

COUNTY OF MARIN

Voter Information Guide

SPECIAL ELECTION

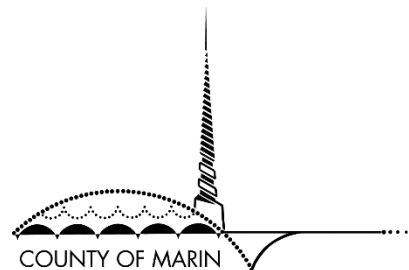
Novato Unified School District

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Vote by Mail or Vote In Person

- A ballot is mailed to all voters. Return it by mail, official Drop Box, or at a Vote Center.
- Vote in person at United Methodist Church or any Vote Center listed on the next page. See inside for days and hours of operation.
- The Marin County Elections Department is open for voting services starting Monday, February 6.
- Information about Vote Center and Drop Box locations is also posted at www.marinvotes.org.

Marin County Elections Department
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 121
San Rafael, CA 94903
415-473-6456 elections@marincounty.org





Vote by Mail

Ballot Packet

Packet includes this guide, ballot, instructions and postage-paid return envelope.

Date and sign your return envelope.

Return Ballot

1. Into a Drop Box - see below
2. At a Vote Center - see below
3. Mail your ballot - must be postmarked on or before March 7 and received by March 14



Official Ballot Drop Box Locations

Open February 7 to March 7 until 8:00 p.m.

Drop boxes close precisely at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day as required by law

Exterior sites available, 24 hour drop off

Mill Valley City Hall	26 Corte Madera Ave, Mill Valley
Mill Valley Community Center	180 Camino Alto, Mill Valley
Novato City Hall	901 Sherman Ave, Novato
San Rafael, Marin Civic Center S. Arch walk-up	3501 Civic Center Dr, (Peter Behr Dr) San Rafael
San Rafael, Marin Civic Center N. Arch drive-thru	3501 Civic Center Dr, (Vera Schultz Dr) San Rafael



In-Person Voting

Vote at a Vote Center or the Elections Department if you need a replacement ballot, did not register by the February 20 deadline, or prefer to vote in person or on an accessible ballot marking device. Voting is accessible at all locations.

- You may vote in person at any location below
- See marinvotes.org for most recent Vote Center information, including hours of operation
- Official Ballot Drop Boxes also at all locations below
- **Election Day March 7**, Vote Centers and Elections Dept. **open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.**

AVOID LINES
Vote early or vote
by mail

26-Day: Weekdays, February 6 - March 7; Weekends, February 25 - 26 and March 4 - 5			
SAN RAFAEL	Marin County Elections Dept	3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 121	Weekdays: 8 am - 4:30 pm Weekends: 9 am - 5 pm Election Day: 7 am - 8 pm
11-Day: Everyday, February 25 - March 7			
MILL VALLEY	Homestead Valley Community Center	315 Montford Ave	9 am - 5 pm Election Day: 7 am - 8 pm
NOVATO	United Methodist Church	1473 S Novato Blvd	9 am - 5 pm Election Day: 7 am - 8 pm
Election Day: Tuesday, March 7			
NOVATO	School District Offices	1015 7th St	Election Day: 7 am - 8 pm

VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

The following pages contain:

MEASURE INFORMATION

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



VOTER REGISTRATION HELP KEEP VOTER ROLLS UP TO DATE

- Is your residence address current?
- Is your party affiliation accurate?

Check online using the Voter Information Portal at marinvotes.org.

Email: elections@marincounty.org or Call: 415-473-6456

If you have questions about voting procedures:
Visit www.marinvotes.org or call 415-473-6456

MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS
SCHOOLS
NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEASURE A
<p>To protect quality education without increasing tax rates by renewing expiring local funding that cannot be taken by the State; maintain quality core academic instruction in math, science, reading/writing; protect funding for teachers; and preserve music/art programs, shall Novato Unified School District's measure be adopted renewing the existing \$251 parcel tax at the current rate, providing \$4,000,000 annually for 8 years, with senior exemptions, independent oversight, no funds for administration and all funding for Novato students?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO </p>

this special tax are to support academic programs; attract and retain teachers and employees; avoid significant increases in class sizes; maintain music, visual and performing arts, library, and athletics programs; provide career and technical training; and expand mental health counseling services.

