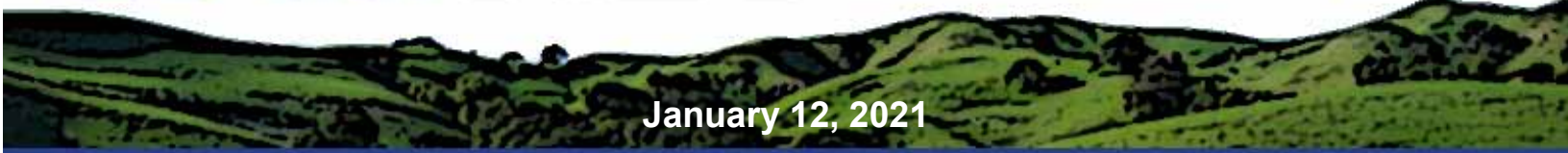


CoCoTax

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



January 12, 2021

CoCoTax President's Report – January 12, 2021

CoCoTax Officers

- Susan Pricco**
President
- James Pezzaglia**
1st Vice President
- Ryder Brose**
2nd Vice President
- Paul Bleeg**
Treasurer/Secretary
- Honorable Mike McGill**
Past President
- Denise Sheehan**
Business Manager

Let me wish you a very happy new year, although many things are clearly impeding our happiness, health and well-being. While most of the political focus is on election fraud and the presidency, the State of California and Contra Costa County continue to proceed with their tax-and-spend agenda. 2021 ACA 1, just like the 2020 ACA 1, is back before the Legislature and, in the words of CalTax, to “make it easier for local governments to increase taxes by lowering the vote threshold for sales, transactions and use and parcel taxes to 55 percent if those taxes finance a broad definition of affordable housing and public infrastructure.” Pay close attention to that word “broad”. A more demonstrative word might be “undefined” or “infinitesimal”. CoCoTax, CalTAX and others remain strongly opposed to ACA 1.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220ACA1

We are also continuing our alliance against AB 71, which proposes to raise taxes by \$2.4 billion annually to fund homelessness programs.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB71

We are well aware that lots of new tax proposals are in the works. Transit, housing, and pet projects of our leaders are taking shape. More than ever, we must be diligent in watching these proposals, the language used, and political double-speak. We yearn for clarity, transparency and honesty.

Of course, we cannot avoid a conversation that does not include COVID-19. I've talked to many people about how it has affected their lives, not just in terms of taking steps to keep from contracting COVID. It's now common to check in with relatives and friends by way of Zoom and other video applications, wear masks virtually everywhere we go, and we regularly eat in take-out boxes from places that used to serve us on white linen tablecloths.

Speaking with Michael Yoder, Financial advisor, his office building has been closed since March. Luckily, in the financial field, he can “fully function remotely”, but office expenses still accrue (rent, etc.). To accommodate the remote worksite, additional purchases of computers and technology expenses were incurred. Home teleworking means being in the home all the time, so utility bills have increased. He also noted “Many routine tasks take longer to complete, since many of the people working within our ecosystem (service providers, third party administrators, etc.) are working from home”. Pondering a comparison to so many people who are struggling, he and his family feel blessed.



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

CoCoTax feels the strain as well. Restrictions on meeting in groups indoors or outdoors has impacted our ability to make connections within and without our organization, conduct fundraising and confront certain factions. Now, within a larger arena, our right to free speech is being threatened and we will have decisions to make for increased and efficient ways to spread our message of “good government at affordable cost”.

Contact CoCoTax

Address
1661 Botelho Drive, Suite 105
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Phone: 925-289-6900
Email: info@cocotax.org
Website: cocotax.org

 On Facebook:
Contra Costa Taxpayers Association



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How has the pandemic and its effects affected your life? Let us know. Over the next couple of weeks/months, I'd like to hear from you. What local issues concern you? What is working well? How have the recent events of the state/local election and the pandemic touched your life? What do you see happening in Contra Costa in 2021? Tell us your story. Drop a note to info@cocotax.org and talk to us.

We are setting up speakers and continuing our Lunchtime Speaker Series. The Executive Team will hold its regular meeting on Monday, January 18, 2021 at noon via Zoom. Let us know if you would like to chime in. You are always welcome.

LUNCHTIME SPEAKER SERIES

Our first Lunchtime Speaker for 2021!

Friday, January 22, 2021 at NOON via Zoom! Register here: https://www.cocotax.org/event-4123410

DAVID WOLFE on Proposition 19 and Current Legislative Matters

Join us for a look at what is happening in the 2021 California Legislature with David Wolfe and an explanation of the new PROP 19 and moving your Prop 13 tax base to a new home, plus information on family transfers. (He recommends consulting an estate planning attorney if you want to make any changes to title for inheritance purposes that involve Prop 19, certain paperwork must be filed before February 16).

Mr. Wolfe is the former legislative director for Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association and now operates Well Versed Consulting, whose government relations division provides professional lobbying and consulting services including coalition building, private meetings, public testimony, research, writing and distributing position letters and documents.



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