



Why You Should Vote **NO** on Measure L The 1% Public Safety Sales Tax Increase in Madera County It's **NOT** lack of money – it's **Misguided Priorities!**



The **FIRST RESPONSIBILITY** of the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) is to protect its citizens and provide fire, and emergency services by fully funding fire services and the Sheriff's department from county tax revenues. Has this been the priority of our Madera County Board of Supervisors?

Brief Spending History

- The Madera county budget for the 2016-2017 Fiscal year is \$266 Million Dollars.
- **Only 6.3 Million is spent for Fire Protection and Emergency Services (2.36% of the County Budget)**
- Between December 8, 2015 and January 16, 2016 the BOS voted to spend \$4.6 Million to increase the salaries and benefits for Madera county workers – all which took effect by July 2016.
- For the 2016/2017 budget year millions more have been approved for salary increases and benefits
- The BOS is spending nearly \$200K for a consultant to inform residents about this 1% sales tax increase.
- The BOS recently approved another \$311K to help kick start a 956-acre OHV Park off HWY41 west of O'Neal's which local residents oppose. Now they are proposing the possibility of leasing this property for \$1/month for 6 months, then \$10K/month for the first year, then 25K thereafter. If approved additional funds are required and open to county to liability claims. Why wasn't this money used for fire protection?
- Currently the BOS is planning on spending more than \$550K to purchase land for a Madera County Monument sign off HWY41, and another \$500K+ to erect a monument.
- In 2016 after public outcry, a 25% increase (\$97K annually) in the BOS salary was stopped!
- It is costing the county more than \$100K just to put this Measure L on a special March 7, 2017 ballot!
- These increased expenditures total over 7 Million dollars. All discretionary money!
- **The proposed 1% Sales Tax increase is estimated to raise between 5-8 Million/yr. over the next 20 years, approximately what the County has already spent annually on increasing salaries and nonessential projects.**

Addition Taxes and Fees for Madera Property Owners and Citizens

- Madera property owners are paying hundreds of dollars/year on property taxes for School bonds and special assessments passed in previous years.
- Measure C, the Community College Classroom Repair and Job Training Improvements bond, passed on June 7, 2016 will increase property taxes starting in 2017. Wait till that bond hits your wallet!
- Increasing fire personnel is no guarantee of reduced ISO ratings and lower property insurance.
- In December/2016 the BOS approved a 12% increase in the trash disposal fees for residents, a 50% increase in the North Fork Transfer Station Landfill Site, and an 80% increase in the Fairmead Landfill Site. This is on top of the 6% franchise tax fee generating \$600K annually to the general fund, not going to the trash program.

If raising workers' salaries and benefits, building monuments and etc. is so important in Madera County, why wasn't THIS put on the March 7, 2017 special election ballot instead of a fire and safety tax? The answer is obvious - It would fail, but a safety tax – well that plays better on people's emotions. Never let a Crisis go to waste!

The Solution:

It is not fiscally prudent to raise the sales tax of Madera County to pay for basic protective services. The county needs to follow the example of the private sector and economize and live within its budget. Public safety should be the number one priority of this county, not salary increases and non essential and frivolous projects..

Without fire and emergency protection nothing else matters!

Vote NO ON MEASURE L
For More Information go to: NoOnMeasureL.org

Send a message to our county bureaucrats to straighten out their priorities!

Fire Protection First – Not Sales Tax Increase

