

# **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

# SAMPLE BALLOT AND VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

# **Consolidated Election** Tuesday, November 5, 2013



Joseph E. Canciamilla
County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters
555 Escobar Street, Martinez, CA 94553
925.335.7800
www.cocovote.us



### POLLS OPEN AT 7 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8 P.M.

### **Polling Place**

Please check the back of this booklet for your polling place location.

### **Election Information Online**

Visit Contra Costa County Web Page at: <a href="www.cocovote.us">www.cocovote.us</a> or the Secretary of State Web Page at: <a href="www.sos.ca.gov">www.sos.ca.gov</a>

### **Poll Worker**

If you would like to serve as a poll worker, email <u>EO.Recruitment@vote.cccounty.us</u> or call Contra Costa Registrar of Voters Office at 925.335.7800.

### Información en Español

Para obtener información en español sobre el proceso de votación, visite nuestro sitio web: www.cocovote.us o llame por teléfono 925.335.7800 o sin cargo al 877.335.7802.



**Administration** 925.335.7899 925.335.7893 fax

**Elections Division** 

925.335.7836 fax

925 335 7800

Contra Costa County Clerk-Recorder-Elections Department

> 555 Escobar Street Martinez, CA 94553

Joseph E. Canciamilla County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters

**Deborah Cooper**Deputy County Clerk-Recorder

Scott Konopasek County Assistant Registrar



September 2013

Dear Voter,

Our office has recently made some changes to improve your voting experience. These improvements streamline some of the processes and provide access to information in an updated format. We hope these changes work toward our continual goal of providing the best election support possible.

- The Sample Ballot is in a new booklet format. This publication provides information regarding the
  elective offices and measures within your voting precinct. This booklet replaces the individual inserts
  you received in the past for each race or measure.
- Our redesigned website makes it easier to browse and search and also provides you with helpful
  information and resources. It should be easier to request to be a Vote-by-Mail voter and to track your
  ballot online.
- We have restructured many precincts and voting locations to make them more convenient and consistent. Standardizing voting locations will reduce the confusion that is caused when polling places are moved between elections.

We are interested to hear about your experience with our improvements. If you have any questions, comments or wish to provide feedback concerning these changes, please email our office at candidate.services@vote.cccounty.us or call us at 925.335.7874.

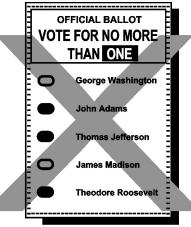
Thank you for your participation in the voting process!

Sincerely,

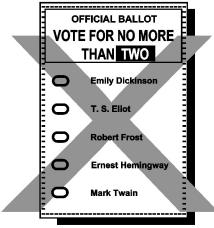
Joseph E. Canciamilla

County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters

# Your choices do make a difference. Check them Carefully.

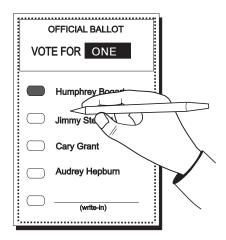


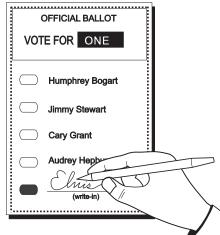
Don't vote for too many



Don't vote for too few

# Vote for the number allowed





Always completely fill in oval, even on a write-in

BT002

### CONTRA COSTA COUNTY **OFFICIAL BALLOT**

Tuesday, November 5, 2013

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:**

- To vote, completely fill-in the oval to the left of the name of the candidate or to the left of the word "Yes" or "No".
- To vote for a write-in candidate, write the candidate's name on the blank line provided and fill in the corresponding oval.
- Voting for more than the authorized amount of choices will invalidate your vote for that office.
- If you mismarked your ballot, and you received it by mail, you may make a correction to your vote in a manner that clearly indicates your intended vote.
- If you need a replacement ballot for any reason, return this ballot to the poll worker that issued it to you and request a new ballot.

### MORAGA SCHOOL DISTRICT **MEASURE B** To maintain the high quality of Moraga schools and continue funding for effective math, science, music and arts programs; maintain manageable class sizes; keep schools safe and well maintained; keep school libraries open; keep classroom technology up-to-date; and attract and retain the best qualified teachers; shall the Moraga School District levy a 43 temporary six-year \$192 parcel tax with an exemption for low-income seniors, independent audits, and with all funds staying local to benefit Moraga students? 51 Yes No **END OF BALLOT** 0048301 0033 Typ:01 Seq:0033 Spl:01

7.4.2.0 / 012503-11 © Election Systems & Software, Inc. 1981, 2002

Remove this sheet to seperate your Sample Ballot from your Voter Information Pamphlet

# **★** Voting-by-Mail ★

### Can I vote-by-mail for this election only?

Yes! Fill out and return the vote-by-mail application on the back cover of your <u>Voter Information</u>

<u>Pamphlet</u>. If you want to vote by mail for **this** election, just check the box on the application to request a ballot for this election only.

