

Vote No to Mill Levy and Sales Tax Increase

by Nickalis Tower, Nov 6th, 2006.

On Nov 7th 2006, vote 'No' to the Expo Sales Tax. I shall now explain why. The proposed new Expo center, dubbed 'The Exhibition and Education Center', is a pet project of some as-yet unnamed city official who has sprung his tax-increasing scheme onto the Saline county residents barely a week before the mid-term elections. If you vote yes to the Expo Sales Tax proposal, your saline county sales tax (and most assuredly your mill levy) will increase. The release of the details of the scheme was made in a shrewd calculated fashion -- made barely a week before the elections via a postal-mail-delivered color brochure -- because this unnamed city official knows mid-term elections have lower voter turnout.

Regarding the initial proposal, the Expo Center Project is not only an immoral project, but also a harmful -- not helpful -- project for Saline County residents. To state my position plainly: Using a three-way scheme, this as-yet unnamed city official proposes to drain you and me and gain unearned power glory for himself. I shall now explain the ways of his scheme. First, he begs for 'free money' (grants) from federal sources, from corporate / private foundations, and from private grants from community individuals. We are not told how much his begging has netted thus far. Second, he proposes to raise the saline county sales tax by 1/4 percent, for a maximum of five years, 'to pay for the cost not covered by the grants'. Third, although he claims a new facility would bring in additional revenue to Saline county, he doesn't plan to issue a Expo Sales Tax repeal or rebate, nor to lower mill levees. So he plans to use 'free money' and tax money to pay for his pet project, and then to keep all the profits in the name of his glory, and for the actual benefit of Saline County city planners (and their beneficiaries).

Even more cunning is his placement of a small paragraph in the brochure that says that if the voters say no to his Expo Sales Tax, then the (apparently imminent) city-planned upgrades to the current expo center 'may require an increased mill levy'. In case you've been under a rock for the last 74 years, 'may require' is a political new-speak phrase that means 'count on it, brother.'

Note that to make his 3-way scheme work, the unnamed city planner omits any mention of the real price of either the new proposed Expo Center, or the upgrade to the existing Expo Center. By omitting the cost of the projects and by omitting the grants received to pay for it (has he even got those yet? -- I doubt it), he leaves himself in the position of unlimited power to go ahead and raise the sales tax and mill levy 'for the next five years'.

The Expo Sales Tax ballot proposal is immoral because if it passes, it will be due to a minority vote of 'Yes' taken and counted to speak for everyone. I speculate that less than 50% of eligible voters will turn out to vote on Nov. 7th, which would mean 25% or less of the eligible voters would determine the future financial obligations of every productive person in Saline County.

The Expo Sales Tax ballot proposal is harmful because unchosen financial obligations always diminish the future opportunities and prosperity of the expropriated victims.

So let me ask you, Mr. unnamed city planner, "How much is the new Expo center?" "How much have you currently raised from your investors and grantors?" If it will be such a profitable venture, surely you could pursue a more beneficial, free-market approach to your pet project of a new Expo Center. Issue

~~bonds~~ (private / public stock) for the project, drop the federal grants, and pay investors interest on their money.

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