

ENCLOSURE 1A

City of Rome

Resolution

WHEREAS, a proposal has been made for the citizens of Georgia to vote on eliminating all ad valorem property taxes and replacing the tax with a statewide sales tax more specifically called Georgia's Repeal of Every Ad valorem Tax (GREAT) Plan; and

WHEREAS, two independent and recognized organizations have determined that adequate funds would not be generated from a statewide sales tax to replace all ad valorem property tax; and

WHEREAS, local governments and school systems need reliable sources of revenue under local control to operate in a financially responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, the proposed plan would send billions of additional dollars to the state to manage and redistribute and make cities, counties and school systems fiscally subservient to the state; and

WHEREAS, the ability to borrow money at lower interest rates by local governments and school systems would be greatly restricted by the elimination of ad valorem taxes; and

WHEREAS, the distribution would be controlled by the state political process with some communities being donors and others receiving more than they put in with citizens no longer being able to decide their services and how they pay for them; and

WHEREAS, ad valorem taxes are a deduction on federal and state income taxes; and

WHEREAS, Tax Allocation Districts, Special Tax Districts and related incentives which use ad valorem tax benefits to encourage redevelopment efforts would be decimated; and

WHEREAS, cities use property assessments determined by county tax assessors under state law; and

WHEREAS, city budgets are prepared and adopted using a very open and public process where public hearings are required if millage rates are increased.

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Rome City Commission urges our senator and representatives to vote against this proposal and any proposal that further restricts local control of local government and schools.