

VOTER'S BOOKLET
MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)

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

**EL MEDIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MEASURE B**

EL MEDIO EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES MEASURE. To provide local fire protection and rapid emergency response services for the El Medio community, so victims of heart attacks, strokes, car accidents and other medical emergencies can receive rapid response care, to protect our homes and businesses from fire, to receive matching state funds, and to keep insurance rates manageable, shall an annual special property tax be authorized with all revenue staying in our community for local fire protection and emergency medical response services?

EL MEDIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE "B" BY
BUTTE COUNTY COUNSEL**

The Butte County Counsel has prepared the following impartial analysis of Measure "B" pursuant to Elections Code Section 9313. This analysis is not an argument for or against the measure.

This measure is being submitted to the voters within the El Medio Fire Protection District (the "District"), pursuant to the requirements of Proposition 218, which was approved by California voters in November 1996. Proposition 218 prohibits a special tax increase within the District unless and until the increase is submitted to the voters within the District and approved by a two-thirds vote.

This measure would authorize an increase in the special tax within the District for fire protection and prevention, as specified in Resolution 2008-02, adopted by the Board of Directors of the District on July 9, 2008. If the measure is approved by two-thirds or more of the votes cast on the measure, the increase in the special tax will be imposed on real property in the District for fiscal year 2008-2009 and each fiscal year thereafter. The amount of the special tax increase for each parcel of real property would be based upon the classification of improvements and uses of property, as specified below:

- a. Residential. In the case of single-family residences and mobile homes, the tax will be an additional Fifty-Eight Dollars (\$58.00) per parcel. In the case of other residential designations, the tax will be based upon the number of dwelling units.
- b. Commercial/Industrial. An additional Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per parcel.
- c. Agricultural/Vacant. An additional Fifty Dollars

(\$50.00) per acre.

- d. Institutional/Miscellaneous. An additional Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) per parcel.

After notice and hearing, the classification of the improvement and use of each parcel of real property would be determined as of July 15th of each year for the succeeding fiscal year. Any landowner could appeal the determination with respect to the landowner's parcel by filing written notice at the District office.

The special tax increase would not be imposed upon real property owned by the Federal or State governments or another local district.

The special taxes imposed by the District could be increased in the future by an annual amount not to exceed three percent (3%) per year.

The amount of the tax imposed each year would appear as a separate item on each tax bill and would be collected on behalf of the District by the County in the same manner and at the same time as property taxes.

The revenues generated from the special tax could only be used for local fire protection and rapid emergency response services within the District.

/s/Bruce S. Alpert
Butte County Counsel

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure B. If you desire a copy of the measure, please call the Election Official's Office at 800-894-7761 or 530-538-7761 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

In order to ensure that the El Medio community continues to receive fire protection and emergency medical services, we need a local Fire Department with local firefighters and a local station right here in our community – The El Medio Fire Protection District! After many years of providing fire protection and emergency medical services, the District will no longer be able to provide top-quality emergency medical and fire protection services without this much-needed support.

If you are in doubt about the Fire Measure, consider the following reasons to support it. A Yes vote will provide a local fire station

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

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MEASURE B – ARGUMENT IN FAVOR CONTINUED

in our community for vital fire protection and emergency medical response services that we need. A Yes vote will help us protect property and save lives. A Yes vote will also keep our fire insurance premiums affordable. A Yes vote will allow the El Medio Fire Protection District to be able to receive grants for equipment and to enter in mutual aid agreements with other emergency service providers.

If Measure B fails, it is unclear what local agency will be responsible for providing fire and emergency medical response services to the El Medio community -- response times for medical emergencies and fires could increase from 4 minutes to 20 minutes. A Yes vote on this measure will make sure we receive rapid responses to medical emergencies!

Measure B includes strict accountability provisions to ensure that all funds will only be used locally. Annual financial audits are required and an Independent Citizens' Fire Advisory Committee will oversee all expenditures from Measure B funds.

Please vote Yes for a safer El Medio.

/s/ Colene Davis
/s/ Jeff Cooper
/s/ Gary R. Nystuen
/s/ Joe A. Farmer
/s/ Bruce F. Lewis

**NO ARGUMENT WAS SUBMITTED
AGAINST MEASURE B**

**FULL TEXT
MEASURE B
EL MEDIO EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND FIRE
PROTECTION SERVICES MEASURE**

The El Medio Fire Protection District will levy a special tax on each taxable parcel of land within the District at the following annual rates:

- Single-family residential -- \$58 per parcel
- Mobile homes on a separate parcel -- \$58 per parcel
- Other Residential -- \$58 per dwelling unit
- Commercial / Industrial -- \$200 per parcel

- Agricultural / Vacant -- \$50 per acre
- Institutional / Miscellaneous -- \$75 per parcel

In order to help ensure that the revenues from the special tax grow in line with the inflation adjusted cost of providing local fire protection and emergency medical emergency services, the tax rate may increase in future years by an annual amount not to exceed 3% per year.

Taxable parcels are those parcels that appear on the annual secured Butte County property tax roll. Assessor's Use Codes are those codes used by the Butte County Assessor's Office to identify and categorize property.

The purpose of this parcel tax will be to ensure continued local fire suppression, protection and emergency response services for all residents of the District and visitors to the area. The revenues raised by this special tax will only be used to defray operating expenses, capital improvement expenditures and debt repayment to accomplish the foregoing purposes.

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

The special tax revenues shall be deposited into a separate account held by the Butte County Treasurer, in accordance with Government Code Section 50075.1, and shall be expended according to a plan developed annually by the District staff and approved and adopted by the District's Board of Directors. A citizens' oversight committee appointed by the Board will review and report on the expenditure of tax revenues.

The District will cause to be filed an annual report with its Board of Directors, which report shall include the amount of special tax revenues collected and expended, and which shall otherwise comply with the accountability measures established in Government Code Sections 50075.1 et seq.