

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION A

INCORPORATION OF EAST PALO ALTO

The only question to be settled by voters in this election is whether we govern ourselves or let someone else continue to govern us. Do we want to have the authority for providing the full range of city services? Do we want the decisions affecting our community made by locally elected and easily accessible officials? Do we want to improve the inadequate services provided by the county and special districts? Do WE want to decide how to spend our MILLIONS of tax dollars to solve East Palo Alto's problems?

It's not true that there isn't enough money here to operate our city. The analysis completed by Stanford Research Institute (SRI) International says we have more than enough money; and all consultants hired by the county concluded that an incorporated East Palo Alto will enjoy a healthy fund surplus with no new or special taxes.

Proposition 13 limits an increase in the assessed value of property to 2% a year. Property owners will pay this increase whether or not we incorporate. Few people lose their homes today because of tax debt; almost always, people lose homes because they fail to pay their mortgage. Most people know that a city cannot impose "special taxes" (illegal user fees) without your two-thirds majority approval.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to allow this election because they were convinced that a new city was the best choice for East Palo Alto's future.

The San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) also voted to allow this election. It's their role to assure that organized and cost-effective services will be delivered to us by our new city.

And now you must answer that one question: Do we govern ourselves and SAVE OUR COMMUNITY, or do we continue to beg?

Carmaleit Oakes

Mrs. Carmaleit Oakes,
Convenor, EPACCI