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[Statewide ballot initiative to require voter approval before state government may take local tax funds]

**Resolution supporting a statewide ballot initiative to require voter approval before state government may take local tax funds**

WHEREAS, state government annually seizes over \$800 million in city property tax funds (ERAF) statewide, costing cities over \$6.9 billion in lost revenues over the past 12 years and seriously reducing resources available for local public safety and other services and,

WHEREAS, in adopting the state budget this year the Legislature and Governor appropriated local vehicle license fee backfill and redevelopment property tax funds that are needed to finance critical city services such as public safety, parks, street maintenance, housing and economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the deficit financing plan in the state budget depends on a local property and sales tax swap that leaves city services vulnerable if the state's economic condition fails to improve and,

WHEREAS, the adopted state budget assumes an ongoing structural budget deficit of at least \$8 billion, putting city resources and services at risk in future years to additional state revenue raids; and,

WHEREAS, it is abundantly clear that state leaders will continue to use local tax funds to balance the state budget unless the voters limit the power of the Legislature and Governor to do so; and,

1           WHEREAS, the voters of California are the best judges of whether local tax funds  
2 should be diverted, confiscated, shifted or otherwise taken to finance an ever-expanding state  
3 government; and,

4           WHEREAS, the General Assembly of Voting Delegates of the League of California  
5 Cities at its September 10, 2003 meeting voted to sponsor a statewide ballot initiative to  
6 empower the voters to limit the ability of state government to confiscate local tax funds to  
7 fund state government; and

8           WHEREAS, the League has requested that cities offer support for a November 2004  
9 ballot initiative that will allow voters to decide whether state government may appropriate local  
10 tax funds to fund state government operations and responsibilities now, therefore, be it

11          RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors hereby expresses its strong  
12 support for a statewide ballot initiative to allow voters to decide whether local tax funds may  
13 be taken, confiscated, shifted, diverted or otherwise used to fund state government  
14 operations and responsibilities; and be it further

15          RESOLVED, that the City and staff be authorized to provide impartial informational  
16 materials on the initiative as may be lawfully provided by the city's representatives. No public  
17 funds shall be used to campaign for or against the initiative; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, that the residents of the City are encouraged to become well informed on  
19 the initiative and its possible impacts on the critical local services on which they rely; and be it  
20 further

21          RESOLVED, that the clerk is hereby directed to send a copy to the Executive Director  
22 of the League of California Cities.



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails
Resolution

File Number: 040420

Date Passed:

Resolution supporting a statewide ballot initiative to require voter approval before state government may take local tax funds.

April 13, 2004 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 9 - Alioto-Pier, Dufty, Gonzalez, Hall, Ma, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Peskin, Sandoval

Absent: 2 - Ammiano, Daly

File No. 040420

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on April 13, 2004 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved

Mayor Gavin Newsom

Date: April 22, 2004

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, became effective without his approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter.

Gloria L. Young for Kay Sullivan
Clerk of the Board

File No.
040420