



# LAKE FOREST PARK GOV WATCH

***Mission: LFP GOV WATCH is dedicated to insure that the City of Lake Forest Park remains livable, affordable, and sustainable by encouraging, supporting and promoting a responsible and effective City government.***

**TO MAINTAIN A SUSTAINABLE AND LIVABLE CITY WE ADVOCATE THE FOLLOWING:**

- Recognizing that citizen priorities are essential to achieving livability in a community, the City Council and the Mayor should adhere to those priorities in making decisions and allocating resources.
- Until citizen priorities can be updated by an independent, empirical study, the priorities expressed in the LFP Citizen Survey shall be the standard by which to evaluate governmental decisions. They are
  - Preventing crime and protecting the community
  - Maintaining infrastructure like roads, sidewalks, and sewers
  - Manage development to protect creeks and streams/reduce flooding
  - Maintaining City parks and trails
  - Providing financial support for programs/facilities like Senior/Teen Ctr/Commons
  - Investing in long-term projects to enhance quality of life
  - Purchasing land for parks and open space

**TO INSURE THAT OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITY REMAINS SUSTAINABLE IN THE PRESENT AND IN THE LONG TERM, WE URGE THE FOLLOWING:**

- No abnormal tax increases:
  - During the next four years, there should be no increase in City's portion of LFP property taxes (we may want to say tax levy rate later). Property tax increases must be limited to the amount prescribed by the Eyman initiative: up to the Implicit Price Deflator (IPD) or one percent. [note: the IPD is similar to the Consumer Price Index] The City must not use the supermajority provision (majority plus one) to implement a 1% property tax increase if the IPD is less than 1%.
  - During the next four years, there should be no B&O, utility, or sales tax increases; or stormwater fee increases in excess of the Implicit Price Deflator used above to compute allowed property tax increases.

In case of a dire emergency that directly affects critical services to citizens, appropriate emergency measures might be necessary to solve specific problems.

(continued on next page)

*Paid for by LPF Gov Watch – PO Box 65055, Shoreline WA 98155-9055*

*Stephen Plusch, Chair – Carolyn Armanini, Treasurer*

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(cont.)

- Reduced costs:
  - Re-evaluate cities used for salary comparability. The cities selected should be Optional Municipal Code Cities (Title 35A RCW) with commercial tax bases equivalent to Lake Forest Park. The cities listed in the current list of comparable cities are not comparable in terms of commercial tax base.
  - Substantially increase employee contributions to health care and retirement as is common in private industry and other governments such as the State of Washington. Work towards equal contributions for represented and non-represented employees.
  - During the next four years, there should be no salary increases or cost of living (COLA) adjustments in excess of the Implicit Price Deflator. In fact with new comparable cities, salary decreases or freezes may be in order. Revise salary and benefit schedules including COLA adjustments and step increases to be consistent with the new comparable cities. Open the comparable city selection process to citizen input.
  - Restructure City Government to reduce costs to be in line with existing revenue streams.
  - Encourage volunteer organizations to carry out important, nonessential programs and services with the goal of further reducing and when possible, eliminate City funding.
  - Develop measures of effectiveness to insure ongoing increases in City efficiency.
  - Eliminate waste, inefficiency, and redundancy.

**WE WILL INSIST THAT THE CITY GOVERNMENT MUST ACT RESPONSIBLY BY**

- planning for the future by considering contingencies for both good times and bad,
- focusing on the City's future to proactively address projected budget deficits (or negative contingencies) without further depleting reserves,
- being transparent and responsive to citizens,
- developing a citizen evaluation process to examine one-to-one direct services with reviews periodically,
- consulting with an affected neighborhood before adopting a policy that impacts it,
- ensuring that the City provides citizens the costs for various levels of service for important services so citizens can make realistic choices.

**TO AID IN ACHIEVING AN EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT WE WILL**

- Work to elect a City Council, Mayor and Administration that identifies, accepts and acts upon the designated priorities expressed by LFP citizens and does so with the discipline and resourcefulness necessary considering the particular and limited tax base of our primarily residential community.
- Evaluate and possibly endorse other candidates and/or proposals from other taxing agencies that affect our citizens.
- Support a periodic independent survey of LFP citizens to update priorities and to gain feedback on our City Government's effectiveness.



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