

**MEASURE SUBMITTED TO VOTE OF VOTERS  
SCHOOL**

**SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOND ELECTION  
MEASURE C**

**C** To enhance the quality of education through facility improvements; ensure safety; repair leaky roofs; remove asbestos; replace outdated heating, ventilation/plumbing systems; improve earthquake safety; renovate/re-open an elementary school; upgrade mathematics, science and reading classrooms; acquire school facilities; and upgrade school sites/facilities, shall San Rafael Elementary School District issue \$26 million of bonds, at interest rates within the legal limit, and create an Oversight Committee to guarantee that funds are spent only on school improvements?

**SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOND ELECTION  
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL  
MEASURE C**

If this Measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT will be authorized to incur bonded indebtedness of Twenty-six Million Dollars (\$26,000,000) with an interest rate not-to-exceed the limit set by law. The proceeds of the proposed bonds may be used for the purposes set forth in the Measure and to acquire and construct other improvements, school buildings and grounds in the District. The Measure creates an Oversight Committee to monitor spending of the proceeds of the bonds.

Dated: September 21, 1999

PATRICK K. FAULKNER  
County Counsel

**SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TAX RATE STATEMENT REGARDING PROPOSED  
\$26,000,000 SAN RAFAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
MEASURE C**

An election will be held in the San Rafael Elementary School District (the "District") of Marin County on December 7, 1999, for the purpose of authorizing the sale of \$26,000,000 in general obligation bonds. The bonds would be payable from tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District.

The following information regarding tax rates is given to comply with Section 9400 to 9404 of the Elections Code. The best estimate of the tax rates which would be required to be levied to fund the bond issue and an estimate of the year in which such rates would apply, based on a projection of assessed valuation based on information presently available from official sources, upon experience within the District, and other demonstrable factors, expressed as a rate per \$100 of assessed valuation, is as follows:

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| 1. First year after the first sale of the bonds (2000-01)                 | 0.9 cents |
| 2. First year after sale of the last series of the bonds (2004-05)        | 2.8 cents |
| 3. Highest annual rate during the entire period of indebtedness (2005-06) | 3.0 cents |

Based on these tax rates, the estimated average annual tax over the term of the bonds would be \$26.48 for \$100,000 of residential assessed valuation. This would be equivalent to about \$2.21 per month.

These tax rates and the years in which they apply are based on assumptions with respect to assessed valuation growth, the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold at any one time, the interest rate on the bonds, and other such factors. Although the District has made every effort to reasonably account for the factors which may affect the tax rates and the years in which they apply, these estimates are not binding on the District. The actual tax rates and the years in which they apply may vary from those presently estimated. The tax rates and the years in which they apply are estimates based on the best information available as of the date hereof.

Dated: September 17, 1999

s/ Barbara F. Smith  
Superintendent  
San Rafael Elementary School District

**MEASURE C CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

The schools and classrooms in the San Rafael Elementary District need to be renovated, replaced and repaired to meet the demands of the coming century. Most buildings are old, wearing down and have not had a major overhaul in over 25 years.

Today, there are 9 schools in the district serving more than 3,500 children.

Measure C will provide funds to make sure our children have safe, clean, and modern facilities now and in the future.

Measure C funds will be used to:

- Repair leaky roofs.
- Make seismic upgrades.
- Upgrade math, English, and computer lab classrooms.
- Paint schools and upgrade grounds.
- Replace older fire hydrants / alarms.
- Renovate bathrooms.
- Reopen a previously closed elementary school to meet enrollment demands.
- Update plumbing / sewer systems.
- Replace heating / ventilation systems.
- Improve access for disabled students.
- Remove asbestos.

The schools have performed ongoing maintenance. More extensive repairs, such as fixing leaky roofs, plumbing replacements and electrical upgrades will allow the schools to continue to provide quality education in a safe environment.

Measure C, along with Measure A for the San Rafael High School District, has been carefully planned – only the most essential repairs are being made. Costs, which are tax deductible, have been minimized – \$5 per month for the average homeowner. Seniors who are longtime homeowners will pay less. Many spend more on video rentals.

Funds cannot be used for salaries or operating expenses.

Measure C means:

- Improved property values.
- Schools are safe and will meet the demands of the new century.
- We honor our obligation to provide our children with a sound learning environment.

