility users also will help pay for improvements to our streets and library systems.

Having noticed big utility users of this change and receiving only five responses, we believe this measure will not have a significant effect on business. It will provide some additional city revenues and make sure all that benefit also contribute.

Based on these facts, we strongly encourage a YES vote on Measure C.

Tulare City Council  
s/ William R. Cooke, Mayor

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE WAS SUBMITTED**