

Update by the Solano County Taxpayers Association - Michael Nolan, President



The Solano County Taxpayers Association (SCTA) is striving to fulfill its mission to “secure by lawful means greater economy and efficiency in government; to stimulate the public interest in civic affairs; to effect reduction in taxes”

Dixon Unified School District: The Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee (CBOC) and actions by the School District related to bond management have been a major disappointment. The majority of the oversight committee was handpicked by the District. Gary Riddle, SCTA’s member on the committee, has been trying to steer the committee in the

direction of better serving citizen interests, but to no avail.

The law requires the District to: “provide the citizens’ oversight committee with any necessary technical assistance and shall provide administrative assistance in furtherance of its purpose and sufficient resources to publicize the conclusions of the citizens’ oversight committee”. Even after almost 2 years of committee activity, CBOC members have only received limited access to public records for their review.

The law requires: “all documents received and reports issued shall be a matter of public record and be made available on an Internet Web site maintained by the governing board of the district.” The District has NOT provided an easy-to-access, functioning website for the public to access CBOC-related documents. Citizens can visit www.measureoversight.com established by SCTA to review CBOC documents and other information.

Another major problem is that the oversight committee hasn’t issued any reports to date, despite existing for nearly two years. The law states that the CBOC: must “inform the public concerning the expenditure of bond revenues.” The law further requires, “The citizens’ oversight committee shall issue regular reports on the results of its activities. A report shall be issued at least once a year.” However, the Committee’s first term expires next month, not one report to the citizens has been issued!!! They haven’t met regularly and even with all its inaction, the CBOC decided to meet only every other month!!

SCTA urges residents to get involved. You can download an application at <https://measureoversight.com/cboc-members/> Fill and submit to the School District requesting an appointment. Currently, the CBOC is comprised of seven members, the minimum requirement of the law. Residents at large can be appointed.

City of Dixon: A grassroots group of independent, motivated, and energized citizens are knocking on doors of registered voters to collect signatures for two voter initiatives: (1) to repeal the water rate increase as adopted by the City Council for the city’s Water District and, (2) to make the City Clerk an elected position. The SCTA is supporting the efforts of the residents to exercise their rights. The City Clerk is the local official for elections, local legislation, the Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act, and the Brown Act (open meeting laws). The statutes of the State of California prescribe the basic functions and duties of the City Clerk, and the Government Code and Election Code provide precise and specific responsibilities and procedures to follow.

An appointed City Clerk holds office at the pleasure of the City Manager and the City Council and is not an independent officer capable of carrying out their statutory duties without the possible control of the City Manager or City Council. We believe public accountability is a good thing, after all, we are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people!

For your convenience, you can sign either or both petitions at Fisk’s Cyclery located at 539 N Almond St., M-F 9:30am-6:00pm, Sat 9:30am-3:00pm. You can also send an e-mail to dixonh2orates@yahoo.com to arrange to provide your signature.

Chromium 6 The State Water Board is looking into the Chromium 6 in water issue again. They are planning to circulate a conceptual paper on the meaning of "economic feasibility." The court has instructed the Board to consider the economic feasibility of lowering the state standard for chromium even farther below the Federal standard. We thank the City Council and Art Vela, P.E. Public Works Director/City Engineer of the City

of Banning for Banning's letter to the Water Board outlining the economic impacts a much lower Chromium 6 standard will have on the City of Banning as there are related concerns for cities like Dixon. The SCTA is wondering where the Dixon City Manager and City Council sit on this matter as it could have a very serious impact on **ALL** water rates in Dixon. One estimate is that the average household could be paying as much as \$600 to \$700 more per year for water, on top of the increases already in play.