

March 6, 2024  
For Immediate Use

## **San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Measure W**

The Red Brennan Group asserts that only voters have the legal authority to impose a special tax in San Bernardino County.

Article XIIC of the State Constitution is titled [Voter Approval for Local Tax Levies]. Section 2.D.(d) of Article IIC states:

“No local government may impose, extend, or increase any special tax unless and until that tax is submitted to the electorate and approved by a two-thirds vote.”

Excepting the small community of Helendale, the Service Zone FP-5 Special Tax was imposed on all unincorporated areas by the vote of three County Supervisors. Rather than present the issue directly to voters, the county bureaucracy bypassed the Constitution and served up FP-5 as an “annexation.”

Measure W proposed to correct that. But “allowing” voters to **repeal** a tax is certainly not the same as allowing them to **vote to be taxed in the first place** - as the Constitution requires. Measure W was placed on the ballot by proponents who believe local government violated the State Constitution by imposing the FP-5 Special Tax without obtaining a two-thirds approval vote.

The campaign for Measure W played out in the county’s swamp-like environment of deceit and greed. In this environment politicians and public employees award themselves huge salaries, add gold-plated pensions, and stick those who can least afford it with the bill. Measure W attempts to change that environment.

Returns from Tuesday’s election show the “Yes on W to Repeal (Remove) the Special Tax” trailing in the vote tally. This despite having **prevailed** in the last election. We hope the remaining 110,000 mail-in ballots still to be counted will reverse this trend.

However, it is vitally important for voters to **inform themselves**. The Red Brennan Group cannot outspend the corrupt political machine in San Bernardino County. Nor can we guarantee votes are conducted fairly or that the judiciary protects your rights. We can, however, provide voters the opportunity to regain the right to vote on taxes that was usurped by your elected representatives. When that opportunity is available, individual voters must ignore the ads paid for by developers and public employee unions. Voters must dig into the facts and then vote their conscience.

The Red Brennan Group’s mission is to “Support Big-Hearted Communities, Small Government, and true public service.” We will continue to press that mission within San Bernardino County.

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