

KENTFIELD FIRE DISTRICT MEASURE Q

Q MEASURE Q: 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

COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE Q

KENTFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SPECIAL TAX

This measure was placed on the ballot by the Board of Directors of the Kentfield Fire Protection District.

If this measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the Kentfield Fire Protection District would be authorized to continue the four year special tax, in the amount of fifty-seven dollars (\$57) in fiscal year 2015-2016, and to raise the tax six dollars (\$6) annually to a maximum of seventy-five dollars (\$75) per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, with an appropriations limit increase in the amount of said tax.

s/STEVEN M. WOODSIDE
County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE Q

Since 1982 the voters of the Kentfield Fire District 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, including your fire district, 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 residents has dictated that service levels continue to expand and evolve. Paramedic care is now provided through a system that includes state of the art fire department paramedic ambulance units 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 Q.

s/BRUCE CORBET
Chairman, Kentfield Fire District

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

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Q

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

- Measure Q requests taxpayer money to provide services that should be funded through the normal operating revenues of the District.
- The District has asked for funding to mask the systematic mismanagement of their operations.
- Money is fungible. A “YES” vote on Measure Q 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 District 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 District (i.e., the taxpayer).
- These higher contributions come at a cost. Either the District reduces services or it requests more money. Measure Q is an example of a request for more money from the taxpayer.

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

Vote against this measure!

s/JODY MORALES

Founder and President,
Citizens for Sustainable Pension Plans

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Q

Although we understand CSPP’s concerns about pension costs cited in the argument against Measure Q, this Measure is about supporting existing critical public safety services. Linking ‘not supporting Measure Q’ because of employee pensions is a well-intended political statement that is not fact-based. The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) exists to support a well-integrated, community based program that seeks to reduce costs through efficiencies gained through a shared service with the other Ross Valley towns and does not directly employ staff nor is directly responsible for public pension liabilities.

- Measure Q’s \$6 annual increase for four years will ensure the continued provision of these critical emergency services for residents.
- The RVPA has been voter-funded since being founded in 1983. It is one of the longest running and most successful regional agency partnerships in Marin.
- Due to the cost associated with providing paramedic first response and ambulance transport services, each of the eight communities in the Ross Valley, including Kentfield Fire District, formed the RVPA partnership in order to share the costs of the program, which saves taxpayer dollars.
- The RVPA parcel tax funds are only used to provide emergency response, fire department based, advanced life support paramedic services.
- Because of the funding support of the RVPA property tax, there is no direct cost to Ross Valley residents for paramedic care or emergency ambulance transportation to the hospital.
- We urge your support of Measure Q.

s/RALPH C McLERAN

Director, Kentfield Fire District

s/GERALD DOHERTY

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE Q
RESOLUTION NO. 2-2014**

RESOLUTION OF THE KENTFIELD FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROPOSING AN INCREASE IN THE PARAMEDIC SERVICE TAX, ESTABLISHING A DATE FOR ELECTION, ADOPTING INTENDED BALLOT LANGUAGE, REQUESTING THE CONSOLIDATION OF SAID ELECTION, REQUESTING ELECTION SERVICES OF THE CLERK AND DIRECTING THAT REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS MAY BE RECEIVED.

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2010, the electors of the Kentfield Fire District approved a special tax for the funding of paramedic services through the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority; and

WHEREAS, the maximum allowable tax was established at \$51.00 per residential unit plus a \$.50 County administrative fee, and \$51.00 per 1500 square feet of structure in non-residential use, plus a \$.50 County administrative fee; and

WHEREAS, the Ross Valley Paramedic Tax has been annually levied and each four years the tax rate reset and approved by election and scheduled to expire June 30, 2015;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Directors hereby calls for an election to be held on November 4, 2014, at which election the issue to be presented to the voters of the Kentfield Fire District shall be:

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?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Board of Directors hereby requests that said election shall be consolidated with the general election to be held on said date and requests the County Clerk to provide all necessary election services and to canvas the result of said election.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that rebuttals shall be received to ballot arguments made by this Board of Directors on behalf of said measure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors held this 14th day of May 2014 by the following vote:

AYES: Corbet, Gerbsman, McLeran, Murray, Naso

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ATTEST:

s/BRUCE CORBET
Chairman

s/RALPH C. McLERAN
Secretary