

## **REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE X**

**This Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure X was submitted pursuant to Section 9285 of the California Elections Code. It is the opinion of the author(s), and has been printed exactly as submitted.**

Don't you hate it when governments dangle your favorite essential services like police and fire protection in front of you, and threaten to shut them down if you disapprove their proposed tax increase? This kind of pitch is always dishonest, because current revenues are adequate for essential services. What they really want is extra money for something else that they're embarrassed to ask for, like **hiring more bureaucrats**, or for expensive pet projects for politicians, or **unwarranted future pay increases** for public employees.

The primary concern lies not in a revenue shortfall but rather in excessive proposed spending. Local economic growth has swelled the City's coffers for the past 20 years, funding excellent services and competitive employee compensation. Future growth will continue the trend **without a rate increase**. The biggest tax advocates supporting the council majority got a 37% pay increase and they demand more.

Loma Linda's prudent budgeting produced years of \$2,000,000 average surpluses. Instead of raising taxes, the City should continue to live within its means. Residents don't want higher taxes on top of runaway inflation so that the City can spend wildly.

Measure X increases the sales tax rate by 13%, extracting from residents, businesses and visitors over \$250 for every man, woman, and child in the city.

The bottom line? City employees desperately want to tax you, **but Loma Linda does NOT need this tax increase.**

Measure X is not intended to safeguard services but rather to facilitate increased spending. Vote NO on Measure X.

s/ Ovidiu Popescu, Loma Linda City Councilman

s/ Rhodes Rigsby, MD, Loma Linda City Councilman