

Communication from Public

Name: Sonja von Marensdorff

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:42 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Sonja von Marensdorff, and I would like to voice my strong support of the proposed Vacancy Tax. Los Angeles's homeless population has already increased this year, and will likely continue to rise sharply as a result of the financial disaster COVID19 has wrought on many Angelenos. The Vacancy Tax would be an essential source of revenue to invest in affordable housing in a time when this city most needs it. I urge you to vote to get the Vacancy Tax bill on the ballot in November. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Sergio Vargas

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:27 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Sergio Vargas and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Eliot
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:02 AM
Council File No: 19-0623
Comments for Public Posting: Please put a vacancy tax on the November ballot!

Communication from Public

Name: Oliver Whitney
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:09 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Oliver Whitney, I was born and raised in LA and I currently live in District 13. I'm writing to share that I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year — an unacceptable rate on top of already unacceptable numbers of unhoused Angelenos — without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. In addition to the vacancy tax, we also must be keeping Angelenos safe during the pandemic. That includes making sure that our immigrant neighbors are protected from the grips of ICE. Our immigrant communities need you and cannot afford to be left behind. In May alone, in the midst of a global pandemic, ICE booked 5,580 people into detention. We need you to take action, today, to support immigrants because, otherwise, that silence signals complicity with this administration's attacks on our communities. Please reject any cuts to the LA Justice Fund and support fully-funding this critically-needed service. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Matt Wait

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:10 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Matt Wait and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. In addition to the vacancy tax, we also must be keeping Angelenos safe during the pandemic. That includes making sure that our immigrant neighbors are protected from the grips of ICE. Our immigrant communities need you and cannot afford to be left behind. In May alone, in the midst of a global pandemic, ICE booked 5,580 people into detention. We need you to take action, today, to support immigrants because, otherwise, that silence signals complicity with this administration's attacks on our communities. Please reject any cuts to the LA Justice Fund and support fully-funding this critically-needed service. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:12 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:16 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Megan. I live in 90039. I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal.

Communication from Public

Name: Hollywood Chamber of Commerce

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 08:32 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Council President Martinez: On behalf of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the more than 800 members it represents, I am writing to respectfully request that vote on the Vacancy Tax and Empty Homes Penalty proposal be delayed for further discussions. The report from the Chief Legislative Analyst, which was only released on June 8th, clearly lays out many of the challenges and potential impacts of a Vacancy Tax and Empty Homes Penalty. We believe this item would benefit from input from community stakeholders, renters, and property owners to address these issues. We encourage you to convene these entities to discuss a series of specifics and questions to determine if this complex item should be placed on the ballot. With only 24 hours between the release of the draft ordinance and it being taken up by the City Council, more time is needed to ensure tax payer dollars are not wasted on a rushed ballot initiative. Surely you agree that this denies the communities you serve a fair opportunity to even become aware this initiative exists, let alone time to research, consider and voice an opinion on whether this is good for our City. Its critical to consider that imposing taxes on citizens with vacant properties at a time when we are all suffering severe economic hardship due to the lockdowns imposed by the many different City, County, and State bureaucracies is ill advised. Given the constrained timeline to place this initiative on the November 3, 2020 ballot and the severe and still unknown impacts related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we urge you to delay this item from moving forward. Sincerely, Rana Ghadban President & CEO



June 23, 2020

Council President Nury Martinez
Los Angeles City Council
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Item 45: Vacancy Tax & Empty Homes Penalty – Request to Delay Action

Dear Council President Martinez:

On behalf of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce and the more than 800 members it represents, I am writing to respectfully request that vote on the Vacancy Tax and Empty Homes Penalty proposal be delayed for further discussions.

The report from the Chief Legislative Analyst, which was only released on June 8th, clearly lays out many of the challenges and potential impacts of a Vacancy Tax and Empty Homes Penalty. We believe this item would benefit from input from community stakeholders, renters, and property owners to address these issues. We encourage you to convene these entities to discuss a series of specifics and questions to determine if this complex item should be placed on the ballot.

With only 24 hours between the release of the draft ordinance and it being taken up by the City Council, more time is needed to ensure taxpayer dollars are not wasted on a rushed ballot initiative. Surely you agree that this denies the communities you serve a fair opportunity to even become aware this initiative exists, let alone time to research, consider and voice an opinion on whether this is good for our City.

