

## Doug Partello Comments at 9-15-20 Oxnard Council Meeting

We do have a fiscal crisis, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic, not caused by it. You cannot solve financial mismanagement by adding more money to the problem. Marvin Boos and I have been going out and picking up trash, helping maintain public space landscaping. We are doing our best to be part of the solution to make Oxnard better. We both agree there should be some response to make up for the shortfall that the pandemic created. An increase by 0.5%, over 4 years, that would give close to \$50M into the General Fund as a response to this, and some of the other needs we face. More than enough for that purpose. Asking for DOUBLING of our sales tax, with NO EXPIRATION, and to use for ANYTHING they choose is just asking too much. They really swung for the fences with this one! We have a crisis of confidence in our city leaders to be good stewards of our money, more accountable, and transparent. This Measure provides NO accountability! Remember Measure O? The Financial oversight committee had no "teeth", just monitoring, after the fact. The same holds true for this measure. The promises of Measure O have not come thru in reality. There is nothing that gives us confidence in this Measure doing what that one did not accomplish. Just one bailout after another! If the Measure O money was used to fix the roads in a timely manner, the cost we face today would be a fraction of what it takes to deal with them now. But that promise was not kept, and here we are. The more likely use of much of Measure E funds is to fill the blackhole of pension debt, not potholes.. I often hear it is the fault of past leaders, COVID, every excuse in the book. But we have 3 safety employee MOUs that gave pay increases, in the form of increased healthcare premiums paid by the city, at a time when over 30 city employees were let go, and a reported a 3 year cost of \$5.5M. The actual 3 year cost the taxpayers are on the hook for is \$9.9M! Simple math! And they could not get that right, after vetting the contracts thru HR, City Manager, city attorneys, and union reps, and signed by City Council. A \$4.4M simple math error! Yeah, we have some serious concerns about trusting our city leaders, not past, but present, with managing our hard earned tax dollars. Giving them a blank check, for indefinite period of time, and doubling our tax burden is just a bridge too far! Time they adjust their priorities away from their own salaries, benefits, and pensions, and back to providing the basic services we pay for, and should expect to get. Take a look at [transparentcalifornia.com](http://transparentcalifornia.com) for Oxnard for city employees. Then look at your own paystub. We can do better with our limited resources than pad salaries. Our pension debt is crippling. Look at the condition of our city. No on Measure E! Time for good stewardship, accountability, and transparency!

Douglas Partello

P.S. I highlighted in case of only 2 minutes given.