



Santa Clara County Democratic Party  
2901 Moorpark Ave, Suite 110  
San Jose CA 95128

June 5, 2023

Mayor Matt Mahan and Members of the  
San José City Council

*Via Email*

**Re: Opposing Proposed Changes to the Spending Priorities and Percentage Allocations  
Measure E Real Property Transfer Taxes (Item 3.5 on June 13, 2023 Agenda)**

Dear Mayor Mahan and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party, which represents over 500,000 Democratic voters in Santa Clara County, I am writing to urge you to maintain the current spending priorities and percentage allocations of Measure E Real Property Transfer Tax proceeds.

The ballot description for Measure E promised the funds would be used for “providing affordable housing for seniors, veterans, disabled, and low-income families and helping homeless residents move into shelters/permanent housing.” The proposed diversion of Measure E proceeds to fund only or primarily short-term housing would break this promise.

Furthermore, such a diversion would be short-sighted and would ignore evidence that demonstrates clearly that an adequate supply of affordable housing, including permanent supportive housing, is essential to meaningfully address homelessness. Non-profit housing developers and government agencies need a consistent and reliable stream of funding to ensure we have an adequate supply of affordable housing in the years ahead.

If we fail to invest in affordable housing, consistently over time, many community members moved into short term housing will return to experiencing homelessness, as recent experience has shown, and others will be at greater risk of becoming homeless.

I am attaching a resolution adopted by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on June 1, 2023, opposing the proposed reallocation of Measure E proceeds to fund homeless services and short-term interim housing at the expense of continuing to invest in affordable housing required to provide increased housing security in the long term, including permanent supportive housing.

Please continue to use Measure E funds to provide affordable housing, as the voters were promised.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill James  
Santa Clara County Democratic Party Chair

## **RESOLUTION OPPOSING DIVERSION OF MEASURE E HOUSING FUNDS**

WHEREAS, in 2020 the voters of the City of San José passed Measure E to “fund general City of San José services, including providing affordable housing for seniors, veterans, disabled, and low-income families and helping homeless residents move into shelters/permanent housing”; and

WHEREAS affordable housing in San José continues to fall far short what is needed to protect residents at risk of becoming homeless while also being able to transition those currently experiencing homelessness into stable, permanent housing, and Measure E specifically states that funds will be used to provide affordable housing; and

WHEREAS diverting Measure E funding entirely to interim housing will gravely harm the ability of the City of San José to provide permanent, affordable housing for seniors, veterans, disabled persons, and low-income families, thereby undermining a core promise of Measure E;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party urges the San José City Council to reject the Mayor’s proposal to divert Measure E funds to solely fund interim housing in the 2023-2024 city budget, and to instead ensure that Measure E funds continue to be used to fund both interim housing and affordable permanent housing, as contemplated by voters when they passed Measure E, as part of an integrated approach to transition those experiencing homeless to stable, permanent housing while providing long term housing security for all residents.

Adopted by the Santa Clara County Democratic Central Committee on June 1, 2023.