

## RESOLUTION NO. 03-71

### A RESOLUTION OF THE RIDGECREST CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING A STATEWIDE BALLOT INITIATIVE TO REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL BEFORE THE STATE GOVERNMENT MAY TAKE LOCAL TAX FUNDS

**Be it resolved** by the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest, California as follows:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Ridgecrest hereby finds, determines, and declares as follows:

- A. State government annually seized over \$800 million in city property tax funds (ERAF) statewide, costing cities over \$6.9 billion in lost revenues over the past twelve (12) years and seriously reducing resources available for local public safety and other services.
- B. In adopting the state budget for this year the Legislature and Governor appropriated local vehicle license fee backfill and redevelopment property tax funds that are needed to finance critical City services such as public safety, parks, street maintenance, housing and economic development.
- C. The deficit financing plan in the state budget depends on local property tax and sales tax swap that leaves city resources and services at risk in future years to additional state revenue raids.
- D. The adopted state budget assumes an ongoing structural budget deficit of at least \$8 billion, putting city resources and services at risk in future years to state revenue raids.
- E. It is abundantly clear that state leaders will continue to use local tax funds to balance the state budget unless the voters limit the power of the Legislature and Governor to do so.
- F. The voters of California are the best judges of whether local tax funds should be diverted, confiscated, shifted or otherwise taken to finance an ever-expanding state government.
- G. The General Assembly of Voting Delegates of the League of California Cities (League) at its September 10, 2003, meeting voted to sponsor a statewide ballot initiative to empower the voters to limit the ability of state government to confiscate local tax funds to fund state government.
- H. The League has requested that cities offer support for a November, 2004, ballot initiative that will allow voters to decide whether state government may appropriate local tax funds to fund state government operations and responsibility.

Section 2. The City hereby expresses its strong support for a statewide ballot initiative to allow voters to decide whether local tax funds may be taken, confiscated, shifted, diverted or otherwise used to fund state government operations and responsibilities.

Section 3. The residents of the City are encouraged to become well informed on the initiative and its possible impacts on the critical local services on which they rely.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the Clerk of the Council shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this Resolution.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2003, by the following vote:.

AYES: Mayor Carter, Council Members Holloway, Martin, Morgan and Clark

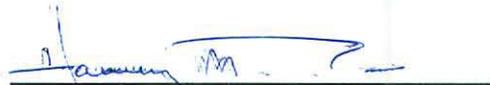
NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

  
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Ronald H. Carter, Mayor

ATTEST::

  
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Harvey M. Rose  
City Clerk