ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE N

Prior to 2000, school districts needed two-thirds approval from the voters to pass local general obligation bond measures. Even though voters in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach rejected Proposition 39 in 2000, voters statewide approved giving school boards the option to lower the threshold for school bonds to 55%.

The key point is that the lower threshold of 55% is an option. Local school boards representing communities that rejected Proposition 39 are allowed by state law to honor the two-thirds vote threshold for tax measures.

These bond measures incur bonded indebtedness paid back with higher property taxes over the term of the debt, lasting decades. The increased property taxes cannot be repealed, since they are required to pay off the debt. The cost to taxpayers over time is often substantially more than the total of bonds issued because taxpayers are on the hook for both principal and interest to be paid to bond holders.

Are we not taxed enough already?

The Fountain Valley School District Board of Trustees is proposing a $23.5-million school bond. The district is not proposing to build any new schools with this additional tax burden.

FVSD has sold several school sites for millions of dollars. Just a few years ago, FVSD purchased one of Fountain Valley’s most premium commercial office buildings to move into as a new district headquarters. If this bond measure passes, property taxes will be increased in most of Fountain Valley and portions of Huntington Beach to pay off the bonds.

If our local school districts are separately having trouble managing property for school facilities, then we need to look to the benefits of unifying our local school districts together before asking the voters for a property tax increase.

We are taxed enough already and we need to say no to the Measure N tax increase.

s/ Palma M. Perez
s/ Judith A. Drake
s/ Kenneth A. Drake
s/ Ramon C. Perez
s/ David Pruyne
Secretary, Fountain Valley Republican Assembly