OFFICIAL ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION X

The budget crisis is behind us. But it would be a mistake not to learn from it.

When I came into office last January I found a deficit of $179 million. We worked for seven months making cuts, reducing services, freezing wages and raising some fees and business taxes. We balanced the budget.

Unlike 1979 when the passage of Proposition 13 caused a similar crisis there was no external reason for the deficit to have gotten this far out of hand.

The simple fact is that city officials allowed themselves to fall into a spending pattern of increasing their expenditures at a faster rate than revenues rose.

They managed to balance the budget by spending their reserves down year after year without paying attention to the fact that they needed to either raise taxes or cut spending. It finally caught up with them.

I don’t think that should ever be allowed to happen again. Proposition X will be a big step in that direction. Vote YES on Proposition X.

Mayor Art Agnos

NO OFFICIAL ARGUMENT WAS SUBMITTED AGAINST PROPOSITION X

PAID ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION X IS ON PAGE 181

NO PAID ARGUMENTS WERE SUBMITTED AGAINST PROPOSITION X

TEXT OF PROPOSED DECLARATION OF POLICY

PROPOSITION X

Should future general fund budget deficit spending be prevented by requiring the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors to adopt an annual balanced budget that pays ongoing operating costs from ongoing revenues and prohibits using one-time surplus funds for ongoing operating costs.

Arguments printed on this page are the opinion of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any official agency.