

CoCoTax

Promoting accountable, cost-effective and efficient government and opposing unnecessary taxes and spending

November 1, 2019

CoCoTax Officers

Susan Pricco
President

Jack Weir
Executive Director

James Pezzaglia
1st Vice President

Ryder Brose
2nd Vice President

Paul Bleeg
Treasurer/Secretary

Honorable Mike McGill
Past President

Denise Sheehan
Business Manager

Next CoCoTax Meeting

November 22 – 7:45–9:00 AM
Black Bear Diner
807 Camino Ramon, Danville
Election Preview – No Guest Speaker

Are You What We Need?

CoCoTax needs people to work with Membership Chair Bill Baker. We need YOU. Call the CoCoTax office at 925-289-6900.

Our Last Meeting – October 25



Guest speaker **Bill Churchill** was welcomed by CoCoTax Executive Director **Jack Weir**.



Our October guest speaker was **Bill Churchill**, Assistant General Manager of Administration of *County Connection* (legal name is *The Central Contra Costa Transit Authority* or *CCCTA*). CCCTA manages public transportation with 57 bus routes in and between 10 cities ranging north-south from Martinez to San Ramon and east-west from Concord to Moraga. In addition to regular bus routes, the express routes provide faster routes by using freeways and having fewer stops.

CCCTA also has the responsibility of responding to transportation emergencies by providing “bus bridges”. Emergencies range from true declared county emergencies to temporary transportation interruptions on BART or other transit agencies. CCCTA has the ability to rapidly reschedule bus routes rapidly to respond to changing needs.

CCCTA has a fleet of 131 heavy-duty busses and 48 “paratransit” vans used for “handicapped” ADA compliance.

Ridership is about 3.5 million per year. Fares only pay about 11% of the \$40 million annual budget. The rest comes from a combination of federal funding to local funding and a ¼ cent sales tax., which provides about 40% of their budget. CCCTA’s policy is to change scheduling to always stay within budget.

Pensions are 92% funded and are provided through the CalPERS system. Retirement is based on a 2% at 60 years of age schedule. Medical benefits are also handled by CalPERS.

Busses are all GPS enabled so that their routes are monitored live. A combined computerized display shows all buses and alerts staff of out of schedule routes. There are also have 7 digital cameras on each bus that cost \$2.5 million in total. This has reduced “accident” claims by 80%.

Contact CoCoTax

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On Facebook:

Contra Costa Taxpayers Association

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CoCoTax President's Message – Caution! Tax Measures Ahead!

The 2020 California Primary election is March 3. The last day to file ballot arguments is December 18, rebuttals by December 23.

<https://www.cocovote.us/march-03-2020-primary-election-candidate-and-measure-filing>

What does this mean to you? It's your money. Your election. It's immediate. Be diligent – monitor your city councils, special districts (EBMUD, EBRPD, Fire, schools, transit, etc) and the County Board of Supervisors to be aware of proposals that can impact your taxes. At CoCoTax, we will not be surprised by 11th hour resolutions for ballot measures that will hit your wallet hard. The sooner we become aware, we are in a better position to analyze and act.

We are preparing to see “regional” ballot measures that span 9 counties in addition to local measures. We do not have the luxury of using taxpayer dollars for “informational mailers” that do not enumerate all the details or costs. The trend of misleading and/or inaccurate information continues to plague voters. We are distressed to see the City of El Cerrito hold a special election November 5 for Measure H to pass a permanent parcel tax with incomplete and/or misleading facts. We thank Dan Borenstein of the East Bay Times for his thoughtful editorial which agrees with our thinking.

We can't do it without you. Because of the short time frame for discovery, analysis and action for the ballot (especially during holiday time), we will need all the help we can get. We need “boots on the ground” to get the job done. We will keep you informed as best we can so you can write letters, speak at meetings, inform your friends and vote with an informed voice.

Now, more than ever, we must demand honesty and transparency in government. Call the CoCoTax office at 925-289-6900, email at info@cocotax.org or join us at a meeting. Support us financially. Permanent and oppressive taxes will affect not only you, but your friends, your children, grandchildren and generations beyond. It's in your hands right now. Act as responsibly as you want your good government to do.



Susan L Pricco
President, Contra Costa Taxpayers Association
“Good government at affordable cost”

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