

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE FF

When will they get the message?

In 2004, voters declined to increase funding for the libraries. We simply couldn't understand why the Library needed more when its revenues had already increased by 45% between 1999 and 2004.

At first, library managers seemed to understand: 2005 costs were held to the 2004 level. At the end of 2006 there was a \$1,261,350 surplus.

Now they are back to their old ways:

✓ Since 2006, library spending has gone up by 17.3%. The surplus is nearly gone. Wages and salaries are up by 14%. They will increase by another 14% over the next three years.

✓ Proponents tell us about high usage. They do not tell us that nearly half of that usage comes from outside users who pay nothing to offset the costs we must bear.

✓ Library revenues have already gone up by 11.5% since 2004 and will be UP 15% by the middle of next year. **The issue is poor management, not lack of money.**

Tell the City that it needs to live by the same rules as the rest of us. These are hard times. A middle class family already pays more than ten percent of its gross income in property taxes. **Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to pay for ALL library costs. City, State and Federal funds are available.** The library's revenues are well protected from inflation and recession -- we are not. We must live within our means. So should they.

VOTE NO on MEASURE FF

s/Marie Bowman

Individually and on behalf of, President, Berkeley Alliance of Neighborhood Associations (BANA), individually and on behalf of, Steering Committee Chair, Berkeleyan's Against Soaring Taxes (BASTA!), Former Chair and Commissioner, City of Berkeley, Housing Advisory Commission (HAC)

s/David Krasnor

Individually and on behalf of, Co-Treasurer, Tyler & King Neighborhood Association (TKNA), Vice-President, Council of Neighborhood Assoc. (CNA), Member & Former Delegate Alameda Central Labor Council & Parent of Two Children in Berkeley Schools (K-12)

s/Betty J. Hicks

Individually and on behalf of, Oregon Street Neighborhood Watch, Co-Block Captain, Former Treasurer, San Pablo Neighborhood Council & Former City of Berkeley Planning Commissioner

s/Gregory Harper

Individually and on behalf of, Neighbors of Staton Street Block Captain and Former Chair, Housing Advisory Commission (HAC)

s/James Kilpatrick

Individually and on behalf of, President, Berkeley Property Owners Association (BPOA)

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE FF

We love our libraries, but...

Library spending has skyrocketed by 56% from 2002 to mid-2008, more than double the rise in the consumer price index, which was 22%.

Library Spending

2002	\$9,783,316
2003	10,659,897
2004	12,015,164
2005	12,157,463
2006	12,985,751
2007	13,468,680
2008	15,232,605

Now they're asking for another \$26 million dollars! Why can't this beloved institution live within its means as we do in these stressful economic times?

The Library is run by a non-elected board insulated from public view. **It already enjoys guaranteed special property tax revenues with generous and automatic annual increases, which explains why the library budget keeps increasing.** A 1900 square foot home is taxed \$300 annually for the library alone.

Taxpayers have been more than generous. **We love our library and believe it is a basic City service, to be at least partially funded by the \$141,000,000 General Fund. Taxpayers shouldn't be forced to pay for all library costs through special taxes.** City ad valorem property tax revenue has increase by more than 100% between 2000 and 2008 and Transfer Tax revenue has averaged approximately \$13,000,000 annually, **yet not one penny of this extra revenue has been given by the City to our libraries.**

In 2004 voters said NO to another library tax, which should have caused a search for alternatives. **State and Federal grants are available for library seismic reconstructions and other expansion.** The Library and City have not actively applied for funds, preferring instead to threaten voters with dire outcomes

Push back against City profligacy, multimillion dollar developer subsidies and the \$159,000 average employee compensation. City revenue increases can provide for one-time needs of the Library. As in 2004, join your neighbors to VOTE NO on Measure FF and tell the City to spend our tax dollars more wisely.

s/Marie Bowman

Individually and on behalf of, President, Berkeley Alliance of Neighborhood Associations (BANA), individually and on behalf of, Berkeleyan's Against Soaring Taxes (BASTA!), Steering Committee Chair, Former Chair, City of Berkeley Housing Advisory Commission (HAC)

s/Laurie Bright

Individually and on behalf of, President, Council of Neighborhood Associations (CNA)

s/Dean Metzger

Individually and on behalf of, President, Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association (CENA), Former