BALLOT ARGUMENT AGAINST VACAVILLE SALES TAX INCREASE
MEASURE M

NO on Measure M. It breaks promises made in 2012 when Vacaville asked voters to approve a "temporary" tax increase.

The tax was needed, they said, to fill a temporary hole in Vacaville's budget caused by the Recession. They said it would last ONLY FIVE YEARS.

We trusted them and passed the tax. Now they want to break that promise, TRIPLE the tax, and extend it 20 YEARS!

The Recession ended. Property values are higher than ever. Hundreds of new homes were added since 2012. Another 3,800 are underway. Property tax revenue is pouring in!

Retail sales are booming. The Outlets are packed. Nut Tree Plaza added 17 new stores. So sales tax revenue is pouring in too!

Why does the City want even more money? Because of another broken promise. During the Recession, taxpayers begged the City Council to bring city pensions under control by switching from CalPERS to something else. The City Council said they'd consider it.

Pensions are a major part of Vacaville's budget. CalPERS has underperformed and lost money for years, heaping enormous annual costs on participating cities like Vacaville.

Now the temporary tax is expiring and, although the State forced some reforms, Vacaville still clings to CalPERS guaranteed pensions.

CalPERS pensions are based on final salary. Vacaville has over 100 employees whose total compensation exceeds $200,000/year ($1 million every 5 years EACH)!

Vacaville experienced a financial downturn and asked voters to bail them out. We did, based on their promise that it would last ONLY FIVE YEARS. They should have learned from that experience and taken aggressive steps to prevent it from happening again. They didn't.

Whose budget should be cut to pay for their irresponsibility? Vacaville's seniors and working families? No, the City should cut its budget. Vote NO on Measure M.

s/Timothy A. Bittle, Director of Legal Affairs, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

s/George Guynn Jr. President, Solano County Taxpayers Association

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