Pursuant to the California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, the appropriations limit for the District will be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of this qualified special tax.

s/BRIAN E. WASHINGTON
County Counsel

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL

NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPECIAL PARCEL TAX MEASURE

MEASURE A

This Measure was placed on the ballot by the Board of Trustees of the Novato Unified School District.

The existing Novato Unified School District parcel tax is set to expire on June 30, 2023. If this Measure is approved by two-thirds of the votes cast on this special tax proposal, the existing Novato Unified School District parcel tax will be extended with a parcel tax of \$251 per year per assessor's parcel for a period of eight years beginning July 1, 2023, and expiring June 30, 2031. The Novato Unified School District Board of Trustees estimates revenue from this Measure will be approximately \$4 million dollars annually.

An exemption from this special tax may be granted on any parcel owned by one or more persons who is occupying said parcel as their principal place of residence and is: (1) 65 years of age or older; (2) receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability regardless of age; or (3) receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits regardless of age and meets specific income guidelines from the federal government.

The stated purposes for the funds raised by

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

Vote **YES on A** to *renew* local funding for quality education in Novato schools **without increasing taxes.**

For 30 years, the Novato Unified School District has relied on stable, locally controlled funding approved by voters to support quality teaching and core academic programs. However, this critical source of funding will expire in June 2023.

Novato is the second lowest funded school district in Marin County. Without Measure A, Novato schools will lose over \$4 million in annual funding, resulting in reductions to teachers, counselors, coaches, art and library programs. These cuts would be on top of over \$4 million in cuts made in 2022.

Voting Yes on A renews local school funding to maintain high quality academic programs and ensure Novato students have access to the same quality education as students in neighboring communities.

Without increasing taxes, Measure A will:

- Maintain quality education in core subjects: math, science, reading and writing
- Support quality teaching
- Preserve music and arts programs
- Provide academic, college, career and mental health counseling for all students
- Support library staff and operating hours

Every penny stays in Novato:

- Measure A funds must be used to support Novato elementary, middle and high schools and cannot be taken by the State
- By law, funds cannot be used for administrator salaries or pensions
- An independent citizens' oversight committee, annual audits, and public disclosure of all spending ensures all funds are spent as promised
- Senior Citizens continue to be eligible for a full exemption from the cost

Whether or not you have school-aged children, supporting quality local schools is an essential investment that protects property values, our quality of life and supports future generations.

Join parents, teachers, seniors, longtime residents,

business and community leaders — vote **YES on A to protect quality education in Novato schools without increasing taxes.**

ERIC LUCAN

Marin County Supervisor, Former Novato Mayor

MARY JANE BURKE

Former Marin County Superintendent of Schools

PAT EKLUND

Novato Councilmember, Former Mayor, 50+ Year Novato Resident

BURTON HOFFMAN

30+ Year Community Business Owner

FRAN ROZOFF

Retired 30-Year Novato Teacher, 2019 Marin County Teacher of the Year, Former NUSD Parent, Current NUSD Grandparent

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

No argument against Measure A was filed.

MEASURE A

Protecting Quality Education Measure

FINDINGS

Thanks to excellent teachers, challenging academic programs and strong support from the community, Novato Unified School District's (the "District") award-winning schools provide an innovative and effective education to meet individual student needs.

The District's excellent teachers and school employees are committed to ensuring all students possess the academic and job skills required to succeed in college and future careers.

The District is dependent on the State of California (the "State") for approximately 70% of its funding, which comes from the State's Local Control Funding Formula. The State ranks 36th of 50 states in funding for public education and the District receives the second lowest per student funding in Marin County (the "County"). Despite joining with other underfunded school districts to lobby for increased funding, the District's state funding continues to be determined by a State formula and is unlikely to change.

