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**Public Comment - 3/10 Item 32**

2 messages

**Andy Nevis** <andynevis@gmail.com>

Mon, Mar 9, 2020 at 10:14 AM

To: Edc Cob <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, The BOSTHREE <bosthree@edcgov.us>, The BOSFOUR <bosfour@edcgov.us>, bosfive@edcgov.us, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, Rafael Martinez <rafael.martinez@edcgov.us>, mtdemo@mtdemocrat.net, brozak@tahoedailytribune.com  
Cc: Kris Payne <krispayne999@gmail.com>

Good morning Supervisors,

Attached are the Taxpayers Association's comments on Item 32 on tomorrow's agenda. Please let me know if you have any questions. Our Vice President Kris Payne will be attending the meeting tomorrow.

Thanks!

-Andy Nevis

**3.10 Item 32 TPA Comments Final.pdf**

118K

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**EDC COB** <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Mon, Mar 9, 2020 at 3:02 PM

To: Andy Nevis &lt;andynevis@gmail.com&gt;

Thank you. Appropriate public comment provided for upcoming agenda items will be added to the corresponding file.

Office of the Clerk of the Board  
El Dorado County  
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**DATE:** March 9, 2020

**TO:** Brian Veerkamp, Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Andy Nevis, President, Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County

**RE:** March 10 Agenda Item 32 – DOT Public Outreach Contract

The Taxpayers Association opposes the Department of Transportation's request to contract for a public outreach and education campaign. It is clear that the request is an effort to move towards a sales tax increase on the November 2020 ballot.

The voters have declared that no amount of money spent to influence them under the guise of education will make additional taxes acceptable in 2020. In Tuesday's election, 10 out of 11 contests to raise taxes or authorize bonds were rejected by El Dorado County voters, most by overwhelming margins (the remaining measure is too close to call and is for a small district with only 61 voters). In most of those cases the outcome came despite a robust public outreach effort and little formal opposition. But as the outcomes represent, there is a fundamental disconnect between governmental desires and citizens' willingness to pay additional taxes.

Your survey as attached to the item finds that this potential measure would meet a similar fate. Simply put, there is no path to victory for a sales tax in November 2020 and continued use of staff time and public dollars on the effort is wasteful. It would contribute to cynicism that the county is just trying to squeeze more money from its citizens.

The Department of Transportation must do a better job communicating with the public on how their existing tax dollars are being spent. We understand this is not as easy task. We appreciate the efforts of the Department in holding a workshop with our Association on February 19th and look forward to future discussions. But any public outreach effort should proceed as an authentic effort to engage the public and seriously listen to their concerns, rather than hiring a third party to justify a tax increase.

Given the citizens' opposition to additional taxes and as a sign of respect to the voters, we urge you to reject the Department's request.

**CC:** John Hidahl, Supervisor District I  
Shiva Frentzen, Supervisor District II  
Lori Parlin, Supervisor District IV

Sue Novasel, Supervisor District V  
Don Ashton, Chief Administrative Officer  
Rafael Martinez, Director of Transportation  
Tahoe Daily Tribune  
Mountain Democrat