



Official Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet

Special Election

Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District

Tuesday ★ November 5, 2013

Polls are open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

This is your official voter information pamphlet. It includes a sample of the ballot you will vote in this election. You can mark your choices on the sample ballot, and take it with you to the polls. This makes voting quicker and easier.

This guide also has information on:

- Voting by mail and voting early
- The measure on your ballot
- Answers to common voter questions
- Information on Services for Voters with Specific Needs

Check the back cover to find out:

- Where to vote
- How to vote-by-mail

**Take this booklet
with you to the polls!**

Información en español al otro lado →



Santa Cruz County Elections Department
831-454-2060 ★ 866-282-5900 (toll-free)
TDD 831-454-2123 ★ FAX 831-454-2445
www.votescount.com



How to Mark Your Ballot

It is important to know how to properly mark your ballot and what the consequences can be when the ballot is not marked correctly.

How do I mark my ballot?

- Use only a blue or black ballpoint ink pen. *Do not* use red ink pens, Sharpies, markers or any other type of pen.
- Make **one single line** to connect the head and tail of the arrow that points to your choice.
- To vote on any *Ballot Question*, connect the head and tail of the arrow that points to your choice of YES or NO.



What is an Overvote?

Marking more voting spaces than allowed for a contest is called an overvote. For example, in this election you may vote Yes or No on the measure. If you vote for both options, your vote will count as an overvote for that contest and neither side will benefit from your selection.

What is an Undervote?

Voting is not a test. You may leave contests blank. Blank votes are called undervotes and do not affect votes cast on other measures.

If I make a mistake marking my ballot, how do I fix it?

The best option is to get a new ballot. If you are at the polls, ask the poll worker for a new ballot. If you are voting by mail, send an email to 2ndballot@votescount.com or call 831-454-2060 to request a second ballot.

How can I make sure my ballot will count?

DO NOT sign your name on your ballot, write your initials, or write any other words or marks on your voted ballot. Also, if you make a mistake and use an eraser to correct it, your original mark may make it unclear how you want to vote. It is best to get a new ballot and start over.

If you are voting by mail, follow the voting instructions mailed with your ballot. Vote-by-mail ballots **MUST** be received by the elections officials by 8 p.m. Election Day and envelopes **MUST** be signed by the voter.



Services for Voters with Specific Needs



Accessible Polling Places

The mailing label on the back cover of this booklet indicates next to the accessibility sign if the polling place is accessible to voters with disabilities. Mitigation measures such as temporary thresholds, ramps, signage, cones, and door props, are used to improve access to the facility.

Accessible Voting Equipment

Each polling place in the county is equipped with one touch screen voting unit that allows the voter to select a ballot in English or Spanish. Voters may also display the ballot in a large 24 point font. The unit also allows the voter to access a recorded ballot and is equipped with a universal plug in for the voter's personal assistance device.

Curbside Voting

Any voter may request to vote at an accessible place as near as possible to the polling place, including the voter's car. The poll worker will qualify the person to vote, and return the voted ballot to the polling place.

To arrange this service, please call the County Clerk/Elections staff at 831-454-2060 to coordinate a time and place where the poll worker will meet the voter. Or, if the curbside voter has an assistant, that person may enter the polling site and request the curbside voting service.

Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voting or One-Time Voting by Mail

Use the application on the back cover and apply by the deadline for a vote-by-mail ballot for this one election or all future elections.

Vote in Person Starting October 7

Come to either the County Clerk/Elections Department, located on the second floor in the County Government Center, at 701 Ocean Street, Room 210 in Santa Cruz and vote in person at the office or obtain a ballot and take it home.

Ballot Delivery

Call us at 831-454-2060 and accommodations will be made, including delivering a ballot to your home and returning it to the Elections Department. Please call prior to Election Day so there will be sufficient time to provide assistance.

A Ride to Your Polling Site

Call us at 831-454-2060, and we will arrange to have an accessible van pick you up and take you to the polls to vote. Please call prior to Election Day to make an appointment.

