

**CITY OF SAN RAFAEL MEASURE I**

<p><b>MEASURE I:</b> To protect lifesaving paramedic services by maintaining rapid response times, providing advanced heart attack treatment, and keeping trained paramedics on fire engine companies, shall San Rafael Municipal Code Chapter 3.28 be amended to permit phased increases, up to \$23.00 annually above the current rate, on residential units, and up to \$.03 per square foot annually above the current rate on non-residential structures; and, shall San Rafael’s appropriations limit be correspondingly increased?</p>	<b>YES</b>
	<b>NO</b>

**CITY ATTORNEY’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE I**

This measure would authorize amendment of the San Rafael Municipal Code to increase the maximum rate of the City’s existing Paramedic Service Special Tax on residential units and non-residential structures. The total increase could not exceed \$23.00 per unit for residential units, and \$.03 per square-foot for non-residential units.

Currently, the maximum Paramedic Tax rate is \$85.00 per unit for residential structures and eleven cents (\$.11) per square-foot for non-residential structures; under existing law, each year the City Council determines the amount of the tax to be imposed based upon the costs of the Paramedic Service for that year, but the tax can in no event exceed this maximum rate. The paramedic tax will remain at the current levels should this measure not be approved by the voters.

This measure, if adopted, would authorize phased increases of the Paramedic Service Special Tax rate from \$85.00 up to a maximum of \$108.00 per unit for residential units, and from eleven cents (\$.11) per square-foot up to a maximum of fourteen cents (\$.14) per square-foot for non-residential structures. This measure would also increase the appropriations limit for the City of San Rafael for four (4) years (2011/2012 through 2014/2015) by the total amount collected under this tax so as to enable the City to expend the money collected, as authorized by Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

If the measure is approved, existing law will continue to prohibit the City Council from imposing a tax rate in excess of the approved maximum rates without further voter approval.

The ordinance amendments proposed by this measure will be adopted if approved by a two-thirds majority of those electors voting on the measure.

A **YES** vote approves the measure.

A **NO** vote rejects the measure.

s/ROBERT F. EPSTEIN  
City Attorney of San Rafael

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE I**

San Rafael’s paramedic tax is a dedicated local funding source for paramedic services. Created in 1979, it has been reauthorized by voters three times in the last 12 years. Measure I is needed to maintain rapid emergency response times and to make our paramedics have the best equipment and best training to save lives in case of an accident like a car crash, or a medical emergency like heart attack or stroke.

Funds from Measure I are kept in a separate fund and audited annually to ensure they are only used for local emergency medical services and equipment. These funds benefit local residents and cannot be taken away by the State.

This measure will only cost households a maximum of an additional two dollars a month, 7 cents a day. Businesses will also pay their fair share. All the money paid for Measure I is tax deductible. Because of this assessment no resident served by a San Rafael Fire Paramedic will ever receive a bill for the emergency medical service provided. The San Rafael Fire Department is regarded as one of the best in the state. Our local paramedics respond to 97% of calls in less than 10 minutes. In an emergency every minute can be the difference between life and death. Every day our paramedics save lives that would be lost without the resources of Measure I. Measure I will provide paramedics access to the most advanced lifesaving training and equipment, such as the mobile 12-lead heart monitor which aids in the treatment of heart attack patients while they are being transported to the emergency room.

Please join local police officers, firefighters, paramedics, healthcare workers and community and civic leaders in support of Measure I.

