

Resolution Number: 19-214

A RESOLUTION OF THE ARCATA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS AT THE STATEWIDE ELECTION ON MARCH 3, 2020, A PROPOSED ORDINANCE ADJUSTING THE RATE OF A FIRE PROTECTION SPECIAL TAX; REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY TO CONSOLIDATE SAID ELECTION WITH THE STATEWIDE ELECTION; AND DIRECTING THE DISTRICT CLERK TO TAKE ANY AND ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY UNDER LAW TO PREPARE FOR AND CONDUCT THE ELECTION.

WHEREAS, in 1997, the voters within the Arcata Fire Protection District approved a special tax of \$5.00 per unit of special tax (“Special Tax”);

WHEREAS, since 1997, the Special Tax has not been increased despite a significant increase in District obligations and service areas;

WHEREAS, based on current funding sources, including the Special Tax approved in 1997, the Arcata Fire Protection District is unable to provide adequate Fire Protection within the District with the existing financial resources; and

WHEREAS, additional funds are necessary to provide an adequate level of service within the Arcata Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of Article XIID, Section 4 of the California Constitution, the Board of Directors of the Arcata Fire Protection District proposes to amend the existing Special Tax for the purpose of maintaining and improving fire protection and prevention services to properties within the Arcata Fire Protection District, including annual budget support to maintain current firefighter positions, restore the fire marshal and fire inspector positions, and provide for adequate firefighting equipment, apparatus, and necessary capital improvements, consistent with the needs of the residents of the District; and

WHEREAS, in the judgement of the Board of Directors of the Arcata Fire Protection District, it is advisable to call an election to submit to the electors of the District the question whether the District shall amend the Special Tax for the purpose of providing, maintaining and improving fire protection and prevention services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the California Elections Code, it is appropriate for the Board to request consolidation of the election with any and all other elections to be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020 and to request the County of Humboldt Elections Office to perform certain election services for the District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Arcata Fire Protection District Board of Directors does hereby:

1. Recitals: The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are hereby incorporated by reference.
2. Call for Election; Placement of Measure on Ballot: Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII C, Section 2; Government Code Section 53724; and Elections Code Section 10403, the Board of Directors of the Arcata Fire Protection District hereby calls an election at which it shall submit to the qualified voters of the District, a measure that, if approved, would increase the existing Special Tax rate. This measure shall be designated by letter by the Humboldt County Registrar of Voters. Pursuant to Election Code Section 10400 *et seq.*, the election for this measure shall be consolidated with the established election to be conducted on March 3, 2020, and be held and conducted in the manner prescribed by Elections Code Section 10418.
3. Election Date: The date of the election shall be Tuesday, March 3, 2020.
4. Ballot Language: The question to be presented to the voters is as follows:

To ensure and maintain fire protection services, including maintaining firefighter positions, and maintaining equipment and vehicle replacement funding, shall the Arcata Fire Protection District Ordinance No. 20-20 increasing the existing special tax rates until June 30, 2030, and raising an estimated \$2,200,000 dollars annually with independent citizen oversight, be adopted?	YES	
	NO	

5. Proposed Ordinance. The ordinance authorizing the special tax to be approved by the voters pursuant to this Resolution is as set forth in Exhibit A, hereto. The Board of Directors hereby approves the ordinance, and form thereof, and its submission to the voters of the District at the March 3, 2020 election, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the voters voting on the measure at the election called by the adoption of this resolution. The entire text of the ordinance, attached hereto as Exhibit A, shall be included in the voters' pamphlet. The ordinance specifies that the rate of the special tax shall be as set forth in the ordinance; it specifies that the tax shall be in effect until June 30, 2030; and that the tax shall be collected in the same manner as, or with, other taxes fixed and collected by Humboldt County.
6. Publication of Measure. The District Clerk is hereby directed to cause notice of the measure to be published once in the official newspaper of the District, in accordance with Section 12111 of the Elections Code and Section 6061 of the Government Code.
7. Request to Consolidate and Conduct Election and Canvass Returns.
 - a. Pursuant to the requirement of Section 10403 of the Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Humboldt is hereby requested to consent and agree to the consolidation of

a District Election with the Statewide Election on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, for the purpose of placing the measure set forth in this Resolution on the ballot.

- b. The County of Humboldt Registrar of Voters is authorized to canvass the returns of the district election. The election shall be held in all respects as if there were only one election, and only one form of ballot shall be used.
- c. The Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the Humboldt County registrar of voters to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated election.
- d. The District recognizes that additional costs will be incurred by the County of Humboldt by reason of this consolidation and agrees to reimburse the County for any costs.

8. Submission of Ballot Argument and Impartial Analysis.

- a. The submission of ballot arguments for or against the measure shall be conducted pursuant to Election Code sections 9281 through 9287.
- b. The last day for submission of direct arguments for or against the measure shall be by December 13, 2019.
- c. Direct arguments shall not exceed three hundred (300) words and shall be signed by not more than five persons.
- d. The County Counsel shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure by December 20, 2019.

9. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and the District Clerk is directed to send certified copies of the Resolution to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and the Humboldt County Registrar of Voters.

ADOPTED, SIGNED AND APPROVED at a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arcata Fire Protection District by the following polled vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Mendosa, Rosen and Campbell

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: David

DATED: November 20, 2019

Signed:



Rene Campbell, President

Attest:



Becky Schuette, Board Clerk/Secretary