Other Services

TDD: 831-454-2123. If you need an audio recording, please contact the Santa Cruz County Clerk at 831-454-2060 or email gail.pellerin@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Fast Facts

- October 7** First day to obtain a ballot. Ballots will be mailed to the more than 3,500 voters who are registered as Vote-by-Mail voters in the City of Scotts Valley. There are more than 7,000 voters registered in the City of Scotts Valley.
- October 21** Last day to register to vote in the November 5, 2013 Special Election.
- Register to Vote online at www.votescount.com.
- Or complete an application found at post offices, libraries, city halls, or call us at 831-454-2060.
- You must re-register to vote if you have moved, changed your name, or changed your political party.
- Not sure if you are registered to vote? Go to www.votescount.com to find out.
- October 30** Suggested date for voters to return their ballots by mail.
- If you plan to drop your ballot off, you may do so at the drop centers or polling places listed on the inside pages.
- Postage** If you are voting by mail, the postage to mail your voted ballot is 46 cents.
- November 5** Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are voting by mail, ballots must be received by the elections official by 8 p.m.
- Website** www.votescount.com Go online to register to vote, find out where to go vote, apply for a vote-by-mail ballot, see what's on your ballot, and more.
- Contact** Santa Cruz County Clerk/Elections Department
701 Ocean St., Room 210
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-454-2060
831-454-2445 (FAX)
- Hours: Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Gail L. Pellerin, County Clerk
gail.pellerin@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Voting Options



What is the deadline to register to vote?

Voter Registration cards must be returned at least *15 days before* the election. The deadline to register for the November 2013 election is *October 21, 2013*.

Do I need to register again for each election?

No. Fill out a new Voter Registration card **only** if you have: moved, changed your name, or think you haven't voted in the last 4 years.

Where can I register to vote?

You can register to vote online at www.votescount.com or pick up a card at the post office; library; city hall; fire stations and the County Clerk/Elections Office. Or call us at 831-454-2060.

Can I vote early?

Yes. You can vote early starting October 7.

To vote early you can go to:

- Santa Cruz Elections Department (Tel: 831-454-2060)
701 Ocean St., Room 210
Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The early voting poll workers will give you a ballot. You can vote there, or take your ballot home and return it later. If you want a relative or someone you live with to pick up your ballot, you must fill out and sign an application for a vote-by-mail ballot. An application is on the back cover of this Pamphlet.

Can I vote by mail?

Yes! You can vote by mail for this election only, or for all future elections. But you must fill out an application.

There is a vote-by-mail application on the back cover of this Pamphlet. You can also fill out a vote-by-mail application online at: www.votescount.com

We must receive your application by **October 29**.

You can mail it, take it, or fax it to us at: 831-454-2445

Overseas voters, military personnel and their dependents can get a vote-by-mail ballot by asking your commanding officer, or go to: www.votescount.com

Where do I vote on Election Day?

Go to the polling place that is listed on the back cover of this Pamphlet. Take this Pamphlet with you to the polls. It will make checking in and voting quicker and easier.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Important! Your polling place may have changed since the last election. Find your polling place online at www.votescount.com or call us at 831-454-2060.

Can I vote on a paper ballot at the polls?

Yes. Paper ballots are available at every polling place.

Voting on Paper is easy:

1. Using a ballpoint blue or black ink pen, draw a **SINGLE** line connecting the head and tail of the arrow that points to your choice.
2. When you have completed voting, place your ballot in the secrecy folder so your votes cannot be seen.
3. Take your ballot to the ballot box and deposit your ballot.
4. Return the secrecy folder to a poll worker.

If you have questions or need assistance, ask a poll worker.

Can I vote on the touch screen at the polls?

Yes. Any voter may use the touch screen to vote.

