

PLACER

COUNTY OF



Newcastle Fire Protection District

All Mail Ballot Special District Election

Instructions to Voters
and Voter Information Pamphlet

Election Day
Tuesday, March 6, 2012

**Make sure your voice is
heard...**

Voted ballots must be received by
the Office of Elections no later than
8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 6th in
order to be counted. A postmark is not
acceptable.

VOTER ALERT

There is no polling
place for this election.

The enclosed ballot is
your official mail-in
ballot.

THIS IS AN ALL MAIL BALLOT ELECTION FOR THE NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Compiled and distributed by Jim McCauley, Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters
Placer County Office of Elections 2956 Richardson Drive,
Auburn, CA 95603



TELEPHONE: 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California 1-800-824-8683

FAX: 530-886-5688

WEBSITE: www.placerelections.com

E-MAIL: election@placer.ca.gov

VOTER INSTRUCTIONS

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS: To vote on a measure, COMPLETELY DARKEN IN THE OVAL next to the word "YES" if you desire to vote in favor of the measure or next to the word "NO" if you desire to vote against the measure. Please use a pen with blue or black ink and darken in the oval completely (●).

DAMAGED BALLOTS: If you incorrectly mark, tear or deface any portion of your ballot sheet, contact the Placer County Office of Elections (numbers are listed on the front cover) and request a replacement ballot to be sent to you. You may also come in person to the Office of Elections in Auburn through Election Day. See the next column for specific dates/times.

IF YOU LOSE YOUR BALLOT: If you lose or discard your ballot, you may request a replacement ballot to be sent to you or vote a ballot at the Placer County Office of Elections in Auburn beginning February 6, 2012. Contact the Office of Elections (numbers are listed on the front cover) for more information.

AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED VOTING, place the voted ballot into the postage-paid return envelope provided with this pamphlet, **sign the envelope where requested,** and return your ballot to the Placer County Office of Elections.

THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO RETURN YOUR VOTED BALLOT:

By Mail – The ballot must be received by the Placer County Office of Elections no later than 8:00 PM on March 6, 2012. Your ballot cannot be counted if received after 8:00 PM on Election Day, regardless of the postmark. Consider mailing back your ballot early.

By You in Person Before or on Election Day – The Office of Elections located at 2956 Richardson Drive in Auburn will be the only voting location because the election is all mail ballot.

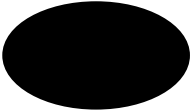
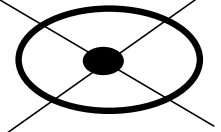
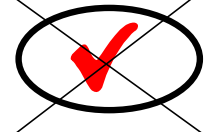
From Monday, February 6, 2012 through March 5, 2012 Elections staff will be available in Auburn from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays (excluding Holidays, see below for hours), for one weekend on March 3rd and 4th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and on Election Day, March 6th, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM for any voter who

- wishes to deliver his/her ballot in person;
- needs a replacement ballot;
- has questions about his/her eligibility to vote; or
- requires assistance with voting.

Look for the "VOTE HERE" signs.

After-Hours Drop-Off – The Office of Elections has a 24-hour drive-up drop-off box located in front of our office in Auburn. For directions to our office, please call 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California 1-800-824-8683.

By Your Authorized Representative – If you are unable to deliver your ballot personally because of illness or other physical disability, you may designate one of the following to return the ballot for you: spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister or a person residing in your household. Please complete the required information on the return envelope and have your ballot delivered by your authorized representative.

RIGHT 	Correct way to mark your ballot
WRONG 	Incorrect way to mark your ballot
WRONG 	Incorrect way to mark your ballot

Holiday & Weekend Office Hours in Auburn:

*Monday, February 13, 2012
Monday, February 20, 2012
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (both days)*

★
*Saturday, March 3, 2012
Sunday, March 4, 2012
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (both days)*

★ **A Special Message from Jim McCauley, Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar** ★

Dear Voter,

In accordance with its authority granted under the California Health and Safety Code section Article 13911 and Government Code sections 50075-50077.5, the Board of Directors of the Newcastle Fire Protection District has issued Resolution No. 2011-11-10B, calling for an *All Mail Ballot Special District Election* on Tuesday, March 6, 2012. You are receiving this mailing because the Newcastle Fire Protection District (District) has engaged the Placer County Office of Elections to conduct this election on its behalf.

