



## Local Ballot Measure: K

# Measure K

## Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District

### Measure Question

To reduce local fire risk, preserve public safety and ensure essential fire prevention, protection and emergency medical response is provided to our community, shall the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District Ordinance No. 19/20-0115-001 be adopted, a special tax, including \$160/residential unit below 2,000 square feet, \$200/residential unit of 2,000-3,500 square feet, and \$240/residential unit over 3,500 square feet, raising approximately \$650,000 annually until repealed, with annual audits, and all money staying local?

### 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 K

FOR	AGAINST
Mike McGuire State Senator  James Gore 4 <sup>th</sup> District Sonoma County Supervisor  KVVFC August Grube, Chief  Marshall Turbeville Fire Chief  Harry K. Bosworth Past District Director	No argument was submitted against Measure K



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

County Counsel's Impartial Analysis of Measure K	Argument in Favor of Measure K
<p>The Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District Board of Directors has called a special election for May 5, 2020, asking voters to approve Measure K. Measure K 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 K on the ballot.</p> <p>The amount of the proposed tax varies depending upon the character and type of use of the property. The proposed annual tax rate will be: \$160.00 per dwelling unit for residential structures (including mobile/manufactured homes and accessory dwelling units) under 2,000 square feet; \$200.00 per dwelling unit for residential structures between 2,000-3,500 square feet; \$240.00 per dwelling unit for residential structures larger than 3,500 square feet; \$0.11 per square foot for non-residential structures; \$54.00 per building (up to 3 buildings) for agricultural buildings; and \$170.00 per parcel for vacant lands and all parcels greater than 20 acres. The amount of the tax rate may be adjusted annually for inflation by an amount up to the increase in the California Consumer Price Index for all items, as more fully described in the full text of Measure K.</p> <p>If approved, the tax would be applied to each parcel or land or portion thereof that lies within the District and has been assigned an Assessor's Parcel Number (as shown on the secured tax rolls). The tax would be collected in the same manner 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 \$650,000 in revenue annually.</p> <p>Measure K 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.</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 K, which include (1) acquiring, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment; (2) payment of personnel costs; and (3) funding capital improvements. Additional accountability measures require District's Chief Fiscal Officer 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 K. If approved, the proposed tax would become effective on July 1, 2020, following certification of the election result. The tax would be levied against all taxable real property beginning with the 2020/2021 fiscal year and would continue annually until repealed by the voters at a subsequent election.</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>The Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District has faced significant and unforeseen challenges since the 2017 Tubbs and Pocket Fires and the more recent Kincade Fire of 2019, as the threats posed by wildfires have strained the quality-of-life as we know it for all those who live, work and visit here. Prevention and preparedness are becoming the new normal, and as we adapt to this new reality, our approach to fire prevention and preparedness must also evolve to safeguard life and property during future emergencies – this is why voting Yes on Measure K is so important.</p> <p>Measure K will be used to fund year-round fire prevention efforts including creating fuel breaks; continuing community engagement; continuing the chipper program; enhancing roadside clearance and vegetation management programs; increasing defensible space inspections; and improving operational practices for better fire prevention/emergency preparedness initiatives.</p> <p>Measure K will be used to fund the ongoing replacement of aging and out-of-date fire protection vehicles and apparatus as well as life-saving equipment for our stations and personnel.</p> <p>A Yes vote on Measure K will allow the Fire Protection District to continue saving lives and property. Measure K will improve preparedness before future wildfires, fund fire prevention efforts specifically designed to protect our community, save lives and property and replace apparatus and equipment essential to fire protection and emergency medical services.</p> <p>Measure K includes strict accountability provisions to ensure that all funds are spent locally. Annual audits are required and annual reporting will detail all expenditures from funds generated by Measure K.</p> <p>Better preparedness to address future wildfires will benefit us all. Join local firefighters, landowners, farmers and ranchers and vote Yes on K to continue to keep our community safe. Thank you.</p> <p>For more information go to: <a href="https://www.northernsonomacountyfire.org/">https://www.northernsonomacountyfire.org/</a></p> <p>s/ Mike McGuire State Senator</p> <p>s/ James Gore 4<sup>th</sup> District Sonoma County Supervisor</p> <p>KVVFC s/ August Grube, Chief</p> <p>s/ Marshall Turbeville Fire Chief</p> <p>s/ Harry K. Bosworth Past District Director</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>No argument was submitted against Measure K</b></p>



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## Full Text of Measure K

### NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SPECIAL TAX TO FUND FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

If approved by the voters, the special tax shall be effective for the District's 2020-21 fiscal year and will be levied annually from and after the date of this election unless changed by the voters at a subsequent election.

The Northern Sonoma County community has faced a significant threat from fire and additional measures are needed to improve our local fire prevention efforts. To reduce the local fire risk, preserve public safety and ensure essential fire prevention, protection and emergency medical response is provided to our community, the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District proposes to levy a special tax on each taxable parcel of land within the District at the following annual rates:

<u>Character of Property</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Residential Structure < 2,000 square feet (including Mobile/Manufactured Homes and Accessory Dwelling Units)	\$160.00 per dwelling unit
Residential Structure 2,000 square feet to 3,500 square feet	\$200.00 per dwelling unit
Residential Structure ≥ 3,500 square feet	\$240.00 per dwelling unit
Non-Residential Structure	\$0.11 per square foot
Vacant Parcel	\$170.00 per parcel
Parcels > 20 acres	\$170.00 per parcel
Parcels > 250 acres	\$170.00 per parcel
Parcels > 1,000 acres	\$170.00 per parcel

The estimated \$650,000 revenue from this special tax will be used to provide revenue for the District to use in performing essential fire prevention and protection services as well as provide emergency medical response services to the community, including acquiring, operating and maintaining fire prevention and suppression equipment, payment of personnel costs, and funding capital improvements. Pursuant to Government Code Section 50075.1, the proceeds of the special tax shall be used only for the purposes stated above.

The rate of the special tax may, at the discretion of the Board, be increased annually commencing in the 2021-22 tax year, by a minimum of zero percent (0%) to a maximum annually, of the percentage change, rounded to the nearest one-thousandth of one percent (1%), from October of the prior fiscal year to October of the current fiscal year in the California Consumer Price Index (CCPI) for all items, as determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations.

The District's appropriation's limit will be increased by the amount of this voter-approved tax.

The District will prepare an annual report, to be filed with its Board of Directors, which shall include the amount of special tax revenues collected and expended each year, and which shall otherwise comply with the accountability measures established in Government Code Sections 59975.1 *et seq.*