

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE
DECLARING ITS OPPOSITION TO INITIATIVE NO. 21-0042A1, THE
TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

WHEREAS, an association representing California's wealthiest corporations is spending tens of millions of dollars to promote a deceptive ballot measure currently eligible for the November 2024 statewide ballot; and

WHEREAS, the measure creates constitutional loopholes that allow corporations to pay far less than their fair share for the impacts they have on our communities, which could force residents and taxpayers to pay more to maintain services; and

WHEREAS, the measure threatens billions of dollars every year in local government funding for services like fire and emergency response, law enforcement, affordable housing, services to support homeless residents, mental health services, and more; and

WHEREAS, the measure could impact the City's Measure R, which is expected to generate over \$5.2 million dollars intended to enable Parks, Library, and Streets departments to fund new programming, infrastructure, and street projects within the City; and

WHEREAS, the measure is an attack on voters' rights, containing undemocratic provisions that would make it more difficult for local voters to pass measures to fund services, provisions that retroactively cancel measures enacted by voters, and provisions that prevent voters from passing advisory measures that provide direction on how they want their local tax dollars spent; and

WHEREAS, the measure contains intentionally restrictive language that will encourage hundreds of frivolous lawsuits against cities and local governments – costing taxpayers many millions and stopping investments in vital local services; and

WHEREAS, the measure would make it much more difficult for state and local regulators to issue fines and levies on corporations that violate laws intended to protect our environment, public health and safety, and our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the measure is opposed by hundreds of local governments, teachers, firefighters, working families and local elected officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Council opposes Initiative #21-0042A1.
2. The Council will join the “Stop the Taxpayer Deception Act” coalition, a growing coalition of public safety, education, labor, local government, and infrastructure groups throughout the state.
3. The Council directs staff to email a copy of this adopted resolution to the League of California Cities at BallotMeasures@calcities.org.