### When will I get my vote-by-mail ballot?

Your ballot goes in the mail starting 29 days before the election. If you do not receive your ballot around that time, call us. We will send you a replacement ballot. If there is not enough time to mail it, you can pick one up at our office.

### **How can I vote before Election Day?**

You can vote at the Elections Office beginning 29 days before the election.

# If I am traveling, can I get my vote-by-mail ballot at a different address?

Yes. Contact us and give us your temporary outof-town address. Or if you prefer, you can vote early at the Elections Office starting 29 days before the election.

### Will the Post Office forward my vote-bymail ballot to my new address?

No! Vote-by-mail ballots cannot be forwarded. Update your registration at <a href="www.registertovote.ca.gov">www.registertovote.ca.gov</a> or fill out a new voter registration form with your updated information. It must be postmarked no later than 15 days before the election.

### What if I lose my ballot?

Call us. If it is too late to mail you a replacement ballot, you may pick one up at the Elections Office.

### What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

You may make a correction in a manner that clearly indicates your intended vote. Contact our office to ask for a replacement ballot.

# Can I vote at the polls if I am a vote-by-mail voter?

Yes. Take your vote-by-mail ballot **and** envelope to the polling place, and ask for a poll ballot. If you do not have both your vote-by-mail ballot and envelope, you must vote a provisional ballot, which will be counted after the election.

### How do I turn in my vote-by-mail ballot?

You must return your ballot in the envelope provided. You can:

- Mail your ballot,
- · Drop it off at the Elections Office, or
- Take it to a polling place on Election Day between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

Deadline: Your ballot must be at the Elections Office or a polling place by 8 p.m. election night – no exceptions!

# What if I forgot to sign my return envelope?

Your ballot will **not** be counted. But if we receive your unsigned ballot envelope before the election, we will try to contact you.

# Can I check to see if you have received my vote-by-mail ballot?

Yes. Go to our website www.cocovote.us or call: **925.335.7800** 



If the Elections Office receives your vote-by-mail ballot before Election Day, it will be counted by 8 p.m. on Election Day. If you drop off your vote-by-mail ballot on Election Day, it will be counted after Election Day.

### **Contra Costa County Elections Office**

Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day 555 Escobar St., Martinez, CA 94553 Tel. 925.335.7800 ★ www.cocovote.us

CC-MP-VBM CC 002-004

# VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLET

The following pages contain voter information applicable to your ballot which may include the following items:

- CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
- BALLOT MEASURES
- LEGAL ANALYSES
- ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT & IN OPPOSITION

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 13307, 13308 and 13312 of the Elections Code and 85601(c) of the Government Gode

# ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED LAWS ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS.

This pamphlet may not contain statements for all candidates; however, a complete list of candidates appears on the facsimile ballot in this booklet. Candidate statements are submitted by the candidate and are printed as submitted. Statements are printed at the expense of the candidate unless otherwise determined by the governing body for the office.

Si desea recibir esta información en español, por favor llame al 925.335.7800. Si ya solicitó información para votar en español, ésta será enviada automáticamente por correo.

Visit our website at: www.cocovote.us

If you have questions email us at Candidate.Services@vote.cccounty.us or call 925.335.7800

CC-MP-VIP CC 002-005

### MORAGA SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE B

# MEASURE B MORAGA SCHOOL DISTRICT

To maintain the high quality of Moraga schools and continue funding for effective math, science, music and arts programs; maintain manageable class sizes; keep schools safe and well maintained; keep school libraries open; keep classroom technology up-to-date; and attract and retain the best qualified teachers; shall the Moraga School District levy a temporary six-year \$192 parcel tax with an exemption for low-income seniors, independent audits, and with all funds staying local to benefit Moraga students?

# COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE B

The Governing Board of the Moraga School District has adopted a resolution proposing a parcel tax (a qualified special tax). This ballot measure asks voters to decide whether a parcel tax should be imposed on parcels of taxable real property within the District for a period of six years beginning July 1, 2014. This parcel tax would be in addition to the special taxes authorized by District voters with the approval of Measure K in 2004.

