



September 14, 2021

Resolution in Opposition to the Local Sales Tax “LOST”

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County Council has decided to call for vote on a referendum to adopt a Local Option Sales Tax, herein in after referred to as “LOST” to be placed on the November 2, 2021, ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Beaufort County Republican Party (BCRP) strongly oppose said “LOST” tax for the following enumerated reasons; and

WHEREAS there is no written specific Sunset Clause contained in the referendum for ending the LOST Tax. However, there is a cumbersome provision contained within the referendum that states after two years, 15% of voters can petition the County Council to rescind the tax. However, two years after which the County may place it back on the ballot which means the LOST may never go away; and

WHEREAS the “LOST” tax will harm the poorest and the hardest hit by the COVID-19 virus, as it will increase the cost of all goods and services which are increasing in cost daily due to food, materials, and labor cost; and

WHEREAS the 1% tax increase will also affects utility bills, vehicle and boat registrations and costs of constructions and home improvements; and

WHEREAS this referendum is being put forth during an off-election year in which said sitting County Council members voted themselves a salary increase during the pandemic while other working members of the county are being laid off, suffering the loss of jobs and homes; and

WHEREAS there is a significant low-income segment of the Beaufort County population that are at or below the poverty level and this “LOST” tax shall be a burden on these residents and renters; and

WHEREAS the County Council’s premise that seasonal visitors will pay a large portion of the “LOST” tax is flawed as the resurgence of the different variants of COVID the dependance on a healthy seasonal tourist’s trade is an extremely dangerous and unpredictable assumption.



THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Beaufort County Republican Party (BCRP) urge the Beaufort County Residents to vote “N” on the “LOST” Tax referendum. The BCRP Chairman requests the Executive Committee vote to support the resolution or to NOT support resolution. A MAJORITY VOTE IS REQUIRED.

Kevin Hennelly
Chairman
Beaufort County Republican Party