

7/15/2019

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# 31



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**Walking in the light buhler** <real1611@hotmail.com>

Sun, Jul 14, 2019 at 4:19 PM

To: "bosone@edcgov.u" <bosone@edcgov.u>, "bostwo@edcgov.us" <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "bosthree@edcgov.us" <bosthree@edcgov.us>, "bosfour@edcgov.us" <bosfour@edcgov.us>, "bosfive@edc.gov.us" <bosfive@edc.gov.us>, "edc.cob@edcgov.us" <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

To Board of Supervisors

Agenda

Vote no on 1,2,3,4

keep all 4 positions as elected not appointed

Allen and Nora Buhler

2790 Ringtail rd Georgetown.

7/15/2019

Edcgov.us Mail - July 16 Item 31 Public Comment

#31



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## July 16 Item 31 Public Comment

1 message

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

Mon, Jul 15, 2019 at 8:07 AM

To: bosone@edcgov.us, bostwo@edcgov.us, The BOSTHREE <bosthree@edcgov.us>, The BOSFOUR <bosfour@edcgov.us>, Lori Parlin <lori.parlin@edcgov.us>, bosfive@edcgov.us, Donald Ashton <don.ashton@edcgov.us>, edc.cob@edcgov.us

Cc: Bill George <bgeorge49@reagan.com>, Todd <toddwhite2006@hotmail.com>, "James W. Alderink" <james\_alderink@yahoo.com>

Dear Supervisors,

Attached are the Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County's comments on Item 31 on tomorrow agenda (potential 2020 ballot measures). We are also resubmitting out April 8 letter on the road fund as it is relevant to tomorrow's item.

Sincerely,

Andy Nevis  
Vice President

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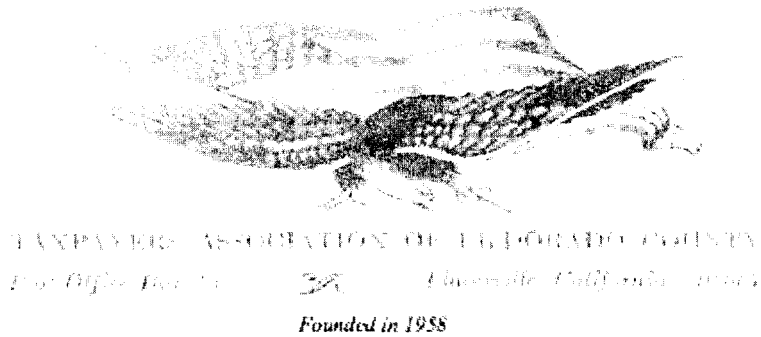
### 2 attachments



**April 8 Item 23 Public Comment.pdf**  
93K



**2020 Ballot Measures w Signature.pdf**  
114K



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



July 15, 2019

Dear El Dorado County Supervisors,

The Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County provides these comments on the potential ballot measures identified in Item 31 of your July 16, 2019 agenda.

Sales Tax Ballot Measure to Support Road Maintenance & Improvements

Our Association's April 8, 2019 letter to your Board (attached) remains relevant. However, we appreciate the staff report's recognition that the tax measure would need to identify specifically how the money would be distributed and provide an independent citizen oversight committee. If you choose to proceed with this measure, the details of these would need to be finalized before the measure could be placed on the ballot.

We also note that the staff report is clear that the tax would apply countywide, including in the two incorporated cities which are responsible for their own road maintenance. The county should clarify whether it intends for these cities to receive a portion of the tax proceeds. If not, residents in those cities may question why they should have to pay the sales tax when it will provide little benefit in their immediate community. This is especially true in the City of Placerville, where voters approved a transportation related sales tax increase in November 2016.

CSA 3 Increase to Support Snow Removal Equipment

If the Board and/or the City of South Lake Tahoe proceed with this parcel tax increase, the measure or accompanying resolution should identify specific snow removal benefits and establish a citizen oversight committee to ensure those benefits are realized.

Creation of a Western Slope Cemetery District with a District Sales Tax

We recommend this concept not proceed at this time. According to the staff report, the full scope of need has not yet been determined. Staff should continue to investigate other funding opportunities, such as private philanthropy and grants, before considering a tax increase.

### Assessment/Tax to Support Broadband Implementation

We recognize the importance of high-speed internet access, particularly for promoting economic development in rural areas of the county. Property owners in areas without broadband may be willing to pay an additional tax if it means they will gain access they could not otherwise obtain. However, a countywide tax is unlikely to be successful because the majority of voters already have access to high speed internet services. Those who will obtain the new or improved service should fund the improvements.

Any local, community driven measure (or measures) should include specific deliverables and a citizen oversight committee to ensure they are met. Additionally, a tax should only be considered after other realistic financing mechanisms have been exhausted.

### Charter Amendments to Identify up to Four Non-Constitutional, Elected Department Head Positions as Appointed Positions

The Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County maintains its consistent, strong position that the public is best served by department heads elected by the people. We urge you to pull these proposals from the 2020 ballot. Our members consistently report that they receive better service from departments with elected leaders than their appointed counterparts.

This item was extremely controversial in Charter Review Committee and passed with only one vote to spare. Since that time, the public has had a chance to weigh in on their other proposed charter changes. In the November 2018 election, voters rejected the committee's proposed changes to term limits by a more than three to one margin. Even a relatively minor amendment to reclassify certain employees did not pass.

Our Association is prepared to participate in a robust campaign to defeat these proposed amendments should they proceed, and we are aware of several other organizations and individuals who are similarly inclined. On the other side, we are not aware of significant support for eliminating the citizen's right to vote on these positions. Putting these doomed proposals on the ballot would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Sincerely,



Bill George  
President