

From: July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
To: Meeting Info
Subject: [External] July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 7:02:29 PM

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION



Mary Lou Sumberg _____ Item # _____

Item Name: Info Hearing – Split Roll Initiative

Meeting Date: 7/23/20 Minutes Exhibit #: 7.93

PUBLIC COMMENT

Name: Mary Lou Sumberg

E-mail Address:

Phone:

Agenda Item(s):

7. Public Comment

Comment:

My name is Mary Lou Sumberg. I am a Senior and a Homeowner in Albany, Alameda County. I support Proposition 15. I have been waiting for this reform for 40 years, since Prop 13 passed in 1978. Before Prop 13, property taxes were paid in a roughly 50/50 split between residential and commercial property owners. Now, residential owners pay 80% of all property taxes, while commercial owners pay a shockingly low 20%. In addition, almost 80% of the tax revenue for public schools and community services that will be generated by Prop 15 will be paid by the largest commercial property owners in the state. It's time for them to start paying their fair share. Proposition 15 would reclaim \$12 billion every year for our schools and local services by closing corporate property tax loopholes -- all while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture. The people of California need Proposition 15 now more than ever. It will provide funding for local services such as Public Libraries, Parks & Recreation, and public schools. This is important to me because I use the Albany Public Library, the Berkeley Public Library, and local parks on a regular basis. I have worked at Albany High School and I know how important these services are to both the young people and the adults in our community. The Board of Equalization has an important role to play in ensuring that Prop 15 is implemented effectively, and that it is fully enforced. I ask you to rise to the occasion of implementing a change that Californians like me have wanted and needed for a very long time. I am asking you to support Prop.15, a fair and balanced reform to put our Schools & Communities First. Sincerely, Mary Lou Sumberg, Retired, Albany, CA