

From: [Sharon King](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fw: Proposed Sewer Rates Objection (For April 1, 2024 Meeting)
Date: Saturday, March 23, 2024 12:51:47 PM

You don't often get email from sharon_queen_2000@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Sharon King <sharon_queen_2000@yahoo.com>
To: GRP-City Council <council@redwoodcity.org>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2024 at 08:06:02 PM PDT
Subject: Proposed Sewer Rates Objection (For April 1, 2024 Meeting)

March 22, 2024

Re: Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Sewer Rate Increases (Meeting April 1, 2024)

Attn: City Council

Thank you for the opportunity to share my/our reasons why I/we don't agree with the proposal. We received the notice and have read through the materials provided. Couple of observations, comments, and questions.

I see that from the chart on page 4 of 5, that Redwood City has a "fixed rate" while other cities in the chart have "flow-based rates" and others have a mixture of both; so there are variances within the county. I'm assuming that each city can adopt which charge basis they prefer to set-up. When Redwood City adopted to change the way the billing was to be dispersed (July 28, 2023 notice) when it used to be under a bi-monthly utility system, into the collection on County Tax Roll; the letter states "Although sewer service charge billing and collection is performed through the County, the City remains your sewer service provider." Question, if the County does the billing and collecting why do other cities within the County have "fixed" and others "Flow-Based" and still others a "blend" ? (not consistent in billing and not consistent in dollar amounts either)

I also see something that can't be substantiated and that is on page 3, "Note: the neighboring agencies' calculated bills are based on their current rates, which MAY change during 2024 as they review their rates." How can Redwood City know when and how much (if any) other cities will propose increases. On the same page 3, your explanation of the increases over the three years appears to look like the consumer will be getting a deal in year 2 and in year 3; when in reality the increases should be worded with the current amount then the proposed amount (July 2024 if passed) then the amount for July 2025 (in comparison with the current amount versus from the July 2024) in order for the consumer to actually SEE how much their utility charges are going up. (year 2 is not only \$6.84 per month increase, it's actually the \$8.46 plus the \$6.84; then also the third amount \$7.32) Transparency is important, yes your proposal is for three years; yet it's not taking into account the other increases the City has asked for. (Feb. 2024 Solid Waste Increase Proposal)

Soon Redwood City will become an unaffordable location for seniors on a fixed income, and for young adults/couples looking to rent or buy. If other cities offer a "Flow-Based" or a "Mixed" formula and their rates are lower (Brisbane, South SF, Burlingame) the higher cities don't look as attractive. Some people have built ADU's on their property to either add extra income or help a family member, your proposal will also effect them too.

Speaking of the former bi-monthly utility to the County Tax Roll (Resolution 16143) "City of RWC Sewer Service" as a line item on our property taxes; that dollar amount was big. Paying \$89.28 every other month is far more manageable versus paying \$535.68 (\$1071.36 annual tax year) every 6 months; totals

the same but the "out of pocket" when due is more.

These are some of the things that as a resident for over 35 years we are noticing. Please consider ALL people that this proposal will effect, the young, the elderly, the businesses, the low-income; etc.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Allen King
Sharon Christine King
(Parcel 058-182-110)
1616 Vera Ave.
Redwood City, CA
94061



March 21 2024
City Council Of Redwood City
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063

Hi City Council,

Please do not raise sewer rates.

You thought you were slick by tacking on \$1,000 a year to property taxes for building a new, expensive sewer plant. A sewer plant as expensive as the one built should have been put to a public vote.

You thought you were slick when you drove out a very good tax-base in Larry Ellison of Oracle. Larry Ellison left Redwood City to get away from scalawags like you.

Scalawags like you and Governor Newscom drove out one million citizens of the best and brightest from California including Elon Musk, HP and Disney.

Today you think you are slick by being bloodsuckers to raise rates on people living on fixed incomes.

Go fly a kite,

Michael A. Gallagher

Citizen of Redwood City, CA



Mr. Michael A. Gallagher
509 Trident Dr
Redwood City, CA 94065

Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

SAN FRANCISCO CA 940

22 MAR 2024 PM 3 L



City Council of Redwood City
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA
94063



040024 00047



Proposed Sewer Rates Objection (For April 1, 2024 Meeting)

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To: council@redwoodcity.org

Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 at 08:06 PM PDT

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Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Michael Allen King
Sharon Christine King
(Parcel 058-182-110)



From: [Lisane Drouin](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: For City Council vote on new taxes on residents
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:11:44 PM

You don't often get email from l.drouin@live.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing this public comment to the Redwood City Council members asking to oppose more city taxes on residents, especially a property transfer tax and will not support council members who support such a property transfer tax. Our household has supported school tax measures and other taxes that clearly benefit the community and social/ public good. This new property transfer tax does not qualify as such.

I will reflect more on a proposed business license tax, need more information before doing so. My spouse is a local business owner.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lisane Drouin
167 F Street
Redwood City, CA 94063

From: [Ed Richter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: potential tax increases
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:11:53 PM

You don't often get email from erichterb52@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am dismayed by the Redwood city council's underhanded push polling to justify a proposed property transfer tax, or a business license tax. I actively oppose more taxes on residents, and I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Ed Richter

977 Pleasant Hill Rd RWC

From: [Valerie Lui](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposed To Tax Increases and Opposed to Property Transfer Tax
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:14:20 PM

[You don't often get email from valerieschluger@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Council Person

I am actively opposed to more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax !! And

I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax!!

Enough is enough. Taxing the wonderful Redwood City residents to where they cannot live, not pass ANYTHING along to the next generation is just lack poor judgment, lack of foresight, having no empathy, and down right denigrating.

Hopefully there are some council members who still care about Redwood City residents and will help us.

Sincerely

Valerie Lui
4012 Farm Hill Blvd. #301
Redwood City, CA 94061

Sent from my iPhone

From: ksaucier1@gmail.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposed to Property transfer tax in Redwood City
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:25:56 PM

You don't often get email from ksaucier1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

City Council,

It has come to my attention that a vote through a disingenuous “survey” is coming to the table.

I do NOT support more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and oppose any council member who would support a property transfer tax.

Stop paying yourselves so much – more than Councils of much larger cities – and stop paying for so many consultants.

Do your job!

Karen

From: [jonathan gleason](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: additional tax and unlawful expenditure of public funds to push polls
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:26:12 PM

You don't often get email from jonatanmgleason@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

i am a 20+ year resident of the city and read the attached article with deep concern and growing frustration. The city is failing to deal with its most basic responsibilities of fighting urban blight, managing urban sprawl, endemic homelessness and increased congestion. The solution is NOT to spend more dollars to subsidize additional growth.

<https://www.rwcpulse.com/guest-opinion/2024/03/26/opinion-redwood-city-using-taxpayer-funds-to-push-for-more-taxes/>

Like many of my neighbors we are tired of funding the city's fiscal mismanagement with surplus taxes and angered by the use of our tax dollars to fund pushpolling as described in the attached article.

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents and actively support alternative candidates for future council elections.

From: [Ed Mascher](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Your Push Poll
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:16:16 PM

You don't often get email from ed.mascher@epicbrokers.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Redwood City Council,

As a resident of RWC, I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.
Do Better!

Sincerely

Edward Mascher
550 King Street
RWC, CA 94062

From: [Jim Gernand](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:29:50 PM

[You don't often get email from jimgernand@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello Council members,

I am writing to indicate my opposition to increases in the tax rates for Redwood City residents. Including property transfer taxes and increases to the business license tax. We already pay a sales tax rate that is higher than neighboring communities. As we already pay more in sales taxes, that should be sufficient for generating the revenue necessary for city operation's considering other cities manage their budgets with lower tax rates.

Regards,
Jim Gernand
Redwood City Resident

From: [Patrick Brennan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No new taxes please
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:27:01 PM

You don't often get email from pbrennan@supplyrisk.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear RWC Council

I oppose new city tax, especially a property transfer tax and increased business license fees. I will oppose any elected officials who support such taxes and fees. My home and business are in Redwood city.

Thank you,
Patrick Brennan
167 F st, RWC



Patrick Brennan, CEO
Supply Risk Solutions
pbrennan@supplyrisk.com
supplyrisk.com



From: [Beverly Morgan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: More taxes???
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:27:28 PM

You don't often get email from bevie.lou@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council:

As a life-long resident of Redwood City (7 decades), I am accustomed to trusting my elected officials. That custom is going out the window. I am not alone in being opposed to any more taxes being levied against us. Residents are being asked (told, really) that WE need to help the city to fix the deficit caused by excessive management salaries and raises to top brass, overspending on office furniture, a weekend retreat in the wine country, and consultants do you not trust yourselves that you need to count on overpriced consultants?

The proposed property transfer tax is outrageous. Neither you nor I am responsible for the high cost of housing, but taxing us \$20,000 on the sale of our homes is not reasonable.

This proposal represents a violation of California Election Code 13119, which requires the ballot question to be "true, impartial, not argumentative nor likely to create prejudice for nor against the measure".

San Mateo County citizens believe the ballots they receive in the mail are of integrity and separate from those of the political mailers. This should be ensured. The planned taxation lacks integrity and reeks of politics.

When local agencies inappropriately use our taxpayer money to convince us to vote for a tax increases, we should send a clear message and just vote "no". I will support NO Redwood City Council member who supports the proposed property transfer tax.

(signed) Beverly Schutz Morgan

From: [Jim Gernand](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:29:50 PM

[You don't often get email from jimgernand@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello Council members,

I am writing to indicate my opposition to increases in the tax rates for Redwood City residents. Including property transfer taxes and increases to the business license tax. We already pay a sales tax rate that is higher than neighboring communities. As we already pay more in sales taxes, that should be sufficient for generating the revenue necessary for city operation's considering other cities manage their budgets with lower tax rates.

Regards,
Jim Gernand
Redwood City Resident

From: [Yolanda](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:30:51 PM

You don't often get email from vyva@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I'm fed up with taxes!! we are taxed on everything sooner or later will be taxed going to the bathroom as well ! no more taxes I will not support anyone who supports higher taxes on senior citizens that are on a fixed income! Many people are on minimum wage they cannot afford more taxes as well! Stop texting us!

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [Judith Kirk](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Redwood City City Council](#)
Subject: ABSOLUTELY NO property transfer tax
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:47:13 PM

You don't often get email from edina42@icloud.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

We and our neighbors will actively oppose the property transfer tax on residents, AND we will NOT support any council members who support that. We have supported so many of the good things RC and the Council have done, but THIS is absolutely a NO. First the CA legislature zinged us with Prop. 19, and now we are supposed to pay a tax when we sell our houses. Many people are selling in RC because they can't afford to live here anymore. This is one of the most expensive ZIP codes in the state and US. So our city wants to zing them on their way out and take a big chunk in taxes, on top of other taxes sellers have to pay. **No way.**

We also do not appreciate the so-called "survey" with its built-in biases and feel-good prompts. We do support many of the things mentioned in the "survey" but other money has been approved for many of them already. We do care about our neighbors and want everyone to be housed, all children have child-care, etc. etc. but right now so many are having hard times financially, and the council wants a transfer tax on top of inflated costs we all pay. NO.

Judith Kirk
Redwood City

From: [Janelle](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposing more taxes on residents
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:51:19 PM

You don't often get email from janelleprado@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a resident and home owner I actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

From: [Patricia Barile](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please don't use our taxpayer funds to pay for more taxes
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 9:56:18 PM

[You don't often get email from patlesbar@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

As a Redwood City resident I am requesting that you do not use our taxes to put through a property transfer tax OR a business license tax.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Patricia Barile
1227 Foothill Street
Redwood City

From: [Thomas Harris](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: New Proposed Taxes
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:02:11 PM

You don't often get email from harrit3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to strenuously object to the new tax increase programs that the City of Redwood City leadership is proposing to adopt.

Be assured that we, the Redwood City Residents:

- will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax; and
- will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

At a time when the federal government is busting up real estate cartels that fix commissions for brokers in order to lower real estate transfer costs, how you could even consider enacting a transfer tax like this that directly counteracts the federal action and steals directly from the sale proceeds of Redwood City residents' homes? When there is so much focus on affordable housing for Redwood City residents, how can you enact a tax that directly drives up the cost of housing? This proposed tax will rob from Redwood City homeowners and drive up costs for new families looking to buy property in Redwood City.

Even worse, your practices of: (1) paying consultants millions of dollars to mislead homeowners to pass the tax; and (2) hiring expensive talent at a time when companies in the broader economy are having to tighten their belts are unconscionable.

Shame on you all - change course now!

Thomas Harris
Redwood City Resident

From: [Judy Miller](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property Transfer Tax - Objection
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:08:58 PM

You don't often get email from judymalaska@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a Redwood City homeowner, I strongly object to the proposed 1% Transfer Tax for several reasons including polling methods and undefined uses of the revenue.

One particularly concerning aspect of the proposed tax is the deceptive method employed to generate "support" for a deviously presented "solution" to shortfalls in the City budget.

The recent manipulative "Push Poll" effort, utilizing tax payer money under the guise of objective polling, is likely in violation of state statute. In addition to the deceptive and manipulative "polling", the areas or services for utilizing the funds are undefined. Is this how bonds are supposed to work?

I actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and I will not support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Judy Miller - 907 250-7090
977 Pleasant Hill Road
Redwood City, CA 94061

From: [Kellie Zollars](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: 4/1 city council - property transfer tax
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:16:36 PM

You don't often get email from kelliezollars@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I oppose the property transfer tax proposal.

As a 66 year old who has been self-employed for 40+ years with no matching company retirement benefits, selling our small home and living on the proceeds was part of our retirement plan. We have been paying high local taxes here in Redwood City since 1999. We will take a federal tax hit along with paying tens of thousands as part of the selling process.

Sincerely,

Kellie Zollars

Redwood City resident

From: [Karen Roberts](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No new taxes!
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:29:11 PM

You don't often get email from karen@sagawaroberts.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

The Redwood City Council needs to prove that they are capable of handling money in the best interest of residents rather than to finance luxury furniture, exorbitant salaries and weekend retreats. Until then, do not ask for more tax revenue.