Please join a broad coalition of local residents, business leaders and others in voting Yes on Measure C for San Rafael Elementary schools and Yes on Measure A for San Rafael High School District schools.

s/ Donna Bjorn, President  
League of Women Voters, Marin County

s/ Paul G. Sloan, Chairman of the Board  
San Rafael Chamber of Commerce

s/ Dolores Dolly M. Nave  
Community Volunteer

s/ Stephen Mark Dobbs, Executive Vice President  
The Bernard Osher Foundation

s/ Stephen J. Gordon, Chairman and CEO  
Restoration Hardware

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

The proponents of this Measure used the **most expensive and irresponsible** method of seeking voter approval, and, they plan to **spend in interest payments – approximately 3 times the amount of the principal** sought by this bond; thereby ignoring voter's pocketbooks. The proponents use of this most expensive balloting method has been soundly criticized by a recent IJ Editorial.

The Marin Community Foundation has almost \$1 billion dollars which, in part, is required to support educational needs in Marin County; yet, the Foundation has not played any role in assisting the schools in the areas of the improvements sought by this Measure. Are these not worthy improvements? On the other hand, the Marin Community Foundation makes tiny "donations" for programs to instruct parents at Bahia school how to act during parent-teacher conferences; shouldn't this Measure qualify for Foundation money too? At the least the Foundation could make an interest free loan to support this measure, thereby saving us millions of dollars.

In the last several years taxpayers have passed hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds to help communities make capital improvements to schools; why isn't that money being used here?

Will huge annual property tax bills make your property value improve – not likely.

The proponents of this Measure should examine other available funding sources; seek the most cost-effective method of financing and voter balloting; and come to voters for support with a proposal that is fair, honest and cost-effective.

**COME OUT & VOTE NO, PROPONENTS COUNT ON YOU NOT VOTING.**

s/ Fielding L. Greaves, Secretary  
Marin United Taxpayers Association  
and San Rafael Taxpayer

MEASURE C CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C

**Bad lesson for San Rafael students; bad news for San Rafael voters and taxpayers.**

The San Rafael Schools have voted to **throw away, literally, \$150,000.00**. Instead of placing their request for taxpayer's money on last month's November ballot – which would have cost \$50,000 for the election – they intentionally put it on this December ballot, which costs taxpayers \$200,000, i.e., \$150,000.00 down the drain.

This financial fact was known in advance by the school hierarchy; they were asked to put the measure on the November 1999 ballot in order to save \$150,000; they refused. It was not *their* \$150,000, so why should they care?

Should this outrageous act of fiscal irresponsibility be rewarded? Is this the "lesson" we want our children to be taught by their School – "use any means, however **WASTEFUL and DEVIIOUS-** in order to win"? No, and that is why we are urging a **NO VOTE** on this bond measure.

Apparently the purpose of this ballot "timing" was to assure the lowest voter turnout possible, in order to have only a few make a decision for the whole. In that way democratic notions such as majority rule are tactically thwarted.

Consider also the fact that passage of this measure pursuant to its terms, could result in **taxpayers having to pay \$78 MILLION IN INTEREST ALONE** in order to get \$26 million in principal for this bond. **Is this the "economic" way of funding schools?**

This improper use of special elections; **costing four times more** than required; when there is no "emergency", and when a cheaper ballot was available a month earlier– cannot be condoned. The ballot proponents show disdain and disregard for us all by use of this expensive ploy. **Come out and VOTE NO to stop this abusive and wasteful scheme.**

s/ Fielding L. Greaves, Secretary  
Marin United Taxpayers Association  
and San Rafael Taxpayer

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C

The need is undeniable.

Please study the facts and make an informed decision.

Measure C will provide funds to modernize our 1950 vintage schools which will continue to deteriorate and become more costly to fix the longer we wait. *Without this bond, the cost of those inevitable repairs will be funded through the District's normal operating budget, leaving less money for those programs that have made our schools some of the most sought-after in the county.* There is no "fat" in the District's budget that can be trimmed to make these repairs. Rigorous oversight holds our school district accountable for every penny spent.

The opponent to Measure C doesn't dispute San Rafael School District's dire need for repairs and renovation. His single argument over timing and cost is deliberately misleading. The date was chosen as the optimal time to organize efforts successfully. His characterization of this measure is an insult to the hundreds of volunteer parents spearheading this effort to make San Rafael Schools safe for our children and teachers.

Well-respected individuals and groups support Measure C including the League of Women Voters, San Rafael Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor, City Councilmembers, senior advocates and neighborhood leaders.

For homeowners, no better investment can be made than to keep our schools modern and safe. Ask any realtor what the quality of the local schools means to property values. Measure C benefits the entire community, especially our children.

Please join us in voting YES on MEASURE C, a prudent reinvestment in our community.

s/ Kerry Mazzoni  
Assemblywoman

s/ Cyr Miller  
San Rafael City Councilmember

s/ Norman D. Pott  
Presbyterian Pastor

s/ Richard H. Breiner  
Retired Judge

s/ Steven Borden, Past President  
Rotary Club of San Rafael

END OF MEASURE C