Over 80% of District expenditures go to employing teachers, principals, counselors, specialists and other school employees and the remainder of the budget is spent on technology, books, instructional materials, supplies, equipment, school maintenance and other services to support students, teachers and staff. District teachers and staff are among the lowest paid in the County and Sonoma County and, as a result, the District loses current teachers and new recruits to other school districts that can offer more competitive compensation and benefits.

The District Board of Trustees (the "Board") believes that having a great teacher in the classroom is the most important element of providing a quality education and qualified and experienced teachers help District schools maintain high-quality core academic programs in science, technology, engineering, reading, writing, arts and music. The District has taken many steps to balance its budget including making over \$4 million in ongoing annual cuts last school year.

Since first approved by local voters in 1992, funding from the District's voter-approved parcel tax has been crucial for maintaining high quality academic

programs and retaining highly qualified teachers and school employees.

Unless renewed by two-thirds of local voters, the District's parcel tax funding expires June 30, 2023 and an additional \$4 million in annual ongoing budget cuts will be required on top of cuts that have already occurred. The District's parcel tax currently pays for 11 teachers, academic guidance counselors, libraries, athletic programs and music programs and these teachers, counselors and programs will be at risk if the parcel tax funding expires. The District's parcel tax rate is \$251 per parcel annually, the second lowest in the County and unlike other school parcel taxes in the County, the District's parcel tax does not include annual inflation adjustments and has lost purchasing power since last increased in 2009. If parcel tax funding is not renewed by voters and expires next year, the District would have to make an additional \$4 million in cuts that could include reducing academic programs, athletic programs, library personnel and laying off teachers.

The Board believes that the District's local parcel tax must be renewed at the current rate, without increasing the tax rate, to protect quality education available to local students.

Funding from a renewed school parcel tax must be controlled locally and cannot be taken away by the State. The proposed school parcel tax renewal measure is temporary, will automatically expire in eight years and cannot be renewed without voter approval. The proposed parcel tax measure includes an exemption for seniors and low-income people with disabilities, the only exemptions allowed by law, and are designed to ensure the cost is not a burden to those on fixed incomes. The proposed parcel tax measure requires fiscal accountability protections including an independent citizens' oversight committee, annual audits and mandatory public disclosure to provide transparency and ensure funds are spent as promised.

TERMS

A. Specific Purpose of the Measure

The specific purpose of the measure is to fund the following specific programs and services:

- Maintaining quality core academic programs such as math, science, reading and writing;
- Protect and maintain funding for qualified

and experienced teachers and school employees, including counselors and coaches;

- Avoiding significant increases in class sizes in all grades;
- Maintaining art and library programs;
- Preparing students for college and the 21st century job market by providing modern career and technical training;
- Protecting music, visual and performing arts programs and athletics programs that provide a well-rounded education for Novato kids;
- Expanding mental health counseling services to support struggling students.

B. Amount, Basis and Collection of Tax

This Measure shall authorize the Novato Unified School District (“District”) to levy a special tax of \$251 per Parcel of Taxable Real Property beginning July 1, 2023, and continuing for a period of eight (8) years (through June 30, 2031). This Measure and the special tax collected hereunder shall replace the existing “Measure A” special tax, which shall cease to be collected as of June 30, 2023. The District shall annually provide the County of Marin Treasurer-Tax Collector (“County Tax Collector”) a report indicating the parcel number and amount of tax to be collected on each Parcel of Taxable Real Property.

This special tax is estimated to raise \$4 million in annual local funding for District schools. The amount of annual local funding raised by this special tax may vary from year to year due to changes in the number of parcels exempted from the levy.

