

## Argument in Favor of Measure BB

Last year, the residents of Bradbury rejected a Utility Users Tax. Residents voiced a number of concerns:

- A lack of independent oversight of the budget to identify additional cost savings;
- Uncertainty about which utilities would be taxed;
- Financial threats were too speculative; and
- The impact of losing status as a city was unclear.

At the request of the City Council, a group of concerned residents formed a volunteer committee – independent from the Council –and tackled two questions:

1. Are City revenues sufficient to meet needs?
2. If not, how should this shortfall be addressed?

This oversight group concluded:

- City budgets are tightly controlled and have been reduced to the greatest extent possible – with some areas, e.g. maintenance, probably reduced too far.
- Future expenses to address federal and state requirements – while still not perfectly defined – were real and beyond the City’s current means.
- Becoming a part of the County and the resultant loss of local control would have a significant and negative impact on our quality of life.
- A Utility Users Tax was the preferred revenue solution given its flexibility and fairness.

Using an improved model based on actual Bradbury utility expenses on small, medium, and large lots, the volunteer committee demonstrated a lower rate could be used, 5.5%. The committee also determined that water should be included at ½ the overall rate to continue the emphasis on the rural and fire-safe nature of Bradbury.

No one wants additional taxes – here we all agree. But these dollars – needed to maintain local control, your control – will ensure Bradbury remains our community, governed by us.

Please vote “YES”.

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Bruce Lathrop, Mayor

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Richard Pycz, Mayor Pro Tem

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Richard Barakat, Councilmember

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Richard Hale, Jr., Councilmember

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D. Montgomery Lewis, Councilmember