Candidate Kyle Miller Announces Bankruptcy

At the 2011 City Council Reorganization meeting, Miller said that he had to file bankruptcy in 2011 because of past business ventures. As Edwards opposed Measures A & B, he said that he voted against the Real Tax and favored Proposition B’s way to reduce the city’s sales tax for five years, with the rest of the supporting measures and denting the possibility of increasing the revenue share. Brian Bergman emphasized the efforts of the Council to maintain the city’s reserves. "We must preserve this city from the pressures of urban sprawl." He cited his eight years of experience on the City Council and need to make significant spending reductions. George Edwards, executive vice president of a communications company, said that his business is mission critical, with no room for failure and must coordinate with large telecommunications companies. He said he hasn’t stopped volunteering since moving to the City. Edwards was the only one of the four to propose opposing proposition B, and who had previously worked for Cox Communications. Kyle Miller said he voted for the road tax, but went on to propose a new trash tax in defeat the road tax, which was voted down 2-1. Michael Higgins said it is rewarding to talk to people in the community. He said, "living in this environment has a cost, we have learned a hard lesson in risking capital.  He stated, "Unlike other candidates I know the downside of business risk.”

Measure A – A Blank Check, Higher Taxes?

Measure A proposes to increase taxes on oil production. The measure would allow the City to set any tax rate it chooses. The City does not vote on whether that property owner’s oil royalty payments will be reduced if Measure B passes. During discussions about the Measure at the October and November City council meeting, council members expressed the effect of the Measure on royalty payments. However, documents obtained through Public Records Requests and other means indicate that a letter was sent to the City in early October by the Oil Company organization. The letter stated the effect on property owner’s oil royalty payments. An increase in the tax rate comes directly out of their pocket.

The “Argument in Favor” authored by the City Council states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

However, the City does not vote on whether that property owner’s oil royalty payments will be reduced if Measure B passes. During discussions about the Measure at the October and November City council meeting, council members expressed the effect of the Measure on royalty payments. However, documents obtained through Public Records Requests and other means indicate that a letter was sent to the City in early October by the Oil Company organization. The letter stated the effect on property owner’s oil royalty payments. An increase in the tax rate comes directly out of their pocket.

The “Argument in Favor” authored by the City Council states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

Candidate George Edwards only support the General Plan, despite his opposition to other City spending. With over 50 voters in attendance the CPGP made the decision to proceed with the Forum as planned with the other 4 candidates attending. Former resident Karen Vipperman accused CPGP of giving the argument to Edwards in advance, but not the other candidates, and of interfering with the forum. Edwards continued that some candidates received the questions other than the opportunity to ask questions. Other candidates did not agree and Edwards was interrupted. It was also pointed out that the October 24th forum was to be hosted by the Whittier League of Women Voters, not the City. Cities are prohibited from participating. Candidate Edwards then stated that all candidates should be treated equally. It was also pointed out that the City’s reorganization meeting will be held in early October by the Oil Company organization. The letter stated the effect on property owner’s oil royalty payments. An increase in the tax rate comes directly out of their pocket. The “Argument in Favor” authored by the City Council states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, is the least biased of all. The draft of the Measure was submitted to non-partisan rating organization, which was published in the Special Election edition of La Habra Heights. The “Argument in Favor” authored by the City Council states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Argument in Favor” authored by the City Council states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Argument in Favor” authored by the City Council states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.

The “Impartial Analysis” of the Measure, authored by the City Council, states that reducing the City’s base cap for life-safety and law enforcement spending reductions.
Residents received a “hit” mailer on February 9th from “We love La Habra Heights”. Investigation found that the address is that of former councilmember Howard Vipperman.

$2 Million City Hall Expansion Approved

A $2 million City Hall expansion scheme was approved 3-2 at the February 14 Council meeting. The project started as a less than $500K to re-roof and reseal and lead paint abatement. Several speakers called for a Town Hall meeting, a vote of the residents, and better notification before spending almost half the City’s savings. The proposal had been kept under wraps until that evening, with no posting of the plans on the City website. The architect worked with a City Hall renovation committee consisting of a group of residents hand-picked by City Manager Shana Clark. The committee also included the former City Manager of Buena Park. Plans include increasing the size of the administration buildings from 5,246 square feet to 10,597, with 18 employee spaces and 12 offices. There will be indoor and outdoor staff lounges.