Its critical to consider that imposing taxes on citizens with vacant properties at a time when we are all suffering severe economic hardship due to the lockdowns imposed by the many different City, County, and State bureaucracies is ill advised. Given the constrained timeline to place this initiative on the November 3, 2020 ballot and the severe and still unknown impacts related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, we urge you to delay this item from moving forward.

Please feel free to contact me directly on my cell at (818) 613-5022 or rana@hollywoodchamber.net. Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership in these difficult times. Our community, and our economy, depend on your decisions.

Sincerely,

Rana Ghadban
President & CEO

Communication from Public

Name: Alexandra A Tangalos

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 08:47 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of District 10 and I am in VERY STRONG support of a vacancy tax. Our housing crisis has gone on too long. It is a travesty that our homeless population keeps growing while our rent keeps rising. When I was apartment shopping two years ago I noticed that there were only two kinds of apartments available for rent: luxury units that were basically overpriced hotels, or dumps that didn't even have functioning cabinets. Those should not be our only options! We deserve affordable, dependable apartments, and don't need luxury condos to keep sitting vacant. I know certain city councilmembers disagree, but I also support this for commercial real estate. It's time for the chain stores to stop bullying the family owned businesses by hiking up the rent. Pass this now, and I'll happily support it on the November ballot as well.

Communication from Public

Name: Susan Collins

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 12:58 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Council File 19-0623: Empty Homes Penalty / Vacant and Habitable Housing Units – OPPOSE Dear Councilmembers, I am writing to strongly oppose the vacancy tax. It is outrageous to think that if someone wants to purchase a vacation home in our city and pay property taxes for services that they will rarely utilize, that we should penalize them by charging them MORE. As for rental units, I assure you that property owners want to keep units filled and generating income. The City Of Los Angeles has already spent \$320,825,791.00 in homeless housing and there is another \$677,721,496.00 earmarked for more. All these funds and taxes paid and yet no one in this city has had a moment of relief - Instead, despite spending more than ever before, last year and this year our city continues to see an increase in homelessness and the multitude of problems that accompany it. In addition, the programs provided to the community, associated with the homeless housing projects are so flawed that they decimate the neighborhoods they are placed in. Taxpayers are viewed as never ending ATMs. If the city has an extra 12 million dollars laying around to put this on the ballot in November, then we're not that broke. Please vote NO on the Vacancy Tax. Thank you, Susan Collins

Communication from Public

Name: Allie Kiekhofer
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 06:14 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Hi, I'm from Council District 13. LA needs to put a vacancy tax on the ballot. I listened to much of the public comment around this at last week's meeting, and it is very clear that the only people opposed are developers who want to delay putting it on the ballot so they can get away with refusing to rent to low-income angelenos. This should be a really easy decision for you guys. First of all, a vacancy tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when cash is running short everywhere else. Easy call. Second of all, our unhoused population is ballooning and will continue to balloon as we face the looming repercussions of our failure to manage the closing and premature reopening of LA. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, and that's before you take the pandemic into account. Before and during the pandemic, the mayor and City Council have done seemingly nothing to provide a feasible path to housing. If anything, you all are paving a path to gentrification and homelessness en masse. A vacancy tax is an obvious first step. I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support a vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called "blight removal." You need to move to put this on the ballot.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 07:37 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I would like to request that the City Counsel delay its vote on the vacancy tax measure as such a measure will have far reaching effects and time should be given to hear more public comment so that the City Counsel may make an informed and thoughtful decision on this very controversial measure.

Communication from Public

Name: Cornelia Clarke
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 07:46 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Cornelia Clarke and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on.

Communication from Public

Name: Alana Shine

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 07:16 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Alana Shine, I am a LA resident in District 10. I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when other revenue services are less reliable because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on.

Communication from Public

Name: Arturo

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 07:59 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Hell No to the Vacancy Tax. In a time where vacancies are occurring due to a recession caused by the health pandemic. Didn't we already pass a \$1 billion plus to support homeless and affordable housing with ballot measures in LA City and LA County? In addition the report by Blue Sky is a load of claptrap, there is no economic nexus study to justify why the tax is needed. This tax will just make housing more expensive.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:56 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. In addition to the vacancy tax, we also must be keeping Angelenos safe during the pandemic. That includes making sure that our immigrant neighbors are protected from the grips of ICE. Our immigrant communities need you and cannot afford to be left behind. In May alone, in the midst of a global pandemic, ICE booked 5,580 people into detention. We need you to take action, today, to support immigrants because, otherwise, that silence signals complicity with this administration's attacks on our communities. Please reject any cuts to the LA Justice Fund and support fully-funding this critically-needed service. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:10 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I am a resident of CD13 and strongly support a vacancy tax to help address the issue of homelessness and believe this should be on the November ballot. This is especially important as COVID 19 creates an unprecedented economic crisis that will likely lead to an extreme increase in the number of unhoused Angelenos. This city will need all the financial resources possible to address this citywide emergency.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:17 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Grace. I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Rabeya Sen