The parcel tax for each parcel would be \$192 per year. A parcel of taxable real property is any improved or unimproved unit of real property wholly or partially located in the District that receives a separate tax bill for property taxes from the Contra Costa County Treasurer-Tax Collector's Office. A parcel otherwise exempt from property taxes would be exempt from the parcel tax. Low income persons who are 65 years of age and older would be able to annually obtain an exemption from paying the parcel tax.

The ballot measure states that the proceeds of the parcel tax will be used "[t]o maintain the high quality of Moraga schools and continue funding for effective math, science, music and arts programs; maintain manageable class sizes; keep schools safe and well maintained; keep school libraries open; keep classroom technology up-todate; and attract and retain the best qualified teachers ... unless the District Governing Board determines in any given year that changes in student population, fiscal constraints, or other changes in state or federal funding make doing so infeasible or inadvisable." Proceeds from the parcel tax may be used only for the specific purposes set forth in the ballot measure and according to constitutional and statutory provisions. According to the ballot measure, "if any [State or Federal] funds are reduced because of the adoption of this parcel tax, then the amount of the special taxes will be reduced annually as necessary in order to restore such State or Federal finding."

State law requires the District's chief fiscal officer to file an annual report with the District's Governing Board

that states the amount of funds received and expended in each year and the status of any projects required or authorized to be funded from the parcel tax proceeds. State law also requires the proceeds from the parcel tax to be deposited into a designated account. Additionally, an oversight committee will be appointed or designated by the District's Governing Board to monitor expenditures of parcel tax proceeds and report to the Board regarding the expenditure of those funds.

Two-thirds of those voting on the ballot measure must approve the measure for it to pass.

A "yes" vote is a vote in favor of authorizing the parcel

A "no" vote is a vote against authorizing the parcel tax.

CC-MSMB-1 CC 002-006

# ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

Moraga schools are among the best in California. Student test scores rank near the top statewide. Exceptional teachers, challenging programs and support from the community contribute to high student achievement. Our outstanding schools protect local property values and contribute to the quality of life in Moraga.

Unfortunately, cutbacks in funding threaten the quality of our local schools. Over the past five years, our schools have lost \$11.3 million in State funding. Cuts of this magnitude threaten every Moraga school and educational program.

Last year, Measure A, which would have provided additional funding for Moraga schools, was supported by 65% of voters but failed to achieve the required 66.7% support. In response, and to protect core academic programs: the Education Foundation increased its contributions; the district maintained a scaled-back instructional program; and the board reduced the amount of the proposed tax and made it temporary (6 years only) as opposed to permanent.

### Measure B will provide vital funding to preserve:

- Core academic programs in math, science and technology
- · Manageable class sizes
- · Funding for art and music programs
- · Safe and well-maintained schools
- School libraries and up-to-date classroom technology
- The ability to attract and retain the most qualified teachers

Measure B funds must be spent locally to benefit Moraga children. NO funds can be taken away by the State or used for other purposes.

Every penny goes to support classroom instruction; no money will be used for administrators' salaries. Measure B funds can only be used for programs approved by the voters.

Maintaining exemplary school programs is an investment in our community. All money raised by Measure B stays in Moraga. Parents, teachers, and community and business leaders support Measure B.

#### Please Vote YES on Measure B.

Dave Trotter Edy Schwartz

Mayor, Town of Moraga Retired Executive Director,
Moraga Chamber of Commerce

Diana Obrand

Past President, Moraga Tara Rochlin

Education Foundation Parent, Business Leader

John Haffner

Moraga Citizen of the Year

### ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

None filed.

CC 002-007

# FULL TEXT OF MEASURE B

EXHIBIT A
(to Resolution 14-13)
FULL TEXT OF SPECIAL TAX MEASURE FOR
MORAGA SCHOOL DISTRICT TO
PROTECT QUALITY OF SCHOOLS AND PREVENT
FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN CURRENT ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS

#### INTRODUCTION

This measure provides the additional funding required to protect and maintain a quality educational program in the Moraga School District.

For several years, the State Legislature has not fully-funded the District to provide a quality educational program, and meet the high expectations of the community, and the District is committed to eliminating all deficit spending and to maintaining a balanced budget. Having exhausted all feasible means of generating funds to finance basic programs, including the current parcel tax and donations from the Moraga Education Foundation and the PTAs, the District may now be forced to further reduce basic educational services.

The District's projected revenue for the foreseeable future is inadequate and without a new source of revenue, the District must eliminate and reduce educational programs. Therefore, the District's Governing Board believes that a qualified special tax measure is necessary to maintain quality education for the students of the District.

PURPOSE: To maintain the high quality of Moraga schools and continue funding for effective math, science, music and arts programs; maintain manageable class sizes; keep schools safe and well maintained; keep school libraries open; keep classroom technology up-to-date; and attract and retain the best qualified teachers; the Moraga School District shall levy a temporary six-year \$192 parcel tax with an exemption for low-income seniors, independent audits, and with all funds staying local to benefit Moraga students.