- s/STEVE PATTERSON  
Chair, Federation of San Rafael Neighborhoods
- s/CAROLYN LENERT  
San Rafael Fire Commissioner
- s/PATRICIA KENDALL  
Medical Group Administrator,  
Kaiser Permanente Medical Center
- s/RAY LORBER  
President, Mont Marin/San Rafael Park  
Neighborhood Association
- s/LEO ISOTALO  
Past President, Peacock Gap Homeowners Association

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE I WAS FILED.**

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE I  
ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL AMENDING SECTIONS 3.28.040 AND 3.28.050 OF CHAPTER 3.28 OF THE SAN RAFAEL MUNICIPAL CODE, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM SPECIAL PARAMEDIC TAX RATE ON RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND ON NON-RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES AND TO INCREASE THE CITY'S APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT IN CONNECTION THEREWITH**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of San Rafael in 1979 adopted an ordinance imposing a special tax to "fully fund" a city-wide Paramedic Service Program (Chapter 3.28 of the San Rafael Municipal Code); and

**WHEREAS**, for more than thirty (30) years, the City Council has imposed this tax annually upon all residential units and upon all non-residential structures within the City of San Rafael for the intended purpose of funding complete and total costs associated with the provision of a citywide Paramedic Service Program; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the passage of Proposition 218 in 1996, the City Council each year adjusted the Paramedic Special Tax rate to fund total costs of the City's Paramedic Service Program; and,

**WHEREAS**, the passage of Proposition 218, eliminated the authority of the City Council to adjust the maximum rate of the Paramedic Special Tax without first obtaining the approval of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the voters at a municipal election; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2006 the voters of San Rafael approved an increase of the maximum Paramedic Tax rate to \$85.00 annually for residential units and \$.11 per square foot annually for non-residential structures; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council, after reviewing the total current and projected costs of the Paramedic Service Program, revenues provided by Ambulance Transporting, and the total revenue generated by the current Paramedic Tax maximum rate, has found that the current Paramedic Tax rate fails to fully fund the Paramedic Service Program, thus requiring the diversion of a portion of the City's General Fund to subsidize the Program, which diversion of General Fund monies threatens the provision of other City services including park maintenance, road repair, and police services and fire services; and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum Paramedic Special Tax rate needs to be increased so as to fully fund the City's Paramedic Service Program as was originally intended under the ordinance enacted by the voters of the City of San Rafael; and

**WHEREAS**, it is crucial to ensure that the Paramedic Service Program remains completely and adequately funded by a combination of Ambulance Transportation billing and the paramedic tax revenues, so as to maintain rapid response times to medical emergencies, provide advanced treatment to heart attack patients and keep trained paramedics on fire engine companies; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has submitted to the City's voters on November 2, 2010 this measure to amend the Paramedic Tax ordinance to authorize an increase of the maximum Paramedic Special Tax rate so as to fully fund the Paramedic Service Program; and

**WHEREAS**, this measure would also increase the City's appropriations limit for the next four (4) years in connection with revenue generated by the Paramedic Special Tax in accord with California Constitution Article XIII B;

**NOW THEREFORE, the People of the City of San Rafael do ordain as follows:**

**DIVISION 1:**

San Rafael Municipal Code section 3.28.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3.28.040 – Special Tax Imposed - Non-residential.

A special tax of up to a maximum of fourteen cents (\$.14) per square foot is imposed upon all non-residential structures within the corporate limits of the City of San Rafael, on an annual basis, to fund a Paramedic Service Program.

**DIVISION 2:**

San Rafael Municipal Code section 3.28.050 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3.28.050 – Special Tax Imposed - Residential.

A special tax of up to a maximum of \$108 per residential unit is imposed upon all residential units within the corporate limits of the City of San Rafael, on an annual basis, to fund a Paramedic Service Program.

**DIVISION 3:**

As required by Article XIII B of the California Constitution, the appropriations limit of the City of San Rafael shall be increased each year, for a period of four (4) years, by the total amount collected each year under the Paramedic Service Special Tax (Chapter 3.28, San Rafael Municipal Code).

**DIVISION 4:**

This Ordinance shall be effective ten days after the date on which the City Council has declared its approval by at least two-thirds of the City's electors voting at the special municipal election to be held on the 2nd day of November, 2010.

s/ALBERT J. BORO  
Mayor

ATTEST:  
s/ESTHER C. BEIRNE  
City Clerk