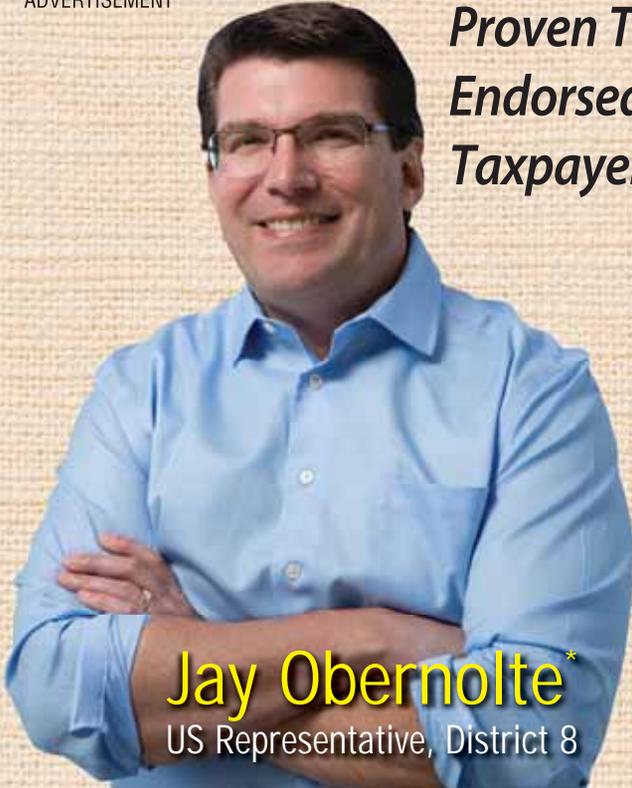


JIM LACY'S TAXIFORNIA TAX FIGHTER'S NEWSLETTER

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No on Proposition 13
The Prop 13 on this ballot is not our
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Column On Page 2



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GUEST COLUMNIST

GOVERNMENT FUNDS NEED BETTER MANAGEMENT ON "HOMELESS" CRISIS.

BY JIM LACY

Taxpayers are not getting best efforts from their local governments in California in the effort to deal with the "homeless" crisis. Funds are being targeted to bureaucracy and not solutions, and millions of dollars are proven to be wasted under the current approach. For example, one study by the *San Francisco Chronicle* a few years ago implied that over a three year period, San Francisco spent the equivalent of \$120,000 for each homeless person counted, around 6,000 people, for a total exceeding \$720,000,000, and the "homeless" population was not reduced by one person! And those funds are on top of other state and Federal funds also being spent at the same time to deal with the issue.

Part of the problem is terminology and a fear of local government's in enforcing laws. Not all the so-called 'homeless' people are best identified as "homeless." California's "homeless" crisis will not be abated until we are able to use words like "vagrancy," "panhandling," and "trespasser" again to more realistically describe what is going on and the proper legal tool to address it. Truly homeless, especially women and children, should be sheltered immediately. But studies overwhelmingly reveal it is not as much a "homeless" crisis as an addiction

epidemic, largely among working age men, many of whom also have petty crime rap sheets. Sexual offenders are among them.

When the general population starts getting "woke" to this reality, government can start using the proper tools to fix it. It will take much effort given court rulings that have denigrated property rights and anti-vagrancy laws that once kept the streets more sanitary. But the health crisis, such as the medieval plague surging in downtown Los Angeles and potentially in residential communities, has started to change attitudes on tolerating "the homeless crisis" and given more focus to exactly who and what we are talking about.

The Los Angeles Times recently conducted a poll and found that 63% of Los Angeles County residents believe "homeless" people should not be allowed to degrade residential and business property and sleep in streets. And 65% believe police should be more involved with "homeless" in cleaning up streets and addressing broader health crisis. These are signs that taxpayers understand that local governments in California are not handling the situation very well, and that new solutions that don't simply rely on more taxes and more spending are needed.

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