

MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

SCHOOL

**BOLINAS-STINSON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL TAX FOR EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
MEASURE A**

A Shall Bolinas-Stinson Union School District repeal existing current special tax assessments totaling \$198.00 annually, and replace them with a new special tax assessment of \$248.00 annually per assessor's parcel, with a 5% increase each year thereafter, for a period of 6 years, beginning July 1, 2003, with an exemption for parcel owners who are 65 or older on or before July 1 of any applicable year and who use that parcel as their principal residence?

**BOLINAS-STINSON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
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FULL TEXT OF RESOLUTION NO. 6 2002-03

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
BOLINAS-STINSON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION AND ORDER OF ELECTION IN THE MATTER
OF A SPECIAL TAX ELECTION TO HELP MAINTAIN
SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature has failed to provide adequate and necessary funding for the continued operations of the schools of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District and their instructional programs; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this lack of funding for the schools, Bolinas-Stinson Union School District is in danger of reducing programs beneficial and necessary to the children who attend the schools of the district; and

WHEREAS, as a result of proposed cuts and severe reductions in revenue to "basic aid" school districts across the State, the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District will face extreme financial hardship in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, continued reliance solely on State funding will result in further loss of critical programs and services to children; and

WHEREAS, the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District has experienced rapidly escalating costs associated with healthcare for staff, insurance, utilities and fuel; and

WHEREAS, a thorough and developed public education program delivers many long-lasting benefits and advantages to all of the residents of our community; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and Government Code Sections 50075, 50076, 50077, 50079, and 53720 et seq. authorize school districts to levy a "special tax" to raise funds for the purpose of providing funds to run the schools of the district upon approval of two-thirds of the votes cast by voters voting upon such a special tax proposal;

THEREFORE, The Governing Board of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District resolves to conduct an election on June 3, 2003 at which will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District a measure to authorize a special tax for the purpose of maintaining vital educational programs, critical to the educational process in the schools of the district;

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE BOLINAS-STINSON UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Said election is hereby called to be held within the boundaries of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District, at which election shall be submitted to the qualified voters the following measure, to wit:

MEASURE A

Shall the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District provide funds for the continuance of quality educational programs by repealing existing current special tax assessments of \$198.00 annually, and replacing them with a new special tax assessment of \$248.00 annually per assessor's parcel, and each year thereafter increase the rate by 5%, for a limited period of 6 years, beginning July 1, 2003, with an exemption for any beneficial owner of a parcel who is 65 or over on or before July 1 of any applicable year and who uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence?

The funds shall be used for:

1. District programs: maintain present educational programs and maintain reasonable class sizes.
2. Basic instructional materials: maintain adequate per student allowance and update classroom texts to ensure adequate quantity and quality of texts.
3. Instructional equipment and supplies: maintain and update instructional equipment only as necessary.
4. Operation and maintenance: maintain sufficient staff for efficient operation and adequate allowance for building and grounds maintenance.

Priorities for expenditure of funds the first and each successive year will be determined by the Governing Board with input from staff, parents, and the community.

The special tax will be imposed in the amount of \$248.00 annually per assessor's parcel, and each year thereafter increase the rate by 5% for a limited period of six years for each assessor's parcel. An exemption from the assessment will be made available to each individual in the district who will attain age 65 years prior to July 1 of the assessment year, who owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, who uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence, and who applies to the district on or before July 1, of any assessment year. Any one application from a qualified applicant or any existing valid application currently in effect, will provide an exemption for the parcel for the remaining term of the assessment so long as such applicant continues to use the parcel as his or her principal residence.

Section 2. The text of the measure as displayed on each individual ballot shall be abbreviated and shall read as follows:

**"SPECIAL TAX FOR BOLINAS-STINSON UNION
SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
AND SERVICES**

Shall Bolinas-Stinson Union School District repeal existing current special tax assessments totaling \$198.00 annually, and replace them with a new special tax assessment of \$248.00 annually per assessor's parcel, with a 5% increase each year thereafter, for a period of 6 years,

MEASURE A CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



beginning July 1, 2003, with an exemption for parcel owners who are 65 or older on or before July 1 of any applicable year and who use that parcel as their principal residence?"

