



Office of the Mayor

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BERKELEY

Item # 18

Topics for March 2020 Community Survey

- 1. Citywide Wildfire Assessment District**
- 2. Establish a new Fire and Emergency Services Tax, generating \$8 million annually**
- 3. Residential Vacancy Tax**

Shall the City of Berkeley enact a Residential Vacancy Tax of one dollar per square foot that would be assessed on residential units and multi-unit properties that have been vacant for one year or more, with escalating assessment amounts for subsequent years of vacancy, and with exceptions for hardship and construction and an opportunity to appeal, with revenue going to the City's general fund?

- 4. User Fee on Trips by Transportation Network Companies:**

Shall the City of Berkeley enact a general tax on passengers of Transportation Network Companies (e.g. Uber, Lyft) for prearranged rides originating in Berkeley, at a rate of 50 cents per ride for private rides, and 25 cents per passenger per ride for shared rides (e.g. "pool" trips)?

Revenues from the TNC tax can fund general municipal services including expanding transit service, street repaving and active transportation programs.

- 5. Creating a Climate Action Fund**

Shall the City of Berkeley create a Climate Action Fund to fund projects, programs and incentives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in homes, businesses and in transportation, with revenues generated by carbon taxes on emissions?

Most emissions come from burning gasoline in cars and trucks, as well as consumption of natural gas in homes and businesses. Revenues for the fund would come from taxes on carbon emissions.

I would like to ask for your opinion on two options for a carbon tax to fund a Climate Action Fund:

- A 2.5% increase in the gas-electric Utility User Tax
- A carbon tax on large businesses:

Shall the City of Berkeley levy an annual flat tax of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000) on carbon-emitting large delivery service companies and corporations operating in the City of Berkeley? Corporations are defined as business entities with more than 150 employees worldwide, as well as those with 10 or more owner controlled franchise corporations worldwide. We define carbon-emitting as consumption of non-renewable energy such as electricity generated from non-renewable sources, gasoline for transportation in local supply chain, corporate fleets, and other fossil fuels involved in the production process.