

NO on Concord MEASURE V

Measures increasing local sales taxes should include SUNSET CLAUSES. But Measure V intends doubling Concord's existing half-percent tax and collecting it **forever**.

"Addressing the impact of the pandemic" shouldn't require a costly permanent fix for a temporary problem.

- **Ballot summaries must be forthright.** *Doubling* the existing tax rate isn't merely "extending" it.
- **Specific purposes demand special taxes.** Measure V's fine print instead enables a "general tax" — thereby, "*not a commitment to any particular action.*" Current and future city leaders can change their priorities at any time.
- Ballot measures raising sales taxes must recognize their regressive consequences — and current circumstances of those who pay them.
- **Concord administrators must further tighten belts.** Their staff report, for example, claims "decreased staffing by 36 positions." But those include eliminating 24 *vacant* positions, 5 *voluntary* departures, and only 7 actual layoffs (from over 300 full-time positions.)

AND

- Last spring, Concord administrators' "Special Legislation Talking Points" promoted SB1349 to allow higher sales taxes.
- SB1349 permits the County's own Measure X sales-tax increase in this same election. Concord's sales-tax rate rises from 8.75% to 9.75% if both Measure V and Measure X pass — a strange way to "maintain OUR community's needs and priorities."
- "Citizens Oversight"? "General" taxes grant such advisory committees overly wide latitude — and as a City Council meeting caller said, those committees rely on City staff reports.
- Measure V's likely backstory? Indirect pension-debt funding.
- **The is the worst possible time to increase expenses for Concord residents and visitors.**