

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO MEASURE N

N **MEASURE N:** Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$57 in the first year and raising the tax \$6 annually to a maximum of \$75 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?

YES

NO

TOWN ATTORNEY’S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE N

If this measure is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the special tax for paramedic services administered by the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority, will be continued for four more years. The tax for residential units will be \$57.00 per taxable living unit in the first year and increasing thereafter by \$6.00 per year with a maximum of \$75.00 per taxable living unit. The tax for non-residential parcels will be \$57.00 per 1,500 square feet of structure for each developed parcel in non-residential use in the first year, increasing thereafter by \$6.00 per year.

The proposed special tax for paramedic services will be collected in addition to fees for transportation to the hospital charged to insurance providers. The applicable appropriations limit pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution will be increased in an amount equal to the proceeds of the special tax.

The Town Council of the Town of San Anselmo placed this measure on the ballot at its meeting of May 27, 2014. If the voters do not approve the measure, the current tax will expire on June 30, 2015.

s/ROBERT F. EPSTEIN
San Anselmo Town Attorney

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE N

Since 1982 the voters of the Ross Valley have continued to approve a special tax to help fund the fire department based paramedic service. You are being asked to again support the tax with modest annual \$6 incremental increases for four years to a maximum rate of \$75. The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority is a partnership of 8 Ross Valley communities that have combined efforts to deliver this exceptional level of care.

The initial Ross Valley Paramedic Authority tax provided for a single ambulance. The expectation for paramedic care from our citizens has dictated that service levels continue to expand and evolve. Paramedic care is now provided through a system that includes three, state of the art fire department paramedic ambulance units and with trained paramedics aboard fire engines so that advanced emergency care can arrive as quickly as possible.

The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority will continue the responsible, transparent approach to managing the costs of our emergency medical response service and adequately provide for the long-term safety of our community.

A Yes Vote Will:

- Ensure the existing high level paramedic emergency medical response services
- Continue local control over these tax revenues
- Maintain rapid emergency response times

Your tax pays for a significant portion of the paramedic program. Additional funds are collected from insurance companies through third party billing and from billing of non-resident customers. In addition, your tax covers continuing paramedic training, the cost of supplies and equipment and the replacement of ambulance units 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 N.

s/TOM McINERNEY
Mayor, Town of San Anselmo

s/JOHN D. WRIGHT
Vice Mayor, Town of San Anselmo

s/KATHRYN P. COLEMAN
Councilmember, Town of San Anselmo

s/DOUGLAS T. KELLY
Councilmember, Town of San Anselmo

NO REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE N WAS FILED.

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE N

Citizens for Sustainable Pension Plans recommends that you vote “NO” on Measure N. Our reasoning follows:

- Measure N requests taxpayer money to provide services that should be funded through the normal operating revenues of the Town.
- The Town has asked for funding to mask the systematic mismanagement of their operations.
- Money is fungible. A “YES” vote on Measure N is a vote to allow our elected officials to avoid setting priorities and allocating funds appropriately.
- The systematic mismanagement of operations is highlighted through excessive pensions and retiree medical plans.

Mismanaged pensions and other retirement plans are endemic in the public sector and the Town is no exception. These plans suffer from major problems:

- The plans are extremely generous. The value of the plans dwarfs the value of corresponding plans provided in the private sector.
- In addition to their lavish plan costs, the plans are subject to extreme cost fluctuations and risk. The costs of plans are based upon very optimistic assumptions. Unless those assumptions are met (and they have not been this century), there is a funding shortfall (i.e., unfunded liability). This shortfall is recovered through increased contributions from the Town (i.e., the taxpayer).
- These higher contributions come at a cost. Either the Town reduces services or it requests more money. Measure N is an example of a request for more money from the taxpayer.

If taxpayers vote for Measure N, they are enabling the Town to continue its mismanagement by maintaining its rich and financially volatile retirement plans. A better idea is that the Town reform its plans to stabilize its budget and to eliminate the need for taxpayer requests such as Measure N.

Vote against this measure!

s/JODY MORALES

Founder and President,
Citizens for Sustainable Pension Plans

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE N

While we support pension reform efforts, San Anselmo already has a solid record in addressing its pension costs. Each of us was a citizen member of San Anselmo’s Financial Advisory Committee. We know that the Town is fiscally well managed and has taken significant steps to curb pension costs. This continues to be a Town priority.

