

# CoCoTax

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

February 1, 2019

## Officers

**Jack Weir**  
President

**James Pezzaglia**, Attorney  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**Ryder Brose**, Financial Advisor  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

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Treasurer/Secretary

**Honorable Mike McGill**  
Past President

**Denise Sheehan**  
Business Manager

## Branch Chairs

**Hal Bray**  
East County

**Susan Pricco**  
West County

## Upcoming Meetings/Events

**February 22 – 7:45–9:00 AM**  
**Monthly Breakfast Meeting**  
**Denny's**  
1313 Willow Pass Rd, Concord  
Guest speaker: **Debora Allen**,  
BART Board of Directors



Jack Weir, CoCoTax President, asked for more involvement and an increase in membership.

## Our Last Meeting – January 25



Bill Baker (L) and Don Tatzin.



Introductions by Jim Pezzaglia (L) and David Van Etten (R).



Our guest speaker, **Don Tatzin**, served on the Lafayette City Council for 33 years. He was mayor seven times and has represented the city on the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, the Contra Costa Mayors' Conference, the Local Area Formation Commission, the Lamorinda School Bus Program, and the joint powers authority that reduced consumer rates for garbage and recyclables collection. Tatzin was a management consultant focused on helping private sector and government clients develop strategic plans and improve operational performance for approximately 20 years. He served as Executive Vice President for a client in the entertainment business and helped launch and manage a new business in Australia with investment of approximately \$700 million and annual revenue of approximately \$300 million. He has served as Chief Financial Officer and Interim Chief Executive Officer of a high-tech manufacturing firm located in Fremont and, most recently, as a Grant Director for a major philanthropic foundation based in the Bay Area.

Don started his speech with a few profound quotes that refer to life in Contra Costa County:

*"We are not who we were"* refers to the fact that less than one-third of Contra Costa residents were here in 1985. *"Big problems beget big solutions. Big solutions often beget the next big problem."* As an example, freeways were built to ease traffic congestion, but this has led to even more development which has further increased congestion.

With this huge population growth throughout the county, communities have responded quite differently. Some have fought change, some have just accepted it. For example, Walnut Creek has reinvented itself to become a major shopping and entertainment destination, while Antioch has built a large amount of low-income housing that require enormous taxpayer-funded subsidies.

Imposed housing mandates require that a percentage of new units be set aside for low income residents. The problem in building low income units in some communities is that the land is very expensive. To be able to offer discount units in Lafayette, a subsidy of about \$500K per unit would be necessary. The other option is to greatly increase the housing density.

## Important CoCo Tax Links

Prop 13: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbLOY4TJpHI&feature=youtu.be>

Rent Control: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJJQ8zwNU3c>

Join or Donate to CoCo Tax: <https://www.cocotax.org/membership>

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