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Improve Our Tulsa - time to do our part

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Posted: Sunday, November 10, 2013 12:00 am | Updated: 3:30 am, Sun Nov 10, 2013.

By ROBERT J. LaFORTUNE | 5 comments

As a former public servant and mayor of Tulsa, it's been my good fortune over the past 50 years to see the city grow and thrive. That progress has been steady, and I credit it in large part to one simple thing the determined attitude of our citizens to invest in our city's future.

At every turn, Tulsans have stepped forward and supported making improvements in our city. You can see the results all around you well-known facilities such as the Performing Arts Center, the Gilcrease

Museum, our stunning new BOK Center. You can also see the progress in projects that don't receive as much acclaim the miles of streets you drive on every day, our system of city parks, water and sewer projects, major expressway construction, and countless other projects that are still just as important in making Tulsa a special place to live.

On Tuesday, all of us have the unique opportunity to continue making a difference in our city by voting "Yes" for the city's two Improve Our Tulsa capital improvements propositions.

Why should you vote "Yes?" There are many reasons.

One is that this capital improvements package addresses our city's core needs. It is not a list of extravagant wants. By voting for Improve Our Tulsa, you're voting to take care of our city's infrastructure our streets and bridges, vital equipment for our police and firefighters, our parks and animal shelter, our library and zoo. These are basic needs that must be maintained for all our residents, and they play a vital role in making Tulsa a vibrant, attractive city for visitors as well.

Another reason to vote "yes" is that this capital improvements package, which utilizes funds from sales tax and general obligation bonds, has been the primary mechanism for meeting our city's needs since the 1980s. There is no other way to fund new fire trucks,

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police helicopters and firefighters' self-contained breathing suits all of which are included in this package and need to be updated. I know we would all agree that our police and firefighters deserve safe equipment to do their jobs especially as they work daily to protect our city.

What encourages me the most about this Improve Our Tulsa capital improvements package is the extensive public input that went into choosing these projects. Residents and city officials worked together through nine months of public meetings to ensure that the most vital projects were selected for the package. This is truly a package that Tulsans have asked for, and we need to support their wishes.

This capital improvements package isn't about politics it's about maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for this and future generations of Tulsans. That's why Improve Our Tulsa has been endorsed by a wide range of organizations who understand its importance. Now it's time to do our part. This coming Tuesday, vote "yes" on Propositions 2 and 3 and continue to Improve Our Tulsa.

Robert J. LaFortune was the mayor of Tulsa 1970-78.

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Barbara Bond posted at 4:07 pm on Sun, Nov 10, 2013.



Posts: 21

Mr LaFortune patted himself on the back for serving Tulsa.

HaHaHa, nobody in office serves the citizens. If there is any service, it is on the backs of the taxpayer, that coughs up the cash for the big buildings to be built & continues paying as he/she taxpayer is allowed to enter after the completion.

If these plotiticians really wanted to be servants, City hall would be a quonset hut & they would be wearing government issue overalls, to serve the city. What a Concept! Even our policemen ride around in \$150.000.00 Police Cars.

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Mert Rozman posted at 10:16 am on Sun, Nov 10, 2013.



Posts: 1296

Bob Lafortune is the best Tulsa mayor in my lifetime, far and away. Of course he had the advantage of being in office under the previous city charter.

He is giving excellent advice about voting FOR Improve Our Tulsa. He always did favor civic progress over the Bartlett Drift that you have experienced with this mayor.

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Daniel Creel posted at 8:59 am on Sun, Nov 10, 2013.



Posts: 585

I will vote Yes for Propositions 2 and 3 in order to promote Tulsa's progress and help to make our City the Jewel on the Arkansas.

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Tex Taylor posted at 5:44 am on Sun, Nov 10, 2013.



Posts: 845

Do not take this as a No Vote - I'm certainly not against paying my fair share and have done so. I have voted for numerous tax increases, extensions, a BOK Arena and the like before. I understand nothing works for free and basic infrastructure critically important.

However...

...No offense to Robert LaFortune, Kathy Taylor or Dewey Bartlett, but their lives not representative of the normal rank and file who still have to mow their own lawns, get their kids to school without a nanny, clean their own house, buy clear plastic bags ordained by fiat, pay the mortgage while sweating the cost of the electric bill in August.

I find myself somewhere in between the extremes of obscenely rich and desperately poor, and my life pretty comfortable. But I have far more in

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common with the poor man's concerns than I do the Utica Square's multi-millionaire desires. Most do.

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Gordon Mills posted at 1:34 pm on Sun, Nov 10, 2013.




Posts: 531

And if you vote 'Yes' you are voting against those you label 'normal'.

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