Voting on Touch Screen is easy:

1. You will be given a ticket with a code for you to present to the poll worker staffing the touch screen unit.
2. The touch screen unit allows voters with a disability to vote independently and privately. The unit also offers the option of a Spanish ballot. Any voter may use the touch screen unit.
3. Once your ballot is displayed on the screen, touch the box next to your choice of yes or no. Confirm that a green check mark appears.
4. Change your vote by touching the same selection.
5. When prompted to **Touch Here to Print and Review a Paper Record of Your Ballot**, your ballot choices will print on the printer attached to the touchscreen. You should review the print out to make sure it matches the choices you made. You will not get a print-out of your voted choices.
6. After you have made your selection, you can either void your ballot and start over or cast your ballot.
7. Do not leave the touch screen unit until you see the green thank you screen.

Election Day could not happen without the dedicated service of our poll workers. Thank you!

**SAMPLE BALLOT
SPECIAL ELECTION
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

Voting Instructions:

- Use only a blue or black ballpoint pen to mark your choices.
- You must connect the head and tail of the arrow for your vote to count. You  only need draw one line.
- If you make a mistake, ask a poll worker for another ballot. If you are voting by mail, follow the instructions you received with your ballot.

MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

SCHOOL

**LOMA PRIETA JOINT UNION
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

H To support high academic achievement for local students and provide stable local funding to maintain outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, and science, retain highly qualified and experienced teachers, and prepare students for an excellent high school shall the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District authorize an annual school parcel tax of \$164 per parcel for seven years with independent citizens' oversight, an exemption for seniors, no funds for administrator's salaries and every dollar staying in our schools?

YES ←

NO ←

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VOTER'S PAMPHLET

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.

LOMA PRIETA JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

H To support high academic achievement for local students and provide stable local funding to maintain outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, and science, retain highly qualified and experienced teachers, and prepare students for an excellent high school shall the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District authorize an annual school parcel tax of \$164 per parcel for seven years with independent citizens' oversight, an exemption for seniors, no funds for administrator's salaries and every dollar staying in our schools?

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE H LOMA PRIETA JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To support high academic achievement for local students, retain highly qualified and experienced teachers, maintain outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, and science, and prepare students for an excellent high school, the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District (K-8) proposes to establish an education parcel tax for a period of seven years, beginning July 1, 2014, at the rate of \$164 per year, on each assessor's parcel located within the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District, with an exemption available for senior citizens and persons on Supplemental Security Income, and to implement accountability measures in connection with the temporary levy to ensure the funds are used to:

- retain highly qualified and experienced teachers;
- maintain outstanding core academic education programs in reading, writing, math, and science; and
- prepare students for an excellent high school.

The proceeds of the education parcel tax shall be deposited into a separate account created by the District.

DEFINITION OF "PARCEL"

For purposes of the special tax, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District, that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Santa Clara County Assessor/Tax Collector's office or the Santa Cruz County Assessor/Tax Collector. All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall also be exempt from the education parcel tax in such year.

For purposes of this special tax, any such "Parcels" which are (i) contiguous, (ii) used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and (iii) held under identical ownership may, by annually submitting an application of the owners thereof by June 1 of each year to the District be treated as a single "parcel" for purposes of the levy of this education parcel tax.

EXEMPTION OF SENIORS AND SSI RECIPIENTS

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 50079 (b), any owners of a Parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and who are either (a) 65 years of age or older or (b) persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, may obtain an exemption from the education parcel tax by submitting an application by June 1 of any year to the District.

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the Santa Clara County and the Santa Cruz County Assessor/Tax Collector, respectively, or other appropriate County tax officials 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 education parcel tax, including the

Senior Citizen and SSI Exemptions and the classification of property for purposes of calculating the tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding.

REDUCTION IN TAX IF RESULT IS LESS OTHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The collection of the education parcel tax is not intended to decrease or offset any increase in local, state or federal government sources that would otherwise be available to the District during the period of the education parcel tax. In the event that the levy and collection does have such an effect, the District shall cease the levy or shall reduce the education parcel tax to the extent that such action would restore the amount of the decrease or offset in other revenues.

