

From: [Nik Bednarski](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Item 39 May 21 2024 meeting
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The verbal presentation of a potential bond measure for the November 2024 ballot presents several serious problems.

The absence of a publicly posted version of this survey or polling report does not allow appropriate public scrutiny of the methods used or the population surveyed, or statistical justification of this poll of only 1/2 of 1% of local voters. Neither is there a written, reviewable justification for why the Board of Supervisors has chosen to consider this bond measure and chosen to generate this poll or survey. Additionally, the citizens have no idea of what options for action the Board of Supervisors may choose from once the staff has made its verbal presentation, nor what time period, if any, the BOS has taken to review any written materials supporting that staff report. The entire process as presented has been undertaken relatively invisibly to the voting public. This certainly violates the intent, if not the letter, of transparency in public affairs in California and Ventura County.

I not only oppose this non-democratic process and this bond measure as a newly elected member of the Ventura County Republican Central Committee (although I do not speak for them) but also as a native Californian who has resided in Ventura County for over thirty-five years. Certainly I was not polled, and only minimal, brief, and last-minute public notice has been given so that I and others may express opinion and opposition. Fast-tracking this measure for the November 2024 ballot seems an underhanded way of slipping an additional unknown tax measure past your voters.

Specific questions that should be answered openly and accurately include:

What is the current total bond debt of Ventura County?

How long will it take Ventura County taxpayers to pay off that current bond debt?

How much per taxpayer will that payoff be?

What are the answers to the same above questions for this new proposed bond debt?

What specifically will be done with each dollar of that new bond debt?

What specific amounts will be given to non-governmental organizations, and specifically how will the use of and outcomes from the use of those funds be tracked and revealed to the taxpayers of Ventura County?

What specific subgroups of taxpayers or nontaxpayers will benefit from these funds, and specifically how?

Exactly how will the effectiveness of these funds be judged?

What measures will be used to stop any funding of any activity under this bond measure if found to be ineffective?

Are only property owners in Ventura County again to bear further tax and/or fee burdens on behalf of all county residents, citizens or otherwise? And why?

Why is the BOS not applying for and awaiting grant funding from the prior Proposition 1 \$6.4 billion just passed in March 2024?

Given that Proposition 1 "robs" Ventura County of substantial funds previously due for

mental health, should Ventura County not first evaluate ways acceptable to taxpayers to replace those funds?

Without widely publicized specific plans and specific goals and limitations for the use of these funds for affordable housing projects or other similar measures already in place prior to proposing this further taxation, why specifically should we trust that those funds will be used appropriately and successfully given the record of over \$30 billion dollars wasted via fraud and inefficiencies in the state EDD and the recent admission by the state that \$28 billion has been spent on homeless support but no measurable outcomes or direct knowledge of how that money was spent has been found, render the vague good intentions of the BOS in this sub rosa local process unsupportable.

The tax or fee to support this indebtedness does nothing to make homeownership more affordable for present property owners, and will certainly impact local business in a negative way as well as possibly contribute to further efflux of wage earners supporting our ever-growing system of those who cannot meet their own financial needs to for whatever reasons. Affordable housing under current local and state regulations is an oxymoron; that issue need to be addressed, and not by reaching deeper into taxpayers' and property owners' pockets via unrevealed polls and surveys designed to support a last-minute financial intervention and obligation that represents neither an emergency nor a crisis necessitating such action.

I hope you will address each and every issue noted above, or if failing that, I strongly urge you to table any action on this item until the public has been suitably informed of the answers to each of these questions, including why Supervisors LaVere and Lopez put forward this proposal.

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