

CITY OF COLUSA

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF CITY MEASURE A

The Colusa City Council has placed Measure A on the November 4, 2008 ballot asking voters to adopt Ordinance No. 439 imposing a transaction and use tax of 0.25% (one quarter of one percent). This would be the equivalent of a quarter of a cent tax on an item that costs a dollar, or twenty-five cents on an item that costs \$100. A copy of Ordinance No. 439 is provided in the sample ballot.

The current tax rate in the City of Colusa is 7.25%. Of the 7.25% tax rate, 6% goes to the State, and 1.25% goes to fund County and City operations. The transaction and use tax, like a sales and use tax, would be levied on the sale or use of tangible personal property sold at retail. Accordingly, if voters approve Measure A the total tax rate for most purchases in the City would increase to 7.50%.

This tax is a "general tax" rather than a "special tax." The revenue generated from the proposed tax would be deposited into the general fund, and the proceeds would be used for any lawful municipal purpose within the discretion of the City Council.

A "yes" vote is a vote to adopt Measure A allowing the City of Colusa to levy a transaction and use tax at the rate of 0.25%. A "no" vote is a vote against adopting Measure A and against the tax.

Voter approval of Measure A is required by the California Constitution. Measure A requires a "yes" vote by a majority of the voters in order to become effective.

DATED: August 19, 2008

/s/ Steven P. Rudolph
Colusa City Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF CITY MEASURE A

Is it important to support the men and women who help keep our lives and property safe? You bet it is!

For years now, Colusa Police and Fire employees have had to contend with low salaries and antiquated benefits. Measure A will help change that. The revenues generated by just a quarter of a cent increase will help recruit and, more importantly, retain qualified and dedicated Police and Fire employees.

Currently, the sales tax in Colusa is 7.25% compare to 7.50% for the City of Williams. Both the Cities of Woodland and Lakeport have increased their taxes to 7.75%. The Yuba City and Marysville area are still at 7.25%, but for how long? The proposed increase is not unreasonable!

Presently, a \$10 purchase in Colusa costs 73 cents in sales tax. With the passage of Measure A, the same purchase would cost 76 cents, an increase of only three pennies. A \$100 purchase now costs \$7.25 in sales tax, with the increase, the same purchase would cost \$7.50, an increase of only 25 cents.

The Police Department has become a revolving door for training police officers. The Fire Department depends on its 5 paid employees to help maintain the city's current ISO Class 3 rating. Both departments maintain excellent response time to calls for service.

The City of Colusa has had a hard time improving the salaries and benefits of its public safety employees due to financial woes each year. Voting "Yes" on Measure A will help ensure better recruitment and retention of qualified employees, and for only one fourth of a penny.

Your public safety employees need your help. Vote "Yes" on Measure A.

/s/ Joshua E. Fitch
Colusa Police Officers Assoc.
and Colusa Public Safety Group

/s/ David A. Harbison
Colusa Professional Firefighters Assoc.
and Colusa Public Safety Group

ARGUMENT AGAINST CITY MEASURE A

(None Filed)

