



Marin United Taxpayers Association

# TAX NEWS

*Only a reduction in public indifference will bring about a reduction in government spending.*

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## MUTA's Election Recommendations

Statewide Propositions: 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52. The bond issues are too costly, others are deceptive or unneeded.

Vote NO on all.

Local Measures A & B:

Vote NO on A & B.

For all other local Measures, MUTA takes no position.

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Annual Meeting this year will be a normal business meeting. A major SPECIAL MEETING will be scheduled for January, when we expect Ward Connerly to be our guest speaker.

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*"The citizens begin by giving up some part of the constitution, and so with greater ease change something else in the government which is a little more important, until they have undermined the whole fabric of the state."*

— Aristotle

## Spendthrift Supes multiplying our Government costs, shifting *their* job to other entities

Look at these extravagances by our Spendthrift Supervisors:

- Unknown 100s of \$1,000s spent on a lobbyist at the capitol in Sacramento, *their* job.
- \$96,000 for a public information officer, *their* job.
- \$900-plus for hotel "retreat" and meals — instead of *their* fine Civic Center chambers and cafeteria, at huge tax savings.
- \$2,000 for a "facilitator" to run their budget cutting study meeting — *their* chairman's job.
- \$40,000 for BOS reception desk plus unknown \$1,000s for new furniture for themselves.

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## County Counsel, BOS Secrecy on Advice to G. G. Bridge Directors

Both the Board of Supervisors and the County Counsel refused to provide MUTA a copy of advice the counsel gave to Bridge Directors Hal Brown and

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John Kress to ignore the people's 72% to 28% vote that they must oppose toll hikes.

The County Counsel offered the lame "reasoning" that, as members of the Bridge Board, they were obligated to ignore any outside pressure — himself ignoring State Constitution provision that we have "the right to instruct our representatives" — and consider only their fiduciary duty to that board. He also claimed — falsely — that the 1988 people's initiative ordinance didn't apply specifically to directors, but only to "advocates."

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## San Rafael's odd "Edifice Complex"

The SR City Council, so eager for even more sources of taxes, has vastly over-built in the city. Much office space in new buildings stands vacant, losing revenue daily, like their failure to have had a paying occupant in the old Macy's building, and their failure to have a major occupant in its replacement structure, which still has only a restaurant and an ice cream shop. The huge waste of taxpayer funds in their Millennium Party \$1.3 million fiasco, combined with lost revenue those empty buildings may be a reason why council member Cohen is distancing himself from his share of the blame by slipping out of the city

council and running for other political office.

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## Marin Gen. Hospital, A Vital Election

by Dr. Norman Carrigg

The elected Marin Healthcare District board since 1997 has been in Sacramento Superior Court attempting to void the lease by which Sutter Health of Sacramento operates Marin General Hospital behind closed doors.

Four of the five current elected directors are consumer advocates who support the lawsuit. The fifth director, Suzanna Coxhead, opposes it. Coxhead is on the ballot for reelection. The three other major candidates support the suit. Two of them, Dr. Lawrence Arnstein and Dr. John Severinghaus, ask to be reelected. Jennifer Rienks is running for the first time.

I expect the board to prevail eventually and then the hospital will return to community control. If Rienks replaces Coxhead, the elected board will be solidly pro-consumer. The 30-year lease, operative since 1985, is the major issue this November.

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"A taxpayer is a person who does not have to take a civil service examination in order to work for the government."

— Anonymous

## More Political Fights Ahead

Here are some of the issues you should be considering:

- The battle to block toll increases on the Golden Gate Bridge, and to roll back the one just passed.
- The battle to protect Prop. 13's vital 2/3-vote on taxes from Joe Nation's promise to introduce legislation to kill it.
- The battle to overturn creation of the new "SMART" taxing agency for a joint Marin-Sonoma rail transportation region which would seek to levy still more taxes upon us.
- And there are bound to be other battles in the future as well.

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## We Need Your Help

Your support in battles to come is absolutely vital.

We are all that's left in Marin to fight the Big Spender Supes, our over-eating, ever-taxing, overly rapacious politicians.

Won't you help MUTA now by getting your dues in early? MUTA's service is Marin's best buy, and our dues are a great bargain, only \$6 for a family membership, though larger contributions would be of greater help in arming us for those and other battles to come. We are all volunteers. Please be generous. For a look at our future plans, see the next article, top of this page.

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## MUTA's Big Plans: Limit Terms and Control Supes' Pay

Perhaps the biggest fights ahead of us are these two.

We are gearing up to push for term limits for our elected officials, as they have recently done in Los Angeles. We must curb professional politicians. Twenty years in one County office is far too long! We want to limit supervisors to two terms, period.

We also are planning an attack on the Supervisors pay system. Their salaries should be set by the voters, as supervisors' pay is set in San Francisco, and not by letting them ride along on the coat tails of the County judges, with their raises being automatic every time the judges' pay is raised.

We realize these will be hard fights but with your help we can and must win them. Please let us know how you feel about these efforts, and what you may be able to do to help MUTA win these battles.

We can't do it without you your support!

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*"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."*

— The Bible, Luke 2:1

## Perfidy & Betrayal by Government

We the People are beset at every hand by perfidy and betrayal in government.

- Our Board of Supervisors unanimously made a false official report to Sacramento and still refuses to correct the record, despite evidence from the County's own records that *they lied*. They are Cynthia Murray, Hal Brown, Annette Rose, John Kress, and Steve Kinsey.
- Two of our county supervisors violated State embezzlement (felony) law by using official county-issued credit cards for personal purchases despite their signed statements that they understood the cards could not be so used, and that such personal use would violate state law.
- Somebody lied to the Grand Jury that the supervisors had exempted themselves from regulations regarding credit card use. They did, but only for purchases "*otherwise authorized by law.*"
- Our district attorney has refused to prosecute the blatant

offenses of the two supervisors.

- Our Assemblyman Joe Nation has said he plans to introduce legislation to cancel our vital 2/3-vote to enact or increase taxes.
- Our Senator John Burton has said he wants to kill our right to that 2/3-vote.
- Our four scofflaw reprehensible representatives on the Golden Gate Bridge Board, Supervisors Hal Brown and John Kress, San Rafael Mayor Al Boro, and "public" representative (who signally failed to represent the Marin's public) Dietrich Stroeh, all violated our Marin people's initiative *County ordinance*, enacted by our overwhelming 72-to-27 percent mandate, when these scofflaws voted unanimously to raise the Golden Gate Bridge toll 67%, from \$3 to \$5.
- The County Counsel pretends our initiative ordinance is only a non-binding or advisory measure which doesn't require compliance or obedience.

Thus are we afflicted by a pack of perfidious politicians in "marvelous Marin."

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