

Proposition #8

Opinion Question: Shall Pleasant Grove City be authorized to impose a .1% sales and use (C.A.R.E) tax to fund Parks and Recreation facilities and Cultural Arts Programs i.e. outdoor pickle ball courts, remodel Discovery Park, redevelopment of the Downtown Park, batting cages, and baseball field upgrades, fitness equipment and swimming pool features and additional future projects.

For

Against

THE ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST A BALLOT PROPOSITION ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS.

ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION #8:

Simply put...the CARE Tax makes sense for Pleasant Grove residents. Here are the reasons why.

- 1) **MINIMAL COST:** For only 1/10th of a penny more in sales tax, our community will have improved arts, recreation, parks programs and facilities. In a dollar amount, that's 1 penny for every \$10 spent in Pleasant Grove to generate \$325,000 annually. A huge benefit for a small increase in sales tax. That is what the CARE Tax (Community Arts Recreation Enhancement) is all about. Enhancing the quality of life for residents through new opportunities with the arts, recreation and parks in Pleasant Grove.
- 2) **YOU ARE ALREADY PAYING IT:** Do you shop in Orem, American Fork, Provo and Lindon? If you do, then you are already paying the same tax in those cities and contributing to THEIR arts, recreation and parks. Business is booming in Pleasant Grove and it's time our residents benefit from that sales tax revenue. The CARE Tax is estimated to generate \$325,000 annually to our city. This means upgrades to parks including the historical Downtown Park, Discovery Park, outdoor pickleball courts, an annual donation to city art programs, improvements to our fields, PG Pool and much more.
- 3) **WHAT IT'S NOT:** This is a tax approved by the State of Utah to allow cities the opportunity to create a better quality of life for their residents. This is NOT a property tax. This is NOT a fee. This is NOT a monthly utility bill increase. It's 1/10th of a penny more in sales tax collected at the register from EVERYONE who shops in our community, not just our residents. Just as we pay into neighboring communities, shoppers will now be contributing to Pleasant Grove.
- 4) **EVERYONE BENEFITS:** From our youth to senior citizens, the funds generated from the CARE Tax will benefit everyone. Quality parks and recreational amenities raise property values, additional outdoor opportunities increase health and wellness and a vibrant arts culture is vital to a community. All ages of residents will benefit from the CARE tax.
- 5) **THIS IS YOUR VOTE:** You get to decide if you want improved arts, recreation, parks programs and facilities in Pleasant Grove. By state law, the City Council does NOT have the authority to enact this tax without your approval at the ballot. The tax stays in place for 10 years. After 10 years, the residents must vote again to approve it.

Now is the time to enhance our arts, recreation and parks for a minimal amount that most of us will not even notice.

Let's keep our tax dollars in Pleasant Grove and use that revenue to build a better community. Vote YES to the

CARE Tax.

SPONSORS FOR

Brooke Roper
Darrin Henry
Bob Gentry
Darek Giles

ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION #8:

Current City Debt:

\$14,837,000 for land purchases
\$2,310,000 for PG Boulevard
\$3,715,000 for the Community Center
\$8,760,000 for the Public Safety Buildings
\$842,000 for Culinary Water Projects
\$28,869,000 for Secondary Water System and infrastructure

Utility Fee increases since 2012:

Base Water Fee went from \$10.99 to 20.81
5001 to 10,000 gal went from \$1.47 to 2.52 per 1000 gallons
10,001 to 15,000 gal went from \$2.14 to \$3.68 per 1000 gallons
15,001 to 50,000 gal went from \$3.06 to \$5.27 per 1000 gallons
50,000 and above gal went from \$3.66 to \$6.31 per 1000 gallons
Secondary Water under .50 Acre went from \$20.85 to \$32.77
Secondary Water .50 acre to .99 acre went from \$24.96 to \$39.75
Secondary Water 1 acre and above went from \$29.07 to \$46.70
Storm Drain went from \$7.74 to \$12.48
Road Tax went from \$0 to \$8.25

For a household who used between 10,001 to 15,000 gal of water their city bill has gone up over \$37 per month and they are responsible to pay upwards of \$600 per year for the city's current debts.

