

June 26, 2024

City Council
City of Calabasas
100 Civic Center Way
Calabasas, CA. 91302

Dear Mayor Weintraub, Mayor pro Tem Kraut and City Council Members:

The Council will deliberate tonight whether to place a proposed sales tax increase as an initiative on this November's ballot. There are compelling arguments on both sides of the issue.

I'm currently undecided on how I would vote on such an initiative. However, there is one aspect in particular that I find concerning. I believe a 20-year sunset clause is too long. It's been stated that the sales tax would result in an increase of \$80 annually per person. A 20-year sunset clause means an individual would pay \$1,600.00 over the life of the tax – barring large purchases, such as cars which would increase that amount. I believe a 10-year sunset clause is more reasonable. Additionally, I believe the City should explore an increase in TOT and other avenues of revenue.

I think it's worth noting that L.A. County recently announced a proposed increase in its sales tax (doubling its .25% to a .5% tax allocated for homeless services). The County tax increase, in conjunction with Calabasas' increase would result in an additional 1% sales tax for Calabasas residents (.25% County increase and .75% Calabasas increase), bringing us to a total of 10.5% sales tax. I realize the City needs to fund its services, but I don't know how the dual tax increase will sit with voters.

Thank you for considering my comments as you deliberate your decision tonight.

Best regards,
Frances Alet
Calabasas

From: Joe Chilco
Sent: Tuesday, June 25, 2024 11:17 AM
To: info <info@cityofcalabasas.com>
Subject: City Council 6-26 agenda item #9 - Public Comments

Mayor Weintraub and City Councilmembers,

When I first heard of the sales tax increase being proposed in Calabasas, I had questions.

The City is allowed to offer information to educate the public on the issue. I know the City Manager and the Assistant City Manager have expressed a willingness to speak with residents.

There needs to be a concerted effort by the City to get information out to the residents. There are many means to accomplish this, for example, social media campaign coupled with a dedicated website that includes links to relevant resource material on the subject; "Every Door Direct" mailings; "promos" on CTV, Zoom meetings with verified invitees, "In-person" presentations at the Senior Center, Founders Hall, the Calabasas Community Center.

Some people are not in favor of taxes or increasing them. Period. No further discussion necessary.

It would be a remarkable achievement if you can keep expenses from increasing while never increasing revenue.

The City's position is that there's a point when expenses will outpace revenue. That's a projection at this point. It's reasonable to expect the City to operate within its means. If this projection turns out to be accurate, then something has to give.

Calabasas residents have identified public safety, particularly related to crime and fire risk, as high priorities. Police and Fire services in Calabasas are fixed costs dictated by the agencies that provide them.

Any tax increase should have a "sunset" clause. This would ensure the matter is re-examined, and put to a vote of the residents again. I would propose no greater than ten years.

There should also be an oversight committee that includes residents. More than just an advisory body, it must be allowed to do independent research and present balanced reports to support its recommendations that are readily available to the public.

Thank you for your consideration of the above in your deliberations.

Joe Chilco
Calabasas resident
(address on file)