The District intends to use funds collected pursuant to this measure to help finance all of the programs listed above, unless the District Governing Board determines in any given year that changes in student population, fiscal constraints, or other changes in state or federal funding make doing so infeasible or inadvisable.

Upon approval of two-thirds of those voting on this measure, the District shall be authorized to levy a qualified special tax of \$192 per year on each parcel of taxable real property in the District, as defined below, for a period of six (6) years, commencing July 1, 2014.

#### RATE AND PROCEDURE

The special tax shall be levied on all parcels of property in the Moraga School District, except parcels that are otherwise exempt from taxation. The special tax shall be levied at the rate of One-Hundred-Ninety-Two Dollars (\$192) per parcel on all residential, commercial, industrial and institutional parcels, whether such parcels are improved or unimproved.

Parcels shall be determined according to the records of the Town of Moraga. Currently, the law provides that the following parcel categories (listed by Contra Costa County Assessor's Parcel Identification Code and parcel description) are to be exempt from this special tax:

Code 10 - Vacant unbuildable

Code 70 - Convalescent hospitals and rest homes

Code 71 - Churches

Code 72 - Schools

Code 74 - Cemeteries

Code 75 - Fraternal and service organizations

Code 76 - Retirement housing complex

Code 77 - Cultural uses (libraries)

Code 78 - Parks and playgrounds

Code 79 - Government owned parcels

Code 80 - Mineral Rights

Code 81 - Private roads

Code 87 - Common area parcels (in PUDs)

The District's Governing Board may adopt such additional or supplemental procedures, as it deems necessary or convenient for the administration of the special tax.

#### **EXEMPTIONS**

In order to provide tax relief to those members of the Moraga community most in need, any parcel owned and occupied by a low-income person 65 years of age or older shall be exempt from the tax upon application to the District. The exemption shall be available annually pursuant to procedures prescribed by the Governing Board or otherwise as required by law or the Contra Costa County Tax Collector. A "low-income person" is a member of a "very low income household" as defined by California Health and Safety Code Section 50105. Under current law, this means any household whose income does not exceed 50 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size and revised annually.

### ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE MEASURES

In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code sections 50075.1 and 50075.3, the following accountability measures, among others, shall apply to the special taxes levied in accordance with this Measure:

(a) Proceeds of this special tax shall be deposited into a Fund which shall be kept separate and apart from other Funds in the District and shall be applied only as set forth in this Measure.

- (b) An Annual Report, including the revenues generated by this special tax and the expenditures of these monies and the status of any projects funded by these monies, shall be filed by the chief fiscal officer of the District with the Governing Board no later than January 1 of the year following the fiscal year during which the monies were expended.
- (c) In addition, an oversight committee of citizens will be appointed or designated by the Governing Board to ensure that the special tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes, and to report annually to the Governing Board and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds.

### PROTECTION OF FUNDING

Current law forbids any decrease in State or Federal funding to the District because of the District's adoption of a parcel tax. However, if any such funds are reduced because of the adoption of this parcel tax, then the amount of the special taxes will be reduced annually as necessary in order to restore such State or Federal funding.

CC-MSMB-4 CC 002-009

# **Voter Responsibilities**

- It is RECOMMENDED that you detach and mark your voting choices in your sample ballot and take it to your poll location on Election Day to use as a reference. This will allow you to vote your ballot quickly. Remember to take your sample ballot out of the booth after you have completed voting.
- □ READ all the instructions in your Sample Ballot Pamphlet in order to familiarize yourself with voting procedures.
- □ UPDATE your language preference if you are not receiving materials in the language of your choice.
- □ MAKE sure your political party preference is correct.
- □ UPDATE your registration when you: 1) Move; 2) Change your name; 3) Want to change your party preference.
- □ VOTE. Polling places are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- ☐ FIND the location of your assigned polling place on the back cover of your Sample Ballot Pamphlet.
- ☐ TURN off your electronic pager and/or cell phone before entering your polling place.
- □ REVIEW your Ballot for accuracy. Make sure your Ballot is correct before you cast it.
- □ CONTACT the Registrar of Voters if you have any questions at 925.335.7800, toll free 877.335.7802, or visit our website at www.cocovote.us



CC-OFP-6 CC 002-010

### Important Dates for this Election

October 7, 2013	FIRST DAY TO RECEIVE A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT - This is the first day our office can issue you a vote-by-mail ballot.	
October 21, 2013	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION - You must be registered by this date to vote in this election.	
October 29, 2013	Recommended last day to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot.	
November 5, 2013	ELECTION DAY - Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Return your voted vote-by-mail ballot to this office or any polling place in Contra Costa County by 8 p.m.	

