

October 28, 2014

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

One week from today the election cycle of 2014 will be in the record books. Votes will have been cast and counted. Winners will celebrate, losers will be licking their wounds and moving forward.

Fortuna has several interesting races. The City Council race at one time had four candidates for three open seats. Now there are three candidates for three seats. It will be four women and the mayor serving our City in 2015. People who love to say Fortuna is run by “the good old boys network” will have to find something new to complain about.

We have an interesting ballot measure to consider in Fortuna – Measure V. It’s a local one percent sales tax increase. I’m in favor of Measure V. It’s actually a transaction tax, which means each cent stays in Fortuna, unlike a regular sales tax.

The opposition to Measure V likes to hide behind—NO NEW TAXES. Their group recently cherry picked a few facts out of context for a letter sent out to evidently scare seniors about Measure V.

Just a reminder—this sales tax cannot be added to groceries or prescriptions.

The 10 people who signed that now infamous letter—which was circulated to some of the people in Fortuna but not all—are people who either served on the Fortuna City Council or worked at the City. Interestingly, not one of the past elected officials that signed the letter was ever tasked with balancing the City budget without Redevelopment money. And most of them were on the Council when Timber was king and there were new car lots in town that generated big tax dollars.

This group would like you to think that Fortuna has a spending problem. Have you watched our City Council meetings? Fortuna does NOT have a spending problem—SACRAMENTO has a spending problem.

Councilmembers Tami Trent and Sue Long go over the finances in excruciating detail and are always asking staff about expenditures.

It was obviously very difficult for Mayor Strehl to come to the conclusion that Measure V is the best option available to the City. That decision was not made lightly.

Mike Losey is retiring from the Council and could easily not get involved in this issue—but you can find him out in front of the battle using his spare time to support Measure V. And our two new Council members-to-be both publically support Measure V.

When even Councilman Dean Glaser has to agree that a one cent sales tax is the fairest way for us to right the ship, you know it's the only way to right the ship.

No one wants new taxes. But saying “No New Taxes” is irresponsible. Let's take responsibility Fortuna and vote yes for Measure V. Let's protect Fortuna's future.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.