--

Karen Roberts

From: [Carol Bartlett](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Proposed city transfer tax is 1 more bad decision
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:50:54 PM

You don't often get email from carolbart@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

The fiscal irresponsibility of the present RC council is disgusting. A proposed parcel tax upon property transfers isn't the cure but a change of personnel might be. Hiring expensive consultants to suggest ways the City can climb out of its fiscal hole isn't an answer. Imposing more fees on residents and taking money from developers to build above height limits and sacrifice on-site parking to add more apartments is a sloppy way to try to mitigate the effects of bad fiscal governance. In the long term, it's very damaging to residents and the future of the city.

I'll actively campaign to vote against incumbents who support the parcel tax and I will not vote for any council members who facilitate & promote the overbuilding of low income, BMR, or any other apartments which are as seriously under-parked as some recently built and in the pipeline now.

One very long-term council member thinks it's fine to build over 140 apartments with only 6 parking places on site because she supposedly believes the residents will be "too poor to own cars" & will use public transit. LOL. Their vehicles may be old beaters but they do have cars & trucks. Gardeners, laborers, and families have vehicles. Our inadequate public transit doesn't efficiently get family members to and from most job locations, medical/dental visits, Costco, school events and large or small social activities. Cars are a necessity for most people, even when they're needed only occasionally. Cars must be parked, somewhere. Also, please investigate the possibility of improper "gifts" to council members from developers who manage to stretch or evade zoning regulations.

Redwood City has flat-rate sewer fees, not prorated for the size of our homes. Studio apartments with usually only one occupant, pay as much as owners of large single-family homes with numerous occupants.

Greed, avarice, mendacity, inefficiency. These are words which come to mind when thinking of the present Redwood City government fiscal policies. A parcel tax upon property transfer isn't the cure.

C. R. Bartlett
Redwood City resident and voter.

From: [robert zehnder](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Oppose More Taxes on residents including the proposed property tax transfer!
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:40:48 PM

You don't often get email from rczehnder@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

As a resident of Redwood City on limited income I'm extremely opposed additional taxes on residents including a property transfer tax and definitely can not support any city council member who would support a property tax transfer.

Long time resident,
Rob Zehnder

From: [Janet Lin](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No additional residential taxes (including property transfer tax)
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 11:51:54 PM

You don't often get email from janetlin199@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

My neighbors and I are very concerned about the push for additional taxes on Redwood City residents, including a property transfer tax. This is a very big concern considering of neighbors are on limited or fixed income and we have already had increases in our sewer fees.

We feel so strongly about this that we cannot support any city council member that that supports a property transfer tax.

Sincerely,
Janet Lin & neighbors

BCC: Neighbors in Lowell Street, Eagle Hill and Redwood Shores

From: mckee0586@sbcglobal.net
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [GRP-City Clerk](#); [Redwood City City Council](#)
Subject: OPPOSE TAX TRANSFERS TO CITY FROM RESIDENTS
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:23:26 AM

You don't often get email from mckee0586@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

HELLO CITY OF REDWOOD CITY
CLERK,

PLEASE NOTE I AM OPPOSED TO THE CITY COLLECTING RESIDENTS
TRANSFER OF PROPERTY TAX FOR THE CITY'S GAIN.
I WAS NEVER SENT A LETTER ABOUT THIS AND JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT
THIS ISSUE FOR APRIL 4TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING FROM NEXTDOOR.COM

NOT A GOOD THING WHEN THE CITY DOES NOT TELL RESIDENTS WHAT IT
IS VOTING ON THAT IMPACTS US.
SANDRA MCKEE
1003 CHESTERTON AVE
REDWOOD CITY, CA 94061

From: [Janna Sampson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:19:35 AM

You don't often get email from jannasampson@earthlink.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

I actively oppose more taxes on residents, including property transfer tax and business tax. I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Thank you,

Janna Sampson

From: [Aneesh Bakshi](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 1 city council meeting
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:24:02 AM

You don't often get email from bakshi.retail@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Redwood City City Council:

If more taxes are proposed by the Council,

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Aneesh Bakshi
650.676.9969

From: [Gabriel Gross](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Regarding proposed new taxes - property transfer and business license/ April 1st City Council review
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:24:23 AM

You don't often get email from 144gabe@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I stand against the imposition of new taxes on residents, and all my neighbors and acquaintances in Redwood City seem to think the same. Instead, the City Council should pursue ways to reduce expenses and waste. For example, how about a moratorium on all staff salaries?

Please take this in consideration at your meeting.

Thanks

--

Gabe Gross
Redwood City, CA 94062
144gabe@gmail.com
650-771-2570

From: [Elise Dixon](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Edward Ludvig](#)
Subject: Public Comment: Oppose property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:26:25 AM

You don't often get email from elisedixon@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find the following public comments regarding a property transfer tax —

- will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
- will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax

Best,

Elise Dixon
650 922 9803 (text, too)

From: [Laura Yahoo](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Potential taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:27:05 AM

[You don't often get email from lauraowen34@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Council members:

I write to oppose ANY NEW city-imposed taxes, including any new tax based on the transfer of property, and any new business license tax.

Regards,
Laura Owen

From: [Kristin Forbes](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO more taxes on residents
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:39:33 AM

You don't often get email from forbes.kris@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Redwood City Council,
Cease your current efforts to apply additional taxes on residents, including your latest efforts that proposes a property transfer tax when residents home is sold.

Redwood City residents will NOT re-elect council members who support any measure that includes a property transfer tax.

Kris

From: [Deborah Miramontes](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [ME](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:14:16 AM

You don't often get email from dmiramontes242@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern:

I oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and will not support any council member who supports a property transfer tax. Purchasing a home is already unattainable for most. Now you what to charge a property transfer tax! It does not matter whether the buyer or seller will have to pay it, it is still adding cost to a real estate transaction.

Deborah Miramontes
Home 650-368-4828
Cell 650-704-8840

From: [Gary Markwith](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Home sale tax.
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:32:45 AM

You don't often get email from gmarkwith@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please do not subject our residents to property selling tax.

From: [Karen & Sam](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No more taxes!
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:33:54 AM

You don't often get email from woo_kt@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear city council,

Please so not pass these new taxes. I will not support any member In the next election that passes this property transfer tax. We residents pay too much in taxes already!

Karen Taylor

From: [Victoria Parham](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:36:16 AM

[You don't often get email from bty211@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I'm sixty four years old, born and raised in Redwood City. This City in the last 15-20 has managed to ruin what was once a nice place. I understand the need of the city to grow but most of what's been done seems to be on a whim without regards to the citizens your supposed to represent. You've add tax after tax, raised rates on services to the point the working people can't afford to live.

I will not support any new taxes or any members who vote to add taxes.

It's time for Redwood City to budget just like everyone else or cut back just like anyone else does.

Victoria Parham

Sent from my iPhone

From: [M Lamb](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Higher Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:37:09 AM

You don't often get email from mwlamb@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,
As a multi-decade Rewood City resident I strongly oppose more taxes on us.
I also oppose the use of "Highly Paid Consultants" to sway the vote in your favor.
If this process continues I assure you will not be reelected.
We already have one of the highest sales taxes in the United States.

Thank you,

Mark Lamb

From: [Jz Family](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Community Survey
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 7:48:04 AM

You don't often get email from j3boyzz@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

City Council,

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
- will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Regards, RWC Homeowner

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Julie Meyers](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Proposed new taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:19:07 AM

You don't often get email from 1117meyers@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I have been deeply concerned and unhappy at the direction Redwood City has been going. The unbelievable rate of new building and wasteful traffic control measures are detrimental to our City.

Now, Redwood City is using tax income to try to impose a 1% property transfer tax? Is that even legal? Do we need to investigate this?

Please stop ruining our City and taxing its citizenry to the breaking point. Please.

If you want to get more money in the coffers, how about taking away all the silly speed bumps and put some motorcycle cops out there issuing tickets?

Julie Meyers

From: [elizabeth starks](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Oppose paying property taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:23:21 AM

You don't often get email from lizstarks@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern:

We as Residents of Redwood City are opposing to your new bill adding more property taxes.
a) Property transfer tax (where proceeds of the sale of a home are shared with the city) and/or
b) Business license tax

NO !! We will not agree with your decision.

Elizabeth Starks
Phone 650 759 7419

From: [Cheryl Scott](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Increased taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:52:05 AM

You don't often get email from scottchery@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Greetings!

I am part of an informed community in Redwood City, and I have recently learned of a possible property transfer tax and increased business license tax being considered by the council.

I am strongly opposed to more residential taxes, such as the property transfer tax. It is becoming increasingly more expensive to live in Redwood City, and the last thing we need is increased taxes. I also oppose increased business license tax. We want to attract business to our city.

I will not support any council member who votes for either of these taxes, and I will encourage my community to do the same.

Thank you for your consideration,
Cheryl Scott

From: [Jon Frymann](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO to property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:56:38 AM

You don't often get email from jonathanfrymann@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a resident of Redwood City, I am registering my objection to the proposed new taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax, and I will not support council members who do support the property transfer tax.

regards,
Jon

From: [Ed Gory](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposing more taxes on residents
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:02:06 AM

You don't often get email from ed@edgory.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the City Council, I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Ed Gory
(Redwood City resident for last 32 years)

Reminder: email is not secure or confidential. Intero Real Estate Services will never request that you send funds or nonpublic personal information, such as credit card or debit card numbers or bank account and/or routing numbers, by email. If you receive an email message concerning any transaction involving Intero Real Estate Services and the email requests that you send funds or provide nonpublic personal information, do not respond to the email and immediately contact Intero Real Estate Services To notify Intero Real Estate Services of suspected email fraud, contact: Intero Client Services at 866 334 7356 and/or clientservices@interorealestate.com

From: [eileen lepera](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:03:20 AM

[You don't often get email from eileenlepera@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

No to property transfer tax. We will not support any council member who keeps adding tax after tax to the residence of Redwood City.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Linda Joya](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No to property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:27:27 AM

You don't often get email from lindakjoya@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

City Council,

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and I will NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax.

As a lifelong Peninsula resident and 20 years in Redwood City, my middle class, blue collar working family can no longer handle the financial burdens of additional taxes.

Absolutely, 100%, you will no longer have my vote.

Thank you,
Linda Joya

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [James Richter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Pending property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:36:15 AM

You don't often get email from dons72@myyahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

It seems to me that the residents of Redwood City are already overtaxed. At the very least, the property owners deserve a very specific explanation about the reasons for this tax: what are we paying for here?

Public expenses climb annually---no secret about this. However, the city owes it to everyone, especially longtime property owners, to lay out the fiscal logic here, so we know what we are voting for.

James Richter
Redwood City resident since 1957.

From: [D'Artagnan](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No new taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:45:29 AM

You don't often get email from dartagnanhorner@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I will vote out anyone who elects to pass new taxes before spending reforms are done and salary drops are done first. I currently pay over 25,000 in property tax for a small 3 bedroom for my family. When the county and city manager make more than I do, and when their is over 1million dollars spend on office furniture for one office. I think we can get the country to buy from IKEA like i have to instead of raising any taxes. Lets stop wasteful spending first.

D'Artagnan

From: [Linda Dulaney](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: We are opposed to proposed new taxes - Vote No on property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:07:14 AM

You don't often get email from linda.m.dulaney@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Councilmembers,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed new taxes. Please vote No on the proposed Property Transfer Tax. We are opposed to any more taxes on residents and demand the council manage the City's spending rather than once again turn to residents to pay more taxes.

Please do the right thing on this issue and vote No on the proposed new taxes.

Sincerely,
Linda and Ken Dulaney

--

Linda Dulaney
linda.m.dulaney@gmail.com

From: [c.sconzert](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Proposed Transfer Tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:47:48 AM

You don't often get email from c.sconzert@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please take a breath and step back from this notion of grabbing revenue from home sales — without guardrails on how it will be used. Just vague references to safety and other quality of life buzzwords. This is galling. These expensive consultants (paid with OUR taxes?) seem to specialize in snow-jobs. It's only a matter of time until this ends up in court.

You are trying to generate more housing, right? This money grab will instead keep seniors and others from selling. Pick one goal, these are mutually exclusive. Instead of selling my house I will rent it out at obscene rate and leave the area. Sure, you may get the money eventually, but not on my watch.

Carol Sconzert

From: [Robin Guzzo](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No More Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:53:35 AM

You don't often get email from beingrobdd@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

City Council:

My husband and I plan to actively oppose more taxation on us as residents! Most importantly the property transfer tax!!!! And we will absolutely NOT give our support to any one on the council who supports this property transfer tax!

Stop the Tax!

Robin D. Guzzo
John M. Gonzales
221 King Street
Redwood City, CA 94062

From: [sonia_presotto](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No to transfer tax!
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:14:46 AM

You don't often get email from soniacpresotto@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

The repeated taxation of Redwood City residents has got to STOP. Not everyone in RWC works in technology. I've lived in RWC since 1987. This used to be a place that was affordable for blue collar workers like my garbage man husband and I. We were fortunate to be able to afford to purchase our home 20 years ago, a home that would be completely unaffordable to us today.

Council continues to bamboozle residents into approving tax increases by hiring firms to package these tax increases as necessary or we lose essential services. Stop the lies! Time to start cutting from the top!

You will NOT get me vote!

Thank you,

Sonia Presotto

From: [Terri Hanson Mead](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Zeke Mead](#)
Subject: New taxes in Redwood City
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:15:10 AM

You don't often get email from terrihansonmead@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

While we can't be at the meeting on April 1st, we are opposed to any more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and we will not support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Please keep this in mind as you discuss this topic and avoid any actions that further tax residents.

Thank you.
Terri Mead
1143 Grand Street

--

Terri Mead
415-793-5768
[@terrihansonmead](#)
terrihansonmead.com

From: [KENDRA BRONSTEIN](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No new taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:09:33 AM

[You don't often get email from kendrabronstein@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am a Redwood City resident and I do not support this new tax. I will not support or vote for anyone who votes for this new tax for reelection.

