

LETTERS

Reader endorsements

With inflation at a 40-year high, with 22.4 percent of Chicoans living in poverty and in a state among the highest in expenses in the country, the City Council wants you to pass their Measure H sales tax increase. With no sunset, this tax increase is permanent.

Worse, there is no guarantee how the money will be spent. In 2019, when the council contemplated an increase, it was said it would cost a family of four \$800 a year, low now considering inflation. What family wants to pay over \$800 a year in extra tax with no guarantee where that money goes?

Money for vital programs has been siphoned off for skyrocketing, unsustainable employee costs, especially unfunded pension liabilities. Even with record revenue including gas tax money and the city's garbage tax that is supposed to go toward street repairs, the city's infrastructure has never been worse, especially the streets. This is so city bureaucrats and other city employees can have multi-million-dollar pensions.

Instead of reforming these costs, the City Council intends to maintain this unconscionable status quo on the backs of poor people. Don't let them. Vote no on H.

Dave Howell
Chico

Want better roads? Better parks? Better public safety? Better housing solutions? A vote for Measure H is a vote for a better Chico.

Rapid population growth, the Camp Fire, COVID-19 and increased community needs have stretched our finances. Maintaining roads, preserving Bidwell Park, keeping neighborhoods safe and creating durable housing solutions takes resources the city simply does not have.

Chico is only one of eight California cities over 50,000 residents without a local sales tax. Of those eight cities, Chico's general fund budget is the lowest per capita.

The sales tax will add \$1 to every \$100 spent (groceries, rent and prescription medications aren't taxed) and will generate \$24 million a year to invest in our community.

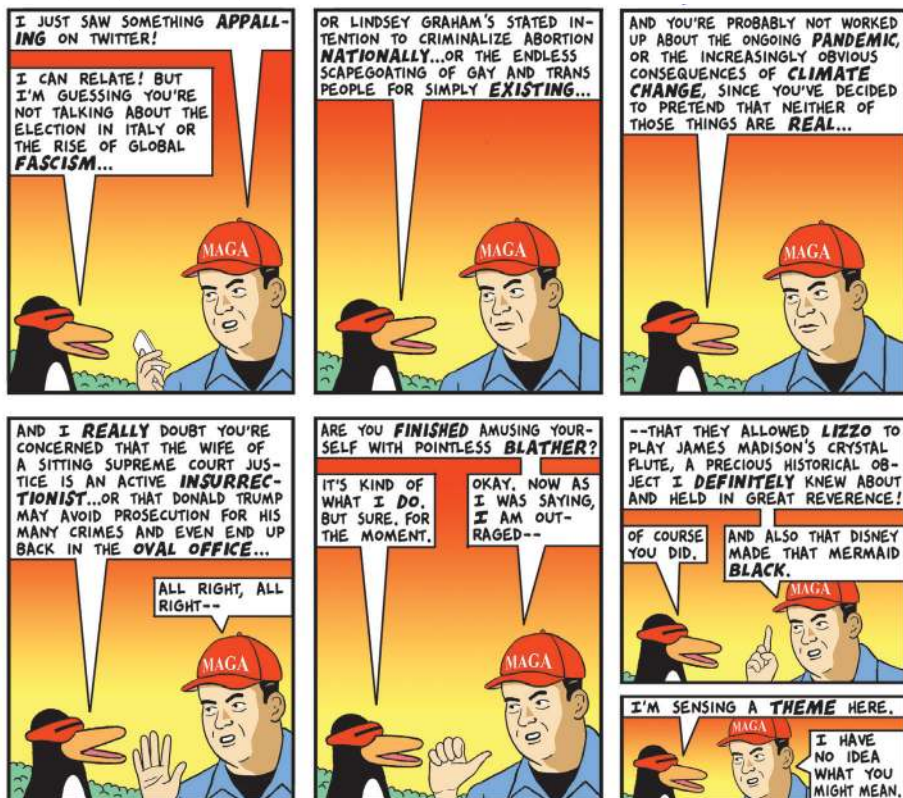
Measure H spending decisions will be made locally. We'll be able to will make improvements to Chico that not only will enhance our daily lives but also create jobs. Chico would be able to support local social service agencies and provide housing assistance.

Measure H has support from across the

LETTERS CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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BY TOM TOMORROW



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