

MEASURE SUBMITTED TO VOTE OF VOTERS

SCHOOL

**SAN RAFAEL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND ELECTION
MEASURE A**

A To enhance the quality of education through facility improvements; ensure safety; repair leaky roofs; improve earthquake safety; replace fire alarms; remove asbestos; renovate mathematics, science and technology classrooms; replace outdated heater, ventilation/plumbing systems; acquire school facilities; improve disabled access; and improve school sites/facilities, shall San Rafael High School District issue \$13 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 HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOND ELECTION
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE A**

If this Measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the SAN RAFAEL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT will be authorized to incur bonded indebtedness of Thirteen Million Dollars (\$13,000,000) 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 HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TAX RATE STATEMENT REGARDING PROPOSED
\$13,000,000 SAN RAFAEL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS**

An election will be held in the San Rafael High School District (the "District") of Marin County on December 7, 1999, for the purpose of authorizing the sale of \$13,000,000 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) | 1.0 cents |
| 2. First year after sale of the last series of the bonds (2002-03) | 1.0 cents |
| 3. Highest annual rate during the entire period of indebtedness (2000-01) | 1.0 cents |

Based on these tax rates, the estimated average annual tax over the term of the bonds would be \$10.10 for \$100,000 of residential assessed valuation. This would be equivalent to about \$0.84 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 High School District

MEASURE A CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

Nearly 2000 students attend the schools in the San Rafael High School District – San Rafael High School, Terra Linda High School, and Madrone High School.

Our schools are preparing students for colleges, universities and the jobs of the 21st Century. Test scores are up, graduation rates are up. The quality of education is improving.

Some buildings are over 70 years old. Classrooms and facilities are old and deteriorating. State money can't meet these building repair needs. Our school facilities should return to being a source of community pride.

Funds are needed to renovate, replace and repair our school facilities to continuously improve the quality of education.

Measure A funds will be used to:

- Repair leaky roofs.
- Make seismic upgrades.
- Improve science classrooms.
- Upgrade math, English, and computer lab classrooms.
- Paint schools and upgrade grounds.
- Replace older fire hydrants / alarms.
- Renovate bathrooms.
- Update plumbing / sewer systems.
- Replace heating / ventilation systems.
- Improve access for disabled students.
- Fix termite damage.
- Remove asbestos.

The tax deductible cost of these school bonds has been minimized -- \$5 per month for the average homeowner. We spend more on video rentals. Seniors who are longtime property owners will pay less. Funds cannot be used for salaries or operating expenses.

Business leaders, elected officials, educators, public safety officers and community members have endorsed Measure A and its companion Measure B for the Dixie School District and Measure C for the San Rafael Elementary District. They understand:

- **Improved schools means an increase in property values;**
- **Well maintained schools are vital for a healthy local economy;**
- **The community's obligation to provide our children with a sound learning environment.**

Please join our community-wide effort to renovate, replace and repair our schools. **Vote Yes on Measures A, and B in the Dixie School District and Yes on Measures A and C in the San Rafael School District.**

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

s/ Al Boro
Mayor, City of San Rafael

s/ Dolores Dolly M. Nave
Community Volunteer

s/ Paula Freschi Kamena
Marin County District Attorney

s/ Larry E. Rosenberger
CEO, Fair Isaac

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

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 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 A CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

Would you burn \$150,000 of your own money? You have that chance with this measure.

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

This financial fact was known in advance by the San Rafael school hierarchy; they were asked to put this 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** to win"? No, and that is why we are urging a **NO VOTE** on this 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 **\$39 million in interest alone** in order to get \$13 million in principal for this bond. **Is this the "economic" way of funding schools?**

This improper use of special elections, when there is no "emergency", when a ballot was available a month earlier – and **costing taxpayers four times more than necessary** – cannot be condoned. The obvious disregard and disdain for taxpayers, as demonstrated by this expensive ploy, is repulsive. Come out – **vote NO on this measure to stop this abusive tactic.**

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

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

Let's stick to the facts.

Measure A is about providing for the future of San Rafael children. They deserve the opportunity to learn in schools which are clean, structurally sound and have modern teaching facilities.

Our aging schools are run-down and between 32 and 89 years old. They have had constant use by generations of children and community members. Now they are in dire need of major renovations, repairs and modernizations.

Passage of Measure A means our schools will again be sources of pride to our neighborhoods and community. That's why hundreds of community leaders and organizations, from the League of Women Voters, the San Rafael Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor and City Councilmembers are actively supporting Measure A.

The timely passage of Measure A will save taxpayer funds. It will provide matching dollars for state and federal programs for additional technology and modernizations.

Dollar for dollar, Measure A means we can provide for:

- Modernized math and science classrooms
- Computer/technology labs
- Clean, safe bathrooms
- Repair/replacement of aging plumbing
- Asbestos removal
- Roof, window and wall repairs
- Earthquake safety
- Fire alarm/safety-systems
- Painting and reflooring
- Adequate lighting and electricity

Rigorous and unprecedented accountability measures hold our school district responsible for every dollar spent. **RESIDENTS WILL GET WHAT THEY PAY FOR!**

We only have our schools now because our parents and grandparents made the education of children a number one public priority. **HOW CAN WE DO LESS?**

Please join us in voting YES on MEASURE A. Thank you.

s/ Kerry Mazzoni
Assemblywoman

s/ Scott Cherry
Real Estate Broker

s/ David Hellman
Attorney and CPA

s/ Norman D. Pott
Presbyterian Pastor

s/ Sue Scott
Former San Rafael Planning Commissioner

END OF MEASURE A

