

**COVINA UTILITY TAX BALLOT MEASURE
ARGUMENT AGAINST THE UTILITY TAX**

Financially stressed families need money for groceries, gasoline and other basic essentials more than the city needs \$5.5 million annually to squander.

Last March voters decisively rejected extending the utility tax, which is a blank check the City Council can spend as it wishes. The City Council has a history of refusing to use taxes to improve property values and quality of life as promised. It can't be trusted.

Covina isn't suffering from lack of money, just bad management.

In 1998 the City Council declared over 60% of utility tax revenues would be spent on streets, library, and parks. The council broke its promise.

Covina's latest audited financial report states it has reserves of \$53 million "available for designation and/or spending at the city's discretion.", a growth of \$15 million in the last five years.

The substantial increase in reserves occurred despite millions being wasted on unneeded projects, corporate giveaways, and excessive compensation costs.

At a secretive meeting last August the Council awarded two phony unsecured thirty-year loans totaling \$7.1 million to its Redevelopment Agency, partly to fund the parking structure needed to accommodate subsidized high-density housing.

Administrative costs such as city council, city management, city attorney, and city clerk each increased over 200% in 5 years.

The city manager's base salary is \$184,840 – more than the salary of California's governor. Other positions are also paid exorbitantly. Arrogance and inefficiency should not be rewarded.

Despite the City's Doomsday threats, there is no financial emergency. There are substantial reserves and continuing surpluses. There is a desperate need for proper priorities and management.

The council needs to exercise better judgment, use financial resources wisely, and be honest with residents. Demand that the city council be accountable to the people.

Vote NO on the utility tax

CITIZENS FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

Stephen Millard
Stephen Millard, Committee Chairman

Bob Low
Bob Low, Homeowner

Dennis R. Cavanaugh
Dennis R. Cavanaugh, Homeowner

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