

MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

DISTRICT

**NOVATO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL PER ANNUM TAX
MEASURE C**

C Shall the Novato Fire District Ordinance No. 91-1 by which the voters approved a special tax to provide paramedic/ambulance services and fire suppression and prevention services in the District be amended to permit increases up to \$.02 additional tax on residential structures, up to \$.03 additional tax on commercial/industrial structures, which may be adjusted annually for inflation to fully fund paramedic, ambulance and fire service costs, and shall the District's appropriations limit be correspondingly increased?

**NOVATO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL PER ANNUM TAX
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
MEASURE C**

This measure would authorize an increase in the maximum rate of the Novato Fire Protection District's special tax on residential and non-residential structures for paramedic/ambulance services, fire suppression, and prevention services and to upgrade facilities to meet community needs. Currently the maximum rate is four cents per square foot for residential structures and six cents per square foot for commercial and industrial structures. This measure would increase the maximum rate to six cents per square foot per annum for residential structures and nine cents per square foot per annum for commercial and industrial structures. The proposed increases contained in this measure are permitted to be adjusted annually for inflation.

This measure would also increase the appropriations limit for the Novato Fire Protection District by the total amount collected under this tax so as to enable the District to expend the money collected, as authorized by Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

This measure prohibits the District from setting the paramedic/fire services tax rate above the limits authorized.

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

A YES vote approves the measure.

A NO vote rejects the measure.

Dated: December 6, 2001

GARY T. RAGGHIANI
Attorney for the Novato Fire Protection District

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

VOTE YES ON MEASURE C. It is the right thing to do.

Measure C will put paramedics in all fire stations, decrease medical response times, build a much-needed new fire station in Hamilton, and meet increased levels of service required by state law.

Since Novato area voters approved the special Fire District tax twenty years ago, Fire calls have increased 40%. Medical emergency calls have increased 101%.

Last year, the Fire District ran 946 simultaneous calls where two or more fire/paramedic units were on separate calls at the same time. That is a 96% increase during the past ten years.

During the past nine years, the Governor and State Legislature has taken \$12.3 million from the Novato Fire District.

All of these factors have put a tremendous strain on the entire Novato Fire District system.

Not only is Fire District income limited... but State law provides funding for fire protection only. There is no funding provision for emergency paramedic and ambulance services.

In the Novato area, approximately one in every 14 families benefits directly each year from paramedic ambulance service... or one in every 21 men, women and children in our community.

We need to put funding in place that cannot be taken from us by the Governor or State legislature... and we can. Money approved by the Novato area voters cannot be taken away from the Fire District by anyone.

The firefighters and paramedics in Novato are the finest anywhere and they need our support and adequate equipment to do their job. Our residents deserve the best possible fire and paramedic service.

By Voting Yes on Measure C, we can make sure that we, and future generations are protected properly.

We urge you to vote YES ON MEASURE C! It is the right thing to do.

s/ Rick Fraitcs
Former Novato Planning Commissioner

s/ Ernie Gray
Mayor Emeritus

s/ J. Dietrich Stroeh

s/ Nancy Marsh Sangster

s/ Denise Athas, President
Novato Chamber of Commerce

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE
WAS SUBMITTED**

END OF MEASURE C

