



Local Ballot Measure: AA

Measure AA

Timber Cove Fire Protection District

Measure Question

To continue to protect lives and property, shall the Timber Cove Fire Protection District levy an annual parcel tax of \$185 per parcel for 15 years, raising approximately \$92,500 per year, to fund code-mandated higher-cost upgrades for firefighter, rescue and EMT training and date-stamped equipment in order to maintain current level of emergency medical, wildfire, rescue and hazardous conditions services, with all money staying local for the benefit of our community?

What Your Vote Means

YES	NO
A "yes" vote would authorize the District to impose the parcel tax.	A "no" vote is a vote to not approve the proposed parcel tax.

For and Against Measure AA

FOR	AGAINST
TIMBER COVE FPD Kathleen Rasmussen, President TIMBER COVE FPD Carolynn Abst, Secretary TIMBER COVE FPD Michael Zippy Singer, Treasurer David V. Brown Plantation Ranch Suzanne L. Brown Plantation Ranch	No argument was submitted against Measure AA



Local Ballot Measure: AA

Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. They are printed exactly as submitted, including errors.

County Counsel's Impartial Analysis of Measure AA	Argument in Favor of Measure AA
<p>The Timber Cove Fire Protection District Board of Directors has called a special election for November 3, 2020, asking voters to approve Measure AA. Measure AA would authorize the District to levy a special parcel tax on real property within the District to fund fire protection (including suppression and prevention) and emergency response services within the District. State law permits fire protection districts to levy a qualified special tax provided two-thirds of the votes cast on a measure approve the imposition of the tax. The Board of Directors placed Measure AA on the ballot.</p> <p>Measure AA proposes a special tax of \$185.00 annually per parcel for each parcel of land within the District. The tax would be collected in the same manner and subject to the same penalties and interest as other property taxes. All property that would otherwise be exempt from ad valorem property tax will also be exempt from the proposed tax. The District estimates that the proposed tax would generate \$92,500 in revenue annually.</p> <p>Measure AA would also raise the District's spending limit for the maximum period (four years) allowed by state law to allow the District to spend the proceeds of the tax. Voters would need to renew the increase in the District's spending limit every four years to ensure continued ability to spend the tax proceeds.</p> <p>As required by state law, proceeds of the tax would be placed in a special fund and could only be used for the purposes set out in Measure AA, which include (1) acquiring, operating, and maintaining fire prevention and suppression equipment; (2) acquiring, operating, and maintaining emergency medical service (EMS) equipment and supplies; (3) acquiring, operating, and maintaining fire rescue equipment and supplies; (4) acquiring fire, rescue, and EMS personnel protective equipment; and (5) funding capital improvements. Additional accountability measures require District to annually submit a written report to the Board stating the amount of tax revenue collected and expended, and the status of any project authorized to be funded by the tax.</p> <p>The proposed tax will become effective only if approved by a two-thirds majority of those voting on Measure AA. If approved, the proposed tax would become effective on July 1, 2021, following certification of the election result. The tax would be levied against all taxable real property beginning with the 2021/2022 fiscal year and would remain in effect for fifteen (15) years.</p> <p>A "yes" vote would authorize the District to impose the parcel tax.</p> <p>A "no" vote is a vote to not approve the proposed parcel tax.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">BRUCE D. GOLDSTEIN County Counsel</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By: s/ Robert Pittman Assistant County Counsel</p>	<p>Whether it is fire, medical emergencies or protecting life in general, the volunteers of Timber Cove Fire Protection District are here to assist the community in keeping us all safe 24/7.</p> <p>Established as the Timber Cove Volunteer Fire Department in 1976, early annual call numbers ranged from 7 to 29. Twenty years later, call numbers averaged 72 per year, and in 1996, a \$45 tax per parcel was voted in to support the increased work of the Timber Cove Fire Protection District. Since 1996, calls have steadily increased, and in 2019 our volunteers responded to 292 calls.</p> <p>With the increased costs for equipment, vehicles, firefighter and emergency medical training, along with the growing wildfire danger everywhere (we responded to Santa Rosa's tragic fires), we are coming back to our community to ask for additional support. The existing funds of the District are no longer enough to keep pace and provide our residents with the safety they want and deserve.</p> <p>A Yes on Measure AA will allow the District's volunteers to continue their lifesaving and fire protection services for the area. A Yes vote will specifically:</p> <p>Provide our volunteers with updated firefighter and emergency medical training and equipment to keep them and the community safe from day to day and catastrophic events.</p> <p>Put the health and safety of our community first by providing additional funds for all aspects of emergency medical, wildfire, and hazardous condition services – even as wildfire dangers increase and as methods and firefighter equipment designs change to improve survivability.</p> <p>Measure AA includes strict accountability provisions to ensure that all funds are used locally. annual financial audits are required and annual reporting will detail expenditures from the funds.</p> <p>Please join us in voting Yes on Measure AA to help keep our community safe.</p> <p>TIMBER COVE FPD s/ Kathleen Rasmussen, President</p> <p>TIMBER COVE FPD s/ Carolynn Abst, Secretary</p> <p>TIMBER COVE FPD s/ Michael Zippy Singer, Treasurer</p> <p>s/ David V. Brown Plantation Ranch</p> <p>s/ Suzanne L. Brown Plantation Ranch</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No argument was submitted against Measure AA</p>



Local Ballot Measure: AA

Full Text of Measure AA

TIMBER COVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PARCEL TAX TO FUND FIRE PROTECTION, RESCUE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

The Timber Cove Fire Protection District community faces a significant threat from wildfire and needs to take steps to enhance prevention efforts. To ensure essential fire prevention, protection, rescue and emergency medical response as well as preserve fire prevention education and public safety to our community, the Timber Cove Fire Protection District proposes to levy a parcel tax of \$185 on each taxable parcel of land within the District for a period of fifteen years.

The revenue available to the District from property taxes and existing District funding measures is inadequate to meet the cost of continuing to provide fire, rescue and emergency services pursuant to Section 13862 of the California Health and Safety Code. The District must establish a stable source of revenue to assist in meeting the associated expenses of providing such services and exercising the other rights and powers provided to the District.

The estimated \$92,500 revenue from this parcel tax will provide the District with support funding to use in delivering essential fire prevention, protection, rescue and emergency medical response services to the community. Funding will provide the District with the ability to acquire, operate and maintain fire prevention and suppression equipment, to acquire, operate and maintain emergency medical service (EMS) equipment and supplies, to acquire, operate and maintain rescue equipment and supplies, fire, rescue and EMS personnel protective equipment and fund capital improvements. Pursuant to Government Code Section 50075.1, the proceeds of the parcel tax shall be used only for the purposes stated above.

The District will prepare an annual report, to be filed with its Board of Directors, which shall include the amount of parcel tax revenues collected and expended each year, and which shall otherwise comply with Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 50075) of Chapter 1 of Part I of Division 1 of Title 5 of the California Government Code. The District will create a separate account for depositing proceeds of the parcel tax.

The parcel tax shall be collected in the same manner and subject to the same penalty as other charges and taxes collected by or on behalf of the District by the County of Sonoma. The Sonoma County Tax Collector may deduct reasonable administrative costs incurred in collecting the parcel tax.

The District's appropriation's limit will be increased by the amount of this voter-approved tax. If approved by the voters, the parcel tax shall be effective for the District's 2021-22 fiscal year and will be levied annually from and after the date of this election for fifteen years.