As with Prop C, two-thirds voter approval now a higher turnout could help

By David Garlick

San Diego

Last week’s failure of a proposed hotel increase to fight homelessness and expand the convention center in San Diego could be viewed as either good or bad news for a separate $900 million housing bond proposed for the November ballot. Access to the good news: If opponents would have likely call the housing bond redundant, it now can be pitched as a stand-alone measure to end homelessness.

Among the bad news is that Measure C had a broad coalition of support and minimal opposition, but it still fell short of the two-thirds majority approval — the same challenging threshold the housing bond must meet. The defeat of Measure C has prompted some local leaders to conclude it may be unavoidable for any future multi-million dollar housing measures in San Diego.

“This is a very difficult task,” said Stephen Rains, who is spearheading the housing bond and who supported Measure C, which got just under $10 percent of the vote. “This is disappointing. If 80 percent of voters couldn’t support something and have it approved, then what can we do?”

Additional bad news is that supporters of Measure C were hamstrung in part because the measure they were advocating for the county government to spend nothing was on the ballot. Measure C would have allowed county supervisors to pass new property taxes to fund affordable housing.

“Your campaign was very last minute,” said Don Rentz, who worked as an ear of the campaign committee supporting Measure C. “(The essential part of Measure C) was a property tax.”

As Prop C last month, Measure C faced an uphill battle. The measure would have raised $200 million a year for the next 35 years for affordable housing. Supporters had estimated the average cost of a one-bedroom apartment in San Diego County is now about $1,400 a month. But Measure C was rejected by 65 percent of voters.

“Once you get past a certain number of years, the vote begins to get very difficult,” saidondo, who was general manager of the county convention center.

The measure is the third effort in recent years to get a measure passed to fund affordable housing on the November ballot.

The first attempt, also passed last year, would have raised $220 million per year for 20 years as a hotel tax. The measure was withdrawn at the last minute by City Hall, which wanted to use the additional cash to deal with its own pandemic-related budget issues. Instead, Measure C focuses on raising a one-time, $900 million bond to fund construction and acquisition.

San Diego County Public Health officials practice what they preach

San Diego County Public Health Director Dr. Wilma Wooten stressed the importance of frequent handwashing throughout the day, thoroughly cleaning your workspace and maintaining proper social distancing.

“We’re all working on the same team,” Wooten said. “We’re all working in the same boat. We’ve got to do our part. The more we can prevent transmission, the more we can reduce cases, and the faster we can get this thing under control.”

The San Diego County Public Health department has issued new guidelines for businesses throughout the county.

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THICH QUANG DO • 1928-2020

BUDDHIST MONK DROVE IN VIETNAM DESPITE DETENTIONS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Thich Quang Do, a Buddhist monk who spent 22 years in jail under the Communist government, has died at age 91. He was the founder of the Thanh Minh Buddhist Church in Vietnam, which has consistently.taught the government over issues of religious freedom and human rights.

He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and received several awards for his activism, including the Right Livelihood Award, as well as the International Buddhist Information Bureau award, which the New York-based group Human Rights Watch gives to advocates who have upheld human rights in the face of official persecution.

“People are very afraid of the government. I only have to say that I am a Buddhist monk, that I have a full helping of the people and the government,” Do said in a rare 2003 inte-

“Jo-nam Vnemghac-Bur-

hemetic economic liberalism and free markets, its political system remains under the control of the Communist govern-

“Steadfastness, democracy and human rights are more important than economic de-

“There is no way to prove that the center's activities are beneficial to the community. The center is absolutely critical to our campaign,” he said. “We are going to stand our ground.”

The full council is expected to place the measure on the ballot in November. The city council's Rules Committee is scheduled to discuss the bond at a meeting Wednesday at City Hall, 202 C St. The full council is expected to place the measure on the November ballot this fall.

The housing bond would replace some 14-year-old property owners by an average of $2,000 per year for $500,000independent apart-

no committee, which could lead to an endorsement. The City Council's Rules Committee is a subcommittee that could vote to schedule the bond for a hearing.

The national lawmaker who until recently was the leader of the outlawed church.

Thich Quang Do, a Bud-

“The fair-share argument is not from HUD or FHA and has not been approved by HUD or any government agency.

Some borrowers may not qualify for this option based on their home value and loan amount. This material is not from FHA or FHA and has not been approved by HUD or any government agency.

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