

Dear Chair Gjerde and Supervisors,

I am writing to express my support for not consolidating the two elected positions of Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector. I have neither heard nor read of any thorough analysis by Mendocino County that proves that consolidation of these two positions will benefit the residents of Mendocino County and result in cost savings as well.

In conversations that I have been part of, both the Acting Auditor-Controller and the Treasurer-Tax Collector have stated that their offices have not been involved in any discussion on the repercussions of combining both of these positions. How in good conscience can you make a decision based on zero involvement with Ms. Chamise Cubbinson and Ms. Shari Schapmire. Do any of you believe you have such thorough knowledge of how each office operates that their expertise (Ms. Cubbinson and Ms. Schapmire) is not needed in a decision to combine their positions?

Ms. Cubbinson and Ms. Schapmire have stated that if their offices are combined there is a strong likelihood that supporting staff from both offices may choose to leave rather than be responsible for the increased workload with the decreased staffing that will surely result from your combining of the positions.

It has also been mentioned that one of the reasons to consolidate the two offices is because Sonoma County has done this so therefore Mendocino County should as well. To make a decision that will financially impact Mendocino County based on equating Sonoma County with Mendocino County would be good if both counties had the same revenue and resources, but in fact there is no such similarity.

The citizens of Mendocino County are best served by having two elected positions monitoring county finances, we need the checks and balances. Combining the two offices removes the safety of having oversight from two officials and leaves us, the residents, totally reliant on one individual. That action would not be in our, the county residents, best interests.

Please do not move forward with an action of consolidating these two positions. Such a decision will potentially have severe financial impacts to Mendocino County.

Respectively,
Peter Bradford