

1998-27

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the proposed constitutional amendment would severely limit the ability of the City of Gothenburg to continue sufficient funding for needed economic development projects and programs as well as public / private partnerships to retain and attract businesses to Nebraska, including the capacity to construct the necessary infrastructure in a timely fashion, and

WHEREAS, the City of Gothenburg has consistently worked hard on economic development projects and programs with local businesses, banks, Chamber of Commerce, Gothenburg Improvement Company, Community Redevelopment Authority, and others to keep local businesses viable and attract new businesses to increase the number and quality of jobs available to Nebraskans, and

WHEREAS, the proposed constitutional amendment would result in stopping or deferring needed public improvement projects and programs which are not only important for economic development but ultimately affect the quality of life for citizens of the City of Gothenburg, and

WHEREAS, the proposed constitutional amendment would limit the City of Gothenburg from providing the necessary resources to adequately fund important services for citizens, including public safety programs affecting emergency -- rescue, fire fighting, and law enforcement, and

WHEREAS, the City of Gothenburg has worked strategically to limit spending and reduce property taxes by implementing a wide variety of practices and programs, such as local option sales tax WITH VOTER APPROVAL, privatization of appropriate functions when cost effective to do so, public / private partnerships, joint purchasing and delivery of services, as well as the adoption of many other policies to increase efficiency and reduce costs, and

WHEREAS, the City of Gothenburg, through the League of Nebraska Municipalities, has consistently advocated passage of legislation to allow municipalities to further reduce costs and increase efficiency, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have worked hard to limit spending but still comply with unfunded state and federal mandates, and

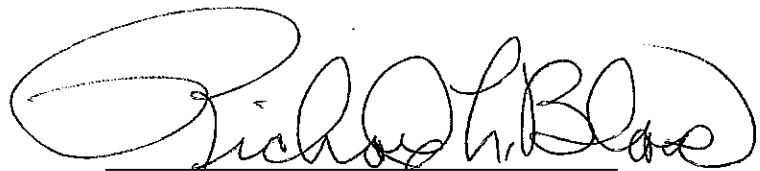
WHEREAS, approximately 75 percent of the city budget is required to fund personnel-related costs which must comply with the "comparability requirements" of state law and the decisions of the Commission of Industrial Relations, constituting the largest unfunded state mandate on cities and villages, and

WHEREAS, the proposed constitutional lid to be submitted to the voters in November 1998 would constitute approximately 11 percent of our state constitution by adding approximately 3,450 new words, which would certainly result in unintended consequences and endless litigation to clarify vague language.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. the City of Gothenburg strongly opposes the proposed constitutional tax and spending lid for the above stated reasons because it would critically impair the ability of those elected into office to respond effectively to the needs of the voters who elected them, and
2. the City of Gothenburg strongly opposes the proposed constitutional tax and spending lid because it would prevent the City, Governor and Legislature from continuing to provide increased property tax relief, negatively impacting citizens who rely on state or local government for basic services and, of course, property taxpayers who have been demanding property tax relief from state and local governments, and
3. the City of Gothenburg commits to continue working with the current and newly-elected Governor and State Senators to control unnecessary spending by empowering us through legislation to further increase efficiency and save taxpayer dollars.

Passed and approved this 20th day of October 1998.


Richard L. Blase, Mayor

Attest:


Connie Stull, City Clerk