

Lake Forest Park, the Choice is Yours

Here's how the incumbents have failed our City:

City Hall's budget planning still does not factor in Lake Forest Park's unique tax base—primarily residential, not commercial. You can't base spending on revenues that you don't have.

For over SIX years, City Hall has failed to adopt realistic budgets, calling our 78% demand for budget restructuring "misinformed," despite their own data showing current budget forecasts still running the City into the red.

If they won't listen to 78% of you, it's time to vote for candidates who will.



We are GOV WATCH. We are among the 3,995 voters that defeated Proposition 1 last year. Like everyone in difficult economic times, we come together to mend our landscape, repair our infrastructure, protect our families and make do with what we have. Won't you join us by bringing in the leadership and support our City needs?

Please visit our website to learn more, and consider donating to help us spread the message:

www.lfpgovwatch.org > click on "What You Can Do"



Paid for by:
Lake Forest Park Government Watch
PO Box 65055
Shoreline, WA 98155-9055
(206) 363-5484
www.LFPGOVWATCH.org

LFP GOV WATCH is a nonpartisan, resident-based citizens' organization dedicated to ensure that the City of Lake Forest Park remains livable, affordable, and sustainable by encouraging, supporting and promoting a responsible and effective City government.



How Well Did City Hall Respond to Your "NO" Vote?



After Proposition 1's landslide vote last August, when the citizens of Lake Forest Park demanded that our City plan

ahead and address the underlying causes of their budget shortfall, what did your City do?

- 1. Cut two of the top citizens' priorities in the City budget:** safety and parks (while keeping other services that were not high priorities);
- 2. Did little to address major budget shortfalls they project in our future**—despite their pledge to produce a sustainable budget plan in their January 2011 Council Retreat; and
- 3. Failed to reduce the cost of services** through various joint efforts proposed with neighboring communities.

To put it simply, they didn't listen.

You Can Do it Again!

www.LFPGOVWATCH.org

Are You Ready for a Change?

Problem and Solution

Scope of the Problem

During the previous six years, Lake Forest Park's City Council was warned repeatedly that they were facing serious budget shortfalls. They failed to heed these early warnings and did not take the modest steps available. Only when faced with the current economic downturn did they begin cutting expenses.

Last summer the City attempted to pass a significant tax increase in the form of Proposition 1, to which an overwhelming 78% majority of our citizens voted NO. Our message was clear: we wanted fiscal responsibility from City Hall, rather than new, unwarranted, "Band-Aid" property taxes.

Shortly after, some supporters of No Proposition 1 began attending Council meetings to watch how the budget would be restructured. Unfortunately, it never happened. City Hall insisted the "misinformed" public "did not understand the issues," and after a few token budget cuts, passed new proposals for more spending.

That's when a non-partisan, resident-based volunteer group called GOV WATCH was born.

GOV WATCH's Solution

GOV WATCH's mission includes: 1) monitoring and influencing City Hall's spending and governance; and 2) interviewing and endorsing candidates seeking election for council and mayor positions who we believe will listen and represent the desires of this 78% majority. **GOV WATCH intends to bring the voice of the majority of our citizens back into Lake Forest Park's City government.**

Facts and Figures

History of Negative Operating Balance

2008	- \$473,646	As reported in the
2009	- \$127,407	approved 2011-2012
2010.....	- \$305,593	budget

Projected Four Year Budget Deficit

2013.....	- \$215,099	Expenditures continue
2014.....	- \$243,372	to exceed revenues
2015.....	- \$384,732	for a total projected
2016.....	- \$415,000	deficit of \$1,256,203

Decreasing Reserve Fund

The City has spent 25% of their "rainy day" reserve fund to cover general operating expenses, reducing it to \$1,500,000.

Decreasing General Fund (by almost 50%)

In 2008, the Council voted to reduce the required cash operating reserve to permit increased spending. This reduced the year end cash balance of the general fund from \$1,600,000 in 2007 to approximately \$900,000 in 2010.

Above Average Salaries

The average 2011 salary (without benefits) for all 53 City employees is \$71,534. The average Washington State employee's salary is \$53,400 (Seattle Times, 8-21-11, pg. B2). Our small city pays employees 34% more than our state pays.

Ongoing Pay Raises

The average total compensation (salaries & benefits) in 2011 for all 53 City employees is \$98,747 and the average compensation for 2012 is budgeted to increase to \$101,848.

In 2011, 18 of the 53 full-time City employees (36.9%) received a total compensation of over \$100,000. In 2012, this compensation will be extended to 21 employees (39.6%).

Note: The 2012 budget is in balance because State law requires it; to accomplish this the City Council made short term, temporary fixes that can not be continued indefinitely. The "experienced" incumbents still have not restructured the budget to operate within the City's revenue streams beyond 2012.

It's Time to Take Action

You CAN Make a Difference

Without sufficient budget restructuring by our Council, top citizen priorities are at risk, including safety and security, infrastructure, environmental activities that reduce flooding, and parks and trails maintenance. Today's economy won't allow our Council to "kick the budget can down the road" any longer. Citizens of Lake Forest Park, we need to act now. Here's what you can do to make your voice heard:

1) Attend a City Council Meeting

Join us as we attend every Council Meeting and Public Hearing. We need to hear your voice, your ideas and your concerns! Council meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

2) Get Involved with GOV WATCH

Help us distribute flyers, support us with a donation, host a coffee, or volunteer for a GOV WATCH-endorsed candidate.

3) Vote for Candidates We Have Endorsed

The incumbents continue to avoid responsible budget measures. It is time for new representation. GOV WATCH endorses the following candidates based on their views on fiscal responsibility, transparency through improved communications with citizens, support for the principles expressed in the NO Proposition 1 campaign, and their planning goals for Lake Forest Park's long term financial sustainability:

- Mary Jane Goss for Mayor
- Tom French for City Council Position 6
- Jeff Johnson for City Council Position 4
- Brian Cathcart for City Council Position 2

LFP incumbents have not restructured the budget to correct the underlying problems