

**REBUTTAL TO THE
ARGUMENT AGAINST
MEASURE A
BENICIA HOTEL TAX**

Vote YES on Measure A

Measure A was placed on the ballot at the urging of Benicia's leaders from small businesses, schools, non-profits, faith-based groups, homeowner associations, both political parties, and local neighborhood leaders.

Measure A is a hotel tax – paid by visitors to Benicia.

Benicia is fixing a structural budget deficit. If we don't fix it – major cuts will come to Benicia shortly. Benicia's police, fire, and emergency services are threatened.

These are not scare tactics. They're warnings. In 18 months, Benicia could look very different than today.

In an emergency, every second counts. That's why Measure A is so important.

Measure A protects and strengthens Benicia's most essential services. It protects your property values.

To cut taxpayers' dollars, Benicia's leaders have eliminated 10 positions at the City (5% of the City's General Fund Workforce) saving over \$1.5 million annually.

They cut programs and services with ongoing savings of over \$3 million and adopted new rules to spark smart development to broaden our tax base.

By law, Yes on Measure A requires strict fiscal accountability provisions, ensuring that every cent of our money is used effectively, efficiently, and as promised by law to voters.

An independent Oversight Committee will conduct annual audits to ensure Measure A is being used wisely.

Together, we can maintain our public safety and vital services – preserving the high quality of life we all cherish in Benicia. Our shared commitment reflects the cooperative spirit that defines our Benicia. Vote YES on Measure A.

s/Mark Hughes, Former Benicia City Council Member

s/Norma Morales, Economic Development Board Chair

s/Andre J. Stewart, Insurance Executive

s/Jamie Blomdal, Former BUSD School Board Trustee