

Resolution Opposing the Passage of Proposed Amendment 4

WHEREAS the Secretary of State has certified to the November 7 ballot an initiated proposed constitutional amendment (Amendment 4) to remove the sales and use tax on used goods, to require a vote on all increases in taxes at a regularly scheduled statewide election, to relax the procedural requirements for filing class action suits, to remove the bar voluntary payment makes against the subsequent recovery of taxes, to remove the defense of sovereign immunity; and

WHEREAS Amendment 4 will reduce general revenues \$164.3 million and

WHEREAS public education would lose \$96.4 million, an amount that could not be absorbed without increasing class size, postponing building maintenance, eliminating special programs such as band, music, art and not buying computers, or eliminating support services such as bus transportation; and

WHEREAS higher education would lose \$27.5 million resulting in lost scholarship opportunities or increased tuition for students; and

WHEREAS cities and counties would lose \$20 million which could force cuts or scale backs in local services such as senior citizens centers, 911 systems, police and fire protection; and

WHEREAS the first opportunity to replace the lost revenue could not occur until a regularly scheduled statewide election in November 2002; and

WHEREAS requiring that all new or increased taxes, fees, licenses be approved by the voters will tie the hands of the Governor and legislature, and might make it impossible for the state to raise the money it needs to keep government operating effectively for its citizens; and

WHEREAS requiring that voter approval of such taxes occur at a regularly scheduled statewide election could limit the ability of the State to respond to emergencies and throw the entire state into crisis; and

WHEREAS by creating a new three-year statute of limitations during which taxpayers can recover disputed taxes, local and state governments could be involved in illegal exaction and class action lawsuits continuously and be required to pay attorneys fees from taxpayer funds; and

WHEREAS the passage of Amendment 4 would do long term damage to the quality of life for every Arkansan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Council of Cotter
opposes Initiated Amendment 4 and urges the citizens of Cotter to vote

against this amendment in the November 7, 2000 election.

PASSED THIS 19th DAY OF October 2000

Betty A. Anglin
City Clerk/Recorder

J. H. Pratt
Mayor