Kendra
Sent from my iPhone

From: samrosmike@aol.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: krisjohnson@gmail.com
Subject: NO to more taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:44:53 AM

You don't often get email from samrosmike@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern on the City Council:

I've am a resident of over forty years in Redwood City. I try my best to keep up with all the activities of our City Council. It's apparent that they would like to increase our taxes on yet another measure duplicating what residents have paid for previously. I've discussed this matter with neighbors and friends. We all feel the same.

I for one will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Sincerely,
Rosanne Simon
Friendly Acres
Redwood City

From: [Susan Bentley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Fwd: Taxes April 1st meeting
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:45:00 AM

You don't often get email from auntiesueof4@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

As a senior on a fixed income, raising taxes or adding new ones has become more & more common. Please stop this constant cycle. I suspect you will not be getting voted back into office in the future. You're receiving 5% city tax on a monthly basis on my PG&E bill alone. Hiring consultants is another matter that seems unnecessary & an outrageous expense. Thank you for your attention and voting No.

Sincerely,

Susan Bentley

Mt Carmel

48 year homeowner

From: [Carol Zink](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposed to new taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:01:09 PM

You don't often get email from czinkie@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am 100% ***opposed*** to the proposed property transfer tax and the proposed business license tax. The city, like we taxpayers, needs to carefully budget funds and live within its means, rather than engaging in excessive spending (higher executive salaries, consultant fees, etc.) and than raising our taxes. You got a big revenue increase when the sales tax increase was approved in 2018. I have not personally received any large increases in my income since 2018 (only minor cost of living adjustments). I must live within my means, in the face of rising costs of basics such as garbage service, water, electricity, gas, fuel for my car, and food. Learn to tighten your belts instead of reaching further into the wallets of your constituents!

Carol Zink
126 Jeter Street
Redwood City, CA

From: [KIRSTEN MCKAY](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Against Property Tax Transfer Proposed Tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:28:15 PM

You don't often get email from kirstenmckay1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear RWC City Council,

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the council's consideration of any measures that will increase taxes on residents, including a property tax transfer tax and increase in business license tax.

I will not be support any council members that support such taxes.

Sincerely,
Kirsten McKay

73 Jeter Street
Redwood City, CA 94062

KIRSTEN MCKAY
kmckay@mac.com

From: [Ekaterina Stomakhina](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax and Business license tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:33:07 PM

You don't often get email from katerina192@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to you with regards to Property transfer tax and Business license tax. As far as I am aware City Council will be reviewing results from a community survey and deciding which tax to pursue.

I wanted to let you know that I am strongly against both of those proposals and the decision on those cases will be affecting how I will vote in the future.

Best,
Ekaterina Stomakhina

From: [Douglas Heintz](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: We do not support new fees
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:37:26 PM

You don't often get email from cyberdouglas@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello:

My wife and I learned that Redwood City is working on more tax and fee proposals for residents to pay. We have been residents since 2007 and homeowners since 2008. We now pay almost 10% sales tax since Measure RR in 2018.

We actively oppose more taxes and fees on residents, including a property transfer tax. And we will not support any council members who vote to support a property transfer tax.

The city should be actively working with one of RWC's biggest property holders, Stanford, to agree to appropriate concessions since they do not pay property tax.

- Doug Heintz and Jennifer Buchanan

For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation.

-Rainer Maria Rilke, poet and novelist (1875-1926)

From: [Barbara Bocca](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:51:06 PM

You don't often get email from bb.bella007@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council members,

We will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and will not support any council members who support a property tax.

We're being taxed to death and enough is enough!

Barbara Bocca
2053 East Bayshore Rd
Redwood City, 94063

From: [Cris](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:33:42 PM

You don't often get email from cttrek@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

I am writing to you today to request our taxes not be increased or new taxes added. Any City Council members to support the raising or adding of any taxes of any kind will not have my support or vote. Our taxes are already way too high as it is.

--

Thanks
Cris

From: [Carolyn Foster](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property Transfer Tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 1:36:43 PM

You don't often get email from carolynqf3@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to tell you I strongly oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax.

I will also not support any council member who supports a property transfer tax

Carolyn Foster

From: [Cindy O'Gorman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please Vote No on the Property Transfer Tax Proposal
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:22:39 PM

You don't often get email from cindy@judycindy.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello all. I sell real estate in Redwood City and I would like to express my opinion that I hope the council votes down the possible property tax vote on Monday.

Thank you. Cindy

--

Cindy Bogard-O'Gorman

Broker Associate

DRE#: 01918407

650.924.8365 (cell)

www.ConsultantsInRealEstate.com

Please note my new email address:

Cindy@JudyCindy.com

From: [Cathy Fragola](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [Joe Fragola](#); krisjohnson@gmail.com
Subject: Re: I am a NO vote on Proposed New Property Transfer Tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:24:18 PM

[You don't often get email from cathyfragola4@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Should have listed my residence address:

119 Turnsworth Avenue
Redwood City, Ca 94062

> On Mar 28, 2024, at 2:15 PM, Cathy Fragola <cathyfragola4@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> To all city council members:

>

> I am vehemently and actively opposed to the proposed new taxes on residents including the proposed property transfer tax!

>

> I will actively campaign against and will NOT vote to re-elect and council members who support a property transfer tax.

>

> What a waste of money to even assess the possibility of considering this burden on your tax paying residents.

>

> Sincerely,

>

> Cathy Fragola

From: [Mark Knupfer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:24:24 PM

[You don't often get email from mlknupfer@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I will not support any candidates who support raising taxes on Redwood City residence. We have been taxed enough for years.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Joe Fragola](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: VOTE NO on Proposed City Property Transfer Tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:32:40 PM

You don't often get email from jfragola@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To all City Council members:

As a long time Redwood City resident I have voted on a number of tax issues to support our community. But I want you to know that I vehemently oppose more taxes on residents, especially the potential property transfer tax. Measure RR, which I voted for, was passed to support the very same issues and needs enumerated in your so-called community survey. It is time to better manage the monies we have already approved and not be frivolous in how you spend tax dollars.

I am only one vote, but will actively work to vote OUT any city council members who approve the property transfer tax.

Sincerely,

Joe Fragola
119 Turnsworth Ave.
Redwood City, CA

From: [Julia Salas](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 3:29:46 PM

You don't often get email from jmsalas43@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am strongly opposed to your adding more taxes to our financial difficulties at this time. Please consider all of us seniors on a fixed income. We are being unfairly taxed for numerous reasons already. Thank you for listening to the input from the community.

JulieSalas

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [John Arceneaux](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Two potential City Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:16:06 PM

You don't often get email from jgearya@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I would oppose a Property Transfer Tax and would not support any council members who do. I'm 83 years old, have lived in Redwood City for forty years and will probably depend upon my house sale proceeds when I must leave it. The cost of care for the elderly is outrageously expensive.

John Geary Arceneaux
46 Fulton St
Redwood City

From: [G. T. Kelly](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: City Property Transfer Tax / Business Licenses
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:21:19 PM

[You don't often get email from gtkelly1611@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

City Council:

While I was unable to find the agenda for the upcoming council meeting on April 1st, I read that the council is considering two revenue creating proposals: 1-Real Estate Transfer Tax; and 2-Revised Business License Fees based upon gross receipts vs employee head count.

I believe it is critical that each member of this council be reminded that one of the most fundamental principles of good governance is for our elected officials and city executives to develop and approve budgets that are within their financial resources and not to create financial resources to justify their budgets.

It has been reported that Redwood City is projecting budget deficits for several future years and hence the consideration for new revenues. This is in direct opposition to the most fundamental principle that I just discussed.

It is this and previous councils who have placed the City in this position. You now need to make the hard decisions that every resident of this City makes and curtail your obviously out of control spending. It will be hard, but it is you that signed up for this governance. We, as residents, don't possess "taxing" authority, so we cut our spending and this is what you must do.

Specifically, I believe the Real Estate Transfer Tax proposal is outrageous and only reinforces a bad policy of over spending. The residents already provided you an additional sales tax that we pay each and every day we shop here. To further "punish" property owners for your spending decisions is not justified.

As to the business license change, one of the reasons it was based upon an employee count was to fund the additional city costs of supporting these workers. By switching to a gross revenue system you fail to recognize that many businesses here operate at low margins as a % of revenues. Furthermore, there are corporate offices located in the city don't even have revenues as they are simply overhead facilities. Consider a tiered employee head count system: A reduced fee per employee for business under 10 employees and a greater fee per employee for those business with more than 50 employees.

Time to make hard and sound budget decisions and not waste more time and funds trying to create more revenues.

Jerry
Gerald T. Kelly
1611 Connecticut Drive
Redwood City, CA 94061
C: (650) 465-7993

From: [Fred Bucher](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No new taxes in Redwood City.
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:25:32 PM

[You don't often get email from fogcitysales@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Stop with ridiculous new taxes.

Fred Bucher
650-906-8231

From: [jbenioff](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Please no more city taxes!
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:44:28 PM

You don't often get email from jbenioff@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Annie - publiccomment](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: I oppose more taxes on residents, incl a property transfer tax - I will NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 4:55:22 PM

You don't often get email from aniederhofer@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

On Monday, April 1st, City Council will be reviewing results from a community survey that includes two potential city taxes, including:

- a) Property transfer tax (where proceeds of the sale of a home are shared with the city) and/or
- b) Business license tax

PLEASE NOTE:

**I actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax.
I will NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax.**

Thank you
Annie

From: [John J](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Property Transfer Tax and Changes in Business License Fees
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:18:44 PM

You don't often get email from johnjbythebay@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Redwood City Council Members,

I have been a Redwood City licensed business for 6 years. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the recent proposals regarding the implementation of a property transfer tax and the alteration of business license fees within Redwood City.

These changes not only place an additional financial burden on residents and business owners but also potentially deter future investments in our community.

Rather than imposing new taxes and modifying fees, I urge the Council to consider alternative measures such as evaluating and reducing expenditures on non-essential projects and reassessing the necessity of certain staff positions. By focusing on cutting unnecessary spending, the city can better manage its finances without resorting to measures that may unfavorably impact its citizens and the local economy.

I believe that through thoughtful examination and prudent financial management, we can identify more equitable solutions that ensure the city's fiscal health without increasing the financial strain on its residents and business community. Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter.

I look forward to the Council's actions that reflect a commitment to the economic well-being and prosperity of Redwood City.

Regards,
John Johnson
(650)419-2589

From: [Deborah Henken](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 5:26:53 PM

You don't often get email from martydeb@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

I oppose the property transfer tax, and will oppose any council member who supports it. In my research, many cities have a \$1.10 per thousand tax, but not a !% tax, which is \$1/\$100. Furthermore, using push polling to scare residents is reprehensible, when the proceeds will actually go to the general fund and not to specific services in the questions.

Thank you for your consideration,
Deborah Henken
3670 Highland Ave

From: [Martin Janecek](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property Tax Transfer
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 6:14:32 PM

You don't often get email from janecekm@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

NO!!!

I actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax, and I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Martin Janecek
931 Harrison Ave,
Redwood City, CA 94062

From: [Christopher Lopez](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property Transfer Tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:53:02 PM

[You don't often get email from info@westcityinspections.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

City Council

Most tax paying citizens/residents are compassionate about taking care of the elderly, the handicapped and such with our tax dollars as we expect in return to be protected by the emergency services that municipalities are to provide.

However, the growing consensus among taxpayers is that the pendulum has swung too far. We can no longer see the value in our tax dollars. We are taxed into oblivion. Prop 19 has already reassessed property values to unsustainable levels.

Cities need to start looking into reevaluating programs that serve those that don't pay into the system.

I worked my entire life in management and I've had my fair share of productive and non-productive employees. It's a natural tendency to keep leaning on the employees that give more. The problem I found through the years is that the productive ones leave when they feel they are giving too much. Then you're left only with takers.

From: [c.delarosa](#)
To: [GRP-City Council](#); [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Proposed new taxes for RWC residents
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:16:21 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from cpdelarosa7@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This email is from residents residing at 2083 Goodwin Ave., Redwood City. Our names are Guy and Christine DeLaRosa.

We are **deeply opposed** to this council's tax proposal to add more taxes through a property transfer tax which would be put into the Redwood City general fund for whatever use the council so chooses. You are **gouging** the residents for your bad financial decisions. Allowing developers discounts and long term payments has caused some of your deficits along with outrageous pension commitments and excessive council spending.

The so called "survey" used to solicit the opinion of Redwood City residents was nothing more than a wordsmithing tactic to illicit the response the Redwood City Council wants. It's a disgrace and you used public funds to pay the consultants for this work. We are smarter than you give us credit for.

As stated in previous communications to the council, my husband and I have lived in Redwood City for nearly 40 years but the past 10+ years worth of council members have not, in our opinion, lived up to their commitment to this community. We support gentrification but not the way it has negatively impacted various other services to Redwood City. We **will not support** any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Many of us live in multi million dollar homes and many of the major roads are just patchwork messes. Now a roundabout is being established at the intersection of McGarvey and Roosevelt that will likely make the police and fire departments cringe if they need to drive through it. Not only that but the residents who have homes close to that intersection will have a great deal more difficulty entering and exiting their driveways. Also, the crosswalks aren't even on the corner. Anyone turning onto McGarvey will not have adequate visibility to anyone crossing the street. Who makes these decisions???? A four way Stop would have been adequate. My husband and I were hit and run victims at that intersection in 2008 and we still hate that intersection.

Your proposed solution to your finance mismanagement is unacceptable. You need to go back to the drawing board and quit squeezing the pockets of Redwood City residents.

From: [Lynne Olesen](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Increase of taxes by means of push polling
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:17:04 PM

[You don't often get email from leolesen50@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I am strongly opposed to the City Council attempting to impose a tax on either or both:

- a) Property transfer tax (where proceeds of the sale of a home are shared with the city) and/or
- b) Business license tax

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and I will NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Thank you!

Lynne Olesen
729 Lincoln Avenue
Redwood City CA 94061

From: [Martin Elliott](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Oppose real estate transfer tax
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:24:28 PM

[You don't often get email from martincelliott@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please oppose the real estate transfer tax proposal.

