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**MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS**

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**SCHOOL**

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**NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOND ELECTION  
MEASURE A**

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**A** In order to upgrade school facilities; qualify for state matching funds; replace leaky roofs; upgrade fire alarm systems; repair heating and cooling systems; add new classrooms; ensure disabled access to all school facilities; renovate school plumbing; and acquire and construct other improvements, school buildings and grounds, shall the Novato Unified School District be authorized to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$40 million at an interest rate not to exceed the legal limit?

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**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL  
MEASURE A**

If this Measure is approved by a two thirds vote, the NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT will be authorized to incur bonded indebtedness of Forty Million Dollars (\$40,000,000) 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.

Dated: December 9, 1998

PATRICK K. FAULKNER  
County Counsel

**NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
TAX RATE STATEMENT REGARDING PROPOSED  
\$40,000,000 NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS  
MEASURE A**

An election will be held in the Novato Unified School District (the "District") of Marin County on March 2, 1999, for the purpose of authorizing the sale of \$40,000,000 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:

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| 1. First year after the first sale of the bonds (1999-2000)                 | \$0.0376 |
| 2. First year after sale of the last series of the bonds (2005-06)          | \$0.0329 |
| 3. Highest annual rate during the entire period of indebtedness (1999-2000) | \$0.0376 |

These estimates would result in a tax rate that averages \$0.0276 per \$100 of assessed valuation over the term of the bonds. Based on these tax rates, the estimated average annual tax over the term of the bonds would be \$36.04 for \$100,000 of residential assessed valuation.

The actual tax rates and the years in which such rates are applicable may vary from those currently estimated, due to variations from the official projections and estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold at any time, the interest rates on the bonds, and the assessed values in the several future years during which the bonds are to be repaid. The estimates are based upon projections and are not binding upon the District. The actual timing of the bond sales and the amount of the bonds sold at any time will be governed by the needs of the District and the then-applicable debt limit. The actual interest rates on the bonds will be based on the market tax-exempt interest rates at the time of the sale of the bonds. The actual assessed values during the several future years will depend upon the amount of taxable property within the District and the value of that property as determined in the assessment and equalization process.

Dated: December 2, 1998

s/ Nancy Cooley  
Acting Superintendent  
Novato Unified School District



## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

The schools of the Novato Unified School District need to be modernized and upgraded to ensure that the students receive a quality education in a safe environment. The sixteen schools in the district are between 30 and 50 years old. Despite regular maintenance, the buildings need significant work to avoid even more costly repairs in the future.

Passage of Measure A will provide \$40 million to make these improvements while minimizing costs to property owners.

The money will be used to:

- Replace or repair leaking roofs; outdated fire alarm systems; electrical wiring; plumbing pipes including drinking water pipes; and, heating and cooling systems
- Remove dry rot
- Make facilities accessible to the disabled
- Provide the necessary matching funds to obtain state grant money
- Construct new classrooms

No Measure A funds will be used for administrative salaries.

A Yes Vote on Measure A will provide these vital funds to improve the quality of education. The cost to the average Novato property owner will be less than \$6 per month -- less than the cost of one movie ticket. Business, labor, real estate, law enforcement, religious, community leaders and homeowner groups support Measure A.

- **Modernized schools mean an increase in property values for everyone**
- Costs to seniors who are long-time homeowners are minimized
- Upgraded schools provide a safe learning environment
- Good schools are essential for a vibrant local economy

Please join the community-wide effort in voting **YES on Measure A.**

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

s/ Brian Brady  
Chief of Police

s/ Charles W. Bennett  
Novato Chamber of Commerce,  
Chairman, Government Affairs

s/ Michael DiGiorgio  
Mayor, City of Novato

s/ Nancy M. Sangster  
1995 Citizen of Year

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

I, too, want our kids to have safe and well maintained schools. But that is not the issue posed by Measure A. The issue is whether we should impose this type of tax on ourselves via a costly special election that won't represent a community wide consensus.

