

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Online Petition Proves Certain For A Tax Rollback Election**

ROCKWALL, TX, September 5, 2015 — A tax rollback election is now certain in McLendon-Chisholm, a suburb of Rockwall, should the city's Mayor & City Council make good on their proposed 228% tax rate increase as opposition has now garnered enough virtual signatures through an online petition to prove that there is more than enough support to meet the 5% state petition requirements.

Tuesday evening at 6:30PM at the Chisholm Baptist Church, located at 1388 TX-205, is when the Council must vote on their proposed 333% budget increase that would necessitate the mammoth tax hike that city officials claim will keep taxes from being raised again for fifteen years, an assertion based primarily on a 30-year city plan that is in the final stages of development, of which that taxpayers have been shut out from seeing.

Part of the proposed increase that has most angered taxpayers is the Mayor & Council's decision in January to obligate citizens into long-term bond-debt to build a new city hall (already under construction), for which they were kept from voting, only to recently discover that the actual debt amount had skyrocketed \$600 thousand more than \$1.5 million as had been communicated to citizens during last September's town hall meeting.

"Our efforts have been focused on shedding light on what city officials have tried to keep hidden from taxpayers" states Robert Steinhagen, the spokesperson for the group that is spearheading the opposition. He adds, "the facts are proving to be an insurmountable obstacle for the Mayor & Council to gain any traction of support for their proposed tax increase but has been the catalyst for citizens to join us in standing up in opposition."

Organized three weeks ago under the moniker "Citizens for Representative Government of McLendon-Chisholm" [CFRGMC], the groups website, [www.cfrgmc.org](http://www.cfrgmc.org) has become a resource for citizens to view documents that were obtained through an open records request, but not available on the city's website, that include floor-plans, renderings & construction details for the new city hall, monthly financial reports, annual financial audits, and the volunteer fire department's proposal to increase the pay of the chief & firefighters, among others.

Speaking at last month's public hearing, Steinhagen told the Mayor & Council of their efforts to start an online petition in support of a tax-rollback to demonstrate enough support to require the city to hold a special election and enough votes to rollback the tax increase if that election were to occur."

Now with the empirical proof to support their claim, Steinhagen says that they plan to turn in the petition results to the city prior to the Mayor & Council's consideration of the motion to approve. Steinhagen adds, "We intend to make it clear that if the Mayor & city council moves forward with a tax rate that exceeds \$0.16, they will knowingly be putting our city in financial jeopardy."

For additional information contact Robert Steinhagen at 214-316-2458 or email [robertsteinhagen@cfrgmc.org](mailto:robertsteinhagen@cfrgmc.org).

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