

Sacramento Bee blog of metro beat reporter Ryan Lillis. Posted on SacBee.com on August 9, 2012

Mayor Johnson fails to write argument against tax measure

Read more here: http://blogs.sacbee.com/city-beat/2012/08/mayor-johnson-fails-to-write-argument-against-tax-measure.html#disqus_thread#storylink=cpy

Oops.

After volunteering to write the ballot argument opposing a sales tax measure on the November ballot, Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson failed to get the language for that argument filed on time. That means city voters will only see a supporting argument in sample ballots sent to their homes this fall.

Johnson had volunteered in July to write the argument opposing the half-percentage-point increase. It's unclear if the argument was written, but it's certain that his aides didn't file the paperwork with the City Clerk before Wednesday's deadline.

I'm waiting to hear back from the mayor's office for a comment.

Police Chief Rick Braziel and Fire Chief Ray Jones signed the argument supporting the measure, which city officials said would generate \$28 million a year for Sacramento.

Their argument, as well as arguments filed for other measures on the November ballot, are on the [city's Website](#).

Political consultant Andrew Acosta, who is advising the campaign supporting the measure, said "the only question this raises is how energized will a 'no' committee be in this campaign?"

Posted by Ryan Lillis
1:06 PM | 136 Comments
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Below are a sampling of the 136 comments posted on Mr. Lillis blog story, an extraordinarily high number of comments on a Bee blog story. Of the 136 comments, 63 expressed strong disdain, distrust or deep cynicism about Sacramento government, the Mayor and/or the City Council. An additional 22 comments expressed the commenter's view that the Mayor intentionally failed to file a ballot argument opposing Measure U. A sampling of those 22 comments appears below:

Amkosh

Seriously? A guy that has every reason for the ballot measure to succeed decides to write the argument against, and this was allowed to happen?

08/09/2012 10:03 PM

Goldenscoopie

Between engineered failure and violating election rule. California continues the status quo....

▪ 08/09/2012 06:39 PM

Calshadow

Mayor Johnson, of course, wants pay hikes and tax hikes, to support his and the city government's way of life!

▪ 08/09/2012 06:05 PM

doshima

You're right! We the electorate (those residents of the City of Sacramento who actually voted) voted King Kevin into office. Similarly, California voters have elected what amounts to an ineffectual legislature consumed by getting elected to office; then once in office seeing re-election; and once termed seeking another public office. I, however, did not vote for King Kevin. So, here he is surrounded by legions of volunteers and married to the former chancellor of the Washington, DC schools and he couldn't submit his work in on time? It has the appearance that he missed the deadline on purpose!

▪ 08/09/2012 05:55 PM

newslocal

"Failed to write" or decided not to? It is not like he was too busy. He has a large staff. In fact, no Mayor has had as large a staff to do this kind of stuff.

I only wonder if his promise to write the "no" argument was a ruse from the start knowing if it did not get done there would be no argument against the tax. By promising to write a "no" argument, with no intention to do so, they know they could help pass this tax. Slick move.

▪ 08/09/2012 05:20 PM

Harry_Tuttle

gotta wonder whether that might be it. he's not incompetent.

▪ 08/09/2012 05:49 PM

conservativeman

"Johnson had volunteered in July to write the argument opposing the half-percentage-point increase. It's unclear if the argument was written, but it's certain that his aides didn't file the paperwork with the City Clerk before Wednesday's deadline."

KJ probably didn't write anything, because he is full of crap.

▪ 08/09/2012 05:18 PM

Bachanam

Hah. Nice.

Accident?

▪ 08/09/2012 04:34 PM

Sac Town Love , <http://www.sactownlove.com>

LOL. Epic fail #367 of Johnson's dismal political career. Then again, he is so sneaky he prob. didn't file it on purpose. Prob. flip-flopped

Can you believe residents re-elected him?

▪ 08/09/2012 04:31 PM

NorCalPatriot

You really expected KJ to write something opposing a tax that puts an additional \$28 million into the city's account?

▪ 08/09/2012 04:22 PM
justinmichael

This article uses a good choice of words: "failed" and not "forgot". Something tells me he might have done this on purpose.

▪ 08/09/2012 03:52 PM

fedupwithall

DUH!!! Ya think?

▪ 08/09/2012 04:12 PM
Mollydeee

Another "FAIL" for the mayor -- unless he did it on purpose.

▪ 08/09/2012 03:22 PM
sactowntruth

Did anyone really believe a liberal Democrat was going to write an opposition to a tax increase?
Really?

▪ 08/09/2012 02:59 PM

TheDragRacer

Kevin and Ethics, two words that just don't belong together.

▪ 08/09/2012 03:10 PM
Deacon_Derek

KJ couldn't come up with a reason why he and his buddies shouldn't help themselves to your money.

▪ 08/09/2012 02:20 PM
localconscious

Cheap political trick - never intended to write opposition brief.

VOTE NO NEW TAXES - state & local

▪ 08/09/2012 02:17 PM

NSacRube , I am me, why wouldn't I be

Another Think Big cheap trick, and again the only person fooled by it is the mayor himself...

▪ 08/09/2012 02:04 PM

primaryfocus

Another democrat corrupt the ballot initiative — Brown uses a behind the door put his initiative first....now johnson goes and says oops I forgot to write against taxes..

IF its democrat its all about getting more out of your hard earned money

VOTE NO on ALL TAXES....they will squander it and only ask you again for more

▪ 08/09/2012 02:02 PM

localconscious

Cheap political trick - Johnson is in favor of tax measure, pretends he's not, fails to meet opposition deadline so that voters won't see any formal objection.

VOTE NO TO NEW TAXES!

▪ 08/09/2012 01:27 PM

D1304