Fiscal discipline and spending reform is needed and not another tax.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely

Martin Elliott

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jackie Obniski](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No more new TAXES
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 9:31:43 PM

[You don't often get email from jackieobniski@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Vote NO on either the property transfer tax or the new business license tax. Redwood City residents are taxed enough and I personally will NOT endorse any council member that votes for any new tax.

Our taxes are insane, we are taxed when we earn money and then that same money is taxed again if we use that money to purchase items and then the items that have been taxed twice already are taxed because we own them. Totally insane

Budget and stick to your budget like the rest of us do.

Elaine Obniski
915 Taft St
Redwood City

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Liat Perlman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No more taxes. Focus on efficiency.
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 10:00:29 PM

[You don't often get email from liatperlman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

It's time for the city to focus on how to streamline processes in order to cut costs and or deliver more services within the existing budget NOT to seek more taxes via a real estate sale or purchase tax. Instead of spending funds on consultants to mislead citizens through unethical polling methods, hire efficiency experts. No more taxes.

Best Regards,

LIAT
1-831-247-5990
LIATperlman@gmail.com

From: [Kristin Hanley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Potential City Taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:38:25 PM

You don't often get email from hanley_kristin@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

My family and I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax, and we will NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Kristin Hanley
Redwood City Resident since 1975

From: lpainy@aol.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Proposed new taxes
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:49:59 PM

You don't often get email from lpainy@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please know that I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

We pay enough taxes in Redwood City and I feel the City Council needs to reassess their spending habits.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Tondino
Redwood City resident since 1979.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

From: [JoAnna Watson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property taxes
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:40:27 AM

[You don't often get email from watsonjosie13@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Sent from my iPhone

My vote is NO!!

Joanna Watson
Emerald Hills

From: [Michelle Nyström](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No more taxes
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 8:41:16 AM

You don't often get email from nystrom8@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I read that the city council will be reviewing survey results on new city taxes in the next council meeting, of which one tax is a transfer tax applied to the sale of a home.

I feel very fortunate to own a home in redwood City. I feel like I was lucky enough to access funds when houses were less unaffordable than they are today.

I make a solid salary with my partner, making over \$200,000 a year. However, we find ourselves barely afloat. We have two children in daycare and between the cost to put them in daycare, mortgage, and property tax, we are spending nearly half of our pre-tax dollars. Over a third of the rest of our salary goes to federal and state taxes. The rest used to cover our bills, but now with years of significant inflation and minimal pay raises, we are struggling to pay off our bills. So we cannot afford to live here as is, so don't try to squeeze more money out of me.

We live in a small, one bathroom, 950 square foot home and every day we dream about upgrading to a home that can better fit our needs. But buying a new home that is incrementally larger is always out of reach for us. Lately it's because of 1. Mortgage rates that would increase my current loan by \$2,000/month in interest alone, let alone what it would cost to cover the financial gap between my property value and a future home and 2. Property tax that would increase to well over \$25,000/year. I am appalled to hear that now you are considering adding an additional tax to me if I were to sell my home? Homeowners already find it impossible difficult to move, how could you think it could be wise to increase that barrier??

Stop trying to get more money out of your residents! It is already so financially difficult to live here, and yet we choose to live here because we think redwood City is a wonderful place to raise a family. Don't make it harder to survive in these times. Find a way to reduce the cost of living, don't increase it.

Michelle Nystrom

From: [Cindy Rosinski](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Oppose Property transfer tax
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 10:25:00 AM

You don't often get email from rosheep@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council, As a homeowner for over 30 years in RWC, I definitely oppose the passing of the vote to add a new Property transfer tax. More taxes to RWC residents will be actively opposed greatly and we will not support any council members that support this vote. Please consider this plea, Cindy R.

From: [Todd Freeman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 1st City Council meeting
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 10:32:50 AM

You don't often get email from todd@toddfreeman.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

City Council:

I would like to voice my strong opposition to any plans to add a new document transfer tax or business license tax increase to the November ballot. I cannot more fully express my complete disappointment in the council for engaging outside consultants at significant taxpayer expense to do push polling for the purpose of establishing a narrative that any additional revenues garnered will somehow protect those city services most dear to the citizens of Redwood City, and that such polling will be used to craft the measure's language. Collectively, you seem to be walking a fine line, between polling and openly campaigning for a tax increase. Should you decide to go ahead with this ill- advised measure, I will happily contribute funds to the production of signage taking the NO position, hosting as many signs as my residence and business can accommodate, and actively canvassing my neighbors to vote no.

Frankly I am stunned that the city would attempt to assess more taxes on an already struggling business community in such an inflationary environment, especially of the gross receipts variety.

Business profit margins vary greatly, and I would imagine that not every business can or will pass this tax on to their customers. I shudder to think of new Costco pricing as a function of this tax, or the effect on tenants as landlords adjust already high rent.

As for the new proposed document transfer tax, what right does Redwood City have to share in sales proceeds, when you have received increasing property taxes every year?

Last, the city has some serious nerve asking businesses to foot additional taxes to support city employees who enjoy pensions and benefits many times greater than the businesses paying the tax.

Todd Freeman

From: [Linda Glave](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax & business license tax
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 10:51:08 AM

You don't often get email from lglave@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

As a RWC homeowner and resident I do NOT support the introduction of any new taxes on resident, especially a new property transfer tax or a new business license tax.

I will NOT support any council member(s) who support such taxes either.

Best regards,
Linda Glave
718 Vera Ave
RWC

From: [Greg Gavalakis](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Redwood City Taxes
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 11:18:51 AM

You don't often get email from gav@bu.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear RWC Council,

Enough already! Taxes are already high; construction is BOOMING and there will be a tremendous influx of Monday from that. We do NOT need more taxes.

I am writing to you to strongly oppose any new taxes, including “property transfer tax,” which is looming large on many residents’ minds, as well as a business license tax. In addition, I will not support any council member who supports and pushes forward efforts to pass this into law.

Sincerely,

Greg & Carla Gavalakis
1077 Chesterton Ave
RWC, CA 94061

From: [Sally Newman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Redwood City Tax Proposals
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 11:56:20 AM

You don't often get email from san1938@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I actively oppose more taxes on RWC residents including a property tax.

I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

SALLY NEWMAN
106 Iris Street
Redwood City, CA 94062

From: [Tom Ferrando](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Big NO on Additional Taxes
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 11:58:37 AM

You don't often get email from shedman321@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Mayor, and Members of the City Council,

As a Management Analyst with the City in 1978, I wrote myself out of the budget after Proposition 13 was passed by California voters. As an employee it was difficult task. But as a lifetime resident and tax payer of Redwood City, it was the proper thing to do. People were being taxed out of their homes. Prop 13 put an end to runaway taxation. And yet here you are considering new taxes (Property Transfer Tax, Business License Tax) at a time when most people are struggling to get by. I oppose any additional taxes on residents of Redwood City. You and your predecessors have allowed rampant construction of high-rises throughout the City. Builders and corporate backers have made a bundle on these buildings; get the money you need from them. As a longtime homeowner (55 years), the property transfer tax is particularly heinous; a clever way to steal money! So I repeat the mantra of Prop 13 ...

NO NEW TAXES!

Thomas Ferrando
64 Fulton Street, Redwood City

From: [Mark Knupfer](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Potential Scam Spending
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 1:06:02 PM

[You don't often get email from mlknupfer@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

[Please Note!] Many scammers will use a gmail.com address to send fake invoices/bills/direct deposit changes. Please be cautious and check with IT if you have any concerns

I seem to remember a few years back Redwood City had money in the bank. Now apparently that's been spent. A good example of wasted money is the roundabout installed at Roosevelt Avenue and McGarvey were a two stop sign addition to make it a four-way stop would've worked fine and been a whole heck of a lot cheaper. Does anybody have the number and how much it cost to put that roundabout in. That was a typical example of money thrown away. Please stop it , if it came out of your pensions, those things would never happen.
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rona Gundrum](#)
To: [publiccomment](#); [GRP-City Council](#)
Subject: Agenda item 9A - Transfer tax and Business license tax
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 1:24:58 PM

You don't often get email from ronagundrum@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor Gee and members of City Council,

I am opposed to the Property transfer tax, primarily due to the potential negative effects on homeowners:

- Property transfer taxes can increase the overall cost of buying or selling property, making homeownership less affordable for some individuals, particularly first-time buyers.

- Property transfer taxes may have unintended consequences, such as encouraging homeowners to hold onto properties longer than they otherwise would to avoid the tax, which can reduce market liquidity and housing turnover.

In addition, residents are experiencing whiplash with all the increases in fees for services and utilities, as well as taxes, so putting a tax measure on the ballot which will be costly and likely to fail does not seem to make sense.

I support exploring potentially changing the City's Business license tax to a gross receipts model. Whether transitioning to a gross receipts tax model is beneficial for the City would depend on various factors including the makeup of the business community which has changed since the adoption of the current model, as well as the specific design of the tax structure, so I feel this should be studied further.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rona Gundrum
35 year Redwood City resident

From: [JUDY IMPERIALE](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 1:35:28 PM

[You don't often get email from cptjudy@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I - will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
- will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Judy Imperiale

From: [Rita Carter](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Potential city taxes
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 3:48:29 PM

[You don't often get email from ritacarter@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern,

As a long time resident of Redwood City I would like you to know that I oppose any more taxes on residents, including property transfer tax and I will not support any council members who support property tax transfer.

Sincerely,
Rita Carter

Sent from my iPhone

From: [BRIAN MOSCINI](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: City Taxes 2024-04-01
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:07:59 PM

You don't often get email from nvrift2000@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and I will NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Thank you,
Brian Moscini
Redwood City Homeowner and Business Owner

From: [David Whaley](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to transfer tax
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:10:54 PM

You don't often get email from misterwhaley@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

Please stop trying to resolve your issues of bad fiscal management on the backs for Redwood City homeowners. A property transfer tax is excessive and unwarranted. I will actively oppose more taxes on residents and any council member who supports this tax.

Stop spending our money on consultants and one-sided "surveys" to attempt to justify your actions.

David Whaley
Madison Avenue, RWC

From: [K Mck](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: MY OPINION re: APRIL 1,2024 mtg agenda
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:47:31 PM

[You don't often get email from kammck12@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

3-27-24

Dear Council,

Please NOTE that I vehemently oppose more taxes on Redwood City residents, and SPECIFICALLY a Property Transfer Tax.

We pay more than enough already.

I will NOT re-elect any council member who supports a Property Transfer Tax.

Katherine McKinney
Very longtime Redwood City resident

From: [Angie Hopper](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Concerns
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 7:12:48 PM

You don't often get email from angiehopper6@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

The property transfer tax and business license tax posed in the concerning "survey," which is actually push polling, is not ethical. Let's think about the greater good, shall we, and listen to residents of RWC, rather than outside consultants who are paid to make unethical suggestions.

Perhaps some of you don't care if teachers, restaurant workers and others (who are not tech workers can't survive here) but who is going to teach and care for your children and grandchildren, clean your homes and provide services for you if we are all outpriced?

While we're at it. Who is approving modern farmhouse designs in Mt. Carmel? This should be a historic district with gorgeous Craftsman, Tudor and bungalow style homes. Take a page from Monterey, California's first capital, where history is sacred and the city cares about aesthetics and not the latest trend.

Sincerely,
Angie Hopper

From: [Shengtao \(David\) Ma](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Oppose more taxes on RWC residents including property transfer tax
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 7:55:10 PM

You don't often get email from david20080607@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

As a new RWC resident who bought a single family house last February, I'm already shocked by the property taxes imposed. I strongly oppose more taxes on residents including the property transfer tax. I will assure you that I will not re-elect any council members who support levying property transfer tax.

Shengtao Ma
Redwood City residents

From: [Ofelia](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No on more taxes!
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 10:48:45 PM

You don't often get email from ofelia1@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am writing to tell you that my husband and I are appalled that you have spent more than one million hiring consultants to help you sell residents on approving MORE new taxes, fees and utility rate increases. That's ONE MILLION dollars of residents' hard earned money to secure even more of our hard earned money. How dare you think more taxes are ALWAYS the answer to shortfalls rather than cutting waste and administrative costs.

My husband and I have do with less and postpone retirement as the cost of living goes up. The city Neds o reduce spending too. We 68 and 69 years old and still working. in order to stay in our house and the thought of having to pay a transfer tax on the equity we have been building for 42 year is wrong.

- We oppose more taxes, including a property transfer tax
- We will work to make sure any council members who supports a property transfer tax is NOT re-elected

Ofelia and Ray

From: [ROBERT BRUCE](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: RE: Property Transfer Tax and Business License Tax
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 4:32:51 AM

You don't often get email from robruce@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear RWC Council,

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax. Furthermore, I will NOT re-elect any council member(s) who support a property transfer tax.

Rather than seeking MORE revenue from Redwood City residents, try "deflating" the budget!!! Many, many budget items are useless and should be eliminated. I will be glad to make suggestions, should you need them.

Robert Bruce, long-time resident
City of Redwood City

From: [Mary Dias](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to more taxes on residents
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 7:31:34 AM

You don't often get email from maryd@nageldesign.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Concerning more taxes on Redwood City residents:

- I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
- I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Respectfully,

Mary L Dias

150 Fulton Street
Redwood City 94062

From: [Heather Vaccarella](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 10:25:35 AM

[You don't often get email from heathervacc@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

VOTE NO!!!!!! On property transfer tax!!! We pay enough property tax!!!
The city takes enough money from the middle- lower class.
What about renters?? Is the city going to tax people when they move to from city to city?

ABSOLUTELY RIDICULOUS!

VOTE NO!!!!
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tiffany DiMarco](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 1, 2024 Council Meeting
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 11:12:09 AM

[You don't often get email from dimarco@mac.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Redwood City Council Members,

Regarding the April 1, 2024 meeting agenda item to vote on pursuing additional taxes, I respectfully ask you to consider the very real concerns of Redwood City residents and homeowners in particular. The delicate and unique socioeconomic landscape of Redwood City is becoming untenable for working class families. Adding more taxes on residents only furthers financial burdens and feelings of being “taxed to death” by federal, state and local governments.

