



CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BALLOT INITIATIVE OPEN TO ALL TEMPLE TERRACE VOTERS

Residents urged to vote "yes" on referendum

TEMPLE TERRACE, FL. – (1/18/12) – Officials are reminding residents the Jan. 31, 2012 referendum on Temple Terrace's proposed tax incentives is open to all Temple Terrace registered voters, not just those participating in the Republican Presidential Primary.

The City has received a number of calls from confused citizens who believe the polls are open only to Republicans, who will have their presidential primary that day, said City Clerk Lisa Small. However, all registered voters who live in Temple Terrace may go to the polls and cast a ballot for the City's proposed *Economic Development Tax Incentive Program*.

The program provides a tax incentive to make the City more competitive in attracting new businesses, officials say. The program already is in place in Tampa, Plant City and Hillsborough County. Temple Terrace should offer the program as well to make sure the City is not overlooked when businesses consider relocating to the area, said Temple Terrace City Manager Kim Leinbach.

"If we aren't competitive with the other jurisdictions, then we're not going to land these notable companies," Leinbach said. "This isn't a tax increase; it's simply a way of making the City more competitive in attracting business."

The economic development program will help create and retain jobs, officials say. Qualifying new businesses may claim an exemption of 50 percent to 75 percent of the value of tangible personal property and property improvements. Expanding businesses also would be eligible for the exemption based on added improvements and increased tangible property value.

Temple Terrace residents are urged to vote "yes" on the initiative, Leinbach said.

The Temple Terrace Public Library, 202 Bullard Parkway, is open for early voting daily through Jan. 28 (except Sunday, Jan.22) from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call (813) 506-6770 for more information about the polling location.

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