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## Mayor to write argument against Sacramento sales tax hike

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How much does Mayor Kevin Johnson dislike the idea of a sales tax hike in the city? He's volunteered to write the opposition argument against the proposal.

Johnson told his Sacramento City Council colleagues Tuesday night he was "totally comfortable in being the author for the opposition argument on the sales tax measure." That measure, which will appear on the November ballot, is seeking a half-percentage-point increase in the sales tax.

If the increase passes, the city's sales tax rate would match Galt's for the highest in the region at 8.25 percent. But the new tax would also generate an estimated \$28 million annually for a city that has battled five straight years of large budget deficits.

The council was happy to go along with the mayor's request, voting unanimously to let him pen the opposition argument that will be filed with the city clerk's office. Councilmen Darrell Fong, Kevin McCarty and Steve Cohn were chosen to write the supporting argument for the measure.

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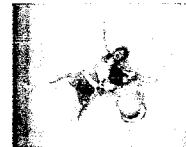
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