As a residents of Redwood City for 25 years, my experience with the City “working” with residents to gain insight into particular courses of action are shams (as demonstrated recently by the meaningful(!) expenditures for consultants in pursuit of new taxes, fees and utility rates). A particular plan and scope has already been identified; the City just needs to coax and, in my opinion, mislead to gain justification and authority behind a veil of legitimacy. It’s as if the City is a machine, rather than representative, and residents are the ATMs the city comes back to time and again. My only course of action is to be an active voter, which I am, and hope that resident represented leadership rises to the top. In that vein, I am stating that I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax, and will not support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Sincerely,

Tiffany DiMarco

From: [HELEN MEYER](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: City taxes
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 11:20:16 AM

You don't often get email from favihm17@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the CityCouncil we don't want any more taxes and fees. Your proposal should be put out of your minds. I as a taxpayer and home owner have had enough of all the nick and diming by the city, ex: the 5% utility was imposed because we were too good at rationing water, now years later we are still paying this tax which has really increased significantly due to inflation etc.

I personally will do what I can to get rid of any councilmen who vote for these taxes.

Helen Meyer

From: [Doraine Couillard](#)
To: [GRP-City Council](#); [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Redwood City running amok
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 12:17:17 PM

[You don't often get email from doecouillard@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To Redwood City Council and Mayor:

My name is Doraine Couillard and I have resided in RWC for 42 years and in 41 of those 42 years I have never had to write to the city managers and 'powers that be', about the state of our city, until now. Unfortunately, I have felt compelled to do so twice in the past year. I can't help but wonder what is going on in RWC with the current city managers, mayor etc.

What compels me to write this time is relating to the next idea for beefing up the city coffers. What a 'clever' approach to introduce a transfer tax! What will you think of next? It's bad enough that in the last election the school bond/tax was placed on the ballot in a manner that people with limited income, seniors in particular, could not opt out of paying that tax. After some research, I learned that other locales did not do it that way, giving seniors and the less financially sound amongst us a way to opt out of paying that additional financial burden.

In regard to the new issue, I recently received a request from an outside consulting firm to complete a survey regarding same. I completed the survey. Several days later it came up in discussion amongst several neighbors, none of whom had received the survey from this, no doubt, very pricey consulting firm. Great way to waste away more City funds. The neighbors were all interested in doing the same survey but sadly I had discarded the info. In an attempt to retrieve the consulting company's name so that neighbors could follow up, I phoned the city and was transferred to the City Manager's office. Again, unfortunately my notes escape me at this writing, but for some reason the name Shannon comes to mind, but I would not place a bet on it. In essence, the woman I spoke with was not even remotely helpful, in fact borderline rude, until I had to remind her that I was a tax paying citizen, responsible for adding to her salary and that I expected her to, in the very least, attempt to research the consultant company name. Under pressure, but no doubt just yes-ing me to death, she said that she would research it and would phone me back. I waited four days to phone her back since she never phoned me, left a message reiterating my initial request and NEVER heard back. This is disheartening to say the least, that a city worker would behave so cavalierly to a constituent. This does not speak well for our city.

I see many things happening within my own neighborhood that I do not agree with, but have bitten my tongue, knowing that nothing I can say or do will alter what the city does. Most of these meaningless projects are completed without the populace's opinion or vote, and VOILA! One day you drive through the neighborhood and it all hits you in the face! I believe, as do so many, that the addition of huge boulders at intersection curbs, and ridiculous cutouts, roundabouts etc. do nothing positive for our locales. In fact we see nothing but complaints from all the neighborhoods affected. The many photos of accidents shared on Nextdoor and other social media sources supports that those expenses have been fool hearty at best, and dangerous at worst. One can't help but wonder what companies are benefiting from these city funds, and how and who bought into these programs. Someone is benefiting from the nonsense projects that are mentioned here, while important projects go unattended. Think gutted roads left unfixed!

I am simply one individual with an opinion, probably not considered by this council, but I promise you that in the big picture I am not alone. It's time for a change in the 'powers that be' and how this city is being run. So anxious for the next election season to come around so that I can be more vociferous amongst my constituents to insure the necessary changes.

Sincerely and with much dismay,
Doraine Couillard
Cc: Christine DeLaRosa
Another concerned citizen

Sent from my iPad

From: [Kathleen McFadden](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO on Property Transfer Tax
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 12:50:57 PM

You don't often get email from katiemcfadden47@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Redwood City Council Members,

The proposal of a property transfer tax in Redwood City was brought to my attention recently. I understand the City Council will be reviewing the proposal in the next week and I am eager to inform you that I am against this idea and any other proposals to raise the taxes of Redwood City residents. I will not support any council members who try to pass this tax and will strive to remain aware of future propositions regarding new taxes on residents.

Regards,
Kathleen McFadden
Redwood City resident for 27 years

From: [Tanya Rebarchik](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposing any more taxes!
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 12:58:25 PM

[You don't often get email from purplerider@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello, it has come to my attention that the RWC city council is considering yet another tax (or two) to burden its residents with.

I am writing to voice my opposition to ANY more taxes, especially a property transfer tax or any increase to business license taxes.

Property taxes are high enough!

The issues that this new tax is supposed to address are the same one that Prop RR in 2018 was supposed to solve.

I will not support any council member who votes for this taxpayer ripoff! Not to mention the fact that taxpayer dollars are being used to create “surveys/polls” to push this agenda.

Thank you for your attention

Tanya Rebarchik

9 Odessa Ct , RWC

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jillian Mrsny](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: In regards to Monday April 1st session- resident comment
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 12:59:48 PM

You don't often get email from jillian.mrsny@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

This is in response to your survey you will be reviewing on your Monday, May 1st session regarding tax changes.

My family and I

- actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax
- will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Thank you,

-Jillian

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Diane Stow](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 9a
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 2:42:11 PM

[You don't often get email from stowdm@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

City Council,

I am pleased to see City staff recommending that you suspend further research on a new property transfer tax. I hope the City Council agrees with this assessment, especially since it was not presented to the public in an honest and transparent manner.

While I support updating an antiquated business license tax to make it more equitable, I am not convinced enough effort has been made to ensure that small businesses and small landlords aren't adversely affected; and not enough information was provided to the public to alleviate those concerns.

Redwood City shouldn't be casting a huge net to catch the whales, heedless of the small fish that will also be ensnared. I urge you to be very careful of unintended consequences and get more detailed information to share with the public before pursuing a new business license tax model that could cause more harm to businesses (and residents) already struggling.

Sincerely,

Diane Stow

From: [Katinka Hartmetz](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO on Property Transfer Tax
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 3:43:28 PM

You don't often get email from katinkahartmetz@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please vote no on this Property Transfer Tax.

If I wanted to improve my property to get a better sales price, say 20k added to the value of a home. Upon sale of the home, that added value goes away to a Transfer Tax!

Why bother doing improvements. Why would anyone hire a home improvement business or a contractor to work on the home? Which means no supplies for projects bought locally, no employment of workers and craftspersons locally.

Or how can I purchase another home in the area after selling mine with all the taxes

I have to pay? I'm left having to move out of the area.

Goodbye RWC

K.Hartmetz
3950 Brookline Way
Redwood City

From: [M Bursak](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 4:13:19 PM

You don't often get email from bursaklaw@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I will never vote for anyone who supports increasing property taxes on homeowners.

From: [Mayra](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO MORE PROPERTY TACES TRANSFER
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 5:16:59 PM

[You don't often get email from mayram12345@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Grace Seholm](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 6:18:57 PM

You don't often get email from graceseholm@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I will actively OPPOSE more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and WILL NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax.

These taxes are insane and wrong on so many levels.

From: [Bill](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Stop the transfer tax
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 8:49:49 PM

[You don't often get email from ocall@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

City Council members:

I strongly oppose the imposition of a transfer tax on our homes. Find another alternative.

Please consider your decision carefully. I would work to replace any council member who votes for the transfer tax.

Please get city spending under control. The city is going in the wrong direction.

Sincerely,
Bill O'Callahan
1800 Whipple Ave

Sent from Bill's iPhone

From: [alan wortman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property Transfer Tax
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 10:18:15 PM

You don't often get email from pandawortman@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern:

We find it extremely disappointing that the City of Redwood City has recently spent over one million dollars of taxpayer money in pursuit of new taxes, fees, and utility rate increases. In 2018 voters approved a sales tax to help fund essential services. Obviously, the City is mismanaging these funds if they now want to impose additional taxes for the same purpose.

We, as participants in the resident survey seeking support for a property transfer tax, found the language biased and questions misleading. We will actively oppose more taxes on residents, especially a property transfer tax. The main focus of the City should be on cost reduction programs, not new taxes.

We will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Sincerely,

Alan and Penny Wortman
93 Jeter Street
Redwood City, CA 94062

From: [Alex Camacho](#)
To: [GRP-City Council](#); [publiccomment](#); [Lynn Swift-Camacho](#); [Rachel Camacho \(via Google Sheets\)](#); [John](#)
Subject: Opposing Redwood City's Property Transfer Tax
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 11:16:30 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from alexanderjcamacho1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello City Council,

My name is Alexander Camacho. I was born in Redwood City, attended Clifford Elementary and Woodside High, and I'm a sixth-generation Redwood City resident dating back to the 1850s.

My great-great-grandfather, James Swift, was the editor and sole proprietor of the leading newspaper in San Mateo County (The Redwood City Democrat) and served four terms as Redwood City city assessor, two terms as a member of the city council, and two terms as a trustee of the Redwood City school district in the early 1900s. At the time, Redwood City had some of the best schools in the state.

As you can imagine, the city means a great deal to me and I have utmost respect and appreciation for those who aim to appropriate city funds in the most efficient and effective ways possible. But with all due respect, I, along with my family, have grown increasingly disappointed with the way the city is being run.

The roads are atrocious in many areas. I genuinely wonder who assigns/approves these contracts and how many workers we need to be paying overtime to stand around waving flags in unison while their co-workers half-complete patch jobs that are often so bad that they actually damage the wheels/suspensions of vehicles driving over them.

The majority of the schools in Redwood City rank far too low in the state rankings (and extremely low nationally considering California public schools rank in the bottom quartile of the US) given the funding they receive.

The homeless problem is becoming increasingly bad and downright dangerous for residents in certain areas of the city (notably downtown/Sequoia Station area).

There are a variety of issues I could expand on but these are top of mind. All of these issues are despite the fact that Redwood City residents pay some of the highest property taxes in the state in nominal value.

Many Redwood City residents pay well over half of their income to taxes when factoring in federal, state, county, and city taxes. And what makes this so much less palatable is to see the low-ranking outcomes that they receive in return across all jurisdictions

But now it's being proposed that we should be subjected to yet another tax (property transfer tax). A whopping 1% of sale price. A ~\$20,000 tax on the average home. After already being subjected to the highest income taxes in the nation as California residents.

Furthermore, economically speaking, a tax on the sale of properties would further exacerbate the limited housing supply problem as it would discourage potential sellers from listing their properties and/or encourage sellers to increase the listing price of their home in order to avoid/reduce the burden of the new tax – both of which would decrease the affordability and supply of housing for Redwood City residents aiming to become first-time homeowners.

And while I understand that you all do not control what happens outside of your municipality, it is of utmost importance that the government of Redwood City not add to the tax burden that Sacramento and D.C. have already imposed on all residents of California.

My family and I staunchly oppose this property transfer tax. More broadly, until we see a much more positive correlation between taxes paid and results achieved, we will not support any members of the Redwood City government who propose additional burdensome taxes upon the residents of the city.

I appreciate your consideration on this matter, your service to the city, and I trust that you all will continue to manage your challenging duties to the best of your abilities while always placing the interest of your constituents as your absolute highest priority as elected representatives.

Respectfully,

Alexander Camacho
Rachel Camacho
Lynn Camacho
John Camacho

From: [Kathy Grossi](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No more taxes.
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 7:13:48 AM

[You don't often get email from kathy.grossi77@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello RWC City Council,

Please do not raise more taxes. We pay enough. The best way to do this is to put it up for a vote by the citizens of RWC, not a misleading survey.

It seems that RWC spends more than it has available, then back peddles.

Thank you,

Kathryn Grossi

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dennis Bossa](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Tax proposal
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 8:43:08 AM

[You don't often get email from d.dennis@att.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

As a long time resident of Redwood City and a member of the voting public I am opposed to ANY property transfer tax that is proposed, and will definitely be voting against any council member who supports it.

Sincerely Dennis J Bossa

From: [Joseph Ward](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Property transfer tax
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 9:45:59 AM

[You don't often get email from jpward@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Redwood City Council,

I definitely oppose this new property transfer tax you are considering.
I have been a Redwood City resident for 37 years. No more taxes for our citizens!!

Joseph Ward
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elsa Gernand](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Say NO to Property Transfer Tax
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 6:22:52 PM

You don't often get email from egernand@hey.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

As a resident of Redwood City, I'm extremely against the proposed property transfer tax, and the biased methods used to poll for public opinion on this tax. I will be noting who among the council throws their support behind this extra tax, and will not be supporting anyone in any upcoming elections. I'm also informing all of my coworkers about this, since I'm sure they'll be very interested in how it turns out.

Thank you for your time,
Elsa Gernand

From: [Heather Cowans](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposing New Taxes Including Property Tax
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 7:22:53 PM

You don't often get email from heathercowans@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi City Council,

I'm writing to let you know I absolutely oppose the new taxes including the NEW property tax. I've lived here almost twenty years and invested in a property eleven years ago. I have seen my property taxes increase a lot of the last few years and certainly don't need more taxes. In addition, it certainly wouldn't help anyone who's hoping to get a bigger home in the area as well. It's so disappointing to have 'representatives' not representing the real population. Please oppose the new tax.

Sincerely,
Heather Cowans

From: [Darren K](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Against Property Transfer Tax
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 7:52:08 PM

You don't often get email from darren2dream@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

As a home owner here in Redwood City for over a decade I am strongly against the proposal to create a property transfer tax for any existing home owner.