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:22 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Honorable City Councilmembers, My Name is Rabeya Sen with Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, and we strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most number of empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you, Rabeya

Communication from Public

Name: Gina Viola

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:25 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Gina Viola and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. In addition to the vacancy tax, we also must be keeping Angelenos safe during the pandemic. That includes making sure that our immigrant neighbors are protected from the grips of ICE. Our immigrant communities need you and cannot afford to be left behind. In May alone, in the midst of a global pandemic, ICE booked 5,580 people into detention. We need you to take action, today, to support immigrants because, otherwise, that silence signals complicity with this administration's attacks on our communities. Please reject any cuts to the LA Justice Fund and support fully-funding this critically-needed service. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Joshua Ray

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:29 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Joshua Ray, and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option. I support the option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections. These are the things we should be investing in as a city, not so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. It is critical that we address this issue and provide relief for the unhoused. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Ellen Denherder
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:59 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the support the vacancy tax option and believe we must put the item to a vote in November. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on.

Communication from Public

Name: Blair K Lahola

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:01 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Blair Lahol and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are liften. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Erich Eilenberger
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:03 AM
Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Liska Ostojic

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:46 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Liska, I have lived Beachwood Canyon in Council District 4 (David Ryu) for 10 years and have seen the unhoused crisis SKYROCKET in the last 2-3 years. The encampments along Gower underpass and all over Hollywood are a DISGRACE. It is a DISGRACE we allow human beings to live in such squalor. It's INHUMANE. I am ashamed of my city and country every time I drive by. I am horrified at what our streets are going to look like as the economic impacts of Covid-19 surge. The "sweeps" the city does periodically not only does nothing, but actually makes things WORSE. It is not a solution, not even a temporary bandaid. I STRONGLY support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, NOT TO SO-CALLED BLIGHT REMOVAL. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. THIS MUST GO ON THE BALLOT FOR CONSTITUENTS TO VOTE ON.

Communication from Public

Name: Michael K Baker

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:48 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I am not in favor to force private owners to become unwilling extensions of social services when it comes to the housing crisis. I also don't agree with the moratorium on rents when no program has not been extended to home owners and property owners who still have to pay their mortgages. The banks are flush with funds and if we as citizens are being called to share in this burden.. They as bakare not exempt.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 10:52 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Theresa and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply empty homes. This will increase revenue for affordable homes and tenant protections. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Lily S

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:00 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Please vote to place the Vacancy Tax on the 2020 November ballot. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. We as citizens deserve to be allowed to vote for this measure in November.

Communication from Public

Name: Alejandra Chavez

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:00 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Alejandra Chavez, I am an LA County resident, and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. In addition to the vacancy tax, we also must be keeping Angelenos safe during the pandemic. That includes making sure that our immigrant neighbors are protected from the grips of ICE. Our immigrant communities need you and cannot afford to be left behind. In May alone, in the midst of a global pandemic, ICE booked 5,580 people into detention. We need you to take action, today, to support immigrants because, otherwise, that silence signals complicity with this administration's attacks on our communities. Please reject any cuts to the LA Justice Fund and support fully-funding this critically-needed service. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Tonya kee
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:05 AM
Council File No: 19-0623
Comments for Public Posting: Please make housing fair.

Communication from Public

Name: Dorjan Fritz
Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:09 AM
Council File No: 19-0623
Comments for Public Posting: Make housing fair for all.

Communication from Public

Name: Daniel Gaines

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:10 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Daniel Gaines and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on.

Communication from Public

Name: Cindy Gaete

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:20 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Cindy Gaete and I've lived in Los Angeles for two years now. My room mate and I pay \$2,150 for a two bedroom, one bathroom in South Central LA in CD 8. My neighbor in our duplex pays 1/3 of the rent we do because she's lived here for 16 years. This exorbitant raise in rent in recent years is an example of the insatiable greed of landlords in LA. There is no reason for 100,000 vacant homes when there are 60,000 individuals living without shelter. I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Gregory W Armstrong

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:22 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I'm a constituent in CD-4. I strongly support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to *deeply affordable homes* and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. We have a housing crisis in this city. People are all over the streets. Rather than shuffling them around endlessly while the problem just gets worse, let's enact policies that help people get and stay housed. A vacancy tax is just plain obvious! Let us vote on it this year! It will also provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on.