Proponents argue that to the average Novato property owner, the cost will be less than one movie ticket per month. That would be fine, if we weren't already paying the equivalent of dozens and dozens of movie tickets per month for schools through property taxes, income taxes, parcel taxes, etc.

And woe to you if you aren't the "average" property owner. Some owners will be paying up to 70 times more than others. It will have nothing to do with how many kids you have in school or how much you benefit from the school system. The cost to you of Measure A will be determined by when you bought your home and how much you decided to spend for it, period.

One argument in favor of the recently adopted \$9.2 billion bond measure was that "Without Proposition 1A, local property owners will be at risk of seeing their local property taxes raised to pay for new school construction and repair." Well, we got Proposition 1A, and nevertheless we are STILL at risk of having our local taxes raised by Measure A!

Vote NO on Measure A and send a message about fairness.

s/ Paul Jakab

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Measure A - Continued Next Page



## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

As the father of an infant, I have a vital interest in education in Novato. Nevertheless, I urge you to vote against Measure A for the following reasons:

Measure A is unfair because a special election in March is designed to minimize voter turnout and circumvent the 2/3 rule for new taxes. In the March 1997 parcel tax election, out of 30,276 registered voters, only 9,214 voted and of those ONLY 6,513 supported the measure. Nevertheless, these votes met the 2/3 requirement (just barely) but with only 22% of the electorate!! Pretty slick. Supporters of Measure A are hoping for a similar result.

Measure A is also unfair because who pays how much will be determined by the "assessed" value of homes. Unlike the evenhandedness of a parcel tax, this time your choice of when you bought your home and how much you decided to spend will determine how much you pay. This is not a community approach; it pits neighbor against neighbor.

We are being fed piecemeal what we would never swallow whole. Half of our state income taxes, some lottery monies, 2 parcel taxes, and a \$9.5 billion bond measure go to education. Now this. Money is not the problem, but how it is spent! \$5,700/student x 30 students = \$171,000 per classroom! Where is this money going? Not to great teachers salaries and basic infrastructure!

Instead of piecemeal tax increases, we as a community need to rethink our entire approach to public education and THEN decide how we are going to pay for it. Fixing bricks and mortar won't fix where our education system is headed. It will simply put off the day of reckoning.

Whatever we decide, let's make it a community wide decision; please vote.

s/ Paul Jakab  
Parent and Resident

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

Why you should vote for Measure A, even if you don't have children or grandchildren in the Novato Unified School District.

- 1) Measure A will provide a safe environment for our students to learn. That's a benefit to everyone.
- 2) Measure A will protect one of our most valuable community assets: our children's schools. Local businesses and real estate brokers support it.
- 3) Measure A minimizes the cost to long-time property owners including seniors. Prominent senior advocates support it.
- 4) Measure A will provide local matching funds for state grants. It will allow us to do more at less cost.

Measure A is the "bricks and mortar" improvements to upgrade and modernize our school buildings. The average property owner will pay less than \$6 per month -- less than the price of one movie ticket.

- Leaking roofs will be replaced; dry rot removed; fire alarm systems upgraded; electrical wiring, plumbing and heating systems brought up to modern code
- Handicapped accessibility will be improved
- New classrooms will be constructed to accommodate smaller class sizes -- a proven method of improving the quality of education

None of the money would go to salaries.

Business, real estate, labor and neighborhood leaders all worked with the school district to craft Measure A. It is well thought out and limited in scope to only the most pressing needs for our schools. The cost to taxpayers is minimized.

Please join our broad-based coalition -- vote YES on MEASURE A.

s/ Ernie Gray, Mayor Emeritus  
s/ Dorothy R. Randall, Senior Advocate  
s/ Lawrence R. Brackett  
CEO/President - Frank Howard Allen  
s/ William L. Cope, Former Mayor

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End of Measure A

