

October 9, 2024

The Honorable Greg Hagwood
Chair, Plumas County Board of Supervisors
520 Main Street, 3rd floor
Quincy, California 95971

Re: Open Letter to the Plumas County Board of Supervisors and Plumas County Residents

Dear Chairman Hagwood:

A matter related to Plumas County Measure D on the November 5, 2024 ballot was brought to my attention within the past few days and I feel obligated to let you know what I was told.

There is a statutory requirement that the "ballot label", the 75 word description of a proposed ordinance such as Measure D, be only one sentence, be a question and MUST contain the duration of the tax measure and the estimated amount it will raise annually. See the current versions of Cal. Elec. Code § 303 and Cal. Elec. Code § 9051.

The wording of Measure D on the November 5, 2024 ballot in Plumas County is the following, "Shall a measure authorizing the County of Plumas to impose a special transaction and use tax in the total amount of three fourth percent (3/4%) to be used solely for purpose of providing the citizens in Plumas County Public Safety Services through the Plumas County Sheriff's Office be approved?"

Clearly, the language of the ballot label, which is what voters see on their ballot when voting, "yes" or "no", lacks the duration of the tax measure and the estimated amount it will raise annually.

I believe the intent of Measure D is good for the County and am concerned that should it be approved it may be subject to legal challenge for failing to meet the statutory requirements.

I am not happy to have been informed of this issue, or to pass the information on; however, I believe the Board and the public should be made aware of this.

The Clerk-Recorder, Registrar of Voters, and the Board relied on the review and approval of the language of Measure D by the County Counsel's office, when they agreed to place the Measure on the November ballot.

This highlights the concerns I raised in a prior public comment regarding my fear that Plumas County will be subject to litigation in the future without sound legal counsel guiding important decisions.

I am no expert on election law and was not aware of this issue until it was brought to my attention by a couple of people who specialize in election law and who I had consulted in the past who read the ballot label and reached out to me to share their concerns.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Linda R. Judge



cc Debra Lucero