



Official Voter Information Pamphlet June 23, 2020

County Service Area No. 1 Special Mail Ballot Election

To request this pamphlet in an accessible or translated format, or for voting assistance, please call 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) or email registrar@smcacre.org.

Para solicitar este folleto en un formato accesible o traducido, o para asistencia para votar, por favor llame al 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) o envíe un correo electrónico a registrar@smcacre.org.

要索取本手冊無障礙或中文版本，或需投票協助，請致電 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) 或電郵 registrar@smcacre.org。

This official election information is compiled and distributed by the
Office of the Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder

40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402 Phone: 650.312.5222 Web: www.smcvote.org

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3 Easy Steps to Vote by Mail

1 Vote



Mark your ballot and put your ballot in the POSTAGE-PAID envelope.

Made a mistake on your ballot?

Notify us by June 16 and we will send a replacement ballot.

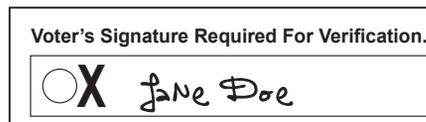
Here's how:

- Call or text us at 650.312.5222;
- Email us at registrar@smcacre.org; or
- Go to www.smcvote.org and use our request form.

You can also request a replacement ballot in person through Election Day, June 23, at the Vote Center below.

2 Sign Your Envelope

Sign next to the X in the box and write the date below.



Seal the envelope.

Your signature will be compared to the signature used when you registered to vote.

3 Return Your Ballot

May 26 through Election Day, June 23



Mail your voted ballot in the POSTAGE-PAID envelope postmarked by **June 23**, and it will be counted if it is received by **June 26**;



Drop off your voted ballot in our secure outside 24-Hour Ballot Drop Box at the Vote Center below; or



Drop off your voted ballot in person during our business hours, or between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Election Day, at the Vote Center below.

Track your Ballot

You can now receive automated alerts via text message or email on the status of your Vote by Mail ballot every step of the way by subscribing to BallotTrax at Whereismyballot.sos.ca.gov.

If you do not subscribe to BallotTrax, you can still check the status of your ballot by clicking on "My Election Information" at www.smcvote.org.

Vote Center

Registration & Elections Division — 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402

Monday through Friday, open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Election Day, June 23, 2020, the Vote Center will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

County Service Area No. 1

Measure Q

Special Tax for Extended Police and Fire Protection Services

Shall the measure set forth in Resolution No. 077299 of the County of San Mateo continuing the levy of a special tax for four years at a maximum rate of \$65 per parcel per year for extended police and structural fire protection services be adopted?

Impartial Analysis of Measure Q

On March 24, 2020, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to renew the levy of a special tax on property located in County Service Area No. 1 (the "Service Area") for extended police and fire protection services. Under Government Code Section 50075, a ballot measure for approval of the special tax must be submitted to the voters of the Service Area.

A special tax for police and fire protection services in the Service Area has been levied since 1982, and was most recently renewed by voters in 2016. The Board of Supervisors determines the specific amount of the tax each year, with a maximum rate of \$65 per year per parcel. The special tax is currently scheduled to expire on June 30, 2020.

If this Measure is approved by the voters of the Service Area, the special tax would continue to be levied for an additional period of four (4) years, commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2024. The Board of Supervisors would continue to set the specific amount of the special tax each year, with a maximum rate of \$65 per year per parcel, after a noticed public hearing. The special tax would be collected by the San Mateo County tax collection officials at the same time as, and along with, the general *ad valorem* taxes. It would be subject to the same penalties as the general *ad valorem* tax, and the special tax and penalty will bear interest at the same rate as the rate for unpaid *ad valorem* property taxes until paid.

The proceeds of the special tax may be spent only on extended police and structural fire protection services in the Service Area, and for no other purposes. The County must deposit the proceeds from the tax into a special account and prepare an annual report describing the amount of funds collected and expended.

A "yes" vote on this Measure would allow the continuation of a special tax to be levied on property within the boundaries of the Service Area for extended police and fire protection services at a rate no greater than \$65 per parcel per year for an additional four (4) years, from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024.

A "no" vote on this Measure would not allow the special tax to be levied, with the current tax supporting extended police and fire protection services in the Service Area ending June 30, 2020.

This Measure passes if two-thirds of those voting on it vote "yes."

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The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure Q. If you desire a copy of the entire measure as contained in Resolution No. 077299 please call the elections official's office at 650.312.5222 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you. You may also access the full text of the measure on the county's website www.smcacre.org.

County Service Area No. 1

Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Argument in Favor of Measure Q

Community Service Area 1 (CSA 1) was established in 1955 to provide enhanced fire service for the San Mateo Highlands, Baywood Park, Baywood Plaza, San Mateo Oaks, Polhemus Heights, Hillside Garden and other neighborhoods in the unincorporated area to the east and west of Polhemus Road. When the district was created, a share of the CSA 1 residents' property taxes was dedicated to paying for enhanced fire service which was provided by Cal Fire. In 1966, extra patrols by the County Sheriff were requested by the community and paid through the CSA 1 property tax allocation.

Today, CSA 1 pays for a 24/7 fire engine located at Fire Station #17, located on Paul Scannell Drive. CalFire staffs the engine with a minimum of three firefighters, at least one of which is a Paramedic. CSA 1 also pays for patrol service by a Deputy Sheriff, 7 days a week, 18 hours a day.

In 1982, CSA 1 residents voted to assess themselves up to \$110 a year in additional property taxes to fully fund their enhanced police and fire services. Since 1982, the actual assessment has been \$65 a parcel. The \$65 tax has been consistently renewed by the voters every four or five years since 1982. The current parcel tax expires on June 30, 2020.

