

**Ballot Simplification Committee**  
**FINAL Approved Digest – August 5, 2008**  
**Approved by: Packard, Chisnell, Fasick, Fraps, Jorgensen**

**Any Requests for Reconsideration must be received by 12:00 p.m. on August 6, 2008**

**Emergency Response Fee and Telephone Users Tax**

**THE WAY IT IS NOW:**

The City imposes an Emergency Response Fee on each telephone line. This fee is deposited in the 911 Emergency Response Fund and may only be used for costs to operate and improve the City's 911 system. In other cities, emergency response fees have been legally challenged as taxes and not fees.

In addition, the City collects a utility users tax on charges for telephone communication services (Telephone Users Tax). The Telephone Users Tax does not apply to residential landline services. It also does not apply to certain other services.

**THE PROPOSAL:**

Proposition \_\_\_ would replace the Emergency Response Fee with a general tax (Access Line Tax) at the same rates and with the same exemptions. Revenue from this tax would go to the City's General Fund.

Proposition \_\_\_ would also revise the Telephone Users Tax to:

- Define "telephone communications services" to include current and future technologies for telephone communications, including voice over internet protocol (VOIP) services, and
- Give examples of the types of charges subject to this tax, including charges for conference calls, voicemail, and call waiting; activation, termination, and late payment fees; and universal service charges.

Proposition \_\_\_ would continue the Telephone Users Tax exemption for residential landline services. Certain other services would also continue to be exempted.

Proposition \_\_\_ would also state that voters approve the City's past collection of the Telephone Users Tax and the Emergency Response Fee.

**A "YES" VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "yes," you want the City to replace the Emergency Response Fee with the Access Line Tax at the same rates and with the same exemptions, and to revise the Telephone Users Tax.

**A "NO" VOTE MEANS:** If you vote "no," you do not want the City to make these changes.