



We, the undersigned residents of Chico, hereby declare our opposition to ANY sales tax increase in 2020 that does not have a two-thirds vote requirement.

We are aware that the City Council is currently considering a ‘General Sales Tax’ for the November 2020 ballot. This type of tax would only require a simple majority vote. The revenues generated from this estimated \$18 million annual tax would be deposited into the city’s General Fund and can be budgeted at the discretion of the City Council. **We strongly oppose this unrestricted approach.**

Simply put, we do not trust the City Council to appropriately prioritize revenues from a General Sales Tax increase. Here are examples of why we do not trust the City Council:

- 1) The Chico City Council continues to ignore problems associated with crime and criminal vagrancy.
- 2) Despite public outrage, the Chico City Council has done nothing to stop the disastrous needle distribution program.
- 3) The Chico City Council is trying to take away tools from law enforcement that help manage the city’s growing transient population.
- 4) The Chico City Council voted to silence 12,000+ residents of Northwest Chico in the upcoming election.

We are aware that other local governments have tried to pass simple majority tax increases by making false promises to voters about how revenues would be spent. We are also aware that the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA) recently sued neighboring Yuba County for using these tactics without requiring a two-thirds vote. HJTA won the lawsuit.

We agree that more resources are needed for public safety and roads. Therefore, we are willing to consider supporting a ‘Special Tax’, which requires approval from two-thirds of voters. **The two-thirds vote requirement for special taxes provides an important protection for taxpayers – revenues would be dedicated to one or more specific purposes (public safety and roads). The City Council would have no spending discretion.**

Given the earned lack of trust, we urge the City Council to immediately abandon any plans to pursue a simple majority tax increase for the November 2020 election. We encourage the City Council to consider how a revenue measure requiring a two-thirds vote could improve city roads and public safety.

Sincerely,

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