Argument in Favor of Measure V
November 2, 2004
Saratoga, CA

Saratogans have long enjoyed a **Quality of Life** that sets our City apart from many other cities and has produced one of the highest levels of property value in the State. Continued State budget raids threaten our quality of life.

Since 1992, funding raids by the State of California and the sunset of the prior Utility Tax have reduced City funding by over $18 million. At the same time, rising costs continue to strain our City budget despite budget reductions of 20% from two years ago. This year, for the first time, reserve funds were required to fund critical services.

It's not too late to reverse this downward spiral. We can come together and vote **YES on Measure V**, which will assess a tax of only 4% on electricity, gas, water, phone, and cable services. This local levy generates funds beyond the State's reach, is consumption based, expires in 10 years, and includes the standard exemptions for qualifying low-income residents. For a cost of **$16 a month** for the average household, we can stop the deterioration of our streets, bridges, sidewalks, medians, buildings and parks, and maintain or improve current levels of public safety.

Will our City survive if this tax doesn't pass? Yes, but it may not retain the same unique character that we currently enjoy. Without an increase in revenues the City will experience:

- Reduction in the current level of law enforcement services
- Continued deterioration of streets, medians, bridges and buildings
- Loss of city programs and services such as park maintenance

The Finance Commission and an independent citizens committee recently reviewed city finances and unanimously recommended this measure be placed on the ballot.

If you want to protect your property values and quality of life, then **Vote YES on Measure V**. Visit www.savesaratoga.com.

294

FILED

AUG 11 2004

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

SANTA CLARA COUNTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

AUG 11 2004

By _____ Deputy

ARGUMENT
DECLARATION BY AUTHOR(S)
(Elections Code § 9600)

The undersigned author(s) of the argument **in favor** / **of/against** ballot measure V at the
(circle one) (letter)

General Municipal election for the City of Saratoga
(title of election) (name of jurisdiction)

to be held on Nov 2 2004 hereby state that such argument is true and correct to the best
(date of election)

of their knowledge and belief.
(his / her / their)

1. _____ 8-9-04
Signature Date Residential Address

Mayor
Title to Appear on Argument

Ann Waltonsmith female
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

2. _____ 8/09/04
Signature Date Residential Address

Vice Mayor
Title to Appear on Argument

Kathleen M King Female
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

3. _____ 8/9/04
Signature Date Residential Address

City Councilmember
Title to Appear on Argument

NICK STREIT M
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

4. _____ 8/9/04
Signature Date Residential Address

City Councilmember
Title to Appear on Argument

NORMAN Kline Male
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

5. _____ 8/9/04
Signature Date Residential Address

CHAIRMAN FINANCE COMMISSION
Title to Appear on Argument

DICK ALLEN MALE
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

REVENUE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

Argument Against Measure V (City of Saratoga, November 2, 2004 Election)

The Utility Tax is the WRONG measure for Saratoga. There is no way to ensure that the money will be spent as promised. The advisory measure which accompanies this tax is NON-BINDING on the City Council, and funds generated by this tax could be spent by future city councils on pet projects for special interests. In addition, there is NOTHING in the measure that restricts a council from spending the revenue on day-to-day operations instead of infrastructure, and NO INCENTIVE to establish prudent reserves and run an efficient organization. This is precisely the problem with the state government that resulted in the costly bailout by the taxpayers earlier this year.

This tax applies to all utilities, including cellular phone service. It is not unreasonable to predict that on an average, the tax will cost each household in the city an additional $300-400 a year. At a 4% rate, it will raise at least $2.6 million annually in additional revenue for the city. With current revenues of a little over $8 million, this amounts to a 33% increase in revenue. Are Saratogans prepared to build up the city bureaucracy by one-third?

Insist on City fiscal responsibility. Vote NO on Measure V.

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(his / her / their)

1. 8/10/04
Signature Date
Residential Address
COUNCILMEMBER/FORMER MAYOR
Title to Appear on Argument
STAN BOGOSIAN
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

2. 8/10/04
Signature Date
Residential Address
Chairman Saratoga Good Government Group
Title to Appear on Argument
ANDREW BARNES
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

3. _____
Signature Date
Residential Address
Title to Appear on Argument
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

4. _____
Signature Date
Residential Address
Title to Appear on Argument
Print Name as Signed Male/Female

5. _____
Signature Date
Residential Address
Title to Appear on Argument
Print Name as Signed Male/Female