ACCOUNTABILITY 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 education parcel tax levied in accordance with this Measure: (a) the specific purposes of the education parcel tax shall be those purposes identified above; (b) the proceeds of the education parcel tax shall be applied only to those specific purposes identified above; (c) a separate, special account shall be created into which the proceeds of the education parcel tax must be deposited; and (d) an annual written report shall be made to the Board of Trustees of the District showing (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the education parcel tax and (ii) the status of any projects or programs required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the education parcel tax, as identified above. The District will also establish a citizens' oversight committee to review the expenditure of education parcel tax revenues.

VOTER'S PAMPHLET
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.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE H

If this measure is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District ("the School District") will be authorized to levy a special tax on real property. The tax would be imposed for seven years beginning July 1, 2014, at the rate of \$164 per year on each parcel within the School District.

State law requires that the District state the specific purposes for which the parcel tax proceeds will be used and only spend the proceeds of the tax on the specified purposes. According to the District, the stated purposes of the tax proposed by Measure H are to (1) retain highly qualified and experienced teachers; (2) maintain outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math and science; and (3) prepare students for an excellent high school. Proceeds of the tax may not be used for administrators' salaries or benefits.

In accordance with State law, the School District Board would implement accountability measures. It would create a separate account into which the proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited. An annual written report would show the amount of the special taxes which have been collected and expended, and the status of projects to be funded from those proceeds.

The special parcel tax is to be collected in the same manner as those property taxes which are based upon property value.

Property owners who are 65 years of age or older, or who are receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability regardless of age, may obtain an exemption if the property is used solely for owner-occupied, single family residential purposes, by applying annually to the School District's Board of Trustees. An owner of contiguous parcels meeting specified criteria may also apply annually to have the parcels treated as a single parcel for purposes of the tax.

The School District Board of Trustees proposes to reduce this parcel tax if it should develop that it has an unintended effect of decreasing or offsetting local, state or federal government funding sources that would otherwise be available to the School District.

Any necessary increases in the School District's appropriations limit will be accomplished pursuant to State law, in order to permit proceeds of the special tax to be spent for the authorized purposes.

This measure will have no effect on existing levies.

A "yes" vote is to approve imposition of the special parcel tax.

A "no" vote is against imposition of the special parcel tax.

DANA McRAE, COUNTY COUNSEL
By Jane M. Scott, Assistant County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE H

Protect the outstanding education students receive at Loma Prieta Elementary School and C.T. English Middle School: VOTE YES on Measure H.

Loma Prieta Elementary and C.T. English Middle schools are part of what makes this mountain community special. Our great teachers and rigorous math, science and reading curriculum have prepared generations of mountain students to succeed in high school, college and careers. Both schools have received awards for academic distinction.

Unfortunately, years of state budget cuts have hurt our mountain schools.

Measure H is a local measure. All funds generated will stay here, for mountain students. This money **cannot** be taken away by the State.

Measure H will:

- Maintain excellent K-8 core academics in our mountain community
- Retain our best teachers (including subject matter experts for the middle school)
- Prepare Loma Prieta students for an excellent high school
- Keep school libraries open
- Maintain school safety and security

Measure H is a modest, thoughtful proposal supported by parents, teachers and community leaders. It won't solve all our problems, but it will protect core academics, help retain our highest quality teachers, and ensure that Loma Prieta students continue to be prepared to attend an excellent high school.

The cost of Measure H is less than \$14 a month for property owners. Senior citizens are exempt and the measure is temporary; it lasts just seven years. Every penny stays in the community to benefit Loma Prieta and C.T. English schools and students.

Measure H is an investment in our mountain schools. If Measure H is approved, our local investment will be on par with current levels of investment that Lakeside, Los Gatos and other nearby communities make in their schools.

Good schools protect local property values and contribute to a strong community.

Our mountain schools matter; help protect them. **PLEASE, VOTE YES on H.**

s/ Shannon Murphy Hickok
Board President, Loma Prieta School District

s/ Neil Wiley
Editor, Mountain Network News

s/ Alexander Leman
Chief, Loma Prieta Volunteer Fire & Rescue

s/ Patricia Hughes
Assistant Principal, Los Gatos High School, Retired

s/ Stephen Glauz-Todrank
Minister, Skyland Community Church

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H WAS FILED.