

## VOTE [NO] ON MEASURE [E] PARCEL TAX

TUESDAY JUNE 2, 2026

### HERE'S WHY

There is emerging controversy surrounding Oakland's June 2, 2026 Oakland Measure E parcel tax campaign after Henry C. Levy [Alameda County Treasurer], reportedly acknowledged uncertainty regarding a core campaign claim that the measure would "lower tax rates for most homeowners."

According to reporting by Oakland Report, Levy signed the official "Argument in Favor" published in the Alameda County Voter Information Guide stating: "Join me and Oakland Firefighters in supporting YES on E ... while lowering tax rates for a majority of homeowners." However, subsequent emails allegedly show Levy admitting he was still "trying to figure out" whether the existing Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS) obligation would actually decrease or expire, which was apparently the premise behind the "tax reduction" claim.

The report states Levy wrote: "I am in the middle of analyzing all of this..." I am trying to figure out if it will decrease next year." He further acknowledged needing additional assessment data to determine: "how many people would end up paying more under the Measure E flat tax proposal." This is significant because Measure E itself imposes a new parcel tax estimated at approximately \$192 annually for nine years, reportedly raising about \$34 million per year. **deceive voters**

#### A. Executive summary Oakland's parcel tax revenue has grown

6× faster than inflation over twenty years.

Yet the city has failed to keep the staffing and service promises made in three of the last four parcel tax measures. Voters now face Measure E a proposal to add yet another flat-rate parcel tax on top of the existing

**B. Parcel taxes are substantially passed through to renters.**

Only 35% of Oakland's rental housing is fully covered by local rent control. A 2025 Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia study using comprehensive data from neighboring Berkeley found landlords pass through \$0.50 to \$0.89 of every \$1 in property tax increases to new tenants.

**C. The city has failed to meet voter-mandated minimums in three of the last four parcel-tax measure.**

A February 2026 report by the City Administrator examined 21 voter-approved measures and acknowledged failure to meet minimum staffing or service requirements in seven of them — including Measures NN (2024), C (2022), and Q (2020)

**D. Despite this dramatic increase in tax revenue, the city's own reports show that it has failed to meet the staffing or service level requirements promised to voters in three of the last four parcel tax measures.**

<sup>6</sup> Total city spending nearly doubled over the past 20 years to \$1.69 billion in fiscal year 2025, while the city's measured service outcomes have stagnated or declined.

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