YES NO

Section 3. The District's Superintendent, or his designee, is authorized and directed to make any changes to the text of the measure, or to the abbreviated form of the measure, as may be convenient or necessary to conform to any requirement of the laws authorizing the measure to be submitted to the District's voters, or of the Marin County Clerk.

Section 4. Commencing on July 1, 2003, the special tax specified above, shall be collected and administered in the same manner as ad valorem property taxes are fixed and collected under provisions of the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

Section 5. The Superintendent of Schools of Marin County is hereby requested to call an election of the said "special tax" to be held on June 3, 2003. The County Clerk is hereby requested and authorized to:

- 1) set forth on all sample ballots relating to said election to be mailed to the qualified electors of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District said measure; and
- 2) provide absent voter ballots for said "special tax" election for use by qualified electors of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District who are entitled thereto in the manner provided by law.

Section 6. If any section, subsection, phrase, or clause of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution. This governing board declares that it would have adopted this resolution and each section, subsection, phrase, or clause thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, phrases, or clauses be declared invalid.

Section 7. The clerk of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District Governing Board is hereby authorized and directed to certify to the due adoption of this resolution and to transmit a copy hereof so certified to the Superintendent of Schools of Marin County and to file a copy hereof so certified with the County Clerk, of Marin County.

The foregoing resolution was moved by board member Frankie Accardi, seconded by Tom Williard, and adopted on roll call on February 27, 2003, by the following vote:

Board Member: Kim Bender - Aye

Board Member: Tom Williard - Aye

Board Member: Frankie Accardi - Aye

Board Member: Tomas Krakauer - Aye

Board Member: Meg Simonds - Absent

AYES: 4 NOES: 0 ABSENT/NOT VOTING: 1

WHEREUPON, the President declared the foregoing resolution duly adopted and SO ORDERED

s/ Kimberly J. Bender
President, Governing Board Member - Kim Bender
Bolinas-Stinson Union School District

ATTEST:

s/ Francine Accardi
Clerk of the Board of Trustees - Francine Accardi
Bolinas-Stinson Union School District

Approved as to form February 27, 2003
Noel J. Shumway, Associate General Counsel
School and College Legal Services of California

I, Francine Accardi, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of the Bolinas-Stinson Union School District of Marin County, California, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by said board at a duly scheduled and called meeting thereof held on the 27th day of February and passed by 4 ayes and 0 noes vote of said board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 27th day of February 2003.

s/ Francine Accardi
Clerk of the Board of Trustees
Bolinas-Stinson Union School District

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE A**

If this Measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the existing current Bolinas-Stinson Unified School District special tax assessments totaling \$198.00 annually will be repealed and replaced with a new special tax assessment of \$248.00 annually per assessor's parcel for a period of 6 years beginning July 1, 2003, with a 5% increase each year thereafter. Parcel owners who have attained the age of 65 on or before July 1 of any applicable year and who use those parcels as their principal residence will be exempt from the tax.

Dated: March 13, 2003

PATRICK K. FAULKNER
County Counsel



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

Bolinas-Stinson School is a unique public school. Our students receive a solid education in core subject areas, perform well on standardized tests and local assessments and go on to do well in high school. The community has supported outstanding programs and small class sizes in the past, setting Bolinas-Stinson School apart from other public schools. A nationally recognized Visual Arts Program, Music, P. E., Technology, Spanish, Special Education staffing, counseling, library, transportation and field trips are among the many programs and services provided, with your help, to our children.

The proposed six year tax will provide about 25% of our budget revenue. The tax increases 5% per year to help maintain programs, which are subject to fluctuations in state funding and escalating cost increases. Without this community support, Bolinas-Stinson would be another struggling, under-funded public school, lacking in many essential programs and services.

