

# COUNTY OF ALAMEDA MEASURE C

**MEASURE C: DISTRICT WIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE.** To comply with the Right to Vote on Taxes Act, adopted November 1996, shall a special tax be approved to continue emergency medical services including paramedic, ambulance and trauma services at a rate of \$21.14 per benefit unit, to be adjusted according to the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area, as proposed in Ordinance 0-97-52, described in the Voter Information Pamphlet?

**YES**

**NO**

## **FULL TEXT OF MEASURE C**

ORDINANCE NO. 0-97-52

AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 2.20 TO TITLE 2 OF THE ORDINANCE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA PROVIDING FOR AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT SPECIAL TAX

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda ordains as follows:

### **SECTION I**

Chapter 2.20 is added to Title 2 of the Ordinance Code of the County of Alameda to read:

#### **Chapter 2.20**

#### **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DISTRICT SPECIAL TAX**

##### **2.20.10 Findings.**

It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Alameda in adopting this Chapter to provide for the continued funding of ambulance, paramedic, trauma care, and related services being provided by the Emergency Medical Services District, County Service Area EM-1983-1, presently being funded with benefit assessments that will cease to be collected July 1, 1997 as a result of the passage of Proposition 218 in November 1996 (California Constitution, Articles XIII C and XIII D). The Board of Supervisors proposes to replace the current benefit assessment of \$21.14 per benefit unit with a special tax of \$21.14 per benefit unit. Voter approval of the \$21.14 per benefit unit special tax would raise approximately \$11 million in revenue which is needed to continue to fund the basic Emergency Medical Services District services.

##### **2.20.20 Authority to Adopt Measure.**

This Chapter and the tax authorized herein is adopted pursuant to the provisions of the County Services Area Law (Government Code Sections 25210.1 et seq.), Proposition 62 (Government Code Sections 53720 et seq.), and the California Constitution, Article XIII A, Section 4, Article XIII C, Section 2, and Article XIII D, Section 3. The tax authorized herein is based on the use and occupancy of improved real property.

##### **2.20.30 Title and Purpose**

This Chapter may be cited as the "Emergency Medical Services District Special Tax." The special tax imposed under this Chapter is solely for the purposes of raising revenue for the operation of Emergency Medical

Services District, County Services Area EM-1983-1, for providing ambulance, paramedic, trauma center, and related services.

#### **2.20.40 Maximum Tax Rate and Method of Assessment.**

The rate of the Emergency Medical Services Special Tax shall be in the amount of \$21.14 per "benefit unit" per year and shall be assessed against each parcel of real property within County Services Area EM-1983-1, which includes all the cities and unincorporated area within the County of Alameda with the Exception of the City of Alameda. Once each year the Board of Supervisors is hereby authorized to adjust by resolution the tax rate authorized by this Chapter by the amount which the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area shall have increased during the immediately preceding year. The tax rate as so adjusted is then the new base tax rate. The number of benefit units (BU) shall be determined by the use to which the owner has put the property, as follows:

One living unit	1 BU
One-story store	2 BU
Store first floor w/office/apts. above	4 BU
Miscellaneous Commercial	2 BU
Department Store	5 BU
Discount House	5 BU
Restaurant	4 BU
Shopping Center	7 BU
Supermarket	4 BU
Comm./Indus. condominium	4 BU
Warehouse	2 BU
Light industry	4 BU
Heavy industry	6 BU
Miscellaneous Industrial	2 BU
Nurseries	2 BU
Quarries	2 BU
Wrecking yards	2 BU
Terminals, trucking	2 BU
Improved gov't property	2 BU
Golf courses	2 BU
Schools	5 BU
Churches	4 BU
Other institution	2 BU
Lodge halls	4 BU
Clubhouses	4 BU
Car washes	2 BU
Commercial garage/auto repair	2 BU
Service station	2 BU
Funeral homes	2 BU
Nursing/Boarding homes	6 BU
Hospitals	5 BU

Hotel	5 BU
Motel	5 BU
Mobile Home Parks	5 BU
Banks	4 BU
Medical-Dental	4 BU
One to five story office	4 BU
Over five story office	7 BU
Bowling alleys	4 BU
Theaters, walk-in	4 BU
Theaters, drive-in	4 BU
Other recreational	2 BU

Any tax levied under this Chapter shall become a lien upon the properties against which it is assessed and shall be collected in conjunction with the County's collection of property tax revenues. The imposition of penalties, additional fees and interest upon persons who fail to remit any tax imposed by this Chapter, or who fail to remit any delinquent remittance under this Chapter, shall be subject to and governed by the rules, regulations and procedures utilized by the County in its collection of property taxes.

Every penalty imposed and such interest as accrues under the provisions of this Chapter shall become a part of the tax herein required to be paid.

