

MEASURE H County of San Benito

Ballot Question

To provide and increase law enforcement, fire services, road maintenance, and other local governmental services, shall the proposed business license tax ordinance be adopted and enacted to impose a business license tax at a rate of \$30 to \$118 per business, \$.66 to \$7.80 per employee, and \$.10 per ton of minerals depleted, indexed by a COLA, in the unincorporated area of San Benito County?

What your vote means?

YES	NO
A "yes" vote supports imposing a tax on businesses operating within the unincorporated portions of San Benito County.	A "no" vote opposes imposing that tax.

What will you find in this pamphlet?

County Counsel's Impartial Analysis
Auditor's Fiscal Impact
Argument in Favor
No Argument Against was Submitted

The following statement is an impartial analysis of Measure H. If you desire a copy of the full text of the Ordinance, please contact the Department of Elections at:



<http://sbcvote.us/registrar-of-voters/elections-information/>



sbcvote@cosb.us



831-636-4016 / 877-777-4017

COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE H

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County placed Measure H on the ballot. Measure H requires businesses operating within the unincorporated portions of San Benito County to obtain a business license and to pay an annual business license tax. The businesses that would pay the Measure H tax would pay \$30 plus an amount based on the number of employees working in the unincorporated portions of the County. Mining businesses would pay a tax of \$118.80 plus an amount based upon the number of tons of minerals depleted from the County within the preceding year. If approved, the Measure is expected to raise about \$635,000 a year to be used for County services. The tax will continue until voters decide to end it.

The measure contains auditing and accountability provisions to ensure taxpayers pay the tax due. All funds raised from the tax can be used in San Benito County.

The measure provides for administration of the tax, including penalties for late payments.

The measure allows the County to adopt regulations and guidelines to ensure proper implementation of the tax, and the tax is properly apportioned to business activity within the unincorporated portions of the County. The measure also allows the Board of Supervisors to amend the tax, provided the changes do not increase the tax.

A **"yes"** vote supports imposing a tax on businesses operating within the unincorporated portions of San Benito County. A **"no"** vote opposes imposing that tax. This measure will take effect only if a majority of those voting cast a **"yes"** vote at the November 6, 2018 general election.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure H. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the Clerk of the Board Supervisors for San Benito County at (831) 636-4000 and a copy will be mailed to you at no cost.

s/ LAURA E. ZAGAROLI
Interim County Counsel

AUDITOR'S FISCAL IMPACT FOR MEASURE H

Measure H, if approved, reauthorizes collection of the San Benito County business license tax and the regulation of businesses located **only** in the unincorporated areas of the County. This tax is **not** imposed on any business within the incorporated Cities of Hollister or San Juan Bautista. The adoption and enactment of this measure will impose a business license tax at a rate of \$30 to \$118 per business augmented by a \$.66 to \$7.80 per employee rate. Surface mining operations are not assessed a rate per employee but rather have a rate of \$.10 per ton of minerals depleted and sold, indexed by a COLA. Business license tax rates are presented in the table below:

Classification	Rate Type	License Tax
(A) Retail / Wholesale / Misc	Flat + Employee	\$118.80 + \$2.64 per employee
(B) Services / Property Rental & Entertainment	Flat + Employee	\$118.80 + \$5.22 per employee
(C) Professionals	Flat + Employee	\$118.80 + \$7.80 per employee
(D) Itinerant Vendors	Flat + Employee	\$30.00 + 0.66 per employee
(E) Mining Operations	Flat + Tonage	\$118.80 + 0.10 per ton

The tax revenue generated by this measure will provide funding to increase service levels for law enforcement, fire protection, and road maintenance and capital services, as well as other local government services. This measure requires the approval of a simple majority, greater than 50% of those voting.

The business license tax was historically collected for years, before it was discontinued in 1996, when the County attempted a ballot measure increasing the rate imposed on mining operations. Historically, the business license tax generated \$170,000 in general fund revenues, used to fund essential services, including: law enforcement, fire protection, and road maintenance. Based on a recent study, the County Auditor-Controller estimates the business license tax will generate approximately \$635,000 annually.

In accordance with the Election Code, the scope of this fiscal impact analysis has been limited to the measure's impact on revenues. It does not address larger countywide fiscal issues such as the measure's effect on the overall County economy.

s/ JOE PAUL GONZALEZ
County of San Benito
Auditor-Controller

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE H

Measure H establishes a San Benito County Business License Ordinance (BLO) and provides the necessary regulation of lawful businesses within the unincorporated area of San Benito County, in the interest of public health, safety, and welfare of the people of the County. Business License Ordinances provide vital regulatory oversight and new revenue to support general governmental expenditures such as law enforcement, fire protection, road construction, and maintenance. The regulations will be **solely applied on businesses in the unincorporated area** of San Benito County. These regulations will **not be** imposed on any of the businesses within the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista.

Neighboring California cities and counties have adopted Business License Ordinances for the regulation of businesses to ensure compliance with zoning, environmental and public safety concerns. Since 1996, San Benito County has been without an operative business license ordinance. HdL Companies estimated that approximately 1400 individuals and/or organizations are conducting or operating businesses in the unincorporated area, some unregulated by public health, safety, and welfare interests.

The proposed BLO is fair and equitable; adding proceeds (estimated around \$635,000) to the County's resources. Measure H provides San Benito County the funding to regulate lawful businesses operating within the unincorporated region and protects the general public by improving their safety. **Funding will help provide vital County services**, such as: maintaining law enforcement services, fire services, road/pothole maintenance, enhancing 911/emergency response, and other local governmental services, as well as helping maintain fiscal stability. Measure H is economically responsible, timely, prudent, and the proceeds stay in our community!

It's time to reestablish a business license ordinance and improve public safety and protection.

Vote Yes on Measure H!

SAN BENITO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

s/ Anthony Botelho, Chair

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H WAS SUBMITTED