Communication from Public

Name: Kris Chau

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 11:23 AM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I support the Vacancy Tax for empty units to allow for more affordable housing for living and working LA residents and Families.

Communication from Public

Name: Cici Cyr

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 12:15 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I ask that the city council please vote yes on the proposed vacancy tax. Our homeless populations have grown significantly in the past year, due to Covid and its effects on the job market, as well as the general trend of the LA housing market becoming more expensive for renters and owners. It is not right that real estate investors sit on empty homes while there are so many people living on the streets. The vacancy tax will help de-incentivize empty homes with expensive tent and will incentivize filled homes and housed people. I personally think we need to go further, with rent moratoriums during Covid, stronger more comprehensive rent control, and limits on speculative real estate development and gentrification. That said, a vacancy tax is a really good and simple place to start centering our problem of homelessness. I demand that the council members show some integrity and lend support to the people who they are supposed to represent, not the interests of wealthy real estate developers and owners who are driving up rent, and pushing people into homelessness. Thank you for reading.

Communication from Public

Name: Dean Williams

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 12:26 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I find that it is a disgrace that landlords are demanding more and more rent each year . It is a matter of time that more and more people will be forced to relocate or become homeless because of landlord greed. The increase in rent no longer matches the income of the tenant. My land has raised the by 14% in 4 yrs because he is now under rent control and and he can only charge 3%. He increased it so he can have maximum impact on the rental payments.

Below is all the information you need to TAKE ACTION by phone, email, and social media, for the **LA CITY COUNCIL** meeting on **WEDNESDAY, June 24 at 10 am**. Use the **TABLE OF CONTENTS** to quickly reach the information you want to see.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

[LINK TO AGENDA & AGENDA ITEMS](#)

[SAMPLE PUBLIC COMMENT, CALL SCRIPT, AND EMAIL](#)

[INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL](#)

[SUBMIT WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT TO COUNCIL FILE](#)

[VERBAL PUBLIC COMMENT DURING MEETING](#)

[SOCIAL MEDIA POST](#)

CITY COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

[Find out who represents you on the City Council HERE.](#)

- **Councilmember Gil Cedillo, CD 1**
Phone: 213 473-7001 // Email: councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org
[Twitter](#)
- **Councilmember Paul Krekorian, CD 2**
Phone: 213 473-7002 // Email: councilmember.Krekorian@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, CD 3**
Phone: (213) 473-7003 // Email: councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember David Ryu, CD 4**
Phone: (213) 473-7004 // Email: david.ryu@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Paul Koretz, CD 5**
Phone:(213) 473-7005 // Email: paul.koretz@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Nury Martinez, CD 6**
Phone: (213) 473-7006 // Email: councilmember.martinez@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)

- **Councilmember Monica Rodriguez, CD 7**
Phone: (213) 473-7007 // Email: councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson, CD 8**
Phone: (213) 473-7008 // Email: councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Curren Price, CD 9**
Phone: (213) 473-7009 // Email: councilmember.price@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Herb Wesson, CD 10**
Phone: (213) 473-7010 // Email: councilmember.wesson@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Mike Bonin, CD 11**
Phone: (213) 473-7011 // Email: councilmember.bonin@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember John Lee, CD 12**
Phone: (213) 473-7012 // Email: councilmember.Lee@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, CD 13**
Phone: (213) 473-7013 // Email: councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Jose Huizar, CD 14**
Phone: (213) 473-7014 // Email: councilmember.huizar@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)
- **Councilmember Joe Buscaino, CD 15**
Phone: (213) 473-7015 // Email: councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org
[Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#)

LINK TO AGENDA & AGENDA ITEMS

There are two agendas for Today's meeting is [HERE](#).

[Item #45](#) Vacancy Tax for November 2020 Ballot

Watch and listen to the meeting [HERE](#)

The live audio can also be heard at:

- (213) 621-CITY

- (818) 904-9450
- (310) 471-CITY
- (310) 547-CITY

SAMPLE PUBLIC COMMENT, CALL SCRIPT, AND EMAIL

Use this script to give public comment, submit to the council file, call in to your Council Member, and email your Council Member (council member contact information above to call or email). **Instructions for giving public comment, submitting to the council file can be found [below](#).**

My name is _____ and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - CITY COUNCIL

1. SUBMIT WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT TO COUNCIL FILE

You can submit official public comments online through the City's portal. **This is a very important, public facing, portal. The more comments we can put in the file, the more Council Members will take notice!**

agenda item comment link.

