

From: July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
To: Meeting Info
Subject: [External] July 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting-Public Comment
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STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Zipporah Collins _____ Item # __

Item Name: Info Hearing – Split Roll Initiative

Meeting Date: 7/23/20 Minutes Exhibit #: 7.88



PUBLIC COMMENT

Name: Zipporah Collins

E-mail Address:

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Agenda Item(s):

7. Public Comment

Comment:

This reform of property tax was crucial before the pandemic and is even more necessary now, when public schools and local services are being strained to the breaking point. I'm in my 80s and a longtime homeowner in Alameda County, and I recognized in 1978 that Prop 13 would be a disaster for schools and public services in California, so I tried to tell my friends to vote NO then, with only moderate success. I have benefited enormously in my own property taxes for decades but I would rather have seen California maintain necessary funding for schools, libraries, health facilities, roads, parks, community centers, and myriad other public services that depend on property tax income. The Legislature could have enacted a provision to allow seniors on low fixed incomes to stay in their homes by paying an affordable amount but having a lien on their property for the balance, to be repaid upon sale. It could also have enacted a lower tax rate in years when property values soared, to keep the amount of tax at or only slightly higher than it had been the previous year. Instead we got a draconian, wide-ranging measure that has seriously impaired state revenues and services for more than 40 years. Now residential owners pay 72% of the total property tax and commercial/industrial owners 28% (it used to be about 50-50 before Prop 13). We FINALLY have a chance to make this fair again. The opponents are often misinformed or involved in spreading disinformation that this will harm small business. Prop 15 has measures to protect small businesses. More than 90% of the revenue will come from the wealthiest 10% of businesses--ones that have paid unfairly low taxes for decades. Prop 15 will level the playing field for newer versus long-established businesses. Live up to your name, Board of EQUALIZATION. Wholeheartedly endorse Prop 15 and work to ensure that it passes. Thank you!