**2.20.50 Severability.**

The provisions of this Chapter shall not apply to any person, association, corporation or to any property as to whom or which it is beyond the power of the Board of Supervisors to impose the tax herein provided. If any sentence, clause, section or part of this Chapter, or any tax against any person is found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall affect only such clause, sentence, section or part of this chapter and shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or other parts of this Chapter. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of Supervisors that this Chapter would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

**2.20.60 Duration, Amendment or Repeal.**

The authorization to levy a tax under this Chapter shall continue from year to year. This Chapter or any provision thereof may be amended or repealed by the Board of Supervisors. Any amendment increasing the tax rate, except as provided herein with respect to the Consumer Price Index, must first be approved by at least two-thirds of the voters voting on the increase before it shall become effective.

SECTION II

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from and after the date of passage, and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage, shall be published once with the names of the members voting for and against the

same in the Inter-City Express, a newspaper published in the said County of Alameda. However, this Ordinance shall only be implemented if approved by a two-thirds majority of the voters voting on the proposition at an election to be held on Tuesday, June 3, 1997 and would go into effect on July 1, 1997.

## COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE C

Approval of this Measure would allow the County to continue to collect \$21.14 per benefit unit for emergency medical services.

In 1983 the Alameda County Emergency Medical Services District was created to provide paramedic services throughout the county. It covers the unincorporated parts of the county and all the cities except Alameda. The EMS District was formed as a County Service Area and was funded through benefit assessments on the owners of improved real property.

The present benefit assessment is \$21.14 per "benefit unit." A single family residence is one benefit unit. Other examples are a department store is five benefit units, and an office building over five stories is seven benefit units. (There are over forty benefit unit categories.) The benefit rate has not been increased since 1992. The total amount collected last fiscal year (1995-96) was approximately \$11 million. This revenue is used by the EMS District to fund basic ambulance, paramedic, trauma care, and related services. In addition, the fire districts and all of the cities, with the exception of Hayward, supplement these basic services with a supplemental benefit assessment ranging from \$3.28 per benefit unit in Dublin to \$30.84 per benefit unit in Albany. The supplemental benefit assessments totaled about \$5.75 million last fiscal year.

With the passage last November of Proposition 218, The Right to Vote on Taxes Act, the EMS District can no longer be funded with benefit assessments. To continue the same \$21.14 per benefit unit that now exists, the funding is being put to a vote as a special tax.

If approved by the voters Measure C would authorize a special tax of \$21.14 per benefit unit. It would also authorize the Board of Supervisors to increase the tax rate per benefit unit each year but by not more than the amount of the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco Bay Area for the immediately preceding year. The increased rate then becomes the new base tax rate.

If Measure C fails to pass, the special tax may not be collected, and the EMS District will lose \$11 million per year, which is its entire funding for basic EMS services. The cutbacks this would cause to current services and the extent to which the member agencies of the EMS District would be able to find alternative funding is not known.

KELVIN H. BOOTY, JR.

County Counsel

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

#### **PASSING MEASURE C MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE OR YOUR FAMILY MEMBER'S. WHEN YOU CALL 9-1-1 MAKE SURE SOMEONE IS ON THE OTHER END.**

In 1982, the voters established a Paramedic Assessment District to provide a system to save lives. Now due to a new state law, we have to reaffirm our commitment to high quality EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) in Alameda County.

#### **An advisory vote approved by 80% of the voters created the system and it works:**

- During the past 14 years services have been upgraded through rigid training at all levels.
- Paramedics have been placed on all emergency ambulances.

- Automatic defibrillators (for heart attack victims) and Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are now on fire trucks.
- Three trauma centers have been opened at Eden, Highland, and Children's Hospitals.
- Your system responds annually to over 100,000 victims of sudden illness or accidental injury.
- Your system is a model Emergency Medical program for the nation.
- When the next earthquake or firestorm hits, lives will be saved by the ability to respond that you and your fellow voters have made possible.
- Measure C is not a tax increase, but a continuance of an established assessment.
- It can never increase more than the Bay Area Consumer Price Index.
- The base assessment to provide this life saving service is only \$21.14 per household per year.

Protect your system. It is one of the premier programs in the United States. Don't close the trauma center or lengthen the response time for emergency ambulances. The next time your family has an emergency, make sure they get the quality of care and speed of response they deserve.

**VOTE YES! SAVE LIVES!**

**We urge you to support the companion EMS measure in your community. This will retain the current established emergency medical services system.**

CHARLES C. PLUMMER, Sheriff, Alameda County

ARTHUR B. GEEN, Executive Vice President,

Alameda County Tax Payer Association

SHIRLEY WARE, Secretary Treasurer, SEIU Local 250

WILLIAM J. MCCAMMON, Fire Chief, Alameda County Fire Department

WILMA CHAN, Alameda County Supervisor, Third District

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C WAS SUBMITTED.**