

Arguments in Favor Measure Q

At the City Council meeting on June 12, 2012 the **Council voted unanimously** to place the Utility Users Tax measure on the November 2012 ballot. This measure asks voters to 1) **update the existing measure** and 2) **extend a new federal exemption to Berkeley's low income taxpayers.**

The amendments are primarily technical and do not change the existing tax rate.

Recent changes in federal law and changes in communications technology mean the City's utility users tax on telecommunications services needs to be updated. In addition, **federal law providing exemptions for nonprofit educational organizations and hospitals was recently broadened to include a new exemption for low income taxpayers that should be extended to Berkeley citizens.** If this measure does not pass, low income taxpayers will not receive the new federal exemption.

This **tax funds important public services: police and fire protection, public health services, recreational programs, maintenance of our streets and parks, library services, and senior programs.** These programs provide the strong community connections that make the City of Berkeley unique in the Bay Area.

The proposed measure requires an annual verification of tax collection and a public report of the tax expenditures related to the amendment.

We ask for an Aye vote

Tom Bates, Mayor

Susan Wengraf, Berkeley City Councilmember

Daryl G. Moore, Berkeley Councilmember, District 2

Charles L. Robinson, Home Owner

Maxwell G. Anderson, Berkeley City Councilmember