# 3 Ways to Vote

Contra Costa County offers multiple voting options to fit your style of voting.

- 1. Vote at the Polls on Election Day! Your assigned polling place is located on the back cover. Be aware that your polling place may have changed since the previous election.
- 2. Vote Early The Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters office is open as a polling place for the November 5, 2013 Election, beginning on Monday, October 7, 2013 through Tuesday, November 5, 2013. You may vote a vote-by-mail ballot at the Registrar of Voters office:

Location: 555 Escobar Street, Martinez
Voting Hours: October 7th - November 4th

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

November 5, 2013 (Election Day)

7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

3. **Vote-by-mail** - The application on the back of this pamphlet must be completed, signed only by the voter, sent by mail or fax to 925.335.7838, and must be received by the Registrar of Voters no later than October 29th. Voters may also send a letter providing their name, residence address, mailing address if different, birth date, and signature.

To become a Permanent vote-by-mail voter, just sign the vote-by-mail application. You will automatically receive your vote-by-mail ballot before every election in which you are eligible to vote.

CC-OFP-10 CC 002-011

# **Bilingual Voter Services**

In compliance with federal law Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act and local ordinance, Voter Registration & Elections provides services to voters and offical election materials in Spanish, in addition to English. Bilingual voter services include:

- Translated election materials: ballots, voter registration forms, voter notices, vote-by-mail ballot applications and instructions, and Voter Information Pamphlets.
- Telephone assistance in English and Spanish, available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day.

- English: 925.335.7800Spanish: 925.335.7800
- Instructional signs in English and Spanish at all polling places on Election Day.
- Spanish bilingual precinct officer assistance at designated polling places on Election Day.
- Voter information in English and Spanish on our website www.cocoyote.us

# Servicios Bilingües para el Votante

De conformidad con la ley federal Sección 203 de la Ley del Derecho al Voto y la ordenanza local, el Registro de Votantes y Eleccciones ofrece a los votantes servicios y materiales electorales oficiales en español además de inglés. Los servicios bilingües para el votante incluyen:

- Traducción de materiales electrorales: boletas electrorales, formularios de registro de votantes, avisos para votantes, solicitudes y instrucciones de voto mediante la boleta de voto por correo y folletos de información para el votante.
- Asistencia telefónica en inglés y español, disponible de lunes a viernes, de 8 a.m. a 5 p.m. y de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. el dia de la elección.

- Inglés: 925.335.7800Español: 925.335.7800
- Letreros con instrucciones en inglés y español en todos los centros electorales el día de la elección.
- Asistencia bilingüe en español por parte de funcionarios de distrito en los centros de votación designados el día de la elección.
- Información para votantes disponible en inglés y español en nuestro sitio web: www.cocovote.us

CC-MP-BVS CC 002-012

 FROM:	A OFFICIAL  ** ELECTION* MAIL  ** Authorized by the U.S. Postal Service **  **  **  **  **		PLACE 1ST CLASS LETTE POSTAGE STAMP HERE
DID YOU SIGN YOUR APPLICATION?			

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CLERK ELECTIONS DIVISION P O BOX 271 MARTINEZ CA 94553-0027

# VOTE-BY-MAIL

- Vote at Home
- Vote When You Want
- Save Time and Gas
- No more waiting in line at the Polls
- Carefully evaluate each issue at your leisure.



To apply, complete & return the application above.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CLERK ELECTIONS DIVISION P.O. BOX 271 MARTINEZ, CA 94553-0027



# POLLING PLACE LOCATION AND PERMANENT VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT APPLICATION

DETACH HERE

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID OAKLAND, CA PERMIT NO. 633

Mail or deliver this application directly to the Contra Costa County Registrar of Voters.	Application must be recieved seven days prior to election to permit a ballot to be recieved, voted and returned by Election Day.	
Please mail me a ballot for each election in which I am eligible to vote.	MAILING ADDRESS FOR BALLOT (IF DIFFERENT FROM ADDRESS BELOW)	
I only wish to receive a Vote-By-Mail ballot for this election.	STREET OR BOX  CITY STATE ZIP	
X SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (DON'T PRINT) DATE  I attest under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the contents of my application are true and correct.  YOUR POLLING PLACE IS	For further  Vote-By-Mail Information:	
	TO:	
Questi 925.335 www.cocov	ons? 5.7800	

POLLS OPEN AT 7 A.M. AND CLOSE AT 8 P.M.