To the extent allowed by law, “Parcel of Taxable Real Property” shall be defined as any unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the County Tax Collector. All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall not be considered a Parcel of Taxable Real Property for purposes of the special tax in such year. Subject to application by a property owner and confirmation by the District, multiple parcels which are contiguous, under common ownership, and that constitute one economic unit, meaning that they have the same primary purpose as the principal parcel and are not separate and distinct properties that may be independently developed or sold, shall comprise a single Parcel of Taxable Real Property

for purposes of the special tax.

If any portion of this definition is deemed contrary to law, the Board declares and the voters by approving the Measure concur, that every other section and part of this definition has independent value, and the Board and voters would have adopted each other section and part hereof regardless of every other section or part hereof. If all sections or parts of this definition are deemed contrary to law, “Parcel of Taxable Real Property” shall be defined as any real property in the District assigned an assessor’s parcel number.

C. Exemptions

Upon application and pursuant to any procedures adopted by the District, an exemption from payment of the special tax may be granted on any parcel owned by one or more persons who are:

- 1) Sixty-five years of age or over and who occupies said parcel as a principal residence (“Senior Citizen Exemption”); or
- 2) Receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, and who occupies said parcel as a principal residence (“SSI Exemption”); or
- 3) Receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, whose yearly income does not exceed 250 percent of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and who occupies said parcel as a principal residence (“SSDI Exemption”).

Exemptions may be granted based on a one-time application, and exemptions granted under prior measures levied by the District will not require re-approval, subject to the District’s right to verify a property owner’s continuing qualification for exemption.

D. Claims / Exemption Procedures

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the County Tax Collector or other appropriate County tax official shall make all final determinations of tax exemption or relief for any reason, and that decision shall be final and binding. With respect to matters specific to the levy of the tax, including the Senior Citizen Exemption, SSI Exemption, SSDI Exemption, the application of the definition of “Parcel of Taxable Property” to any

parcel(s), the legality or validity of the special tax, or any other disputed matter specific to the application of the special tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding. The procedures described herein, and any additional procedures established by the Board shall be the exclusive claims procedure for claimants seeking an exemption, refund, reduction, or re-computation of the special tax. Whether any particular claim is to be resolved by the District or by the County shall be determined by the District, in coordination with the County as necessary.

E. Accountability Provisions

1. Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. The Board shall provide for an independent citizen oversight committee to oversee the special taxes collected pursuant to the Measure to ensure that moneys raised under this Measure are spent only for the purposes described in this Measure. The Board shall establish, and may revise, requirements regarding the composition, duties, funding, and other necessary information regarding the committee's operation and shall have the option to extend the existing parcel tax or other independent citizen oversight committee and its membership to serve as the independent citizen oversight committee for this Measure.

2. Annual Audit. Upon the levy and collection of this special tax, the Board shall cause an account to be established for deposit of the proceeds. For so long as any proceeds of the special account remain unexpended, the Superintendent or chief business official of the District shall cause a report to be filed with the Board no later than December 31 of each year, commencing December 31, after the tax is first levied, stating (1) the amount of funds collected and expended in such year, and (2) the status of any projects or description of any programs funded from the proceeds of the tax. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period, as the Superintendent shall determine, and may be incorporated into or filed with the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.

3. Specific Purposes. Proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only for the purposes described in Section A hereof. Decisions regarding the specific programs, schools, sites and expenditures to be supported in any given year, and the timing, priority and method of allocation of funds, shall be made by the Board in its sole discretion and may vary from year to year as needs arise or change.

F. Appropriations Limit

Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B and applicable laws, the appropriations limit for the District will be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of this special tax. This provision shall be deemed to be declaratory of existing procedures governing District expenditures.

G. Protection of Funding

Current law forbids any decrease in State or federal funding to the District resulting from the adoption of a special tax. However, if any such funding is reduced or affected because of the adoption of this local funding measure, then the Board may reduce the amount of the special taxes levied as necessary in order to restore such State or federal funding and/or maximize the District's fiscal position for the benefit of the educational program. As a result, whether directly or indirectly, no funding from this measure may be taken away by the State or federal governments.