The failure to pass Measure N could create public safety risks and would be detrimental to Town residents. The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority has been voter funded since 1983. It is one of the most successful regional agency partnerships in Marin.

Due to the significant cost associated with providing paramedic first response and ambulance services, each of the eight Ross Valley communities formed the RVPA partnership to share paramedic costs. The RVPA paramedic tax funds are only used to provide emergency response Fire Department-based advanced life support paramedic services. The Town could not afford to operate this service without sharing costs with our neighboring communities through the RVPA. Measure N seeks to renew the existing paramedic tax that costs homeowners less than 20 cents per day.

Because of the funding support of the RVPA paramedic tax, there is no direct cost to a Ross Valley resident for paramedic care or emergency ambulance transport. If the measure fails, residents could be charged in order to help offset the costs of providing paramedic service and ambulance transport. The cost to residents who use the system would then be much greater.

Please vote Yes on Measure N.

s/ROBERTA ROBINSON
Retired Businesswoman

s/GAGE HOUSER
Investment Manager

s/CHRISTOPHER LIVERMORE
Small Business Owner

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE N
RESOLUTION NO. 4071**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 AND REQUESTING THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONSOLIDATE SAID ELECTION; AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN 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 A SPECIAL TAX FOR PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Whereas, the Town of San Anselmo is considering continuing the special tax for paramedic services in the Town; 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 4, 2014 at which the Town Council desires to submit to the voters a question relating to a 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 Town, the precincts, polling places, and election officers of the two elections to be the same; and

Whereas, it is desirable that the Marin County Elections Department canvass the returns of the General Election and that the election be handled in all respects as if there were only one election.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. 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 Town of San Anselmo, California, an election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

Section 2. That pursuant to the requirements of Section 10403 of the California 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 3. That the Town Council hereby acknowledges that the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Section 10418.

Section 4. That the Town Council, pursuant to its rights and authority, does order submitted to the voters at the November 4, 2014 election the following question:

The people of the Town of San Anselmo do ordain as follows:

Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$57 in the first year and raising the tax \$6 annually to a maximum of \$75 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, with the

appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?

Section 5. Pursuant to Elections Code section 9280, the Town Clerk shall transmit a copy of the measure to the Town Attorney who shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure in accordance with said Section 9280. Arguments for and against said measure may be filed in accordance with applicable provisions of the law. Pursuant to Section 9285 of the Elections Code of the State of California, (the provisions of which are hereby adopted), when the clerk has selected the arguments for and against the measure which will be printed and distributed to the voters, the clerk shall send copies of the argument in favor of the measure to the authors of the argument against, and copies of the argument against to the authors of the argument in favor. The rebuttal arguments shall be filed with the Town Clerk not more than 10 days after the final date for filing direct arguments. Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments. Each rebuttal argument shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut. The text of the measure shall be printed on the ballot in the voter information portion of the sample ballot.

Section 6. That the Marin County Elections Department is authorized to canvass the returns of said election. The election shall be held in all respects as if there were only one election, and only one form of ballot shall be used.

Section 7. That the Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the Marin County Elections Department to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated election.

Section 8. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the Marin County Elections Department.

Section 9. That the polls for the election shall be open at 7:00 a.m. on November 4, 2014 and shall remain open continuously from that time until 8:00 p.m. of the same day, when the polls shall be closed, except as provided in Section 14401 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

Section 10. That in all particulars not recited in this resolution, the election shall be held and conducted as provided by law for holding municipal elections.

Section 11. That notice of the time and place of holding the election is given and Town Clerk is authorized, instructed, and directed to give further or additional notice of the election, in time, form, and manner as required by law.

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

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and complete copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by the Council of the Town of San Anselmo at a regular meeting thereof held on the 27th day of May 2014, by the following vote:

AYES: Coleman, Greene, Kelly, McInerney, Wright

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

APPROVED:
s/TOM McINERNEY
Mayor

ATTEST:
s/JOANNE KESSEL for
BARBARA CHAMBERS
Town Clerk