

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure G

Many city employees are now able to take every other Friday off, and most city employees may retire between ages 50 and 55—with a pension almost equivalent to final salary and benefits for life.

Proponents of Measure G represent the will of the City of Santa Barbara's public employee unions and bureaucracy. They have, in their misleading 'pro' statement, cherrypicked positive city services that almost everyone supports. It is as true to say that proceeds from Measure G would go to the following activities as it is to say they would support the causes proponents enumerate:

- More projects like the "light blue line"
- Increases in salary and benefits for members of the City Council
- More tree removal on major thoroughfares
- Dozens of more traffic mini-roundabouts throughout the city

Measure G would be a regressive tax affecting the young and the poor the most. By attempting to tax cell phone use, **Measure G would discourage new technologies.**

Proponents inflate the funds Measure G would bring to the city. Measure G would only be a tax on new long-distance calls—the city would continue to receive revenue from local calls. In fact, the amount of revenue the city would receive from the new telecommunications tax would equal less than 1.5 percent of total city spending, less than one-half of a typical year's increase in revenue.

College students in particular should be aware that Measure G would tax cell phone use, paging, and text messaging.

Vote No on G.

[The undersigned proponents of the rebuttal to the argument in favor of ballot proposition G at the general election for the City of Santa Barbara to be held on November 4, 2008, hereby state that this rebuttal is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.]

 8-7-08
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 8/7/08
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 8/7/08
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