If you want to implement such a tax on NEW buyers go ahead, someone can decide if they wish to buy in RWC when they must also pay the city when they sell their property. But for existing homeowners I feel it's absolutely inappropriate to just decide that the city will now get a portion of the price of my home at the time of sale. You'll get you increased taxes from the new owner.

I'm very much against this idea. And if it moves forward, during the next election time I will actively campaign and vote against everyone who votes for this proposal.

Thank you,
Darren Karopczyc

From: [Dennis Weaver](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No New Taxes
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 8:33:00 PM

You don't often get email from poolcop@pacbell.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members:

I have lived in Redwood City for over sixty years and I strongly oppose more taxes thrust upon us. I also oppose the waste especially the use of taxpayer money for expensive consultants who, in my opinion, will advise you on how to deceive the taxpayers to ensure a win at the ballot box. We already have one of the highest sales taxes in the United States and our city manager is grossly over paid. The things that don't matter such as a million dollars spent on office furniture and wine trips to Napa at taxpayer expense you find in your budget but you can't come up with the money to hire more police officers. I find it appalling at best and irresponsible at worst. It's not about increasing revenue through increased taxes, it's about fiscal responsibility and balancing a budget.

Sincerely,
Dennis Weaver
455 Iris Street
Redwood City, CA 94062

From: [Gato Rivera](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: "Public Comment re: Survey results for new Taxes."
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 9:19:45 PM

You don't often get email from zugato@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Mayor and Council Members of Redwood City,
I've been a resident of the Central district, Redwood City, for the past thirty four years. My wife and I are both retired and on a fixed income. Although we are blessed to be home owners in our eclectic working class neighborhood, it's becoming more difficult every day, week and end of the month to live in Redwood City because of the increases of sewer rates, garbage rates, homeowners taxes, sales taxes, street parking and school bonds!

I strongly oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax.

Sincerely,

Gato K. Rivera

From: [Julie Pardini](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: AGENDA ITEM 9A
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 10:59:15 PM

[You don't often get email from juliepardini@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

City Council Meeting 4-1-24

Dear City Council:

FIRST: The City of Redwood City should not be hiring Consultancy Firms to attempt to influence the votes of residents in city elections, to favor outcomes that will be advantageous to the City and costly to residents.

“Free & Fair” elections should include freedom to choose...without undue influence from other sources to attempt to manipulate votes to affect a preferred outcome.

SECOND: Increasing the Business License Fee on rental properties risks hurting affordability of rentals...should the landlords need to charge more for rents to cover the increased rates of the City Business License Fee.

THIRD: Re: Transfer Tax. We already pay a transfer tax upon the sale of property, why add an additional transfer tax?

We question all of the above.

Sincerely,
Julie Pardini
Ron Bongio
(650)722-1892

From: [Paul Kronauge](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 8:18:39 AM

[You don't often get email from stripper50@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

I will not support ANY new taxes proposed by the city council and I will not support any council member that does.
Paul Kronauge
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Judy kreager](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: C'mon man
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 8:56:06 AM

[You don't often get email from judykreagerfreeman@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To borrow the president's catch phrase...C'mon man!!

Where do you all get off even considering one tax increase, let alone two?

This city, not that long ago was soliciting ideas on how to spend a cool extra million dollars under the "people's budget".

Our city employees have better pensions than ANY of the city's residents or businesses and it's killing us! Why do you continue to kick the can down the road?

If you must hire consultants please hire some to help you unwind our city's out-of-control pension spending and replace it with something predictable and manageable without the need to constantly try to trick voters into giving you more money.

From: [Bill Russell](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:15:01 AM

You don't often get email from sbrussell@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

please do not approve these taxes! I am retired and on a fixed income. Its tough to make ends meet now let alone to pay more!

From: [Lynda Collins](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [krisjohnson@gmail.com](#); [chris_robell@yahoo.com](#)
Subject: OPPOSE additional taxes on RWC residents
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:18:28 AM

You don't often get email from lynda.collins@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Redwood City Council,

How dare you even suggest imposing new taxes on residents as you are already continuously mismanaging your funding.

California Government Code 54964 says it is unlawful for a local agency to expend funds in support of a ballot measure.

The gall you have to spend taxpayer dollars to investigate new ways to extort residents for additional tax dollars.

Your proposed "skimming off the top" of home sales is disgusting, shame on you for oppressing the people who are already struggling with such inflated cost of living.

We STRONGLY OPPOSE all additional tax proposals for Redwood City residents.

- will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
- will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

You will be voted out of your office for even suggesting such atrocities.

Shame on you.

1923 Goodwin Ave. Redwood City CA 94061 - Residents since 1979

From: [Todd Freeman](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 1st Council Meeting
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:25:09 AM

You don't often get email from todd@toddfreeman.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

April 1st Council meeting

To: The City Council Members

I just now read the results of a survey posted on tonight's council agenda, conducted by Godbe, purporting to report on the willingness of RWC voters to support additional document transfer taxes of as much as an additional 13.5 million dollars per year to support essential city services such as 911 response times, on duty fireman, childrens after school programs, senior programs and library hours.

Did the council actually believe that such a false choice would elicit anything BUT a positive response from the good-hearted people of Redwood City? The city council is not stupid, you must be aware that all city revenues are fungible, and that had this ridiculous survey inquired whether those surveyed would approve additional taxes to sustain for just a few more years the unsustainable CalPERS obligations currently burying the city budget, or the legion of consultants this city seems so anxious to support that the response rate would be close to zero.

Please don't embarrass yourselves further by supporting this ridiculous proposition on the November ballot.

Todd Freeman

From: mark.markwnagel.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Potential New Taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:44:01 AM

[You don't often get email from mark@markwnagel.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to new taxes under research by Redwood City.

Let's keep it simple: New taxes represent a toll on everyone: renters, homeowners, employers and employees. Every time we raise a tax or fee, it becomes a little harder to eat, work, play and raise a family in Redwood City.

Please take on the hard problem of large, uncapped pension obligations. Find creative solutions to discretionary costs. Demonstrate a thoughtful approach and long term plan first. We and future residents will celebrate you and your progress!

Thanks,

Mark Nagel
505 Jeter St.
Redwood City, CA, 94062

From: [mollytinney](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No new rate hikes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:45:24 AM

You don't often get email from mollytinney@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear council members,
I oppose any more rate hikes in public utilities. I feel we need a chance to re-coup from all the recent increases.

I also oppose the property transfer tax.

I will not vote for any council members that approve these proposed increases.

Thank you,
Molly Tinney
627 Harrison Ave, RWC

oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and
- will NOT re-elect any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ruth & Alex Esteverena](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: April 1 vote on property transfer tax
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:45:28 AM

[You don't often get email from esteverenafamily@comcast.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To whom it may concern: we will actively oppose any additional tax on residence of Redwood City, including the property transfer tax. We are residence for 20 years of Redwood City.

We will actively oppose any government representative of Redwood City that supports/an act these proposed taxes or any new taxes at this time.

Thank you,

Alex and Ruth Esteverena
1220 Edgewood Rd., Redwood City, CA, 94062

408.888.4753

From: [Chris Robell](#)
To: [publiccomment](#); [MGR-Melissa Stevenson Diaz](#); [ATTY-Veronica Ramirez](#)
Cc: [GRP-City Council](#); [Dave Price](#); [Contact-Jon Mays - San Mateo Daily Journal](#); [Michelle Iracheta](#); [Chris Robell](#)
Subject: Public comment for Agenda item 9a
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 11:51:06 AM

[You don't often get email from chris_robell@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear City Council, City Manager and City Attorney,

As I previously emailed you, Godbe Research's survey is really a "push poll" survey, intended to convince respondents to support the tax and, even more importantly, help determine how to perfect the ballot question that voters will read as they vote and illicit the all-important "yes" vote.

It is certainly "gross" to fund such activity using taxpayer money, and I will let the city attorney opine as to whether such activity is legal or not.

That said, I'm nonetheless pleased with the staff's recommendation to drop the property transfer tax and instead pursue a more equitable business tax. Your proposed business tax is more equitable because it removes the artificial \$6600/year cap which is extremely regressive, giving large businesses a "pass".

To get community support for the business tax reform, I think it will be important to do two things:

- 1) Implement a cost reduction program across the city to demonstrate shared sacrifice, and
- 2) Structure the business tax in such a way so only large tech companies are funding incremental business tax (so this can be positioned as closing an unfair loophole in the city tax code).

Finally, why did you choose gross receipts as the basis for the business license tax? This seems more complicated than using headcount or square footage. And I think headcount and square footage are a closer nexus to use of city services than gross receipts.

Think of a neighborhood grocery store with lots of revenue but thin margins. They will pay a lot and just pass along the tax in the form of food price increases. I don't think that's your intent.

Thank you,
Chris Robell

From: [Dayna Marr](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 12:24:41 PM

I am a resident of Redwood City and a business owner of Pickled Clothing. I understand there will be a vote today on city taxes. I do not support either a property transfer tax or a business license tax and will not support any council members who support these.

thank you

Dayna Marr

From: [Brian Levenson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Cc: [PRCS-Christopher Beth](#); [PRCS-Lucas Wilder](#)
Subject: Public Comment - April 1, 2024
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 12:39:54 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from brilev@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Mayor, Council, and City Staff,

I am a resident, parent to young children, and member of the PRCS Commission, and I am writing to articulate my disappointment in reducing impact fees on new development.

While our city faces a budget shortfall and we are actively increasing fees on residents (for example, a 12% increase for water services), it is surprising that we are simultaneously reducing fees on developers at the expense of transportation and parks.

The Council required the Parks department to do extensive assessment and reporting before we were able to add these fees, which bring us into alignment with cities around ours. So I assume that you have done regression analysis and studies to determine how much development will increase and the impact on City revenue that will result, which leads to my questions.

Why are cities like Palo Alto, Menlo Park, San Carlos, and San Mateo able to maintain reasonable development fees to fund critical infrastructure like public transportation and parks when we are unable? How many projects are blocked by these minor fees rather than supply chain, materials, and labor costs? How much additional affordable housing will result from this change? When we cut revenue, what capital investment and operating costs will be cut as a result?

I hope we have meaningful answers and data to support this approach before walking back the progress made by our last City Council. On behalf of our beloved parks, growing families, and committed residents, thank you for making Redwood City better for the people who live and vote here. I look forward to hearing discussion and debate when we reach agenda item 7C.

Best,
Brian Levenson

From: [Lauren Younger Nagel](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Opposition to new taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 12:59:49 PM

[You don't often get email from llyounger@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear City Council,

I'm writing to officially oppose the proposals to further tax profits made on house sales and business license taxes.

In the decade I've lived here Redwood City has grown in exciting ways, but has become an exceptionally more expensive place to live. We try to support local businesses and love the diversity and community we have here, yet the city is making it harder and harder for these businesses to operate.

Only 7% of all California cities have taxes on the profit of house sales. We risked buying a house, maintaining it and improving it to achieve a return on our investment should we decide we want to move. In the meantime, Redwood City schools, streets and safety have declined, costs have gone up and utilities have increased significantly with no change in services. I see no reason why Redwood City should profit from the work and money my husband and I have put I to our home.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Lauren Nagel, Resident since 2014

From: crowneye@comcast.net
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Redwood City Property transfer tax and/or Business license tax
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:04:42 PM

You don't often get email from crowneye@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am a Redwood City Resident :

I will actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax and

I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Please note this at the City Council Meeting 4/1/24

Corrine Kronauge

Paul Kronauge

From: [Richard Lee](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 9A Public Comment
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:10:03 PM

You don't often get email from richarddylee@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good evening Mayor, Vice Mayor, and Councilmembers:

As a local government administrator of a neighboring agency, these comments are my own as a Redwood City resident and not those of my employer.

I am fully supportive of modernizing the City's business license tax to a gross receipts-based model. While I would have preferred that the City pursue the real property transfer tax, the potential volatility of such a revenue source would be difficult to rely upon, and I respect the statistically-significant results of the community survey.

I thoroughly enjoy the quality of life in Redwood City and appreciate the dedication from city staff to deliver high quality services to our community. As a resident and taxpayer, I am supportive of paying more taxes to maintain service levels.

In the event that the business license ballot measure either does not come to fruition or does not pass, I ask the City Council to consider other revenue enhancement options for 2026, including modernization of the City's utility users tax ordinance to subject streaming services to the UUT.

Thank you.

Rich Lee
District 6 Resident

From: [Pallavi Vishnoi](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: NO MORE TAXES
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:18:39 PM

You don't often get email from pallavivishnoi@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council,

Please stay within the budget instead of expanding it to accommodate excess expenditures. We are taxed enough. Our household opposes the use of "Highly Paid Consultants" to sway the vote to levy more taxes on us. DO NOT INCREASE business tax and levy property transfer tax. If you do, our household will vote you out, and I will ensure that this information reaches all of the neighbors and all residents of Redwood City.

Best,

-- Pallavi Vishnoi
1627 Maddux Dr.
Redwood City, CA

From: [ROLAND KURZ](#)
To: [GRP-City Council](#); [Council-Jeff Gee](#)
Subject: Increases to our taxes , our sewer and our water
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 1:11:16 PM

You don't often get email from roland422@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

TO: Redwood City council,

I am very concerned about the Tax increase that are being discussed to be put forward on the November 2024 ballot along with an increase in our sewer rates.

November 2024 ballot: 1) changing the City's Business License Tax to a gross receipts model, and 2) increasing the Documentary and Property Transfer Tax

1) Changing the City's Business License Tax to a gross receipts. This large of an increase will only discourage company's to continue to have their offices in Redwood City. With so much open office space is this a good idea? Has there been any attempt to do a long range prediction on how this will effect the existing businesses and the effect on the secondary businesses (restaurants, small stores, etc.) that rely on the office workers for their livelihood.

Why as a city, would you want to discourage these businesses with these huge taxes?

2) Increasing the Documentary and Property Transfer Tax.

It appears that this will not be going forward to a ballot measure. I hope that this is the case.

Otherwise, I struggle to see how this large increase to property transfer tax is justified.

The reports have never shown how any time studies showing how such a large increase is needed to cover the Cities cost for this process

It appears that this increase is not to cover the costs to transfer, property, but to be used to pad the cities general fund.

