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**Taxpayers Association Calls for EXPANSION of the People’s Ordinance  
*Says All Taxpayers Should Get Some Trash Collected without Fee***

**San Diego (June 1, 2022)** -- The San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) announced in February 2022 it would reconsider its 2015 recommendation to repeal the People’s Ordinance. After a thorough reexamination, the Association no longer believes the People’s Ordinance should be repealed; rather it should be expanded to create an equitable system that acknowledges apartment and multi-family residents – often taxpayers from underserved communities – are being charged twice for trash pick-up.

**Key Points** from research and analysis of The People’s Ordinance conducted by SDCTA:

1. All residents in the city of San Diego pay property taxes to the County – either directly, or indirectly through their rents. These taxes are funneled to the City to pay for key services like police, fire, and trash collection.
2. The current City policy double charges apartment renters and condo owners for trash pick-up: First through the property taxes they pay - either directly or indirectly - and a second time through independent trash haulers. This double-charging should end.
3. Every resident should receive without additional charge (a) some amount of solid waste collection paid for through their property taxes, and (b) unlimited recycling and green waste collection.
4. To encourage recycling and Zero Waste Goals, voters should support a “Pay As You Throw” system that would charge all taxpayers for amounts of non-recyclable trash ABOVE the universal no-charge allotment covered by the property taxes they already pay.
5. Income from this Pay As You Throw program must be placed in a dedicated enterprise fund to be used exclusively for improvements to the trash collection & landfill system, and the expansion of recycling.
6. Trash pick-up should be competitive to ensure maximum value to taxpayers.

The Association asserts that all San Diego residents, whether living in a house, condo, or apartment, are paying into the City’s general fund through property taxes, and therefore every resident is entitled to some amount of solid waste collection without additional fees. Additionally, every taxpayer in the city should be entitled to an unlimited amount of recycling and green waste collection without additional charge, as such materials can be repurposed and turned into revenue, just like the original sales of waste to pig farmers when the People’s Ordinance was established in 1919.

“The answer to creating fairness and equity in trash collection is not to charge people living in houses twice but to charge apartment and condo residents only once – through the property taxes they are already paying. Doing so is fair and equitable, and in the best interests of all taxpayers,” said Haney Hong, president and chief executive officer of the Association. “We should amend the People’s Ordinance to acknowledge this and to create an effective and efficient waste management system so that the city lives within its means and can achieve the Zero Waste Goals it has set for 2035.”



The Association is also inviting leaders from communities of concern to discuss these recommendations and speak with a shared voice when a potential amendment comes before the City of San Diego Council Rules Committee.

The full policy paper is available at <https://www.sdcta.org/policyreports>.

The Association looks forward to working with leaders of the San Diego City Council to create a waste collection system that is effective, efficient, and equitable.

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San Diego County Taxpayers Association (SDCTA) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, dedicated to promoting accountable, cost-effective, and efficient government and opposing unnecessary new taxes and fees. Since 1945, SDCTA has served as “San Diego’s Taxpayer Watchdog Group” by educating the public and helping save the region’s citizens millions of dollars. Public opinion polls consistently rate SDCTA as the most “influential” and “trusted” public policy institution in San Diego. For more information, please visit [www.sdcta.org](http://www.sdcta.org), Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, call 619-234-6423, or email [info@sdcta.org](mailto:info@sdcta.org)