The current floor plans allow residents access to staff in each department. The new plan isolates the public to the front lobby and locates mid level and senior staff out of public view with private doorways to the outside. The multi-purpose room is excluded from the project. When discussing whether to use City reserves or finance the project, the City Manager said if it was financed, the interest would likely be double the 1% the city earns on savings, and a bond would be needed. The Council voted to use the reserves. When a question was raised about where to go during construction, and a suggestion of using an office style building in La Habra was raised, the City Manager said she had a plan to address the issue, but didn’t want to discuss it.

Councilmember Westerhoff said that there are unfunded employee retirement costs of $2-3 million. Combined with the $2+ million to remodel City Hall, this could deplete City reserves. Mr. Westerhoff said that if the City is going to disincorporate and go back to the country, it makes no sense to use that money on roads, but should instead be put into buildings. He also indicated he would not support the proposal because of a possible conflict of interest, but did not elaborate.

Documents provided to the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office suggest that a possible undisclosed conflict of interest exists between City Manager Shana Clark and Erving Architects. It was unclear if this was the conflict of interest to which Westerhoff was referring. Westerhoff asked the architect if he would indemnify the city, but received no response.

The City Council expressed some concern about about the campaigning practices of Higgins, Miller and Jeng.

If you feel you have been pressured, have questions or signatures (or signatures on paper) on nomination papers for Higgins, Jong and Miller; or closely associated with the La Habra Heights Improvement Association (LHHIA).

Voting – Bullet Votes & Voting “Parties”

Questions have been raised in the community about voting options. In this election, there are three open seats for City Council. Voters can choose up to three candidates, but are not required to cast all three votes.

“Bullet voting”

If there is one candidate you would like to see elected above others, a vote for only that candidate helps that strategy. By voting for more than one, you may be giving a vote to a candidate who ends up defeating the one you would normally support.

Similarly, if there are two candidates you definitely want elected, voting for a third could help defeat one or both of the two you really want. If you have examined all candidates and find those three candidates give you the best answers, you can cast a vote for all three. Staying home and not voting means someone else will be deciding who will sit on the City Council.

Vote by Mail “Parties”

No one should be pressured or intimidated to vote for a candidate or a slate directly or indirectly via peer pressure, such as a “party” where vote-by-mail ballots are filled out and collected.

If you feel you have been pressured, have questions about the campaigning practices of a candidate or their supporters, or to file a complaint, you can call the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s office at (916) 322-5660 or their “tip line” at (800) 561-1861.

More Information on All Stories can be found at www.LaHabraHeights.net

Correction and Retraction Policy

To report any inaccuracies requiring correction or clarification, e-mail the editor at LHHIA@aol.com or mail to the above address on the back of this newsletter.

City Council Candidates

Brian Bergman - Current City Council Member 2005 - 2007, City Planning Commissioner 2003-05, 26 year resident. Hacienda Teach-Pick-up volunteer, voted for Road Tax. Noted as respectful and courteous toward residents as Mayor. Mayor 2007-08, 2011-12. 4H Project Leader. Voted for City Hall remodel. Opposes AEERA development. Prints out he has helped preserve $5 million City reserves.


Michael Higgins - 23 year resident. Member Los Compadres, Highland Riders, LHHIA. Paid editor of Heights Life. Stated, “I hate the Brown Act.” At council meeting in 2011-12 Meeting Law at interview for appointment to Council. Voted for Road Tax. Husband of LHH Water Board member Pam McVicar. A retired businessman, Mr Higgins says he will bring mature and fiscal conservatism to the City Council. At League candidate forum reversed earlier statement, now supports Brown Act. He said, “living in this environment has a chance to make up the difference in revenue.” Supports $2 million City hall remodel.

Chesley Jong - 5 year resident. No stated involvement in City. Did not vote in Road Tax ballot. Past volunteer Corona-Norco schools. Licensed dentist in California and New Zealand, and an attorney. He says he will not let high density housing enter our city. Dr. Jong says he wants to know what residents are concerned with. Wants to restore Volunteers on Patrol to supplement Sheriff Service. Would work with Habi to seek financial assistance for our road repairs.

Kylie Miller - 14 year resident. Director LLHI, an advocate of $527 Road Tax as member of Roads Committee, Supports Measure A which increases City spending limit and Measure B at Oil Tax which reduces residents’ Oil royalties. Past Councilman, Highland Riders, Sierra Club, Menomonie Iron Company. Former Member Hacienda Golf Club.