

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE GG

Vote **YES on GG**- Help keep Newark safe and vibrant. An independent consultant found the Police, City Administration and Library buildings lack seismic upgrades, rendering the Police building inoperable after a major earthquake and hobbling disaster response to Newark residents. The current police station needs technological and operational upgrades to improve safety, response time and crime prevention programs. Both the Library and Police/City Administration buildings were built before the broad use of modern technology and computers. The infrastructure to support the technological world we live in today is absent from these structures.

The Police/Administration building was built more than 50 years ago when the Newark population was 24,000. Since then the Newark population has doubled and the workforce has increased to the point where the buildings are not functional. The Library was built more than 34 years ago with the premise of serving a smaller population. The small size and inefficiency of the Library severely impacts its ability to provide services and programs to children and adult users. Currently, space cannot be dedicated for use by seniors, teens and children. Retrofitting or expanding the existing structures has been shown to be more costly than new buildings.

It is critical these buildings be replaced as we continue into the 21st century. While we have consistently maintained a balanced budget and demonstrated sound fiscal stewardship, there are no existing funds to finance replacement of these buildings. This measure asks voters to approve a one-half percent sales tax increase to finance modern, safe and efficient buildings to be built on the existing Civic Center site. Construction could begin in 2018. Funding for enhanced neighborhood police patrols, crime prevention, anti-drug and gang prevention programs and improved 9-1-1 response would also be provided. Please support these critical improvements - **Vote YES on GG!**

s/ALAN L. NAGY

Mayor, City of Newark

s/PATRICIA L. DANIELSON

Washington Hospital Board Member

s/DAVID W. SMITH

Mayor Emeritus, City of Newark

s/RICK ARELLANO

Ohlone College Professor Emeritus

s/NANCY THOMAS

Newark Unified School District, Board Member

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE GG

Measure GG is a flawed proposal for Newark residents.

First, "pork dollars" have been added to the Measure. The city's consultants said the new buildings cost \$62 million. Yet, Measure GG asks for \$87 million...the additional \$25 million is to be spent on the same city "needs" that our existing Utility Tax is already supposed to cover.

Additionally, the government's proposal calls for a new library on Newark Boulevard, one of Newark's busier streets. The current location next to a park is far safer for families.

The tax is a regressive tax, which means it disproportionately hurts the nearly 10% of our population who are below the poverty line.

We propose:

1. A cost analysis of 'new construction versus remodeling' be conducted and presented, with real contractor estimates, not just extrapolations. This can be done without spending money on consultants.
2. An architectural plan that keeps the library near the park and restores our historically significant library.
3. A financing plan that has no "pork dollars" and lessens the burden on those below the poverty line and everyone else.
4. A smaller capital spending plan where raised funds only be used for our library, police and city buildings.
5. A budgetary plan that reflects fiscal restraint, by budgeting for what Newark can afford without new taxes.

We concede our city hall is in need of repairs and/or replacement and that our library is functionally lacking. But residents deserve much better than Measure GG. To read more, visit "bit.do/notopork". Vote No!

s/RICARDO CORTE

s/MARTIN DOYLE

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE GG

We concede the City Administration building needs replacement and the library needs more functionality. However, the government's proposed plan is a bad deal for Newark residents.

Here is why:

Raising the sales tax for twenty-five years to 10% makes Newark one of the most expensive cities in California. Of California's 2,187 cities, only 9 pay such a high sales tax. This can harm our residents and local businesses as residents may drive to Fremont or Milpitas to avoid Newark's higher sales tax.

The government's consultants stated they need \$64 million for the new buildings. However, the government is asking us for \$87 million. Including interest, the total cost of the measure is \$133 million. The additional funds allow the government to use the funds without restriction.

The government has failed to impartially analyze and present creative cost-effective alternatives like an independent evaluation for renovating the library, phased construction, staggered funding, and temporarily leasing local office space. Instead, from the start, new buildings have been the thrust for the project ensuring affordable alternatives were generally ignored.

Designed by a protégé of Frank Lloyd Wright, our library has historical significance. The city's plan calls for it to be vacated. It deserves renovation, not waiting until demolition is the only option.

Despite having multiple decades to save and prepare for new administration buildings, the government has minimal savings for such a project. Send a message to the city that saving up to maintain and upgrade our civic buildings should be the current priority. When the current utility users tax has built up the financial reserve, then the government can consider constructing new buildings. Meanwhile, maintaining the buildings we have, and temporarily renting needed space is the financially responsible option.

Vote "No" on Measure GG. It is the wrong solution for our city.

s/RICARDO CORTE

s/MARTIN DOYLE

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE GG

The opponents concede that these buildings should be replaced – but offer no real solution – just **opinion that has no basis in fact**. The **fact** is that the Civic Center needs to be replaced urgently to protect the safety of Newark residents. Half a percent is a very small increase in the sales tax (\$100 in taxable sales would cost only 50 cents more). This is much preferable to property tax based bonds where the costs could be significantly higher. Also we benefit from the many out of town shoppers that are attracted to Newark. Numerous area cities have the same sales tax and their sales are vibrant and **grow** annually.

The ballot measure indicates how the funds would be spent:

- Build expanded and seismically safe Police/ Administration building
- Build a new Library
- Support enhanced neighborhood police patrols, crime prevention, anti-drug and gang prevention programs

A citizen's oversight committee will review all spending.

The alternatives the opponents mentioned were studied by an independent consultant and found to cause **dangerous delay** and be much **more costly** than this measure. The study is available on the City website: www.newark.org.

Contrary to what the opponents claim, the antiquated library building was deemed to have **no** historical significance and this Council hopes to re-purpose this building.

While we have just weathered a 10 year recession, we have always maintained a balanced budget and demonstrated sound fiscal stewardship. Providing safe, modern, and efficient buildings to serve our residents depends on you. **Please VOTE YES ON GG!**

s/ALAN L. NAGY

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