

FORE! Stop the Golf Tax Now!



Lawmakers are weighing a *new* proposal to extend the sales tax to golf. This unjust golf tax proposal will become law unless YOU act now!

Once again, we need golfers to drive home the message to the Governor and Legislators that imposing this tax on golf is wrong. Here's why:

➤ **Whether you are practicing or playing a round, this new threat of a golf tax is real:**

A blue-ribbon tax commission appointed by the Governor and the State Legislature will issue a report by mid-2009 calling for a restructuring of California's tax system. An extension of the sales tax to golf is among the proposals. Lawmakers are expected to then move on new tax legislation that could include:

- Greens fees on ALL courses in the state
- Driving range fees
- Cart rentals and lessons
- Private club memberships and monthly dues, and
- Golf-related items such as entry to golf tournaments

➤ **From current zero to 10 percent:**

Depending on the county in which you play golf, the tax will range from about 8 percent to just above 10 percent. Asking golfers to pay an extra 10 percent per round, per cart fee, on monthly dues...on and on it goes...is wrong.

➤ **Golf has a diverse base but lawmakers think they are "taxing the rich." The tax, however, hurts kids, the middle class and seniors the most:**

Seniors on fixed incomes, the weekend municipal course players, golfers with disabilities, and youngsters who are at-risk and/or economically disadvantaged will be hit particularly hard by the tax. Community-based programs that focus on instilling solid core values in youth such as The First Tee and Youth on Course will also be impacted. Individuals and families that rely on

the activity of golf for better health and wellness would also be asked to bear a disproportionate share of the state's ongoing budget shortfall.

➤ **A golf tax is bad for California jobs and the economy:**

Many California golf courses have been particularly hard hit by the economic downturn. Courses operating on slim margins already will face shutdown. The tax would backfire by reducing play and closing courses. An additional tax of up to 10 percent on playing golf also will wreak significant harm on the industry, slashing golf-related jobs. Golf provides some 160,000 jobs in California, directly and in related hotel and restaurant service employment.

➤ **Golf already contributes its fair share:**

The golf industry already contributes substantially to California through tourism, property taxes, payroll taxes, income taxes, and taxes on golf merchandise. This new tax will not only reduce play it will drive down revenues on the currently taxable side of the industry. Fewer golfers mean decreased sales of equipment and apparel, less charity events and monies raised (more than \$324 million annually), and fewer visits for business and family to golf resorts, thereby reducing hotel and restaurant revenues.

➤ **Turn back the golf tax again by taking action:**

Golfers across California joined together to defeat the unjust golf tax earlier this year. Turn your foursome into a force that ensures that a golf tax once again doesn't make the cut.

VISIT THE WEBSITE NOW

➤ **www.ForeCalifornia.com**

LEARN MORE | EMAIL ALERTS | JOIN THE COALITION | ISSUE UPDATES