A high-quality school is an integral part of our community. We would not ask for greater sacrifice from you without matching that sacrifice within the school itself. The Board of Trustees has taken action to reduce the number of classroom teachers next year and plans to tighten programs in response to declining enrollment. Additionally, the retirement of the district's school building bonds this year reduces the burden on our local taxpayers. We are exploring other creative ways to generate revenue and reduce costs, and commit to constant assessment to ensure programs are high quality, cost effective and efficient.

Our children represent our future, let's make sure they get the kind of education that will allow them to become the leaders we need. With your continued support, we can make a difference in our own backyard.

s/ Roger P. Kovach
President, Bolinas Whitecaps

s/ Kenneth R. Stevens, Fire Chief
Stinson Beach Fire Department

s/ Anita Tyrrell-Brown, Assistant Fire Chief
Bolinas Fire Department and Parent

s/ Meg Simonds, Bolinas-Stinson School
Board Member

s/ Mark White
Community Member

**NO REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT
IN FAVOR WAS SUBMITTED**

**BOTH THE ARGUMENT AGAINST AND THE
REBUTTAL TO THE ARGUMENT AGAINST
APPEAR ON THE NEXT PAGE**

MEASURE A CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

First and foremost, let me be very clear about my feelings toward the School. I have 2 adult children who graduated. I also have a sixth grade daughter. I have nothing but the highest regard for the School, the teachers and the hard working Board.

My problems are with this money Measure. I am an economist and a businessman by training and experience. I am also in the unique position of being privy to the finances of my clients, both businesses and individuals, many for over 20 years. No one who is knowledgeable in economics or finance expects the economy to turn around any time this year or next.

There are 2 problems with this Measure: its length and the 5% per year escalation.

Six years is much too long for a fixed money issue. It should be 3 to 4 years at the maximum. Enrollment continues to decline and by the end of 6 years, I'm willing to bet dinner at The Blue Heron that the Stinson campus will be closed because of declining enrollment.

5% per year escalation is a slap in the face of the hard working taxpayers and voters who face declining income, not a guaranteed increase. Continue to make cuts in the fat that remains in the district, continue to lobby the State to pony up their fair share, seek donations from the community, and then come back to the voters.

Bolinas voters will soon be asked to support a **badly** needed firehouse. This money measure must be passed.

With a resounding NO vote on this measure you can tell your District Trustees that you want 3-4 years maximum with no escalation. Don't be stampeded into voting yes. There is plenty of time to do this correctly.

s/ Malcolm Ponder

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

State laws regarding school financing have created a roller coaster of funding for public schools. This is evidenced by the governor's proposal to drastically cut school funding. In considering Measure A, voters should know the following facts:

- Measure A would cover only a portion of the proposed cuts. The District already has decided to reduce the teaching staff for next year and may be forced to cut the music, art, physical education, technology, Spanish language program, and/or the morning snack. Is this the fat that should be cut?
- Our current parcel tax is 7 years, one year longer than Measure A.
- The 5% increase attempts to offset the dramatic increases the school faces for insurance, benefits, and utilities. Health benefits alone are expected to rise over 20% next year.
- As in prior parcel tax measures, those who are 65 and older and use their property as their main residence can exempt themselves from paying the parcel tax.

Measure A is the product of many community and school meetings held to develop a plan to respond to the budget crisis. It will allow the District to adequately plan programs, remain solvent and fiscally responsible, and continue to pay for the escalating yearly cost of doing the important business of educating our children.

s/ Roger P. Kovach
President, Bolinas Whitecaps

s/ Kenneth R. Stevens, Fire Chief
Stinson Beach Fire Department

s/ Anita Tyrrell-Brown, Assistant Fire Chief
Bolinas Fire Department and Parent

s/ Meg Simonds, Bolinas-Stinson School
Board Member

s/ Mark White
Community Member

END OF MEASURE A