As someone who is living on a fixed income and is counting on the sale of my house in the future to cover the costs of my continued care this appears to be another hit to the low to middle income homeowners of Redwood City.

I hope that the council will look very closely at the long range implications of these tax increases.

Sewer and water rates:

It appears that the sewer and water rates have been increasing at an alarming rate. It is making it more and more difficult for middle and low income residence to afford to live here. Not to mention the outrageous increase to the garbage bill that we got.

I would hope that the council will start looking at all of the increases to residents that have taken place in the last 12 - 24 months to see the total percentage of increase that have been imposed on the citizens of Redwood City, before making further decisions on rate increases.

Best regards,

Joanne & Roland Kurz

From: [Christopher Keane](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Agenda item 9A. Revenue measures.
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:35:12 PM

You don't often get email from christopher_keane@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council,

Let's be clear about this so-called survey. The survey was a push poll where the questions regarding the transfer tax were framed to extoll the virtues of the tax; for example, stating the tax works to retain police officers, firefighters and 911 response times. The survey did not ask the most basic of all questions - what do you think of paying a NEW \$20,000 tax when you sell your home? Of course, this is not surprising. The consulting group hired with taxpayer dollars to conduct this survey bragged in the FIRST PAGE of its proposal that it gets 95% of its clients' revenue ballot measures passed. Of course, spending taxpayer dollars to support a revenue ballot measure is against the law. Do we have a City Attorney?

In addition, the scope of the consultant's contract included "corroborating" on a potential the ballot question. So why is a third-party consultant which brags about its success rate on ballot measures anywhere near the ballot question?? it is unlawful to design a ballot question to favor one party or the other. Again, did the City Attorney review this contract?

Although we are pleased it appears the City will forego the notion of a documentary transfer tax - it is challenging to see the integrity in this process.

Thank you.

Chris Keane



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Janna Sverdrup](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:26:05 PM

You don't often get email from jannasverdrup@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council:

I actively oppose more taxes on residents, including a property transfer tax.

I will NOT support any council members who support a property transfer tax.

Thank You,

Janna Sverdrup
Redwood City Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Kris Johnson](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Tax measure on tonight's agenda
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:32:06 PM

[You don't often get email from krisjohnson@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear City Council,

I hope the dozens of public comment emails you have received on the proposed property transfer tax is a much-needed wake-up call to you, our elected officials, and Redwood City voters. Given the false pretenses that Measure RR was sold to Redwood City voters back in 2018 and the never-ending increases in rates for City services, residents have had enough. It's far past time to reign in out-of-control spending. Please authorize the formation of a Task Force, this time not on how to raise more revenue but on how we will significantly cut expenses.

I support changing the City's Business license tax, given that it hasn't been updated in decades, and I hope we can all agree to lift the cap on the business license tax. Big employers should not be paying the same as smaller employers. I have concerns about a tax based on gross receipts, and we should explore a tax based on square footage instead.

Please accept the staff recommendation to stop any more discussions regarding the property transfer tax.

Regards,
Kris Johnson

From: [Cheryl Rick](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: Potential city taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:36:29 PM

You don't often get email from cheryl_rick@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear City Council Members,

I am disheartened to learn that you are discussing perhaps deciding whether to pursue a NEW city property transfer tax the day after Easter (the holiest day of the year for Christians). Just as it was upsetting that you chose to discuss controversial new taxes the Monday after Thanksgiving, it seems you have a pattern of scheduling in a way that minimizes public awareness and engagement when it comes to new taxes.

I want to make it very clear that my family and I are 100% against a new property transfer tax. Imposing such a tax is completely unfair and unusual. No other cities in our county have such a tax except the City of San Mateo. But their sales tax is not 9.875% like Redwood City since their City Council didn't go for a half-cent sales tax like you did.

Why should Redwood City residents be zapped with the highest combination of taxes in our county? Especially after all the outsized rate and fee increases you've recently imposed.

And the never-ending school bonds and parcel taxes. You probably know Redwood City School District is going for another parcel tax this November too. Right after both Sequoia and Redwood City School Districts both did school bonds.

Enough is enough. We need local government to focus on protecting residents from never-ending fees and taxes. Please focus on cost reduction efforts and, if any new taxes are needed, select the restructured business tax option and not a new city property transfer tax.

Sincerely yours,

Cheryl Rick

A long-time Redwood City Resident

From: [dhmbay dhmbay](#)
To: [publiccomment](#); [Council-Diane Howard](#); [Redwood City City Council](#); [sylvia redwood city mayors office](#); [GRP-City Clerk](#)
Cc: [roland kurz](#); [helen myer](#); [lori worren](#); [Thomas Marsh](#); [rich](#)
Subject: Council Meeting April 1, 2024 TAX PROPOPSALS
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:51:05 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from dhmbay@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Redwood City Council:

I wish this comment to be read and entered into the Council Meeting Minutes....

I am a 33 year resident of Redwood City. I want to voice my opposition to the proposal to place a real estate transfer tax and the proposed Business Tax on the ballot.

I will walk the neighborhoods in ALL districts before the next elections to see that any council person that votes to put these taxes on the ballot is not re-elected. I have done this in the past, I have collected near 200 signatures in the past just in my neighborhood on another issue. I will see that anyone of you that votes for this is never elected again.

The 1% real estate may represent \$10,000 \$20,000 or more in taxes, possibly exceeding the yearly Social Security payment of some seniors. This will be taken from seniors that need to sell their home to pay for assisted living. Some folks may have to sell and be "upside down" if they bought when the price was high, and must sell in a depressed market, you will in effect be taxing their loss!!

Furthermore it is unfair to bring this tax which will only effect home owners to the general public for a vote, as renters wont have skin in the game.

The Business tax will harm both the consumers, and the businesses. Businesses will leave the City, and consumers will shop where it is cheaper. The City will then loose out on its sales tax.

This City Council has complained about the affordable housing crisis, yet this proposed tax will only increase housing costs, this is hypocrisy on the part of the Council to vote for such a tax. Redwood City has some of the highest sales tax in the county, has a regressive 5% utility tax, and is proposing increases in water/sewer rates.

This City has a huge SPENDING PROBLEM, you have enough taxes, cut spending, No New Taxes.

David Menche
2757 Bristol Way
Redwood City, CA 94061

From: [Amy Buckmaster](#)
To: [GRP-City Council](#)
Cc: [MGR-Melissa Stevenson Diaz](#); [MGR-Michelle Flaherty](#); [MGR-Patrick Heisinger](#); [CD-Jeff Schwob](#); [MGR-Jennifer Yamaguma](#); [Lennies Gutierrez](#); [Council-Jeff Gee](#); [April Chan](#); [Don Cecil](#); [Rich Sacher](#); [John Fong](#); [Dani Gasparini](#); [Jason Webb](#); [Chris Weber](#); [Greg Greenway](#); [Julie Lind](#); [Chris Lunny](#); [Charles Stone](#); [Evan Boyd](#); [Mario Rendon](#); [Samantha Friesz](#); [Josh Pierr](#); [Felicia Basques](#); [Stacey K. Wagner](#); [Paola Ledezma](#); [Larry Aikins](#); [Peter Tsai](#); [Nicole Gallosa](#); [Mary Parden](#); [Leah Cowan](#); [Jamillah Moore](#); [Mark Murray](#); [Alyn Beals](#); [Diana Bautista](#); [Steve Elliott](#); [Kim Lopez](#); [Laura Parmer-Lohan](#); [Bill Graham CA-Redwood City](#); [Alexandra Alex Arnold](#); [Dawn Jedkins](#); [Seamus Murphy](#); [Aaron Akin](#); [Tara Korlipara](#); [Rosanne Foust](#); [Simon North](#); [CONTACT-Kate Mosley](#); [Mitchell Bailey](#); [Ben Paul](#); [Frank Bartaldo](#); [Manuel Martinez](#); [KAMEI, ELLEN](#); [Jim Hartnett](#); [Clay Jones](#); [MGR-Amanda Anthony](#)
Subject: Chamber San Mateo County Letter to RWC Council- Item 9A
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 1:57:25 PM
Attachments: [Chamber Letter to RWC Council RE Agenda Item 9A.pdf](#)

Dear Mayor Gee, Vice Mayor Espinoza-Garnica and Members of Council,

On behalf of the hundreds of businesses in Redwood City that are represented by Chamber San Mateo County, please see our letter of concern in regards to Agenda Item 9A at tonight's meeting.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,
Amy

--
Amy Buckmaster (she/her/hers)
President & CEO
Chamber San Mateo County
255 Shoreline Drive, Suite 150, Redwood City, CA 94065
Office: [650-364-1722](tel:650-364-1722)
Learn more about our Chamber at:



April 1, 2024

The Honorable Jeff Gee, Mayor
The Honorable Lissette Espinoza-Garnica, Vice Mayor
The Honorable Alicia C. Aguirre, Councilmember
The Honorable Kaia Eakin, Councilmember
The Honorable Diane Howard, Councilmember
The Honorable Elmer Martinez Saballos, Councilmember
The Honorable Chris Sturken, Councilmember
City of Redwood City, California
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063

RE: Agenda Item 9A

Dear Mayor Gee, Vice Mayor Espinoza-Garnica and Members of Council:

On your agenda for today's Council meeting, Item 9A is a review of community satisfaction and public opinion surveys that have informed City staff's recommendation to ask Council to, "[...]direct staff to further research the feasibility of asking voters to consider changing the City's Business License Tax to a gross receipts model and suspend further research on the feasibility of asking voters to consider a Real Property Transfer Tax on the November 2024 Ballot."

On behalf of the hundreds of businesses in Redwood City that are represented by Chamber San Mateo County, I want to express our concerns with staff's recommendation, the process that has led to this proposal and to call your attention to the following issues:

- 1. Rush to the Election.** The Chamber believes that there has been a rush to the conclusion of requesting direction from Council to staff to begin polling on a business license tax model change to gross receipts, thus increasing taxes. An artificial timeline of when to propose a ballot measure is guiding decision-making processes and creating a truncated evaluation process out of expediency rather than meaningful stakeholder engagement and coming to balanced conclusions that are transparent, fair and necessary.
- 2. Exclusion of the Business Community.** There appears to be a disinterest by the City in gathering meaningful feedback from the business community. Neither the community survey, nor the poll engaged the business community broadly, or individual businesses specifically, in getting their feedback about community issues of concern to them or their opinions about and impact of proposed tax measures. Responses came from city residents only. This intentional exclusion of businesses is concerning, disappointing and disrespectful, and limits Council's ability to make data-informed decisions. Further, it maligns a key stakeholder – the city's businesses (those who support and strengthen our economy) – by ignoring their existence and perspectives.

Chamber Letter to Council RE: Agenda Item #9A

- 3. More Revenue instead of Less Spending.** Rather than first proposing to review and recommend reductions in City spending, staff asked Council to explore tax and fee increases instead. At the very least, it should have been expected that spending reductions would have been explored in tandem with revenue increases. However, staff are now only offering Council an alternative to study spending reductions after a process has been facilitated to lead Council to believe that a business license tax increase is the best approach to take in filling City budget gaps. On its face, it appears that this process had an answer in search of a question.
- 4. Incomplete Data.** City staff's recommendation is based on polling regarding the potential tax and fee measures, but the result of that polling is limited because polls do not allow for the type of engagement that is important to contextualize issues. The poll questions (and associated elaborations) are based on faulty assumptions, including that businesses do not already pay their fair share, and that "annual taxes on Redwood City residents" will not increase, yet the cost of levied taxes will likely be passed on to customers.

Chamber San Mateo County prides itself on being a good partner, collaborator and supporter of the City of Redwood City – including past support for City revenue ballot measures. Unfortunately related to this potential ballot measure, the City has kept the Chamber and businesses of all sizes at a distance in evaluating these tax measures and that distance has led to the City pursuing a path that is not consistent with our past collaborations.

To be clear, Chamber San Mateo County wants to work in partnership with the City to reach a solution that meets the City's needs and mitigates the impact on our member businesses. Therefore, we encourage Council to slow down the process on this matter and take appropriate time to engage all stakeholders in a meaningful way. Further, we would recommend Council direct staff and invite the Chamber to establish a formal working group to collect data on the highest revenue- and tax-generating businesses in the city and gather meaningful feedback from those businesses to inform the Council on this important matter.

I appreciate your consideration of these concerns and recommendations and welcome the opportunity to discuss these matters with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,



Amy N. Buckmaster
President & CEO

C: Melissa Stevenson-Diaz, City Manager, City of Redwood City
Michelle Poché Flaherty, Assistant City Manager, City of Redwood City
Patrick Heisinger, Assistant City Manager, City of Redwood City
Jennifer Yamaguma, Deputy City Manager, City of Redwood City
Jeff Schwob, Community Development Director, City of Redwood City
Lennies Guterrez, Chair of the Board, Chamber San Mateo County
Board of Directors, Chamber San Mateo County

From: [Bill Dailey](#)
To: [publiccomment](#)
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 6:23:02 PM

You don't often get email from bill.calway@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

As a city resident I strongly oppose more taxes on us. I also oppose the use of "Highly Paid Consultants" to sway the vote in your favor. If this process continues I assure you will not be reelected. We already have one of the highest sales taxes in the State. Maybe a recall in in order.

Regards,

Bill Dailey

From: valmatonis@gmail.com
To: [publiccomment](#)
Subject: No new taxes
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 7:17:45 PM

You don't often get email from valmatonis@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I realize that I am sending this after the City Council meeting has begun -but I just found the email form Kris Johnson in my spam folder.

PLEASE do not impose any more taxes on the citizens of this City.

I will NOT vote for anyone who approves either of these new taxes!

From: Breslin Jeffrey
 To: publiccomment
 Subject: Re: 8.A. Proposed increase to sewer service charges and a sewer enterprise fund reserve policy
 Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:08:10 PM

You don't often get email from jeff.breslin@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

ADDITIONALLY,

I WISH you would ALLOW PEOPLE TO COMMENT on the ACTUAL ZOOM (maybe you did, but I couldn't locate anywhere that I could do so!), but just to REITERATE my comments below regarding the increase, and your presenter proved my POINT quite clearly...WHY IS ONLY THE SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTS being IMPACTED by this INCREASE???

