

Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed laws are the opinion of the authors.

ARGUMENT AGAINST VALLEJO SALES TAX MEASURE G

A sales tax increase will make everything you buy cost more. It will hurt low and middle-income people most. Do you want to pay more taxes? Will more taxes get you more of what you want from the City?

After bankruptcy, the Vallejo City Council asked voters for a ten-year 1% *temporary* sales tax increase to fund services, particularly police and fire. The voters generously agreed. Just four years ago, that temporary tax increase became permanent.

Did you get more services for the first sales tax? No! But the council majority is asking you to approve yet another sales tax increase **in addition** to the existing one!

This new 3/4-cent tax would bring our rate to 9.125%, the highest for all but one Bay Area city. The council majority put this on the ballot with **no spending plan**. They want to control how the money is spent without taxpayers imposing restrictions.

A huge portion of our taxes go to soaring salaries, pensions and benefits for police and fire, which previously led the city to bankruptcy. Police and fire unions make big contributions to elect councilmembers who will approve their contracts, including a recent \$4 million raise for police officers.

Adding insult to injury, just months ago this council majority spent \$14 million for a new waterfront police building needing millions more to upgrade, recklessly draining the city's rainy-day reserves.

Because of gross police misconduct, Vallejo has the highest number of killings by police in Northern California. These killings and numerous cases of excessive force have cost Vallejo taxpayers \$7 million in lawsuit payouts. The council majority wants you to pay more money for police, rather than implementing police reforms to end this viscous cycle of killings, abuse and taxpayer-funded legal settlements.

Please VOTE **NO** on Measure G!

/s/ Robert McConnell, City Council Member

/s/ Stephanie Gomes, Former Vallejo City Councilmember & Vice Mayor

/s/ Pam Keith, Former Trustee, Solano Community College

/s/ Liat Meitzenheimer, Community Advocate & Former GVRD Board Member

/s/ J.D. Miller, CPA