

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

The pro-B argument claims that Measure B will ‘save’ for a ‘rainy day’ and thereby will ‘protect’ key services. These attractive promises are EMPTY.

Measure B has effect only if voters approve Measure A or other new general taxes – a situation in which ‘rainy day’ savings should be LEAST likely to be needed! And even if Measure A is passed, its ‘saving’ and ‘protection’ are only TOKEN: the full ten years of potential set-asides (under \$4 million, from City Hall’s own projections) would cover less than six average days of police and fire costs. Moreover Measure B contains NO firm legal guarantees that even its token funds – or indeed any other available funds – will actually go to the noted services.

The pro-B argument claims that Measure B will ‘provide a new tool’. The tool is ‘new’ only for Long Beach politicians. The City Council has always had the power - at any time and without need for ballot measures –to pass a ‘rainy day’ plan, whether a toothless plan like Measure B or an effective plan which sets aside meaningful amounts and imposes legal guarantees.

Measure B is needlessly on this ballot, along with the appeal to pass it, only because City Hall thereby seeks to entice you to pass Measure A - which imposes new taxes with NO legal guarantees on how either old or new revenues can be spent.

JOSEPH M. WEINSTEIN
Statistical Analyst

ANN M. CANTRELL

THOMAS W. STOUT
Long Beach Taxpayers Association