

SF Scheme Scuttled

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The proposed tax was very popular. In San Francisco. It polled at nearly 75 percent in favor.

But it possessed a fatal flaw.

And worse.

The fatal flaw? The numbers didn't add up.

Organizers spent nearly half a million bucks developing and promoting and getting the petition signatures to place Proposition K on this November's ballot.

The notion? Tax Amazon sales within city limits to fund a guaranteed income scheme in the Golden City.

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But then they learned — after it qualified for the ballot — that it was an incoherent tax-and-spend mess. Its chief pusher, John Elberling, admitted, reports *The San Francisco Standard*, that “he made mistakes in calculating how Amazon earns its revenue in the city.” And, *The Standard* continues, “the City Controller’s office found that the tax measure would actually harm hundreds of small



businesses in San Francisco and cut revenue to the city's general fund by about \$10 million a year.”

So Elberling ate crow, admitting to error (and also, apparently, to misleading petition signers), and a judge removed Prop K from the ballot.

Whew. Disaster averted.

Alas, Elberling promises to “perfect” his scheme, and advance it again.

Which is ominous, for the core idea itself — adding on more taxes to fund a trendy-but-disastrous “guaranteed income” — is not the way out of California’s progressive-induced nightmare. It’s just a vastly bigger version of what’s gone on before.

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That goes double for San Franciscans.

Who this time have a reprieve, thankfully.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.