

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL
City AttorneyFILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLANDRESOLUTION No. 78148 C.M.S.2003 OCT 10 PM 4:03

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVE TO REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL BEFORE STATE GOVERNMENT MAY CONFISCATE LOCAL TAX FUNDS

WHEREAS, the state annually seizes \$824 million of city property tax funds (ERAF), seriously reducing resources available for local public safety and other services and increasing pressure on cities to raise fees on new housing developments, increasing the cost of housing; and

WHEREAS, in adopting the FY 2003-04 state budget the Legislature and Governor confiscated local vehicle license fee backfill and redevelopment property tax funds that are needed to finance critical city services such as public safety, housing and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2003-04 budget also relies on a deficit bond financing program opposed by the League of California Cities that is predicated on a local property and sales tax swap that leaves cities vulnerable to future losses if the state's economic condition fails to improve; and

WHEREAS, the adopted budget assumes the state will continue to face an ongoing structural budget deficit of at least \$8 billion, putting local government financial resources at risk in future years; and

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

WHEREAS, research conducted by the League of California Cities in recent years indicates that an initiative that requires voter approval before the state government can confiscate local tax funds would likely be supported by an overwhelming number of voters; and

WHEREAS, the voters of California are the best judges of whether funds traditionally used to finance valuable community services should be diverted, confiscated, shifted or otherwise taken by the Legislature to finance an ever expanding state government; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the League of California Cities by unanimous roll call vote at its July 2003 meeting voted to sponsor a statewide ballot initiative to empower the voters to limit the ability of state government to confiscate local tax funds to fund state government; and

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities Board of Directors has established a political action committee, known as CITIPAC, to raise private funds to finance part of the cost of such statewide initiative campaign:

NOW THEEFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Oakland City Council hereby adopts this resolution in support of the League of California Cities' effort to place a statewide initiative on the ballot to provide the voters of California the power to re-establish limitations on the power of the Legislature and Governor to seize local tax funds that finance local services and will dedicate its personal time to the campaign, to encourage others to support the initiative.

OCT 21 2003

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____, 20_____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:


AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, NADEL, QUAN, REID, WAN and PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE **-8**

NOES-

ABSENT-

ABSTENTION-

0 0 0

ATTEST 
CEDA FLOYD
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California