Measure Q on the June ballot extends the \$65 CSA 1 parcel tax another four years. To pass, the measure must be supported by 2/3 of the voters in CSA 1.

For over fifty years, the CSA 1 residents have enjoyed the exceptional fire and police services provided by CalFire and the County Sheriff.

We encourage all CSA 1 residents to vote YES on Measure Q to continue to fully fund our enhanced police and fire protection another four years.

- /s/ **Liesje Nicolas** March 31, 2020
Highlands Community Association, President
- /s/ **Dylan Ashbrook** April 1, 2020
Highlands Community Association, Vice President
- /s/ **Rick Priola** April 1, 2020
Highlands Community Association, 2nd Vice President
- /s/ **Alan Palter** April 1, 2020
Baywood Plaza Resident
- /s/ **Laurel Nagle** April 1, 2020
President, Baywood Park HOA

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure Q

Does this single-issue special election make any sense whatsoever?

According to the San Mateo County Assessors Office there are 1,440 parcels within this "special" district.

According to the resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors, this special election could cost up to \$100,000 to conduct the election.

Does this math make any sense?

Let's see:

Let's divide the cost (\$100,000) by the number of parcels (1,440) and we get \$69.44 per parcel cost to hold the election.

Just to hold the election is going to cost \$69.44 per parcel to raise \$65 the first year.

Yes, it's a parcel tax for 4 years, but that means the total cost of the election is going to be over 25% of all the revenues. And in 4 years, they'll do it all over again!

What a waste of taxpayers' money!

What if this measure is defeated???

Are police and fire services going to be withheld from people living in the district?

The answer is an obvious no.

The responsible thing to do is vote **NO on Measure Q** and send a message to the San Mateo Board of Supervisors and tell them **spending \$100,000 to raise \$93.600 in 2021 makes no sense.**

Lastly, the San Mateo County budget already includes a \$12,210,547 reserve fund that could clearly cover the expenses of police and fire protection in the district if Measure Q fails.

Just say NO on Measure Q = Quit raising taxes.

For more information, please visit our website:
www.SVTaxpayers.org

- /s/ **Mark W.A. Hinkle** April 3, 2020
President: Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association
- /s/ **John J "Jack" Hickey** April 3, 2020
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

County Service Area No. 1

Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Argument Against Measure Q

Measure Q is a \$65 parcel tax that requires a 2/3 vote to pass.
Does this special election make any sense whatsoever?
According to the San Mateo County Assessors Office there are 1,440 parcels within this "special" district.
According to the resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors, this special election could cost up to \$100,000 to conduct the election.
Does this math make any sense?
Let's see:
Let's divide the cost (\$100,000) by the number of parcels (1,440) and we get \$69.44 per parcel cost to hold the election.
Just to hold the election is going to cost \$69.44 per parcel to raise \$65 the first year.
Yes, it's a parcel tax for 4 years, but that means the total cost of the election is going to be over 25% of all the revenues.
What a waste of taxpayers' money!
What if this measure is defeated???
Are police and fire services going to be withheld from people living in the district?
The answer is an obvious no.
The responsible thing to do is vote NO on Measure Q and send a message to the San Mateo Board of Supervisors and tell them spending \$100,000 to raise \$93,600 in 2021 makes no sense.
Also, why wasn't this election held in conjunction with the March 3rd election?
Or, why can't this ballot measure wait until the Presidential election in November?
Another way to look at this election is the cost of the election divided by the number of voters (2,925) in the district or \$34.19 per voter.
Lastly, the San Mateo County budget already includes a \$12,210,547 reserve fund that could clearly cover the expenses of police and fire protection in the district.
Just say NO on Measure Q = Quit raising taxes.
For more information, please visit our website:
www.SVTaxpayers.org

/s/ **Mark W.A. Hinkle** April 3, 2020
President: Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association

/s/ **John J "Jack" Hickey** April 3, 2020
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure Q

The argument against measure Q is by a tax organization not located in Unincorporated San Mateo County Service Area One (CSA1). It has no basis to evaluate lifesaving services specific to the CSA1 area. The election cost is already paid. If you receive this ballot to vote, then it is your local emergency services that are at risk.
This is not a new tax, but a renewal initiated and continued by local taxpayers. Unfortunately, County staff omitted this measure from the March 2020 ballot. Residents insist on no further government disruption to well established CSA1 level of services, neighborhood oversight, and emergency response time.
This Special Parcel Tax provides CSA1 neighborhood oversight, which has saved specific CSA1 services that would have been lost and are vulnerable without this measure.
As wildfires and other costly disasters become more frequent, residents want to continue the quantity and quality of emergency services in CSA1 through this tax renewal. Current services provide a 24/7 fire engine and nearby fire station in our neighborhood on Paul Scannell Dr., staffed by 3 CalFire firefighters, including a paramedic, and patrolled by Sheriff Deputy 18hrs a day/7days a week.
CSA1 purchases a fire engine and staffing to assure the quickest response times possible for CSA1 neighborhoods. Since 1982, this longstanding tax has been repeatedly renewed at \$65 per year, per parcel to fund CSA1 specific Enhanced Fire, Sheriff and emergency medical response services first established in 1955.
Keep our neighborhood voice on emergency services! Vote YES.

/s/ **Liesje Nicolas** March 31, 2020
Highlands Community Association, President

/s/ **Dylan Ashbrook** April 1, 2020
Highlands Community Association, Vice President

/s/ **Rick Priola** April 1, 2020
Highlands Community Association, 2nd Vice President

/s/ **Alan Palter** April 1, 2020
Baywood Plaza Resident

/s/ **Laurel Nagle** April 1, 2020
President, Baywood Park HOA