

RESOLUTION NO. 7277

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, OPPOSING PROPOSITION 76 ON THE NOVEMBER 8, 2005 SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT REGARDING STATE SPENDING AND SCHOOL FUNDING LIMITS

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, for too long the State of California budget has placed severe financial burdens on local government through unfunded mandates or raiding of funds dedicated to local public services; and,

WHEREAS, due to ongoing, multi-billion dollar state budget deficits and their harmful consequences to cities and counties, local governments joined together with the Governor and the people of the State of California to pass Proposition 1A, which protects local government funding; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 76, the “Live Within Our Means” Act, places an additional spending limit on the State of California and grants broad new powers to the Governor to declare a fiscal emergency and reduce spending, potentially undermining the protections approved by voters in Proposition 1A; and,

WHEREAS, the spending limit in Proposition 76 applies to both the state general fund as well as all special funds, including those devoted to transportation and programs carried out by local governments, giving the state the authority hold in reserve some revenues allocated to local governments if the spending limit is exceeded; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor’s budget reduction authority proposed in Proposition 76 could potentially be used to cut local governments’ reimbursement for services performed prior to the declaration of a fiscal emergency, which could leave local governments responsible for services provided in good faith with the assumption of future reimbursement; and,

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of high-quality schools with well-trained educators, small class sizes, quality instructional materials, up-to-date textbooks and dynamic parental support, and Proposition 76 would potentially undermine the continuity and quality of instructional programs by exposing schools to unstable funding and the threat of mid-year cuts; and,

WHEREAS, Proposition 76 could potentially impact the funding base for schools and result in as much as \$4 billion (nearly \$600 per student) per year less than the minimum funding base required by current law;

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities General Assembly voted to support Proposition 76 by a vote of 135-124, which represents a yes vote of only 28% of the total number of cities in the League, and does not represent the City's position;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Council of Santa Clara declares its opposition to Proposition 76 on the November 8, 2005 special election ballot.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE A TRUE COPY OF THE RESOLUTION PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA, AT A REGULAR MEETING THEREOF HELD ON THE 1st DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2005, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: COUNCILORS: Caserta, Matthews, McLeod and Moore

NOES: COUNCILORS: Kennedy, Kolstad, and Mayor Mahan

ABSENT: COUNCILORS: None

ABSTAINED: COUNCILORS: None

ATTEST: _____
ROD DIRIDON, JR.
CITY CLERK
CITY OF SANTA CLARA