

From: [Raymond Dussault](#)
To: [Myra Maravilla](#); [Suja Lowenthal](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Tax Increase on Hermosa Residents
Date: Monday, July 25, 2022 11:36:10 AM

Attn: Myra

Please add this to the council agenda.

Dear Council & Staff:

I am absolutely opposed to placing a sales tax increase on the November ballot. Item XIV. Municipal Matters (B) on tomorrow night's agenda.

First, the staff report claiming this will mainly impact visitors is laughable. Residents, unlike staff, live here year round, visiting local businesses multiple times/week if not more. **The tax increase will impact the residents disproportionately.** That the staff is oblivious to this is inexplicable.

Second, **Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance and El Segundo will all remain at 9.5% sales tax while ours soars to 10.25%**, rendering our small local businesses uncompetitive.

Third, **why would we want to drive visitors away?** While residents spend more over the year, visitors still have a beneficial impact on our economy.

Fourth, this is a time of historic high inflation, gas and housing costs. Many people struggle to live here. **Any tax increase will make it even more difficult on those that want to continue living in and contributing to our community.**

Fifth and finally, **our budget is bloated and out of control.** We have zero fiduciary oversight and support a City Manager's office that spends money far out of proportion to surrounding communities. Hermosa's City Manager budget is multiple times larger than either Manhattan Beach (twice our size) or Redondo Beach (four times our size).. Redondo's City Manager takes up 1.1% of the budget, Manhattan's is 1.9% of theirs, while Suja's is a whopping 3.1% of the Hermosa City Budget. This is before she was approved for a new executive position.

A City Manager manages the city but Council should act as a fiduciary backstop, not a rubber stamp.

Please vote NO on this terrible idea.

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