H. Severability

The Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this measure concur, that every section, paragraph, sentence and clause of this measure has independent value, and the Board and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this measure by the voters, should any part be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All active registered voters will get a vote-by-mail ballot in the mail

- Put voted ballot in return envelope provided
- Date and sign your return envelope
- Return by mail, at a Vote Center, or at an Official Drop Box
- If returning by mail, envelope must be postmarked on or before March 7, received by March 14

Requesting a translated copy of the sample ballot

The sample ballot has been translated into Spanish and Chinese.

To request a copy, contact the Elections Department no later than 7 days before the election:

- Call 415-473-6456 or Email elections@marincounty.org
- Mail a written request to PO Box E, San Rafael, CA 94913. Must arrive 7 days before Election Day.

Voters may drop off a vote-by-mail ballot in-person at a Vote Center

For information about language services offered at Vote Centers, go to www.marinvotes.org. Click on link for March 7, 2023 Special Election.

Accessible ballot

Any voter may request an accessible ballot to mark at home by emailing votebymail@marincounty.org or by calling 415-473-6456, toll free 833-644-2061.

Marking your ballot

If you are unable to mark your ballot, you may bring up to two individuals to the polls to assist you. These individuals cannot be your employer or union representative.

The sample ballot is for information only. You must vote on the official ballot that will be mailed to you.



AVISO IMPORTANTE

Todos los votantes activos que estén registrados recibirán en el correo una boleta de voto por correo

- Ponga la boleta marcada en el sobre de retorno provisto
- Ponga la fecha y firme su sobre de retorno
- Devuélvalo por correo, en un centro de votación o en un buzón oficial
- Si lo devuelve por correo, el sobre debe tener el sello postal fechado a más tardar el 7 de marzo, y debe recibirse a más tardar el 14 de marzo

Cómo solicitar una copia traducida de la boleta de muestra

La boleta de muestra ha sido traducida al español. Para solicitar una copia, comuníquese con el Departamento Electoral a más tardar siete días antes de la elección:

- Llame al 415-473-6456 o envíe un email a elections@marincounty.org
- Envíe una solicitud escrita a P.O. Box E, San Rafael, CA 94913. Tiene que llegar siete días antes del día de la elección.

Los votantes pueden dejar en persona una boleta de voto por correo en un centro de votación

Para obtener más información sobre los servicios lingüísticos que se ofrecen en los centros de votación, diríjase en www.marinvotes.org. Haga clic en el enlace a la Elección especial del 7 de marzo de 2023.

Boleta accesible

Cualquier votante puede solicitar por email una boleta accesible para llenar en casa, a votebymail@marincounty.org (escriba RAVBM en la línea del asunto) o llamando al 415-473-6456 o a la línea gratuita 833-644-2061.

Para marcar su boleta electoral

Si usted no puede marcar su boleta electoral, puede traer hasta dos personas al lugar de votación para que le ayuden. Estas personas no pueden ser ni su empleador (patrón) ni tampoco su representante sindical (de la unión).

La boleta de muestra es solo para fines informativos. Tiene que votar con la boleta oficial enviada por correo.



重要通知

所有有效登記選民都將在郵件中收到郵寄選票

- 將圈好的選票放入提供的回信封
- 在回郵信封上註明日期並簽名
- 利用郵件寄回、親自到投票所遞交或者投入官方投遞箱交回選票
- 如果以郵件寄回，信封必須在3月7日或之前加蓋郵戳，並在3月14日之前收到

索取樣本選票的翻譯副本

樣本選票已翻譯成中文。如要索取副本，請在選舉日的7天以前與選務處聯絡：

- 請致電 415-473-6456 或寄送電子郵件至 elections@marincounty.org
- 將書面要求郵寄至 PO Box E, San Rafael, CA 94913。必須在選舉日的7天以前寄達。

