

To: Assembly Revenue Committee

Subj: **Opposition to SB451** - Extension of 1996 Property Tax for Police Services in Clark County

SB451 would extend a *“temporary”* property tax that Clark County voters approved in 1996. The tax, sold to the public as a short-term way to fund more police in Clark County, is supposed to sunset in 2027. Instead of letting voters decide whether to keep it this bill will extend the tax another 30 years and let the County Commission approve it without a vote of the people.

This tax was approved in 1996 because voters were told it was temporary. Now the same voters are being cut out of the process. True, it is not a “tax increase” since rates won’t be going up, but this is just semantics. This bill BLOCKS a tax cut. If voters in 1996 approved the tax, it should be voters in 2026 who decide whether to keep it—not a handful of county officials or state legislators. This bill would take that decision completely out of voters’ hands—even though they’re the ones paying the bill.

If Clark County really needs the money, why not cut back on non-essential government spending instead of sneaking in a decades-long tax extension? Clark County’s own 2025 budget shows billions going to things that aren’t urgent.

- \$271 million for new park upgrades and splash pads
- \$634 million for county building remodels and office construction
- \$215 million for technology upgrades—not for public safety, but for internal departments
- \$56 million for climate-related outreach programs
- \$68 million for air quality media and planning projects
- \$64 million from opioid settlements that isn’t going directly to treatment or enforcement

There is over \$1.8 billion in this budget in what most people would consider “nice-to-have” spending. All the County needs to keep 800 police officers on the job is \$155 million. That’s less than 10% of what’s being spent on extras.

There is little effort to reduce or cut or reprioritize spending. A “small” tax is more politically palatable. **Let the people decide—just like they did in 1996. Oppose SB451.**

Respectfully,

Nancy Carlson

Nevada Resident