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Photos Emma Wong

This electrified Moraga home offered tour visitors a chance to see heat pump systems for cooling and heating, hot water, and washers/dryers, as well as a Tesla Solar Roof, powerwalls, and an induction range in the kitchen

Moraga residence on Electrified Home Tour

By Emma Wong

A glittering, solar-powered roof. Powerwall batteries. An induction stove, heat pump water heater, and clothes dryer.

Self-powered, electric living may appear too good to be true. But for Anne Chambers and Ed McAlpine, the future has arrived with their electrified Moraga home.

On Sunday, March 10, the Chambers/McAlpine house was featured in the first-ever Electrified Home Tour, organized by the Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour. Tour coordinator Kathy Kramer showcased four homes across Alameda and

Contra Costa Counties that promote eco-friendly, electric-powered appliances.

The Electrified Home Tour originated from Kramer's concern about increasing carbon emissions. According to a 2021 national report, commercial and residential sectors contributed a sixth of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, following transportation and industry. Burning gas—to heat our homes, water, and food, and to run our clothes dryers—is a main source of carbon emissions, emitting gasses that cause global warming. However, switching to electric appliances that are powered by clean energy stops these emissions.

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Lafayette Council received results of telephone survey to tackle upcoming fiscal challenges

By Lou Fancher

Dr. Gary Manross of Strategy Research Institute at the council meeting March 11 presented survey findings about the city's fiscal standing that were designed for and drew from a sample size of 400 registered Lafayette voters. The scientific telephone survey was conducted between Jan. 15 and Feb. 15. The council had directed SRI to gather data and assess voters' willingness to support a sales tax rate increase to counter ongoing structural deficits of approximately 10% every year that will result in annual deficits of \$2 million if not proactively addressed.

Specifically, the survey sought findings in three categories:

1. Determining whether or not a funding Measure intended to allow Lafayette City officials to address the fiscal challenges they will be facing beginning in the next fiscal year will pass or fail, if placed on the November ballot.
2. Identifying the collective core values and perceptions having to do

with likely support for a funding Measure asking Lafayette voters to authorize an increase in the City's sales tax in order to address the fiscal challenges that City officials will soon be facing.

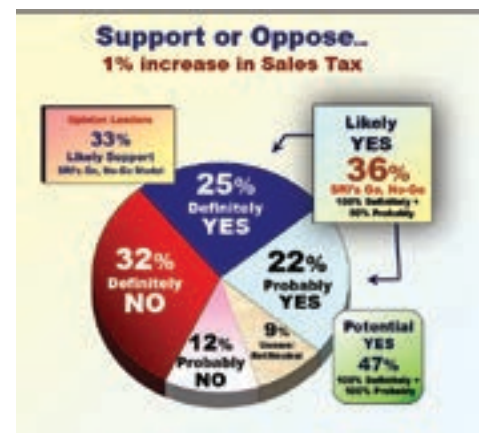
3. Testing the impact on voting behavior of specific arguments both in support of and in opposition to embracing such a funding Measure; in other words, would the respective argument cause voters to be more supportive of or more inclined to oppose such a funding Measure.

Among the most critical results Manross highlighted in his presentation was that nearly three-quarters (74%) of local voters were not aware that the City will soon be facing an annual deficit of about \$2 million. "They just don't know," he said.

When the survey asked respondents about the level of concern they would experience if they were informed by a trusted source about the fiscal challenges soon facing the city, 83% said learning this from a trusted

source would make them concerned, 30% it would make them highly concerned, and over half (53%) said the news would make them somewhat concerned. Not unexpectedly, trusted sources known as "opinion leaders" by voter analysts (58 of the survey's 400 responders were deemed opinion leaders), reveal the follow-the-leader influence in survey results showing 91% of all mainstream "information followers" reported they would become concerned at some level should these thought leaders convey the city's potential deficit information.

Of the nine issues presented, the top three the respondents identified as most concerning if negative funding impacts Lafayette in fiscal year 2024-25 were the city's ability to maintain city streets, roads, and storm drains; inability to implement and maintain adequate wildfire preparedness; and being unable to prioritize bicycle and pedestrian safety in Lafayette. The three concerns given secondary prominence re-



lated to preserving open space, downtown parks, and recreation facilities, a vibrant downtown, and establishing enough control of new development projects. Completing the list and positioned as less concerning were crime, lack of housing, and climate change.

In positive findings, 93% of mainstream residents said they were satisfied with the quality of life in Lafayette and almost 58% are very satisfied.

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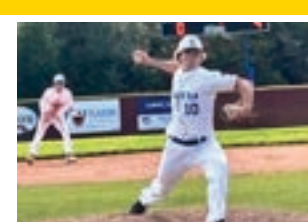
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