

ELECT JOE  
**Lara-Gardner**  
CITY COUNCIL



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Well it's that time again...We even refer to it as a "season." It is called tax time. I don't think I've ever met anyone who looks forward to this time of year, me included.

This "season" in particular has put the Internal Revenue Service in the spot light yet again. We are all familiar with the scandals surrounding the I.R.S. from possible targeting of conservative groups and the criminal actions to cover up it up. Another scandal includes recent revelations that the I.R.S. issued billions of dollars in potentially fraudulent refunds to criminals involved in organized identity theft operations. During testimony at a Senatorial Hearing, it was stated 2,000 tax returns were sent to one single address. What is most concerning is that the I.R.S. seems to be incapable of stopping the fraud and corruption.

It's no wonder. The I.R.S. is beyond a bloated bureaucracy. Here are some quick facts about the I.R.S.; The I.R.S. code has 3.7 million words. It has 1,977 forms. It employs 95,000 people. Taxpayers are estimated to spend 3.8 billion hours on complying with I.R.S. rules.

We have known for decades that the system of taxation has been compromised and used as a tool by every administration to undermine freedom of speech and manipulate social change. Two words, "I.R.S." and "audit" can send a shiver through the spine of the average taxpayer.

The collection of taxes is supposed to be a service, designed to help fund the general safety and welfare of the country and nothing more. It has exceeded its original function and works outside its scope and will grow ever larger now that it is the enforcement arm for the Affordable Care Act.

You've seen the tax commercials, right? "It's your money people!" We should all call for a complete overhaul of the tax system to prevent it from being used as a tool to manipulate political outcomes and class warfare. The system must be simplified to remove the opportunities for abuse by the I.R.S. or any other governmental agency including the executive branch. My suggestion is to work towards a straight-forward, simple 12% to 15% "Flat-Tax" or similar system that streamlines the collection of taxes. I, for one, would love not to have keep stacks of records and pay hundreds of dollars to prepare my taxes each year. Such a reform would limit the purview and power of the I.R.S. and end the wasteful bureaucracy of collections. It would also improve the compliance of taxpayers. Imagine what a boost it would give to our ailing economy.

The bottom line is we must not fear our government. We must force it to serve us, the American taxpayer, as it was intended.

Be a resounding voice for change. As the 2016 Presidential Election approaches, choose the candidate that supports common-sense reform of the tax system and repealing the Affordable Care Act.

