

Measure B sales tax increase

VOTE NO on Measure B!

Here they come again. After the failure of Measure R in 2022 Benicia city government is trying to fool you again. Under our state constitution, “protection of essential public safety is the first responsibility of local government.” When budgeting, “local officials have an obligation to give priority to the provision of providing essential services to their citizens.

Why do they always threaten essential public safety services when the budget contains plenty of unnecessary fat that could be cut instead? It’s dishonest to say this tax will protect public safety when the measure leaves out any guarantee that the funds will go to public safety. Why is there no guarantee? Because the funds will probably go elsewhere!

The biggest unnecessary drain on the City’s budget is overly generous salaries, pensions, and retiree health benefits. While taxpayers witness their own retirement investments destroyed by stock market losses and runaway inflation, Benicia would make matters worse by raising taxes to fund guaranteed retirement benefits for public employees.

Of greatest concern, however, is how higher sales taxes will hurt local businesses. Local businesses already struggle as shoppers increasingly opt for the convenience of Amazon and other online retailers. Many struggling businesses may not survive a sales tax hike that drives even more shoppers away from buying locally. The measure boasts “independent citizen oversight,” but the measure contains no spending guarantees that an oversight committee could enforce.

Benicians don’t need another committee. **Your oversight will be by voting NO on Measure B!**

Don’t be fooled by their argument that “opponents don’t live in Benicia.” We are the Solano County Taxpayers Association representing the Taxpayers of Solano County.

s/ Michael Nolan