

## **ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE X**

**This Argument Against Measure X was submitted pursuant to Section 9282 of the California Elections Code. It is the opinion of the author(s), and has been printed exactly as submitted.**

### **Vote NO on Measure X.**

Don't be misled by scare tactics. Every time special interests want more money, they threaten the same thing: public safety cuts. **Don't be fooled:** 911 and other essential services are fully funded – saying otherwise is a dishonest strategy. No fire stations are closing and emergency response times won't take longer. What this tax really does is give City Hall millions more for government employee salaries and political pet projects.

**Measure X is a blank check and a general tax**, meaning the money can be spent on **anything**, with **no guarantee it will go to public safety**, infrastructure, or anything else maintaining our quality of life. Loma Linda residents are already struggling with rising costs for **housing, food, utilities, medication, and everyday necessities**. Yet special interests are asking voters to approve a **1% sales tax increase**, costing the average family of four **about \$1,000 more every year** for basic purchases. Can you afford that?

The truth is the City doesn't have a revenue problem—it has a **spending problem**.

Over the past six years, revenues have increased by 45%, yet spending has surged as well, particularly for employee salaries, which have risen by over 30% plus additional benefits for many of the same employees supporting this tax increase. Did your salary increase over 30%? For nearly **20 years**, Loma Linda maintained responsible finances with **about \$2 million per year in budget surpluses**.

Current Council majority advocated for reckless spending and even criticized a recent budget because the project deficit **wasn't large enough**.

Measure X won't just harm families and taxpayers, it will also hit our local economy. **Loma Linda University Health** could face **\$2.1 million in additional annual costs**, reducing resources for jobs and services. Families can't afford higher taxes - **vote NO on Measure X**.

s/ Ovidiu Popescu, Loma Linda City Councilman

s/ Rhodes Rigsby, MD, Loma Linda City Councilman