



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Fresno Democrats Endorse Measure P

FRESNO—At its monthly meeting on Sept. 5, the Fresno County Democratic Party voted overwhelmingly to endorse Measure P, the Fresno for Parks ballot measure on which city of Fresno residents will vote in November 2018.

“Parks and the accompanying amenities define a community,” says Michael D. Evans, chair of the Fresno County Democratic Party. “And Measure P will help us make Fresno a better place for our current residents and a more attractive destination for future residents. Kudos to the citizen groups that worked tirelessly to get this measure on the ballot.”

Measure P calls for a 0.36% sales tax to raise funds to create, expand and maintain parks and other public recreation areas. Over 30 years, the measure would raise millions of dollars with 21% going to the building of new parks, 46% to maintaining those and already existing parks, and the balance to improving youth and senior recreation, walking trails, and arts and cultural activities.

The need is well-substantiated. On the ParkScore index, which measures how well U.S. cities are meeting the need for parks, Fresno ranks 94th among the nation’s 100 largest cities.

Our city is a sprawling metropolis, dominated by cars and driving. It is therefore easy for neighborhoods to become disconnected and for people to feel a loss of community.

Parks and public spaces are forces in a better direction. They draw us together and give us pride in where we live, while encouraging us to mingle with our fellow citizens. Parks are a resource that provide every child with safe and open spaces in which to play and a variety of ways for communities to come together.

Fresno has shown in the past that it is willing to chip in a little tax if it means our city can improve its public resources. Measure Z was voted in twice, and because of that we now have a world-class zoo that is getting even better. The spectacular new African Zone is a visible monument to what happens when Fresno pitches in. Now we must do the same for our parks.

Measure P will be on the ballot on Nov. 6 for all residents within the city of Fresno.

“We encourage the community to support Measure P,” says Evans. “Let’s move Fresno from the bottom 10 in parks to the top 10.”

For more information, contact 559-495-0606 or fresnocountydemocrats@yahoo.com.