

Notice is hereby given that Brigham City has received an argument in favor of Bond Proposition A and an argument against.

ARGUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED BOND

After recommendations from a community task force, the Brigham City Council unanimously approved a resolution asking voters to authorize issuance of a General Obligation Bond to finance the construction of a new community center, a regional sports complex and museum upgrades.

Brigham City's current Community Center houses the Senior Center on the main floor and the Museum in the basement. The center was built in 1970 and is undersized and inadequate for current needs. The outdated kitchen impedes the ability to efficiently prepare more than 250 meals per day. Our senior population is experiencing a "silver tsunami" as the baby boomers are transitioning into this area of desired service.

The proposed Community Center would house space to include three multisport gyms, a walking mezzanine, cafeteria, classrooms, craft rooms, a billiards area and other amenities to promote a healthy quality of life for our community. Currently the Recreation Department's indoor activities are fully dependent on the availability of gym space leased from local schools and worked around other functions, making expansion of community recreational needs impossible. The proposed center would eliminate the need for enrollment caps and would enhance current programs such as basketball, volleyball, pickleball, line dancing and many other programs. A "YES" vote for the GO Bond would provide the opportunity for the seniors to combine resources with recreation and allow us to promote more recreational and fitness opportunities. Additional space would enable more educational programming and increased health promotion services. These services assist older individuals in remaining independent and active in the community

Shortly after the Community Center was built in 1970, the Museum has had too little space for exhibitions and for storage of the more than 11,000 items in the Museum's permanent collection. Now, with two museums, the need for a larger, joint space is more important than ever, and this bond will provide some of that space. Bringing together the City's two museums will enable staff to work more efficiently and provide better care of the collections.

The continued development of the 65 acre regional sports complex will allow for the needed expansion of playing and practice fields that are sorely lacking in the community. Brigham City has been identified by national

tournament sanctioning bodies as an ideal hub for attracting youth and adult teams from surrounding states.

The proposed new Community Center along with the Regional Sports Complex and the Museum renovation will impact economic development as a result of quality of life improvements and visitor spending. The Community Center will provide for the recreational and other needs of Brigham City residents, improving the quality of life in the community and making Brigham City a more desirable place to live. The regional sports park will provide for increased regional sports events which will generate visitor spending for lodging, dining, shopping, and other services, all of which will bring new revenue to area businesses and increase sales tax revenues to the City and County.

~ Mark Thompson, representing the City Council

REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT FOR THE PROPOSED BOND

The support from the City Council for the proposed general obligation bond is not unanimous. One of the councilmembers gave their "yea" vote simply to put it on the ballot hoping the people of Brigham City will be smart enough to vote NO.

The so-called "silver tsunami" is a major reason for voting NO on the bond. Most seniors are on fixed incomes. Property tax is a huge burden because it has to be paid regardless of income. We should keep it as low as possible. This allows more seniors greater independence because they have the money to meet their needs.

Brigham City already has several parks along with soccer fields, tennis courts, pickleball courts, baseball diamonds, a golf course and a swimming pool. I remember back when the new swimming pool was being promoted in order to pass a bond. It was stated that it would bring many people in from out of town who would also dine while here. The first few years the pool was opened, there were quite a few visitors. That soon changed when other cities started building swimming pools. There is no guarantee that a sports complex will draw in large numbers over the long term. It will take 20 years to pay off this bond.

Brigham City is a small community. Large influxes of visitors will increase traffic. A NO vote will help it remain a nice, quiet community.

~ Sherry Phipps

ARGUMENT AGAINST THE GO BOND

We oppose the \$26,000,000 bond being proposed by Brigham City for completion of the outdoor sports complex and building a new senior/recreation center. The reasons are:

With a population of around 18,000, this bond seems like an excessive amount especially considering that probably about a third of this number are either children or people with low incomes. If this bond is passed, it is estimated it will increase our property taxes for homeowners \$148.93 per year on a home valued at \$160,000 and \$215.35 per year on a business of the same value. Our experience is that the County Assessor continues to increase the value of homes which means the tax will continue to rise.

At 4% interest, the first year interest payment alone will be \$1,040,000.

Utah is already in the top 20 states for the amount of taxes extracted from its residents. The taxes we already have are a grievous burden for the average citizen, especially those retired and/or on fixed incomes. These include federal income tax, social security, Medicare, state income tax, sales tax, county property tax, state gasoline tax, license fees, energy taxes, customer service fees, municipal energy tax, energy assistance tax and other hidden taxes.

Higher taxes negatively impact individual's disposable income, increase the cost of doing business, and increase the amount of rent.

The City should not build public venues to compete against private enterprise. We have gyms in this City such as Physiques. The City can also continue to lease the public school gyms for their basketball and volleyball programs.

Another consideration is that building more facilities will also require hiring more people that are paid from our taxes. The elaborate fire station that was built some years ago in this community is an example of this. The population is about the same, but we jumped from a volunteer to full-time staff.

It is our hope that the residents of Brigham City will seriously consider the implications of this kind of debt for a small community. If there are things groups in the community really want, they should look at fundraising and making generous donations of their own. Those who use the sports complex should pay to play; pay enough to complete it without increasing taxes. The City Council should also review the additional costs of running and maintaining any facility that is built.

We urge the citizens of Brigham City to vote NO on any increase in taxes or fees.

*~ Lee & Sherry Phipps, Kaydell & Elaine Bowles,
Becky Maddox*

The City Council will hear arguments for and against the proposition at the October 20, 2016 Council meeting. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and present oral testimony.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
TO HEAR ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST
THE UPCOMING GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND
Thursday, October 20, 2016, 7:00 PM
Brigham City Council Chambers
20 North Main, Brigham City**