

From: Hear TRA Form
To: Meeting Info; BOE Taxpayers" Rights Advocate Office
Subject: [External] Taxpayers" Bill of Rights Hearing Appearance Electronic Form
Date: Monday, August 29, 2022 4:34:45 PM



PUBLIC COMMENT

From: Marcus Crawley
Agenda Item: C1. Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Hearing
Meeting Date: 8/30/22

Taxpayer would like to speak at the hearing: I do not want to speak at the hearing

Type of Tax: Property Tax

Speaker's Name: Marcus Crawley

Title (if applicable): President

Company (if applicable): Alameda County Taxpayers' Assoc.

Mailing Address: 3492 Robinson Drive

City: Oakland

State: Ca

Zip Code: 94602

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

Account Number (if applicable):

Taxpayer's Name (if not speaker):

Organization:

Telephone Number: [REDACTED]

Description of Issues:

Several years ago, I talked with the Alameda County Tax Collector. I complained that Alameda County annual tax Statement is skimpy on details.

- The annual "Secured Property Tax Statement" lumps all the "countywide voter approved debt service" into a single line item, so that taxpayers cannot easily understand the source of the tax.
- The various city and school bonds should be identified with the voter approved ballot measure.

The existing system of minimal information helps create poorly informed taxpayers & voters. When taxpayers don't confront their tax assessment statement, they can far too easily vote in for new taxes without realizing the extent of ongoing taxes. Mr. Levy explained that his department cannot provide more information "because the piece of paper is not big enough."

Each tax and bond should have at least a line item explaining the source of the tax. For Example:

Measure AA (2018) school Prop 39 bond: Tax \$720.14

Also,

The BOE should denounce as “Misleading” the popular practice of describing ballot question for a general tax as “May be spent for” the following services “X, Y & Z”. The implication is that this General Tax has been approved to be spent on “your favorite service.” In fact, the ballot question for a general tax should state that “this tax will be spent on any regular government service at the complete discretion of the government.”

The state of California must banish this ongoing misleading general tax description.

Thank you,

Marcus Crawley

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