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**From:** Bruce England  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 12:20 PM  
**To:** City Council; Showalter, Pat; Matichak, Lisa; Hicks, Alison; Ramirez, Lucas; Kamei, Ellen; Abe-Koga, Margaret; Ramos, Emily Ann  
**Cc:** Bruce England  
**Subject:** Re City Budget and Ballot Measure Amending Real Property Conveyance Tax

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Dear City Council members:

With regard to 6.3 Adoption of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budgets, Fee Modifications, and Funding for Fiscal Year 2024-25 Capital Improvement Projects and 7.1 Call a Municipal Election for November 5, 2024, and Place a Ballot Measure Amending Real Property Conveyance Tax at your meeting this week, I'd like to share a few comments with you.

I was not entirely comfortable with the questions that were included in the revenue measure surveys, as I'm not confident they adequately capture the complexities and potential trade offs that need to be considered in just about any decision the City makes, as you certainly know.

That said, what I'm concerned about at this stage is that responses seem to reflect more a desire to fix and patch things rather than seek ways to make Mountain View the best city we can have as we head into the future. Do we need to ensure public safety and fix potholes? Sure. But we also need a thriving and healthy community, with all aspects of our environment taken into account as well. Environmental sustainability, active transportation, biodiversity and wildlife protection, and affordable housing for all, just to name a few, are essential components of the kind of community that we can be proud of and that makes sense to us.

Accordingly, I urge you to be cautious about putting too much emphasis on fixing and patching, and, instead, look for funding opportunities that lead us to a future that means more than just maintaining the status quo and rather puts focus on the aspirational. If we want the Community for All that we talk about, we need to work toward all this phrase implies.

The part of the ballot language that says "provide additional funding for services that protect local property values" could be taken to include some or all of the above, at least in spirit, so I will remain hopeful, and I look forward to seeing how projects play out in the course of future planning as a result of additional funding through the ballot measure, assuming it passes.

Thanks!  
Bruce England

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**From:** pam lehner  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 5:31 PM  
**To:** City Council; Pam Lehner  
**Subject:** Another way to tax homeowners

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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I find it interesting that the city is looking at spending so much money on pickleball courts, however appealing they may be, when they are so desperate for more money that they are planning to bring in even more taxes through a "measure". One that they openly admit will be at a lower level in order to get it passed and then they will raise again in a coming election. And, they are already planning for how they can get more money in 2026. Read for yourself and make up your own mind.

I for one, have had enough.

For context, I have put info below on the Racket Racket and the Simmering Frog analogies.

If you want to make your views known to the council, the email is in the address line.

Thank you,  
Pam

[Mountain View moves forward with tax measure for November ballot](#)



**Mountain View moves forward with tax measure for November ballot**

Emily Margaretten

With early polling results indicating that Mountain View is headed in the right direction, the city is planning ...

# Ratchet approach to introducing legislation

The ratchet approach refers to **a phenomenon where governments tend to introduce new legislation or regulations in response to crises**, which ultimately enhances their powers and makes it difficult to roll back or repeal these measures in the future. This concept was popularized by Robert Higgs in his book "Crisis and Leviathan".

## Key Features of the Ratchet Approach:

- **Temporary measures:** Governments introduce temporary measures to address specific crises, such as wars, economic downturns, or natural disasters.
- **Expansion of government powers:** These temporary measures often lead to the expansion of government powers, as governments use the crisis as an opportunity to implement new policies and regulations.
- **Difficulty in rollback:** Once the crisis has passed, governments find it challenging to roll back or repeal these new measures, as they have become entrenched in the system.
- **Ratchet effect:** The ratchet effect occurs when governments use the momentum from the initial crisis to introduce further measures, which are then difficult to reverse.

## Examples of the Ratchet Approach:

- **War-time measures:** Governments often introduce emergency measures during wartime, such as censorship, rationing, and conscription. These measures can become permanent even after the war has ended.
- **Economic crises:** Governments may introduce stimulus packages or bailouts during economic downturns, which can lead to the creation of new regulatory bodies or the expansion of existing ones.
- **Natural disasters:** Governments may introduce emergency measures during natural disasters, such as evacuations, curfews, or price controls. These measures can become permanent even after the disaster has passed.

## Consequences of the Ratchet Approach:

- **Erosion of individual liberties:** The ratchet approach can lead to the erosion of individual liberties, as governments use crises as an opportunity to expand their powers and restrict individual freedoms.
- **Increased government spending and debt:** The ratchet approach can lead to increased government spending and debt, as governments use crises to justify the introduction of new programs and policies.
- **Inefficient allocation of resources:** The ratchet approach can lead to inefficient allocation of resources, as governments prioritize short-term solutions over long-term sustainability.

## Conclusion:

The ratchet approach to introducing legislation is **a phenomenon where governments use crises as an opportunity to expand their powers and introduce new measures, which can be difficult to roll back in the future**. This approach can have significant consequences for individual liberties, government spending, and the efficient allocation of resources. It is essential for policymakers to be aware of the ratchet approach and strive to introduce legislation that balances the need for crisis management with the protection of individual liberties and the promotion of long-term sustainability.

# Putting a frog in boiling water

The concept of “putting a frog in boiling water” refers to a common idiom that describes **a situation where someone or something is gradually exposed to a harmful or unpleasant situation without realizing the danger until it’s too late**. This phenomenon is often used to illustrate the idea of gradual change or incremental harm that can occur without being perceived or addressed until it reaches a critical point.

## The Myth Debunked

Contrary to popular belief, the idea that a frog will not notice if it is placed in lukewarm water that is slowly heated to boiling point is a myth. In reality, frogs can sense changes in temperature and will likely jump out of the water if it becomes uncomfortable or painful.

## The Real Story

The concept of the boiling frog is often used to describe the gradual and insidious nature of environmental degradation, overconsumption of resources, and other slow-moving threats. It serves as a cautionary tale about the importance of being aware of and addressing these issues before they reach a critical point.

## Key Takeaways

- The concept of the boiling frog is often used to describe gradual and insidious changes that can have significant consequences.
- **The idea that a frog will not notice if it is placed in lukewarm water that is slowly heated to boiling point is a myth.**
- The boiling frog phenomenon serves as a reminder to be aware of and address slow-moving threats before they reach a critical point.

note: debunking the myth doesn't make the correlation any less.