

#23

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TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF EL DORADO COUNTY
Post Office Box 13  Placerville, California 95667
Founded in 1958

April 8, 2019

Dear Supervisors,

At this Tuesday's Board meeting, you are scheduled to hear a presentation from the Department of Transportation regarding the Road Fund (Item 23). Based on the presentation attached to the item (Attachment A), you will be told that despite the recent state gas tax and registration fee increase, additional revenue is needed for the county to adequately maintain its roads.

The Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County takes no position at this time on any particular tax increase concept. However, we note that results of the November 2018 election show that any ballot measure to raise taxes will face challenges. 58 percent of El Dorado County voters supported Proposition 6, which would have repealed the state gas tax increase and registration fee increase, and 56 percent voted against raising the Transient Occupancy Tax.

In order for a measure to successfully pass, the county will need to earn the trust of the public. Before considering a tax increase, the Board should direct staff to conduct a thorough and transparent review of current operations to ensure that all realistic cost saving measures and efficiencies are in place. Additionally, taxpayers will need to be engaged throughout the process to ensure that any measure is well crafted, will actually support road maintenance, and can earn the support of the electorate.

We look forward to engaging you and county staff throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Bill George
President