Our city has shown that they are unable to manage money well. Our city is currently facing more litigation than ever before. Our city continues to propose rate increases, tax increases and new taxes.

Our city continues to have failing systems. Our Secondary Water system, even though we have put tens of millions of dollars into it, continues to underperform even the lowest expectations. Our roads continue to deteriorate at a higher rate than we can maintain. Our city destroys buildings that could have been used by our grandchildren if they were properly maintained. Our beloved, community built, Discovery park is needing to be torn down and rebuilt because of lack of maintenance.

Our city doesn't have a revenue problem, they have a maintenance problem. Why should we continue to give more of our money to build more parks that will not be properly maintained? Why should we sit back as all our utility fees continue to rise much faster than inflation? Why should we trust that the funds will be collected and spent legally when our city continues to be challenged in court time and time again? Why should we sit back as the poor and elderly of our city find it harder and harder to live on the small fixed income they bring in. Why should we allow the middle class to subsidize their entertainment on the backs of the poorest among us.

How about we instead find ways to manage our money better and maintain what we have. Remember the old adage, "A stitch in time saves 9". Why would we continue to add additional services that need to be continually maintained and yet not maintain what we already have.

We call on all PG citizens to Vote No on Prop 8. Let the city know you want them to maintain what we already have and not continue to put undue burden on the poorest among us.

SPONSOR AGAINST

Jacob Zonts

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION #8

CARE Tax Facts

- 1) **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT:** Pleasant Grove residents have been paying the CARE Tax for years every time we shop in American Fork, Orem, Provo, Cedar Hills, Lindon and many other Utah communities who have this tax. We continue to pay to improve THEIR parks, recreation and arts facilities. It's time for OUR residents to benefit from the CARE Tax investment.
- 2) **ONE PENNY:** In a dollar amount, the CARE Tax equals one penny for every ten dollars spent on retail purchases in the city (1/10th of 1% of local sales tax). That small amount will generate an estimated \$325,000 annually for Pleasant Grove residents. A huge benefit for a minimal amount spent.
- 3) **RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES WIN:** By supporting the CARE Tax, we improve the quality of life for all ages. Pleasant Grove families and residents win by receiving improved parks, recreation and arts facilities. Upgraded amenities increase property values, offer more outdoor health opportunities and continue important arts programs.
- 4) **IT'S YOUR CHOICE:** This tax will only be enacted if residents vote yes on the ballot.

Keep our tax dollars in Pleasant Grove and use that revenue to build a better community. Vote YES to the CARE Tax (Proposition 8). For more information visit pgcares.wordpress.com.

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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT FOR PROPOSITION #8

Over the past 6 years, and more specifically the past 2 years, the US economy has seen huge gains. I am sure you have felt this growth in your own paychecks. I bet you have seen the value of your home increase significantly. The remarkable thing about economic growth is that everyone benefits. When people have more money, they tend to buy more things. When more things are bought, companies tend to hire more people and give better raises. When more people are hired, and employees receive better raises, they have more money and the cycle continues.

Some who support this tax increase have said "The economy is doing so well, it's not so bad to pay a little more in taxes. Everyone will benefit." What they fail to mention is that nearly every tax has a built-in increase mechanism because they are percentage based. When the economy is doing better, the government collects more money. Since 2012 the amount of Property, Sales, and Misc Taxes that Pleasant Grove collected has increased dramatically.

Property Taxes collected: 2012 - \$2,530,000 2018 - \$3,210,000

Sales Taxes collected: 2012 - \$3,625,000 2018 - \$5,690,998

Misc Taxes collected: 2012 - \$1,975,000 2018 - \$2,470,365

Our city's Sales Tax increased by 37%. Any increase in the percentage of a tax hurts businesses, which hurts employees, which stagnates the economy. Let your government know you support your neighbors' business and that you already pay more taxes. Vote No on Prop 8.

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