



Jobs Tax Qualifies for Ballot

JOBS Coalition calls on San Diego City Council to repeal jobs tax

SAN DIEGO (Feb. 18, 2014) --- The JOBS Coalition's effort to overturn the jobs tax has successfully qualified for the ballot, the San Diego County Registrar's Office announced today. The Registrar verified the 53,107 signatures the Coalition turned in January 22 from San Diego voters, signifying significant public opposition to the jobs tax.

"Our successful effort to qualify the referendum shows that voters are engaged and do not support policies or taxes that will have a negative impact on jobs and our local economy," **Jerry Sanders, President & CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce**, said at a press conference today at the City Clerk's office. "The overwhelming and strong public opposition to this jobs tax sends a clear signal to the City Council to rescind its decision or the voters will do it for them."

On February 24th, the City Council will receive formal notice of the qualified signatures from the City Clerk. The Council then has 10 days to decide whether to overturn its decision to tax job creators by 375 to 750 percent, or put it on the ballot for voters to decide.

"Placing a tax increase of this magnitude on these same companies will delay development, stunt growth and cause companies to consider expanding in other cities around San Diego County, California and the U.S. that do not charge this tax," said **Joe Panetta, President and CEO of BIOCUM** at today's press conference. "The City Council still has an opportunity to protect San Diego jobs. I hope the City Council hears this message, rescinds the increase and works with us – not against us – to solve this problem."

"The Coalition calls on the City Council to repeal this jobs tax and instead work with small businesses and other job creators to develop a sustainable and adequate supply of affordable housing without damaging our local economy," Sanders said.

The JOBS Coalition announced in December it would work to overturn a decision approved by a narrow 5-4 majority of the San Diego City Council to significantly increase the jobs tax. Supporters of the jobs tax call it a "linkage fee" because of the so-called link between some jobs and subsidized housing paid for by the tax. The Coalition calls it a jobs tax because businesses of all kinds — both large and small, as well as nonprofits, hospitals and private educational institutions — now face an additional tax on all new business development, expansion and some remodeling.

No other city in San Diego County charges a similar tax, which is why several neighboring cities began courting Qualcomm and other San Diego businesses when the massive jobs tax increase took effect. If the tax increase is not overturned, it will increase automatically every year without any approval by elected officials or voters.

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About The JOBS Coalition: *The JOBS Coalition is a group representing more than 50 regional organizations and San Diego small businesses that provide thousands of middle class jobs and billions of dollars to the economy, and opposes the Linkage Fee increase. Created in 2011 to oppose a similar increase and support robust funding alternatives that would actually provide a stable source of revenue for affordable housing, the Coalition announced a signature gathering campaign in December to overturn the City Council's decision to raise the jobs tax by approximately 375 to 750 percent.*

Paid for by Stop the Jobs Killing Tax, a Coalition of Jobs Creators, Economic Development, Business and Real Estate Organizations Concerned About the San Diego Economy, 402 West Broadway, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92101. Major funding provided by NAIOP San Diego Chapter and the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and its sponsored Political Action Committee.