

GUEST COLUMN

For the Thursday, November 16, 2017 Edition

From: Mayor James E. "Jamie" Mayo

**Election Day is November 18th for
Important City of Monroe Property Tax Renewals**

Monroe residents, this weekend, our employees are counting on you to exercise your right to vote. Your vote is vital for the future of our city in multiple ways. We need your help in motivating every eligible voter to show their support for the six items that the City of Monroe has on the November ballot. These six propositions are for the 10-year continuation of property taxes that Monroe residents have been paying for many years.

Collectively, these six property taxes bring in just over \$5 million dollars per year. That is almost 10% of our city's annual general fund operating budget. Failure to pass these millages will result in the loss of jobs and important services – if we must cut \$5M from our annual budget. So, you can see why the renewal of these taxes are so important. Remember, if you vote yes, it is for the continuation of property taxes that you already pay.

Proposition #1 is for the Civic Center, and funds are used for the operation, maintenance, repairs and improvements at the civic center complex.

Proposition #2 is for the Zoo, and it pays for a portion of the operating and maintenance of that facility. This includes repairs, improvements and additions.

Proposition #3 is for Capital Improvements which are made citywide. This includes repairs, maintenance, and enhancements to existing and future infrastructure (roads, water, sewer, etc.) and city facilities.

Proposition #4 is for our Police, and Proposition #5 is for Fire. These funds are very important for our city's public safety efforts because we use them to purchase equipment and vehicles.

Proposition #6 is for the Airport, and these funds are used for capital improvements at the airport, matching funds for state and federal grants, and to help pay off the cost of constructing our new airport terminal.

Also, the Southside Economic Development District has a 2% Hotel Occupancy Tax on the ballot. If passed, a 2% tax will be placed on hotel night stays at all hotels within the Southside Economic Development District. Only the residents of Districts 3, 4, and 5 will vote on this measure. The funds generated are to be used for infrastructure improvements, construction and acquisition of land/property to help spur economic development in south Monroe. This is a chance for the public to help create a revenue stream that the SEDD can use to help grow south Monroe.

Election Day is Saturday, November 18th. Please take someone to the polls with you. We need your support! By working together, we are making a difference!