

(Please mark (X) in the appropriate box)

Primary Argument in Favor (300 Words)

Primary Argument Against (300 Words)

Argument in favor of Sales Tax Measure U

Due to the slower than expected economic recovery, Richmond's City Council was forced to make a \$7,500,000 cut to the 2014 budget for fixing potholes, police, firefighters, libraries, and parks/recreation.

Bring back these basic vital services.

Vote Yes on Measure U, the 1/2% Sales Tax increase.

Like you, we don't like paying taxes.

But businesses, out of town shoppers, and rich people making luxury purchases pay the lion's share of the Sales Tax.

Average Richmond residents pay only a few more pennies a day, because the main expenses of living are exempt (rent, groceries, medicine, utilities, etc.)

Like you, we don't support taxes making government bigger.

But Measure U merely restores vital services cut from Richmond's 2014 Budget due to the slow recovery.

And the sad truth is that we don't really have a choice.

Richmond has cut administrators, shifted health and pension payments to employees, and cut the Council's budget.

Richmond (like many other Cities) has not only cut the fat, but cut the muscle.

Employees have voluntarily cut their pay and are "busting their butts" to continue to provide the same services with less employees.

You get what you pay for.

It's your choice: a few more pennies a day for the Sales Tax, or losing:

- * \$3,750,000/ year for pothole repair
- * \$2,250,000/year for police
- * \$500,000/year for firefighters
- * \$500,000/year for libraries
- * \$500,000/year for parks/recreation

The City Council 2014 Budget plans to use Sales Tax money, if Measure U passes, to reverse these catastrophic budget cuts.

Our parents' generation didn't disrespect us by permitting decimated police and fire services, out of control potholes, and second rate library and parks/recreation programs.

Let's not be the generation that gave up on our kids...and ourselves.

Vote Yes on Measure U.

The undersigned Proponent(s) or Author(s) hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Name: Jim Rogers

Title: Councilmember, City of Richmond

Signature: 

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