

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 29, 2004

SUBJECT: Position on The Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Protection Act

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors support The Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Protection Act, approve Resolution 2004-180 and direct the Executive Office and Board's Sacramento representatives to further the Board's position.

BACKGROUND: The Local Taxpayers and Public Safety Protection Act is a ballot initiative proposed for November 2004 that would amend the State Constitution to protect local services by preventing the state from taking, without voter approval, county property tax, sales tax and vehicle license fees that would provide greater protection against unfunded state mandates. If passed, the amendment will continue to allow for significant reforms in state and local fiscal affairs, but would require that the voters of California approve any future reductions in local revenue by the state. The California State Association of Counties, the League of California Cities, the California Special Districts Association and the Leave our Community Assets Local (L.O.C.A.L.) coalition are the sponsors of this initiative.

Departmental Concurrence

Attachment

Gary M. Christmas
Gary M. Christmas
Legislative Manager

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	N/A	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	N/A	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	N/A	For Fiscal Year:	N/A
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A				Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30 <input type="checkbox"/>
				Requires 4/5 Vote <input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature *[Signature]*

- Policy
- Policy
- Consent
- Consent
- Dep't Recomm.:
- Per Exec. Ofc.:

RECEIVED RIVERSIDE COUNTY
MAY 10 2004 11:51 AM

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | **District:** All | **Agenda Number:**

3.6

2 RESOLUTION NO. 2004-180
3 SUPPORT OF LOCAL TAXPAYERS AND PUBLIC SAFETY PROTECTION ACT

4
5 WHEREAS, the fiscal relationship between the state and counties has become
6 inherently dysfunctional, unstable and unpredictable; and

7 WHEREAS, state government annually seizes more than \$5.2 billion in local
8 property tax funds through the Educational Relief Augmentation Fund (ERAF)
9 statewide, costing local governments more than \$40 billion in revenues over the past 12
10 years; and

11 WHEREAS, continual shifts and raids by the state of local property tax funds and
12 other funds dedicated to counties, cities and special districts has seriously reduced
13 resources available for local public safety, health, emergency medical, roads, parks,
14 libraries and other essential local services; and

15
16 WHEREAS, this drain of local resources has continued during periods when the
17 state's budget has been overflowing with surpluses as well as during difficult economic
18 times; and

19 WHEREAS, counties are political subdivisions of the state, providing not only
20 state and federal services, but also countywide services and municipal type services in
21 the unincorporated areas and each of these responsibilities requires predictable and
22 stable funding; and

23 WHEREAS, counties are constitutionally guaranteed reimbursement from state
24 mandates, no reimbursement has been provided by the state for two years causing
25 counties to pay from local revenues more than a billion dollars in state costs; and

1 WHEREAS, the Governor's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2004/2005 would
2 increase the ERAF property tax shift away from local governments by an additional \$1.3
3 billion on a permanent basis, an increase of approximately 25 percent over the current
4 ERAF shift; and

5 WHEREAS, it is abundantly clear that state leaders will continue to use local tax
6 funds dedicated to local governments to balance the state budget unless the voters limit
7 the power of the Legislature and Governor to do so; and

8 WHEREAS, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and others
9 have attempted to work to try to reform the system by introducing reform legislation and
10 participating on reform commissions, committees, and hearings over the last decade to
11 no avail; and

12 WHEREAS, a group of local government, public safety and community leaders
13 known as the L.O.C.A.L. coalition are moving forward to qualify the Local Taxpayers
14 and Public Safety Protection Act, a November 2004 ballot initiative, that allows voters to
15 decide whether local tax funds may be taken, confiscated, shifted, diverted or otherwise
16 used to fund state government operations and responsibilities.

17
18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, determined and ordered by the Board
19 of Supervisors of the County of Riverside that the County of Riverside supports the
20 efforts of CSAC, the League of Cities, and the L.O.C.A.L. coalition to pass The Local
21 Taxpayers and Public Safety and Protection Act, a constitutional amendment
22 preventing, without voter approval, reduction in revenues from county property tax,
23 sales tax and vehicle license fees and to provide greater protection from unfunded
24 mandates from the state.
25

1 RESOLVED FURTHER, that Riverside County officials and staff are authorized
2 to provide impartial informational materials on this initiative as may be lawfully provided
3 by Riverside County's representatives and that no public funds shall be used to
4 campaign for or against the initiative.

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6 Adopted this 6th day of April 2004.
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