選民也可以親自到投票所遞交郵寄選票

如需查詢關於投票所提供的語言服務的資訊，

請瀏覽 www.marinvotes.org。請點擊鏈接2023年3月7日特別選舉無障礙選票

任何選民都可以寄送電子郵件（在主旨行中註明 RAVBM）至 votebymail@marincounty.org

或致電 415-473-6456 或者撥免費電話 833-644-2061 索取無障礙選票，以便在家中圈選投票。

選票圈選

如果您無法圈選選票，您可以帶最多兩個人到投票所協助您。這些人不能是您的雇主或工會代表。

樣本選票僅供參考。您必須使用將會寄給您的正式選票來投票。



MARIN VOTES! BY MAIL



Return your ballot to a Vote Center or into an Official Ballot Drop Box (see Vote by Mail page). Or by mail - Must be postmarked on or before March 7.



How do I update my registration?

Online at registertovote.ca.gov OR by paper registration form, postmarked no later than February 20, 2023.



Will the post office forward my ballot?

No. Forwarding a ballot is not allowed.



Can someone else pick up a ballot for me?

Yes, with written permission a representative can pick up your ballot at the Elections Department. The required application is found at marinvotes.org under forms.



What if I lose my ballot or make a mistake?

You may go to any Vote Center and receive a replacement ballot; OR you may request a replacement be sent to you by mailing the application found at marinvotes.org (under forms) to the Elections Department; OR you may request an accessible ballot to mark at home by emailing votbymail@marincounty.org (RAVBM in subject line). If you make a mistake, you may call 415-473-6456 for instructions.



What if I forgot to sign my envelope?

Only you (not someone else) must sign your envelope for your ballot to be counted. If your signature is missing OR does not compare with your voter registration, you will get a letter telling you how to correct the problem.



How do I return my vote by mail ballot?

Mail it in your signed envelope, postmarked on or before Election Day, March 7, OR hand deliver to any Vote Center or Official Ballot Drop Box. Locations and schedules for Vote Centers and Official Ballot Drop Boxes are listed in this Voter Information Guide or at marinvotes.org.



How do I know you received my ballot?

Sign up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov, check the Voter Information Portal (VIP) at marinvotes.org, OR call the Elections Department at (415) 473-6456.

ACCESS OR LANGUAGE NEEDS



Where can I vote in person?

Vote at any of the 4 Vote Centers in Marin County. Addresses are listed in this guide or www.marinvotes.org.



Is my nearest Vote Center accessible?

Vote Centers are accessible. Check www.marinvotes.org for locations or call us 415-473-6456 for details.



Need support at Vote Center?

Each Vote Center has:

- An accessible marking device to help you mark your ballot independently and privately. A sip/puff device can be provided by calling in advance.
- A wheelchair-accessible voting booth, magnifiers, pens with easy to hold grips.
- **Curbside voting** if you cannot physically get inside the Vote Center. Call when you are outside. An election worker will bring you a ballot and then put your voted ballot into the ballot box.



Where is an accessible voting machine?

An accessible ballot marking device is at each Vote Center.



What if I do not speak English well?

The Vote Center worker will:

- Point out instructions in voting booth.
- Demonstrate how to mark the ballot.

Required translated sample ballots are posted at Vote Centers. Some Vote Centers have a bilingual worker; tell us if you need bilingual service.



Sign language interpreter.

Schedule an appointment at the Elections Office, call at least 1 week in advance. TTY 415-473-6899 or CA Relay Service 711



Can I get a ride to a Vote Center?

Marin Access 415-454-0902 provides services for older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income residents. You may need to register. Call immediately to find out how they can help you. Check the voter accessibility link on our website at www.marinvotes.org.



Alternative formats upon request.

Large print of some ballot materials may be available and a CD may be available for local measure information. Call 415-473-6456 (voice), 415-473-6899 (TTY), toll free 833-644-2061, or email elections@marincounty.org.



Voting by mail?

All active registered voters will be mailed a ballot.

Assistance: polls@marincounty.org
(415) 473-6456 or toll free: (833) 644-2061