

CITY OF LARKSPUR MEASURE E

E **MEASURE E:** Shall there be a continuation of the special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$42.50 not exceeding \$51.50 in the fourth year per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square feet of structure of each developed parcel in non-residential use, to be collected in addition to transport fees charged insurance providers for Ross Valley residents, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?

YES

NO

CITY ATTORNEY’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE E

The City Council of the City of Larkspur placed Measure E on the November 2, 2010 ballot to ask voters to extend the existing special parcel tax for paramedic services (“Paramedic Tax”) for an additional 4 years.

In 1983, the voters of Larkspur, along with the other voters within the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (“Authority”), initially approved the Paramedic Tax. Voters have approved extensions and increases in the Paramedic Tax since that time. The current Paramedic Tax was approved by voters in 2006, and authorizes a maximum rate of \$48 for each residential living unit and for each 1,500 square feet of non-residential developed space. It is currently levied at \$42 (plus a \$.50 Marin County administrative fee), less than the approved maximum rate. The authority for the Paramedic Tax is set to expire on June 30, 2011 unless it is extended by the voters.

Measure E would authorize continuing the levy of the Paramedic Tax for another 4 years, and also authorize an incremental increase of \$3 each year for a maximum rate not to exceed \$51 in the fourth year (plus the Marin County administrative fee) for each living unit and for each 1,500 square feet of non-residential developed space.

As a special tax, the Paramedic Tax is restricted to use for paramedic purposes, including but not limited to emergency response, training, cost of medical supplies and equipment, and replacement of ambulance transport units.

The Paramedic Tax would terminate automatically in 4 years, unless extended by a subsequent vote of the voters within the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority.

A “yes” vote is a vote to approve the extension of the Paramedic Tax for 4 years and authorize an incremental increase of \$3 per year for a rate not to exceed \$51 in the fourth year. A “no” vote is a vote against extension of the Paramedic Tax. Measure E will be approved if it receives a two-thirds majority of “yes” voters.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure E. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the City Clerk’s office at (415) 927-5002 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

s/SKY WOODRUFF
City Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

Since 1983, the voters in the Ross Valley have overwhelmingly approved a special tax to provide paramedic service. To continue this high standard of emergency medical care for four more years, you must now re-approve this tax. The initial Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) tax provided for a single ambulance. The demand for paramedic service from our citizens dictates that service levels continue to expand and evolve. Yet, we are seeking to continue the tax at its current rate of \$42, and if needed, a \$3 annual increase in the remaining 3 years to a maximum of \$51. It should be noted that although authorized by the voters to do so, the RVPA did not incrementally increase its tax during the last three years. Thus, in order to maintain our current levels of service and to plan for future improvements based on community demand for high quality, fire department based advanced life support paramedic services, we are seeking your support with this measure.

Your parcel tax pays for a significant portion of the paramedic program and enables us to not directly bill our Ross Valley resident customers. Additional funds are collected from medical insurance companies and through billing of non-resident customers. In addition, your tax covers expenses associated with paramedic training, medical supplies and equipment, and the replacement of ambulance vehicles 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. Vote YES on Measure E.

s/JOAN L. LUNDSTROM
Mayor

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E WAS FILED.

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE E
CITY OF LARKSPUR
RESOLUTION NO. 14/10**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LARKSPUR PROPOSING TO CONTINUE THE SPECIAL TAX FOR PARAMEDIC SERVICES FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR YEARS; AND CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 2, 2010, AND REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MARIN TO CONSOLIDATE SAID ELECTION; AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY CLERK OR HER DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS AND AGENCY TO CARRY OUT ALL THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES FOR SAID ELECTION SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS THE QUESTION RELATING TO CONTINUING THE SPECIAL TAX FOR PARAMEDIC SERVICES

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2002, the voters of the City of Larkspur approved a special tax for the funding of paramedic services in the City for four years through the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority of not to exceed \$30.00 per year for each living unit as a basic charge; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Larkspur and the Board of Directors of the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority does hereby call for an election on November 2, 2010, for the purpose of increasing the special tax for paramedic services for an additional four years beginning at \$42 in the first year to a maximum amount of \$51 (plus an additional .50 cents County administrative fee) per residential unit in the fourth year, and \$51 (plus an additional .50 cents County administrative fee) per 1500 square feet structure developed parcel in non-residential use in the fourth year; and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of the laws relating to general law cities in the State of California, an election shall be held on November 2, 2010, for the submission to the voters of a question relating to continuing the special tax for paramedic services; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the election be consolidated with the statewide election to be held on the same date, and that within the City, the precincts, polling places, and election officers of the two elections be the same; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the County Election Department of the County of Marin canvass the returns of the Special Municipal Election and that the election be handled in all respects as if there were only one election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to submit to the voters at the election a question relating to continuing the special tax for paramedic services,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LARKSPUR DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council is authorized to present a proposition to the voters for their consideration pursuant to Government Code Sections 50077 and 53724.

Section 2. That pursuant to the requirements of the laws of the State of California relating to General Law Cities, there is called and ordered to be held in the City of Larkspur, California, on Tuesday, November 2, 2010, an election to submit the question set forth in Section 4 to the voters within the City.

Section 3. That pursuant to the requirements of Section 10400 *et seq.* of the Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin is hereby requested to consent and agree to the consolidation of said election.

Section 4. That the City Council, pursuant to its rights and authority, does order submitted to the voters at the election the following question:

Shall there by a continuation of the special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$42.50 not exceeding \$51.50 in the fourth year per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square feet of structure of each developed parcel in nonresidential use, to be collected in addition to transport fees charged insurance providers for Ross Valley residents, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?

Section 5. The special tax to be approved by the voters pursuant to Section 4 has been set forth in Resolution No. 10/10.

Section 6. The election to be held in the City and all matters pertaining thereto shall be conducted in accordance with the general election laws of the State of California, as may be applicable to the City.

Section 7. The Council authorizes the Mayor to prepare a written argument in favor of the ballot proposition, not to exceed 300 words. At the discretion of the Mayor, the argument may also be signed by bona fide associations or by individual voters who are eligible to vote.

Section 8. The City Clerk is directed to cause the posting, publication, and printing of notices and all other matters pursuant to the requirements of the Elections and Government Codes of the State of California.

Section 9. That the County Election Department is authorized to canvass the returns of said elec-

tion. The election will be held in all respects as if there were only one election, and only one form of ballot shall be used.

Section 10. That the Board of Supervisors is respectfully requested to issue instructions to the County Election Department to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated elections.

Section 11. That the City Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the County Election Department of the County of Marin.

Section 12. That the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

Section 13. If any provision, sentence, clause, section or part of this resolution is found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such finding shall affect only such provision, sentence, clause, section or part, and shall not affect or impair any of the remaining parts of the resolution.

Section 14. This resolution shall be effective upon its adoption.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the City Council of the City of Larkspur duly introduced and regularly adopted the foregoing resolution at a special meeting held on the 7th day of July, 2010 by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER: Chu, Hartzell, Hillmer, Lundstrom, Rifkind

NOES: COUNCILMEMBER: None

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER: None

s/JOAN L. LUNDSTROM
Mayor

ATTEST:

s/NATHALIE BAMATTER
City Clerk, Deputy