



CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION - CONS

ARTICLE XIII C [VOTER APPROVAL FOR LOCAL TAX LEVIES] [SECTION 1 - SEC. 3]

(Article 13C added Nov. 5, 1996, by Prop. 218. Initiative measure.)

SECTION 1.

Definitions. As used in this article:

- (a) "General tax" means any tax imposed for general governmental purposes.
- (b) "Local government" means any county, city, city and county, including a charter city or county, any special district, or any other local or regional governmental entity.
- (c) "Special district" means an agency of the State, formed pursuant to general law or a special act, for the local performance of governmental or proprietary functions with limited geographic boundaries including, but not limited to, school districts and redevelopment agencies.
- (d) "Special tax" means any tax imposed for specific purposes, including a tax imposed for specific purposes, which is placed into a general fund.
- (e) As used in this article, "tax" means any levy, charge, or exaction of any kind imposed by a local government, except the following:
 - (1) A charge imposed for a specific benefit conferred or privilege granted directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of conferring the benefit or granting the privilege.
 - (2) A charge imposed for a specific government service or product provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of providing the service or product.
 - (3) A charge imposed for the reasonable regulatory costs to a local government for issuing licenses and permits, performing investigations, inspections, and audits, enforcing agricultural marketing orders, and the administrative enforcement and adjudication thereof.
 - (4) A charge imposed for entrance to or use of local government property, or the purchase, rental, or lease of local government property.
 - (5) A fine, penalty, or other monetary charge imposed by the judicial branch of government or a local government, as a result of a violation of law.
 - (6) A charge imposed as a condition of property development.
 - (7) Assessments and property-related fees imposed in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII D.

The local government bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that a levy, charge, or other exaction is not a tax, that the amount is no more than necessary to cover the reasonable costs of the governmental activity, and that the manner in which those costs are allocated to a payor bear a fair or reasonable relationship to the payor's burdens on, or benefits received from, the governmental activity.

(Sec. 1 amended Nov. 2, 2010, by Prop. 26. Initiative measure.)