

TOWN OF FAIRFAX MEASURE K

<p>K MEASURE K: Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$57 in the first year and raising the tax \$6 annually to a maximum of \$75 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?</p>	YES
	NO

TOWN ATTORNEY’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE K

The Town Council of the Town of Fairfax voted to place Measure K on the ballot. Measure K proposes to continue and to increase an existing special tax that funds paramedic services provided by the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority for the Town of Fairfax. The measure authorizes the paramedic services tax to remain in effect for four more years, expiring on June 30, 2019. As a special tax, two-thirds (2/3) of the voters voting on the tax must vote in its favor for the paramedic services tax to be continued and increased.

The existing paramedic services tax rate is fifty-one dollars (\$51) and expires on June 30, 2015. The proposed measure establishes the rate for the paramedic services tax for fiscal year 2015-16 in the amount of fifty-seven dollars (\$57) per taxable living unit on a parcel and fifty-seven dollars (\$57) per 1,500 square feet of structure used for non-residential purposes on a parcel. The proposed ordinance authorizes an increase of six dollars (\$6) annually, beginning with fiscal year 2016-17, up to a maximum of seventy-five dollars (\$75).

A “YES” vote would be a vote to increase and extend the paramedic services tax for four more years, subject to the conditions stated above.

A “NO” vote would be a vote to not extend the paramedic services tax.

s/JANET COLESON
Town Attorney
Town of Fairfax

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K

The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority is a partnership of 8 Ross Valley communities that have combined efforts to deliver an exceptional level of paramedic and ambulance service to our communities.

Since 1982 the voters of the Ross Valley have continued to approve a special tax to help fund this fire department based paramedic service. You are being asked to again support the tax with modest annual \$6 incremental increases for four years to a maximum rate of \$75.

The initial Ross Valley Paramedic Authority tax provided for a single ambulance. The growing recognition of the importance of quality paramedic care has dictated that service levels continue to expand and evolve. Paramedic care is now provided through a system that includes state of the art fire department paramedic ambulance units and with trained paramedics aboard all fire engines so that advanced emergency care can arrive as quickly as possible.

The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority will continue the responsible, transparent approach to managing the costs of our emergency medical response service and adequately provide for the long-term health and safety of our community.

A Yes Vote Will:

- Ensure the existing high level paramedic emergency medical response services
- Continue local control over these tax revenues
- Maintain rapid emergency response times

Your tax pays for a significant portion of our local paramedic program. Additional funds are collected from insurance companies through third party billing and from billing of non-resident customers. In addition, your tax covers continuing paramedic training, the cost of supplies and equipment and the replacement of ambulance units when needed.

Our goal is to continue to provide state of the art paramedic care in the Ross Valley. We need your vote to continue this vital service. **Please vote YES on Measure K.**

s/LARRY BRAGMAN

Fairfax Vice Mayor

s/FRANK EGGER

Former Fairfax Mayor

s/JOHN HURLEY

Marin Medical Reserve Corps

s/KATHRYN SEXTON, MD

s/JODY TIMMS, PA, Ph.D.

Fairfax Representative to the
Marin Commission on Aging

NO REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K WAS FILED.

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K

Citizens for Sustainable Pension Plans recommends that you vote “NO” on Measure K. Our reasoning follows:

- Measure K requests taxpayer money to provide services that should be funded through the normal operating revenues of the Town.
- The Town has asked for funding to mask the systematic mismanagement of their operations.
- Money is fungible. A “YES” vote on Measure K is a vote to allow our elected officials to avoid setting priorities and allocating funds appropriately.
- The systematic mismanagement of operations is highlighted through excessive pensions and retiree medical plans.

Mismanaged pensions and other retirement plans are endemic in the public sector and the Town is no exception. These plans suffer from major problems:

- The plans are extremely generous. The value of the plans dwarfs the value of corresponding plans provided in the private sector.
- In addition to their lavish plan costs, the plans are subject to extreme cost fluctuations and risk. The costs of plans are based upon very optimistic assumptions. Unless those assumptions are met (and they have not been this century), there is a funding shortfall (i.e., unfunded liability). This shortfall is recovered through increased contributions from the Town (i.e., the taxpayer).
- These higher contributions come at a cost. Either the Town reduces services or it requests more money. Measure K is an example of a request for more money from the taxpayer.

If taxpayers vote for Measure K, they are enabling the Town to continue its mismanagement by maintaining its rich and financially volatile retirement plans. A better idea is that the Town reform its plans to stabilize its budget and to eliminate the need for taxpayer requests such as Measure K.

Vote against this measure!

s/JODY MORALES

Founder and President,
Citizens for Sustainable Pension Plans

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K

Fairfax has already taken steps to curb pension costs and to control future liabilities. New employees have reduced pension benefits while long term employees contribute more of their paychecks to their ongoing pension costs. Measure K ensures the funding of a core public service which provides state of the art paramedic care to local residents in a cost efficient manner:

- The eight communities in the Ross Valley formed the RVPA partnership in 1983 to share the significant costs of this vital public service. The RVPA has been one of the most successful and cost efficient regional agency partnerships in Marin
- The RVPA parcel tax funds are only used to provide emergency response and advanced life support paramedic services. The RVPA response and transport times are swift which improves outcomes for patients.
- Fairfax cannot afford to operate paramedic and ambulance service without sharing costs with our partners and the support of this tax measure.
- Because of the RVPA property tax, there is no direct cost to a Ross Valley resident for paramedic care or emergency ambulance transport when the need arises.
- If the measure fails, residents could be charged a fee to help off-set the costs of providing paramedic service and ambulance transport and the cost to taxpayers would increase.

Please vote yes on Measure K.

s/LARRY BRAGMAN

Vice Mayor

s/FRANK EGGER

Former Fairfax Mayor

s/JOHN HURLEY

EMT/Marin Medical Reserve Corps

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE K
RESOLUTION 14-18**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN THE PARAMEDIC SERVICE TAX, ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR ELECTION, ADOPTING INTENDED BALLOT LANGUAGE, REQUESTING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SAID ELECTION, REQUESTING ELECTION SERVICES OF THE COUNTY CLERK AND DIRECTING THAT REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS MAY BE RECEIVED.

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2010, the electors of the Town of Fairfax approved a special tax for the funding of paramedic services through the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority; and

WHEREAS, the maximum allowable tax was established at \$51.00 per residential unit plus a \$.50 County administrative fee, and \$51.00 per 1500 square feet of structure in non-residential use, plus a \$.50 County administrative fee; and

WHEREAS, the Ross Valley Paramedic Tax has been annually levied and each four years the tax rate reset and approved by election and scheduled to expire June 30, 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax Town Council hereby calls for an election to be held on November 4, 2014, at which election the issue to be presented to the voters of the Town of Fairfax shall be:

Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$57 in the first year and raising the tax \$6 annually to a maximum of \$75 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby requests that said election shall be consolidated with the general election to be held on said date and requests the County Clerk to provide all necessary election services and to canvass the result of said election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that rebuttals shall be received to ballot arguments made by this Town Council on behalf of said measure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to carry out all the necessary procedures for said election submitting to the voters the question relating to a special tax for paramedic services.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 7th day of May 2014 by the following vote:

AYES: BRAGMAN, COLER, GODDARD, REED, WEINSOFF

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

s/DAVID WEINSOFF
Mayor

ATTEST:
s/MICHELE GARDNER
Town Clerk