

Argument Against Measure Z

Raising San Leandro's sales tax to 10%, the highest in Northern California, is a mistake. Our financial problems are the result of millions in ongoing City Hall deficit spending and we must fundamentally alter our spending to solve the underlying issues. This sales tax is ill-conceived, will not solve the ongoing problems, nor does it ensure adequate Police and Fire support. It will only hurt those most vulnerable; seniors, struggling families, and the unemployed. In addition, new retailers and shoppers will avoid San Leandro, leaving us with nothing but a bad reputation and even lower tax revenue.

City Hall gambled revenue would rise, despite all predictions, draining our reserves as a result of \$24 million in deficit spending, none due to state raids on funding. Short term planning resulted in \$15 million spent for a Senior Center we cannot afford to open. Pay scales continue to exceed the private sector with more and more employees making over \$100,000/year. Administrators were hired, while police were laid off. Tens of thousands of our own tax dollars have been spent to bully us into this tax, rather than funding services and supporting those in most need.

Something must change. City Hall must fundamentally alter their spending to eliminate the ongoing deficit. In addition, overtime must be brought under control, and our priorities established. We must put the people of San Leandro first and re-fund our police, libraries, pools, as well as the services for our most needy. Before putting another tax on the backs of the people, our leaders must show they can make wise decisions with our money and bring spending under control so all of San Leandro can grow and prosper.

s/Tim Holmes
Zocalo Coffeehouse, Owner

s/Bill Stephens
San Leandro City Council

s/Brenda Salgado
Farrelly Pond Neighborhood Association

s/Mia Ousley
San Leandro Community Action Network (SLCAN)

s/Dan Walters
Copper Harbor Co., President