ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE L – HALF CENT SALES TAX

This measure proposes to renew the expiring half-cent sales tax with a FOREVER sales tax. The best way to hold politicians accountable is to require them to occasionally explain how they are doing at managing the tax funds. This measure proposes to eliminate an important test of their stewardship. The Measure explains that the half-cent sales tax pays for the ‘essential City services, such as: fire and police protection, public safety and emergency response, facilities maintenance, and environmental preservation.’ Now is the time to examine how well the City is managing these duties. The study of ‘Sen. John Moorlach Ranks California’s 482 Cities for Financial Soundness’ shows that the Albany City Council is performing poorly. Albany ranks 366 compared with the 482 California cities. Each Albany citizen’s share the City deficit is $736.

This is no time to give the City leadership less scrutiny. Vote NO on this FOREVER sales tax. Don’t open the door to exploitation. Require the leadership to prove why each department needs funding help. Require the leadership to prove that ‘parks’ and ‘play structures’ need more funding to be well maintained.

Amendments to the City Charter must have more vigorous taxpayer protection. Accountability must be ironclad, not the meaningless ‘independent audit’ this measure proposes. Vote NO.

Submitted by
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