

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

When is enough--enough? The closer we get to the November election the more the politicians are posturing to find more ways to pick the pockets of taxpayers. In a community where significant dollars are made off-book and outside the legal payroll processes, the recurring theme is the need to increase tax rates, pass more bond measures, and hit-up folks who live inside the law. I remember a few years back when Eureka enacted a temporary increased sales tax for public safety. Well that tax is set to expire, and the political class is advocating that the tax be extended to maintain municipal coffers. Add to this city taxing malignancy, a county proposal to add an additional sales tax to support public safety throughout the county. In addition, some school districts are advocating for bond initiatives attached to property tax - to "ensure that every neighborhood school receives its fair share of funding." The dollar burden for all of these increased living costs falls directly on the backs of businesses and property owners. The cherry on top of this taxing sundae is an initiative supporting a community-set minimum wage.

Over the last couple of weeks I have been polled by numerous research organizations seeking information about all of these proposals. The polls also asked about endorsing potential candidates for the November ballot who favor or support one or more of the tax-tax-tax funding for local government. In one of the polls, I was even asked if I could support a candidate who had never own property, never operated or owned a business, and never supervised more than a camping trip to Ruth Lake.

When is enough----enough? I am sure I'm not alone when I voice my disgust at this never ending more taxes theme to the political circus. As I drive the streets of Eureka, I can't miss the endless stream of panhandlers and street people. As I entered a store in the Bay shore Mall last week, a vagrant laying on a bench in front of one of the stores asked me if I had a five dollar bill for him. When I said no, he responded with a string of profanity worthy of a bar fight at a biker bar. More and more, I am beginning to refuse to patronize those establishments where you can't get in the door without running the gauntlet of street people. My choice

and my decision..... I don't have to put up the with cardboard signs, appeals for spare change, and personal insults.

When is enough-----enough? Enough is enough when a person exercises the right of free choice and attacks this insanity head on. The first step to stop this political piling-on is to use of the word NO. Use it frequently and often when someone tries to make you feel guilty because of some social injustice that can only be cured by more money from your pocket. My family has always supported that person who works the odd jobs, or offers to give something back for the dollars you give them.

When is enough---- enough? Answer the question for yourself. Don't let the politicians sucker you in to not using the word NO in the ballot box.

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