



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



October 12, 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday October 22, 2021

Breakfast Meeting with HON. CATHARINE BAKER

An introduction into what the FPPC does and how it impacts government accountability, fights corruption and prevents the misuse of taxpayer dollars on campaigns. Location: Denny's 1313 Willow Pass Rd., Concord Members \$25 Non Members \$30 Event sponsored by Honorable Mike McGill "Crime During the Pandemic" with Mary Knox, Deputy District Attorney of Contra Costa County Register here: https://www.cocotax.org/events



CoCoTax Officers

Susan Pricco President

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Honorable Mike McGill Past President

AUGUST BREAKFAST MEETING WITH DDA MARY KNOX

DDA Knox was in charge of the filing and prosecution in central Contra Costa during the pandemic. Contra Costa has had a major increase in home invasion robberies. Thefts and shoplifting have also

increased dramatically. Many of us have seen video of masked thieves going into a store, loading up and leaving, or breaking into store doors & windows and carrying away large quantities of merchandise. These are often being organized from well out of the area. Much of the current crime increase is evidenced by a very lax prosecution policy set by the current District Attorney.

Rampant theft and looting has had a major impact on local business. Last year's looting and rioting has resulted in the permanent closure of Neiman Marcus. Massive shoplifting has caused the closure of Fry's Electronics as well. Aside from the business loss, this results in a great loss in tax revenue and jobs. TJ Maxx has been subject to massive shoplifting. The riots and looting alone caused millions in losses.

Law enforcement has been able to identify an organized shoplifting "ring" based in Oakland. Stolen goods are carried into a large tent with people lining up to purchase. Many other means of selling loot are also employed. The DA's current policy is that thefts under \$300 will not be prosecuted so there are many theft opportunities without consequence. Organized crime statutes could be used for prosecution but are not being used enough, if at all.

Over the last 4 years, the DA's office has lost 30 experienced prosecutors. We are very grateful for Ms. Knox' enlightening, if frightening, observations of the criminal activity victimizing our county residents and businesses during this time of pandemic concerns.



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

Contact CoCoTax

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On Facebook: Contra Costa Taxpayers Association



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WILL YOU BE ONE OF THE 25?

The pandemic and other economic challenges have befallen CoCoTax over the past two years. To get us to the end of the year and prepare for an expected busy 2022, we have been seeking 25 people to donate \$1000 each. We practice what we preach – frugality, responsibility and accountability with “other people’s money.” The donations do not need to be from individual members. Maybe you know of a business owner who has done well and can appreciate the efforts of a taxpayer advocacy organization.

We continue to advocate and speak on behalf of county taxpayers locally and in Sacramento. Many times we prevail in a matter before it becomes an issue (either by policy or public agency vote or a public ballot measure) by remaining in touch with local officials and policymakers. If we do not prevail, we still make a stand. Sometimes we succeed in reducing or modifying a proposal to lessen the burden on taxpayers. But we cannot be successful without our members and supporters.

Every dollar is greatly appreciated at all times and we promise to stretch our dollars as far as we can. Seek the advice of your tax professional about donating to a 501(c)4 organization. To those who have already donated, we are extremely grateful. If you have not, please give serious consideration to be one of “The 25”.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND PROP 19?

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/8074/Proposition-19>

<https://www.boe.ca.gov/prop19/Introduction-to-Proposition-19-Presentation-February-1-2021.pdf>

As of April 2021, voter-approved Prop 19 took effect and changed the rules on transferring property from parent/grandparent to child, even if the property is included in the family trust.

The two links above will help you understand the changes which have significant effects on how you design your estate planning.

There are pros and cons to the new law, but for purposes of preparing a will/trust/estate planning/other, you need to be aware and consider.

IF YOU MISSED IT...

An excerpt taken from a letter penned by our friend, David Crane of Governing for California

“Last week I wrote that we believe a 10-year-old GFC in 1999 could’ve stopped the enactment of SB 400, which granted a retroactive pension increase. That’s because of the political muscle we’ve added over the last decade.

To amend any of the 29 codes that govern life in California, a legislator must gain the support of 60 other legislators plus the governor. To boost their influence inside the legislature, legislators accumulate “hard money” political donations they can use to support other legislators and meet requests from legislative leadership...

Stopping bad bills is not enough. Dozens of reforms are needed to reverse the consequences of decades of special interest control of Sacramento...”

If you missed his presentation last month, you can hear the replay at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Mj6WJ-LTGc&t=784s>

I think you will find it enlightening about how our taxes and cost of living continually rise in California. It is extremely applicable to life in Contra Costa. – Sue Pricco

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