[CLICK HERE FOR ITEM 45 - Vacancy Tax for November 2020 Ballot - COMMENT FILE](#)

USE THE SCRIPT ABOVE, EDIT TO YOUR LIKING, THEN COPY AND PASTE INTO THE SECTION THAT SAYS "Comments for Public Posting"

When you submit, you will need to confirm submission by clicking on a link sent to your email. The comment won't show up until AFTER you confirm your submission.

2. VERBAL PUBLIC COMMENT DURING MEETING

Call in at 10:00 am to give public comment! To dial in, call 1 (669) 254-5252 and use Meeting ID No. 160 535 8466 and then press #. Press # again when prompted for participant ID. **Once admitted into the meeting, press *9 to request to speak.**

Once it is your turn for public comment, you will be asked what agenda item you would like to speak on [**say item #9, #45, and General Public Comment**] You will be given 1-minute for each agenda item, plus an additional minute for general public comment.

SOCIAL MEDIA POST

Post the graphics with captions and tag the Mayor and City Council (twitter handles in contact info above). [DOWNLOAD THE GRAPHICS HERE.](#)

VACANCY TAX

[@LACityCouncil](#) let Angelenos vote on a #VacancyTax so that landlords do their part for the housing crisis. We have over 100K vacant units in the City of LA! That's 2.5 units of housing for each of our unhoused neighbors! #MakeThemPay HealthyLA

Communication from Public

Name: Allie Kiekhofer

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 12:26 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Support this motion for a potential LA City special election ballot measure on the November 3, 2020 state general election ballot, to fund homeless services and programs. Voter turnout is higher in presidential election years across the board and this is a once-in-four-years opportunity to give Angelenos a good chance to weigh in on this measure. Don't kick this ballot measure down the road. Homelessness in LA is already surging and the Covid-19 pandemic will only make it worse. Put the motion on the ballot.

Communication from Public

Name: Eli Tizcareño

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 02:51 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Eli Tizcareño with the American Friends Service Committee - Los Angeles and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much-needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased by 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Karim Jaude

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 03:15 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Council File No. is 19-0623. Dear City Council, I like to express strong opposition to the proposal to place a vacancy tax on the November 2020 ballot. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 03:16 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: Dear City Council, I like to express strong opposition to the proposal to place a vacancy tax on the November 2020 ballot.
Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Jen

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 04:07 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: why would you tax the people for residential units that are empty? How does that impact the city? How about you spend energy on the homeless problem! I have unhygienic homeless camps in front of my office that I pay \$5000 per month for! It is dirty and unprofessional and I am losing money due to customer perception that we are in a slum. What in the world does residential units empty (and when rent is at the highest it has EVER been and there is a shortage of rentals, why would you spend 12 million on something you certainly cannot recoup honestly. You can tell the people units are empty, but I do not believe you... there are more people in the area than there is housing for-- if anything fine the landlords who are charging more than they should be as most people cannot afford the prices!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 04:15 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. In addition to the vacancy tax, we also must be keeping Angelenos safe during the pandemic. That includes making sure that our immigrant neighbors are protected from the grips of ICE. Our immigrant communities need you and cannot afford to be left behind. In May alone, in the midst of a global pandemic, ICE booked 5,580 people into detention. We need you to take action, today, to support immigrants because, otherwise, that silence signals complicity with this administration's attacks on our communities. Please reject any cuts to the LA Justice Fund and support fully-funding this critically-needed service. Thank you for your time.

Communication from Public

Name: Matthew Farrer

Date Submitted: 06/24/2020 09:12 PM

Council File No: 19-0623

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Matthew Farrer and I strongly support the Healthy LA Coalition in calling for the City Council to support the vacancy tax option that will apply to the most empty homes possible and ensure revenue goes directly to deeply affordable homes and tenant protections, not to so-called blight removal. A Vacancy Tax will provide much needed revenue to the city at a time when revenue sources that the city is most dependent on will be considerably less than prior years because of COVID-19. The number of people living outside and in their cars has increased 14.2% in the past year, without the economic effects of COVID-19 taken into account. Implementing a Vacancy Tax policy could help house the unhoused and stem the massive tide of evictions projected to occur after the COVID-19 related emergency renter protections are lifted. This must go on the ballot for the constituents to vote on. Thank you for your time.