I'm NOT INTERESTED IN HEARING the council members showing so MUCH SUPPORT for INCREASES w/out truly analyzing the data that is being provided!! It shows a complete LACK of KNOWLEDGE on EVERYONE of the COUNCIL MEMBERS when it comes to TRYING TO UNDERSTAND the IMPLEMENTATION of the INCREASES and who is being impacted by the OVERALL BULK of the INCREASE NEEDED!! Can't even begin to express my frustration regarding how ignorant that made our council look...the simple fact that the representatives from DISTRICT 5, 2 (and the lady to his right w/ WHITE Hair)...NONE of which bothered to actually notice how the increases are being distributed...instead they supported the presentation and actually praised the efforts by the presenters for their efforts, even when they were LIED TO ABOUT the FACT THAT NOT EVERYONE IS BEING IMPACTED BY THE INCREASES!! THAT'S WHAT YOU GUYS NEED TO RE-REVIEW...because they stated that EVERYONE IS BEING IMPACTED, and the ISSUE IS HOW WE'RE BEING IMPACTED!! IF INCREASES are being ROLLED OUT, then WHY are ANY REDUCTIONS BEING PROVIDED to the MULTI-FAMILY & Commercial USERS??? WHY???

REDWOOD CITY continues to ROLL OUT PRICE INCREASES that IMPACT the SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENT MORE THAN ANY other customer Group, and in fact...have PROVIDED REDUCED RATES for other INCREASES that were being proposed in the past, and just as you have done in the past, they skip OVER WHO'S bearing the majority of the INCREASES being proposed...IT'S extremely MISLEADING, and quite frankly APPALLING to me that the council members would rather praise the work done w/out truly understanding how the increase is impacting each group of customers...LOOK AT THE PROPOSAL, because it's clear NONE OF THEM DID, and instead of asking valid & meaningful questions, council members complimented the effort behind the data provided w/out understanding what that data was actually saying!!

IT'S EMBARRASSING, and YOU SHOULD ALL BE DISAPPOINTED with yourselves for NOT UNDERSTANDING how the increases are being distributed to your citizens, and for that YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED to be in a position within our government that is supposed to act on the best interest of us (the people)! It's your LAZINESS, to not do your due diligence & dissect that which is being proposed to the people is pathetic...because that's what you're supposed to be doing, in order to truly understand the full impact of these types of increases before making your decisions!! SO as far as I AM CONCERNED...this being the 3rd INCREASE in 4 months (total of 6-7 INCREASES that you are approving ~ Thru 2026), EVERYONE of the COUNCIL MEMBERS is FAILING the CITIZENS of REDWOOD CITY, and should be REMOVED from their positions!! IF you are taking a job to look out for the people of this city, then you should do your due diligence to fully understand these types of proposals before you cast a vote on MY BEHALF...and it's apparent that NONE of YOU have done that!!! However, you now are expecting us to NOW PAY MORE \$\$\$, w/out issue...because as they informed you, WE'RE ALL RECEIVING INCREASES...WELL WE'RE NOT!! You would know that if you actually reviewed the details sent out in the proposal, but IT WAS PLAINLY OBVIOUS THAT NONE of the COUNCIL MEMBERS ACTUALLY DID THAT...NONE OF YOU!

100% DISAPPOINTING, and COMPLETELY MISLEADING the PEOPLE as to WHO'S actually PAYING the BULK of this INCREASE!!!
IT'S NOT EVERYONE, it's the SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTS MOSTLY (YOUR WELCOME MULTI-Family & Commercial USERS)!!

On Mon, Apr 1, 2024 at 8:09 PM Breslin Jeffery <jeff.breslin@gmail.com> wrote:
 FORGOT To PROVIDE the INFO. in the SUBJECT LINE that you asked for...

Good day Council,

I'm writing the council to YET AGAIN voice my continued concern regarding the METHODOLOGY that your office seems to use when rolling out the price increases to the citizens of REDWOOD CITY, and WHY it is that you guys aren't asking yourselves the same questions when you are informing us of price increases.

IT'S OBVIOUS in what is NOW at least the 3rd PRICING INCREASE RECEIVED by your OFFICES since DECEMBER'2023 (4 months) that your offices are apparently trying to squeeze as much out of the SINGLE FAMILY HOME OWNERS by forcing the largest increases upon them compared to the increases being passed on to the MULTI-FAMILY or COMMERCIAL Accounts, and I just wanted to take a moment to inform ALL that have the access to receive & actually review the #'s as I have, to see the increases for what they are...and that's horribly lopsided!!

When I analyzed the #'s you all included in your mailer, it became even more clear to me, that IF YOU ARE NEEDING to do INCREASES, then SHOULDN'T EVERYONE incur INCREASES that are relatively comparable to their usage? Call me crazy, but I don't understand why the council thinks it's OK to raise some customer pricing, and provide REDUCTIONS To others...IRREGARDLESS of what your excuse may be...ALL PROPOSED INCREASE should be closer in % than what you are proposing to your citizens, and some might even feel extremely UNFAIR!! Obviously the SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL is the LARGEST GROUP & it probably makes sense from a #'s standpoint that the larger the increase to this group, then the biggest impact to the cities goal, and then you can possibly minimize the impact to the OTHER TWO groups (MULTI FAMILY & COMMERCIAL), however from my perspective this is NOT HOW it should be done, and I'm tired of ABSORBING A MAJORITY of YOUR PRICE INCREASES while the other customer segments receive minimal impact and in some cases you actually provided them a REDUCED RATE @ various levels (which MAKES NO SENSE)!!!

BELOW is my review of ALL the increases your imposing upon us since DECEMBER, and for some I've also included what the increases are that you are imposing for the MULTI-FAMILY & COMMERCIAL as well...and when you look at the increases that are being rolled out, I can't for the life of me understand where the LOGIC (for lack of better words) comes in that says...*"hmmm, here's a good idea, Why don't we reduce pricing to the largest volume users (if measured by individual by volume) and just increase the largest user group more to offset the difference?"*...as you can see in the most recent increase being rolled out below (SEWER), however if you notice below...this is a pattern that the CITY COUNCIL obviously likes to do, and it's IRRATIONAL that you aren't increasing everyone, so at the very MOST your doing what you can to help MINIMIZE the AMOUNT OF AN INCREASE being INCURRED by your LARGEST GROUP (Single Family Residential!!!), but you continue to show that this is OF NO CONCERN FOR YOU, and that WE SHOULD BE PAYING THE MOST by % of ALL INCREASES???

CITY of REDWOOD CITY (Utility Rate Increases)											
Service (or Utility Affected)	Date of City Council Hearing	BREAKDOWN by	PREVIOUS TIERS	Proposed NEW TIERS	Existing Rates	1st Proposed NEW RATES	1st Proposed INCREASE %	2nd Proposed NEW RATES	2nd Proposed INCREASE %	3rd Proposed NEW RATES	3rd Proposed INCREASE %
WATER RATE INCREASES	12/04/2023	Single Family Residential	SERVICE	FY2024 & FY2025	\$59.04	\$76.72	23.04%	\$82.09	6.54%		
		Tier-1	0-8 hcf	0-10 hcf	\$6.13	\$6.45	4.96%	\$6.90	6.52%		
		Tier-2	9-20 hcf	11-14 hcf	\$7.35	\$7.37	0.27%	\$7.89	6.59%		
		Tier-3	21-40 hcf	15-20 hcf	\$10.20	\$9.63	23.68%	\$10.30	6.50%		
		Tier-4	41+ hcf	21+ hcf	\$13.45	\$14.57	29.99%	\$15.59	6.54%		
	Multi Family Residential	SERVICE	No Changes	\$59.04	\$76.72	23.04%	\$82.09	6.54%			
	Tier-1	0-8 hcf	N/C	\$6.13		22.60%		6.49%			

	12/04/2023	Tier-2	9-20 hcf	N/C	\$7.35		7.20%	\$8.47	13.22%		
		Tier-3	21-40 hcf	N/C	\$10.20	\$7.92	-28.79%		-20.43%		
		Tier-4	41+ hcf	N/C	\$13.45		-69.82%		-58.80%		
SOLID WASTE RATE INCREASES	02/26/2024	20 Gallon			\$23.87	\$30.87	22.68%				
		32 Gallon			\$38.86	\$45.86	15.26%				
		64 Gallon			\$67.20	\$74.20	9.43%				
		96 Gallon			\$95.31	\$102.31	6.84%				
SEWER RATE INCREASES	04/01/2024	Single Family Residential	1 DU	1 DU	\$89.28	\$97.74	8.66%	\$104.58	14.63%	\$111.90	20.21%
			2-9 DU		\$89.28		-17.00%		-9.34%		-2.19%
		Multi Family Residential	10+ DU	2+ DU	\$80.36	\$76.31	-5.31%	\$81.65	1.58%	\$87.37	8.02%

IT's Beyond frustrating that I've got to waste my time to bring this to your attention, and the ONLY REASON I don't bother wasting my time going to the MEETING is because last time I voiced my concerns...it fell on deaf ears, and I was pretty much told that council members didn't understand why customers would have a problem with increases and that they shouldn't have an issue helping to pay for the neighbors GARBAGE rates (because I barely even need Garbage service every week for my 20 GALLON CAN, and I was incurring the LARGEST INCREASE BY %, than customer's with more GARBAGE) (Noted above as well).

ASIDE from the latest SEWER & SOLID WASTE INCREASES, I went ahead & also reviewed the DECEMBER 2023 increases to our WATER RATES, and YET AGAIN you can easily see the disparity here when comparing SINGLE to MULTI FAMILY RESIDENTS...and although your INCREASES to our MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES, it's on the CONSUMPTION TIER's that you notice the BIG DIFFERENCE (which I'll assume most people may not have noticed right away?)...KEY HERE is how you changed the actual TIER RANGE for each level...where we used to have 4 TIERS that went up to 41+ hcf's, the NEW PROPOSED INCREASE CHANGED the TIER's so that the 4th TIER was 21+ hcf's (cut in half was 41+ before)! Additionally, what is now considered to be TIER 3 volumes, used to fall under TIER 2, so like instead of Tier 3 covering usage up to 40 hcf's, it covers up to 20 now, and our current TIER 2 ONLY COVERS from 11-14 hcf.'s (what used to be up to 20 hcf's)...NOW these increases as I've noted above might be more tolerable, however THEY DON'T feel that way when you review the MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTS INCREASE (& REDUCTIONS) as they were noted on the same PROPOSAL? AGAIN you can see REDUCTIONS for the OTHER GROUP that are SIMILAR to the SINGLE FAMILY INCREASE for TIER 1&2, however the HUGE DIFFERENCE comes in when you factor in the LARGER VOLUME USERS...since they are receiving 1 rate per hcf irregardless of the total VOLUME used, vs. the SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTS basically having our TIER's LEVELS drast)ically REDUCED (2,3,&4), and thus we'll incur more of an increase sooner...simply put we'll pay MORE for LESS, vs. the LESS for MORE being charged to the MULTI-FAMILY & COMMERCIAL USERS!!!

I'm SORRY I didn't get this communication to your office sooner, but I do hope it is taken under advisement, and you ask your TEAM to go back to the DRAWING BOARD and revise the PROPOSALS so that ALL GROUPS ARE SEEING COMPARABLE INCREASES by %, with the HOPES that you will be doing your part for trying to reduce that which the SINGLE-FAMILY is being asked to contribute, and making it an increase being felt by ALL & not just by US.

LASTLY, I'm not sure who's in charge of NEGOTIATING YOUR CONTRACTS with the companies that we use for the services we receive...but It would seem to me that as our representatives, YOU SHOULD BE PUSHING BACK on them as much as POSSIBLE, or OBTAIN COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS from their competition that can hopefully minimize these types of increases in the FUTURE! RECEIVING 3 INCREASES in just 4 months is RIDICULOUS...and actually, those are just the increases you plan to implement this year, however the # of increases your proposing to us is actually more like 6 TOTAL because you've included the 2025 & 2026 above (where applicable), and THUS theirs NOT MUCH I'm going to expect as it relates to the earlier INCREASES already passed in FEB. & DEC' 2023...however I DO HOPE that it's NOT TOO LATE for you to take my comments and review under advisement, and ask yourselves if it is fare to EVERYONE that some GROUPS will be receiving REDUCED RATES at a TIME WHEN YOU are ASKING FOR MORE MONEY from your citizens? SHOULDN'T WE ALL BE PAYING MORE, and NOT JUST THE LARGEST GROUP OF PEOPLE (not necessarily the largest individual users)??

My apologies for not getting this to you sooner, however I do hope you have a nice evening and SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THAT WHICH I've OUTLINED. I'll try to locate a PUBLIC FORUM that I can POST this communication to so that others might also be able to share with you their comments after looking at the data as I have...

I appreciate your time, and look forward to seeing what if anything is done to address ANY of the CONCERNS that I've outlined in this communication! Thank you and have a wonderful evening!

JDB

JD Breslin
Redwood City, Ca. 94061



SPEAKER'S CARD

City of Redwood City

Please fill out and submit to the City Clerk to speak to the City Council.
Providing your contact information below is optional, but if you do provide it, it is a public record.

DATE: 4/1 PHONE NO: 540 505 9038

NAME: Pam Swint

ADDRESS: 138 Gress ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Please check this box if you would like to receive the Redwood City E-News.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 OR SUBJECT _____

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED (if any): _____



SPEAKER'S CARD

City of Redwood City

Please fill out and submit to the City Clerk to speak to the City Council.
Providing your contact information below is optional, but if you do provide it, it is a public record.

DATE: 04/01/2024 PHONE NO: (650) 274-1600

NAME: Tye Tyson

ADDRESS: 660 Castle Hill Rd. ZIP: 94061

EMAIL ADDRESS: tyetyson@hotmail.com

Please check this box if you would like to receive the Redwood City E-News.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9 OR SUBJECT City Transfer

Tax on R/e. City tax increase in general.

ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED (if any): _____