

STATEMENT BY PROPONENTS/AUTHORS OF ARGUMENTS

(Section 9600 of the Elections Code requires that all arguments concerning measures shall be accompanied by the following form statement, to be signed by each proponent and by each author, if different, of the argument).

The undersigned proponent(s) or author(s) of the Primary argument against
(PRIMARY OR REBUTTAL) (IN FAVOR OR AGAINST)
Ballot Measure T at the General Municipal Election
(LETTER) (TITLE OF ELECTION)
for the City of Palm Desert, California, to be held on November 8, 2016
(DISTRICT OR JURISDICTION) (DATE)

hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of her knowledge and belief.
(HIS/HER/THEIR)

PROPONENT'S/AUTHOR'S NAME:

SIGNATURE:

1. JEAN M BENSON
PRINTED NAME (TITLE OPTIONAL)
49-305 Hwy 74 Sp. 179
PALM DESERT, Calif
ADDRESS, Calif

760 346-2285
(PHONE) DATE

2. _____
PRINTED NAME (TITLE OPTIONAL) SIGNATURE

ADDRESS (PHONE) DATE

3. _____
PRINTED NAME (TITLE OPTIONAL) SIGNATURE

ADDRESS (PHONE) DATE

4. _____
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PRINTED NAME (TITLE OPTIONAL) SIGNATURE

ADDRESS (PHONE) DATE

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They're back again! In 2014, the Palm Desert voters said, by a wide margin, "NO" to a 2% TOT Tax increase which could have been spent for any purpose. Now the City Council is asking for the same tax increase which again can be used for any purpose or given away.

Why you should vote "NO" again:

1. No Need – the City has over \$50 million dollars in reserves.
2. TOT dollars go into the City's General Fund and can be spent for any purpose but it cannot be dedicated to anything specific including public safety.
3. The City Council is already giving TOT back to developers! \$1.8 million is pledged to the owners of the new hotel now being built on Larkspur. This begins a "bad" practice for future hotels; to demand TOT rebates which, again, comes out of the City's General Fund. This shows a lack of fiscal responsibility – to give away your income – and ask hotel guests to pay more; many who may be potential residents.
4. A low TOT rate benefits our City as convention organizers and tourists often book in a city with lowest costs. Palm Desert has always been that city at 9% but all valley hotels ALSO charge a 3% tourist tax making ours 12%; so an added 2% would bring it up to 14%!

Having served as Mayor of Palm Desert for 6 terms and as a councilmember for 32 years, I know that we always looked at tax increases on anyone as a last resort and for emergencies. This proposed tax increase is neither so NO NEED – JUST GREED. I urge a "NO" vote on Measure T.

Jean M. Benson
Past Mayor and Councilmember
City of Palm Desert

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