**News Release**

Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections

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August 9, 2016

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# Arguments Due August 19 for Local Measures on the November Ballot

There are 16 local measures on the November 8, 2016 ballot, and interested persons have until 5pm, Friday, August19 to file arguments for or against most measures. One measure for the Aromas Tri-County Fire District has an argument deadline of August 18.

The following school, county, and fire district measures have been approved by the respective governing boards to be placed on the November ballot:

* **Santa Cruz High School District:** To upgrade local middle and high school classrooms, science labs, career training facilities, and technology infrastructure to support student achievement in math, science, engineering, English, social studies, visual/performing arts, technology, and skilled trades; acquire, renovate, construct/equip classrooms, sites/facilities; and improve school safety, security and disabled access; shall Santa Cruz City High School District issue $140 million in bonds at legal interest rates, with independent citizen oversight, annual audits, and all funds benefitting local middle and high schools.
* **Santa Cruz Elementary School District:** To repair/upgrade neighborhood elementary school classrooms and facilities, including deteriorated roofs, plumbing, and electrical systems; remove hazardous materials; renovate, construct/equip, acquire classrooms, facilities and technology infrastructure to support programs in reading, math, science, arts and technology; improve school safety/security; and replace outdated portables with modern classrooms; shall Santa Cruz City Elementary School District issue $68 million in bonds at legal interest rates, with independent citizen oversight, annual audits and all funds dedicated locally to Santa Cruz elementary schools?
* **Soquel School District:** To improve the quality of education with funding that cannot be taken by the State; repair/replace leaky roofs; make health, safety and security improvements; replace deteriorating plumbing and sewer systems; improve student access to computers and modern technology; modernize/construct classrooms, restrooms and school facilities; and upgrade inadequate electrical systems; shall Soquel Union Elementary School District issue $42,000,000 of bonds at legal interest rates, have an independent citizens’ oversight committee, and have NO money used for administrative salaries?
* **Santa Cruz County:** Safety, Pothole Repair, Traffic Relief, Transit Improvement Measure. In order to: improve children’s safety around schools; repair potholes; repave streets; improve traffic flow on Highway 1; maintain senior/disabled transit; reduce global warming pollution by providing transportation options like sidewalks, buses, bike lanes, trails; preserve rail options; shall Santa Cruz County voters adopt an ordinance establishing a half-cent sales tax for 30 years, raising approximately $17 million annually, requiring citizen oversight, independent audits, and funds spent locally?
* **Santa Cruz County:** Amendment of the Cannabis Business Tax Ordinance. To protect the quality of life in Santa Cruz County and to fund essential County services such as police, fire, emergency response, health services, youth and senior programs, job creation, housing, environmental protections, and animal shelter/adoption, shall Measure K be amended to revise the definition of cannabis to conform to State law and revise the definition of cannabis business or medical marijuana business to include all cannabis businesses with all funds staying local?
* **Boulder Creek Fire Protection District:** To provide local fire protection and emergency medical services and to ensure prompt response times for 9-1-1 emergency calls, shall an ordinance establishing an annual parcel tax of $35 per parcel for thirty years be established with all money going to protect local fire and emergency medical services, including the acquisition of new fire and emergency response vehicles, protective gear and equipment, and self-contained breathing apparatus be adopted by the Boulder Creek Fire Protection District?
* **Zayante Fire Protection District:** To provide for immediate response to emergency calls, and continue to fund emergency vehicles, equipment and training for the volunteer fire district. Shall the Zayante Fire Protection District impose a $68 parcel tax to replace the $35 parcel tax from 1992? The general obligation bond would also retire in 2017 which cost the average home owner $24.00. The average increase per parcel would be $9.00 per year. The tax would begin July 1, 2017 and be adjusted annually.

Arguments for or against the measures listed above must be filed by 5pm, Friday, August 19 with the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department, 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz, 831-454-2060, FAX: 831-454-2445.

Monterey County is the lead county on the Aromas Tri-County Fire measure, and the deadline to file arguments for or against that measure is Thursday, August 18. Arguments can be filed with the Monterey, Santa Cruz, or San Benito county elections offices.

* **Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District:** Shall the Ordinance that imposes a special tax in an amount not-to-exceed $230 dollars per developed parcel per year, and generating estimated revenues of between $410,000 and $487,500 dollars annually, with no termination date, be adopted to fund engine-company based paramedic services within the District?

The cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz and Watsonville also have measures on the ballot. Persons interested in filing arguments for or against those measures should contact the City Clerk. The deadline for filing arguments with the respective City Clerk is 5pm, Friday, August 19. The City measures include:

* City of Capitola sales tax extension
* City of Santa Cruz selection of mayor
* City of Santa Cruz water system
* City of Santa Cruz cannabis business tax
* City of Watsonville transient occupancy tax
* City of Watsonville utility users’ tax
* City of Watsonville cannabis business tax
* City of Watsonville cannabis advisory measure

The County Clerk will assign measures a letter designation after 5pm, Friday, August 12.

Arguments must not exceed 300 words. In addition, arguments must be accompanied by a signed “Signature Statement” form available from the elections office or online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com/). The form is contained in the “Guide to Writing Arguments” on the Elections Department’s website.

Only one argument for and one argument against each measure will be printed in the Voter’s Information Pamphlet. Should more than one argument be filed, the elections official will choose one to appear in accordance with the law.

Measures may be viewed online at [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com/)

For more information, please call the Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department at 831-454-2060 or go online to [www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com/) for the latest election information.

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