

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

Vote NO on Measure B

Vallejo has been hit hard by this Recession - people and businesses are struggling just to survive.

If Measure B is approved, Vallejo will have higher sales taxes than American Canyon, Napa and all Solano County. This will put our existing businesses at a disadvantage and discourage new businesses. Sales taxes also hurt those who can least afford them – seniors on fixed incomes, students and the poor.

For years, Vallejo has balanced its budget by reducing staff and slashing essential services. We must stop cutting services and start reducing the cost of providing them. Many city employees make more than \$100,000 per year, get free or reduced cost health care, and can retire in their 50s with pensions far greater than the private sector. These costs (\$61,993,036) consume more than 94 percent of the current General Fund budget (\$65,717,328) – leaving less than six percent for everything else.

Vacaville has 36 more police personnel (sworn and non-sworn) than Vallejo, and pays \$4,000,000 per year less. They have three more firefighters, and pay \$1,800,000 less. If our Police and Fire Departments were staffed and paid the same as Vacaville, we could have more public safety employees and still save \$5,800,000.

Future City Councils will be able to spend new sales tax revenue however they choose – no restrictions. In bankruptcy, the Council majority approved two employee contracts that guaranteed raises and free health care. Considering that track record, we cannot trust that increased taxes will be spent on improving services, not on employee pay and pensions.

Increasing Vallejo's sales tax now is a bad idea. It's time to make tough choices, reduce employee costs and quit kicking the can down the road. We must get our fiscal house in order before asking taxpayers for more money.

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/s/Joanne Schivley, Councilmember

/s/Stephanie Gomes, Councilmember