

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

Vote Yes on Measure C. Funding for the Sheriff's Department, Probation, District Attorney and the Libraries fall under discretionary spending, meaning that their existence and the essential services they provide are not protected by law. The Board of Supervisors can reduce or completely eliminate these budgets in favor of so called mandated programs. They say the people have the option of assessments districts (more taxes) to fund these programs.

The people have the right to select the services most important to them through the initiative process. The most vulnerable departments are subject to the budget axe. This measure will prevent the supervisors from holding one department hostage to the funding of the others.

The Sheriff's Department provides an extremely vital service to the peace and tranquility of our communities and does so in conjunction with the District Attorney and the Probation Department. One is dependent upon the other in keeping our county a safe place to live.

Libraries are an important part of our American heritage and the only free access to knowledge, other than the public schools. To eliminate them is to foreclose on our freedom to information, vital to our absolute vested rights, and secured by the Constitution. "The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority do not give their servants the right to decide what is good for them to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created" (California Government Code Section 54950). Libraries keep a populace informed.

A room without books is like a body without soul.

-- Cicero

Vote Yes on Measure C.

/s/ NATHANAEL L. McCOY

/s/ GREGORY M. RAMOS

/s/ JAMES KALFSBEEK

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

Vote No on Measure "C". Many of the citizens who signed the petition that led to Measure "C" thought it was an advisory measure only. By State Election Law the words, "required to fund" in the petition forces the ballot to read "shall" meaning the Supervisors must write the ordinance.

Citizens concerned about the well-being of our county do want the services that are involved in Measure "C" but not at the possible devastation of other departments. Of the 4 departments concerned only 1 was contacted prior to the circulation of the petition. That contact selected the 4 target departments. Those department heads are not selfish in wanting their departments funded exclusive of all others. They are all serious about a co-operative county organization because most departments are dependent upon others. Measure "C" would cause endless budget problems for individual departments and the Supervisors. Public officials are elected by the voters to make decisions on the voters behalf. Meetings are conducted in an open forum according to the Brown Act and all members of the public have access if they so desire. Public officials are available to citizens by phone or by mail.

Concerned citizens might better spend their efforts in trying to stop the bleeding of our tax dollars to the State and Federal Governments. Unfunded mandates, tax sweeps and unmanageable laws are what devastate public entity budgets. Take the fight to the arena where it would help all citizens. Vote No on Measure "C".

/s/ MARY I. WINTERS

/s/ ANDREW R. CLARK

/s/ MARIANNE GEER

/s/ DOROTHY B. HEUER

## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C

I agree that funding for these 4 departments, Sheriff, District Attorney, Probation and Libraries is necessary. If this measure was advisory only I could concur. However shall is an obligation to act.

Measure "C" is obscure in direction and without any hard facts and information. Do not be misled by gentle phrases and a lack of specifics. This measure could require the Supervisors to adopt a budget ordinance that could destroy the county budget system. If revenues continue to fall short of projections and these 4 departments were fully funded, it is conceivable that there would be zero funds for all other departments. At best all other departments would have to fight for any remaining funds. Revenues for public entities are always uncertain until the fiscal year ends. It is conceivable that those 4 departments alone could cause a deficit.

County departments do not function alone but rather in unison with one another. What happens to one department could directly affect others as well. The issue of mandated services from State and Federal is complex. The County must stay in compliance or be in jeopardy. You cannot cut parts without losing the whole.

A No vote on Measure C will allow for sound and practical planning for future budgets. Don't throw Colusa County into further havoc. If budget prioritizing is a consideration for the future then planning, gathering of information and understanding of the effect of prioritizing on all services to the citizens of Colusa County is vital.

/s/ MARY I. WINTERS  
/s/ ANDREW R. CLARK  
/s/ MARIANNE GEER  
/s/ DOROTHY B. HEUER

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C

Previous Board actions, cutting library budgets and closing branch libraries has sent a message to the people. The scenario may go something like this: We, (the board), know the people want to keep their libraries, but we (the board) are going to take the easiest way out of our budget dilemma, and cut the libraries and/or the Sheriff, because we figure that they (the people) can be sold on an additional tax on their property to fund these vital services. We (the board) then can continue to fund unfunded state mandates that we are not required to implement or fund without funding from the state; California Constitution; Article XIII B, Section 6. (Statewide Initiative Measure adopted November 6, 1979)

A Yes vote on Measure "C" mandates the continuance of these services by putting a floor under the budgets of the four departments addressed in the initiative. Any required increases would address any additional funding needed for the safety of the citizens; i.e. inflation.

If four fully funded services, three of them vital to the safety of the people, can destroy the future budgets of our county we had better demand the services we need and want now. We have a choice, either mandate our needs and responsibility or be ruled by unfunded (unconstitutional) state mandates.

Gov. Code 54950; The People of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them...

Vote Yes on Measure C.

/s/ NATHANAEL L. McCOY  
/s/ GREGORY M. RAMOS  
/s/ JAMES KALFSBEEK