

NO on Orinda MEASURE R

Orinda pays enough taxes now. That's what the majority of Orindans responded when surveyed recently by the City Council's paid consultants.

Measure R increases local sales tax even before the current ½% sales tax expires in April of 2023. The city is already collecting about \$3.5 million per year to spend on essential services until then.

Orinda residents voice serious concerns about fire protection. The city has known about fire risk for decades but has never addressed it. Are we to believe the city will spend an appropriate amount now? **Measure R** indicates a small allocation for this purpose, but future councils may decide that there is another project they prefer.

Accompanying **Measure R** are other potential tax increases like the possible county-wide increase in the sales tax and the state-wide Proposition 13, which makes it easier to raise property taxes on commercial real estate. **Measure R** proponent Sen. Steve Glazer, at press time, is pursuing a Senate bill (SB 1349), **unique** to Contra Costa, to raise the allowable cap on local sales tax, and if successful, we expect to see more tax measures ahead. When is enough going to be enough?

Long term effects from the pandemic are yet unknown and this is not the time for a new 20-year commitment. Higher sales taxes depress the demand for goods. This drop-in demand would lead to lost income for local sellers and can kill jobs.

This measure is promoted by the City because it only requires a simple majority to pass and, as general fund revenue, does not commit the city to any specific purpose and is left to the future councils how the money will be allocated.

- 1) The city already has \$3.5 million per year to spend on essential services without a new tax until 2022, when the current 1/2% tax expires.
- 2) The city has known about fire risk for decades, but has never addressed it, nor forced MOFD to do its job. Do you believe the city will spend an appropriate amount now?
- 3) The citizens infrastructure oversight committee is only an advisory body that has neglected fuel reduction.

See also ***Orindans for Fair Road Funding*** for their perspective in opposing **Measure R**.