The purpose of this election is to place "Measure B, Special Tax on all Taxable Real Property for the Purpose of Providing Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services including Fire Protection and Suppression, Rescue and Other Services," on a ballot for voter approval. Detailed information about Measure B is provided inside this pamphlet and on the Placer County Office of Elections website (www.placerelections.com).

The District has designated this election as an All Mail Ballot Election; therefore, there will be no polling places. Your official ballot and a postage-paid return envelope are enclosed with this pamphlet. **Do not throw the enclosed ballot away as this is your official ballot.** The pamphlet provides instructions on how to vote your ballot and return it by mail or in person.

For your convenience, from February 6, 2012 through March 5, 2012 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM weekdays (excluding Holidays, see inside front cover for hours), one weekend on March 3rd and 4th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and on Election Day, March 6th, from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, the Placer County Office of Elections staff will be at 2956 Richardson Drive in Auburn to accept voted ballots, issue replacement ballots, and to assist voters.

Your voted ballot must be received by the Placer County Office of Elections in the enclosed return envelope, which must be signed by you, no later than 8:00 PM on Tuesday, March 6, 2012. Please consider mailing back your ballot early or return your ballot in person on Election Day at the Placer County Office of Elections in Auburn. The Office of Elections in Auburn also has an after hours drive-up drop-off box to return voted ballots up until 8:00 PM on March 6, 2012.

We are here to be of service to you. Please contact my office if you have any questions or need assistance. Be sure to vote, and make your voice heard!

Sincerely,

Jim McCauley, Registrar of Voters

Voter Pamphlet

The following pages contain

- **BALLOT MEASURE TEXT**
- **IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY THE PLACER COUNTY COUNSEL**
- **BALLOT ARGUMENTS**

By law, ballot arguments are printed exactly as submitted; this includes any spelling or grammatical errors submitted by the authors on their original documents.

**ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED LAW
ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS.**

MEASURE B

PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL TAX FOR THE NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

To provide local fire protection and rapid emergency response services for the Newcastle Fire Protection District, to replace the old, condemned fire station with a cost-effective, safe building, to maintain rapid response times to emergencies, and to keep property insurance rates manageable, shall an annual special tax be authorized with all revenue staying in our community for local fire protection and prevention services and to construct a new fire station?

YES _____ NO _____

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY THE PLACER COUNTY COUNSEL

The Newcastle Fire Protection District (District) has determined that in order to maintain adequate levels of fire protection and emergency services, a new special tax is necessary. The District has found that the tax is needed to prevent significant cutbacks and to provide the appropriate level of fire protection and emergency services for the Newcastle community, to provide a safe, adequate fire station, and to keep insurance rates manageable. The stated purpose of the tax would be to: provide fire protection, both prevention and suppression; provide emergency medical response facilities, equipment and services within the District; provide for any responses outside of the District under automatic/mutual aid agreements with other fire suppression or emergency service agencies; provide for the construction and maintenance of a new fire station, and; for any incidental expenses related to the collection of the tax.

This proposed special tax must be approved by two-thirds of voters in the district, and if passed, would result in a tax of \$146.46 per taxable parcel. Further, any parcel with a structure in excess of 3,000 square feet would be assessed an additional \$0.05 per square foot for the structure area greater than 3,000 square feet. The proposed special tax would also have a measure that would allow for annual price adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index, but in no event would any increase be more than 3% per year.

Finally, the measure, if approved, would have a process by which a property owner who is assessed the special tax could appeal a determination by the district

concerning the nature of the use of the property or the calculation of the amount of the tax to the District.

Article 13A of the California Constitution, passed by the electorate in 1978 as Proposition 13, requires approval by the electorate to levy special taxes. California Health & Safety Code Section 13911 and Government Code Sections 50075-50077.5 authorize a process to propose and submit a special tax to the voters. These provisions require accountability measures including a requirement that the proceeds from the tax be placed into a special account and that a report be prepared annually that provides details on the amount of taxes collected in that year and showing that the taxes were used solely for the specific purposes for the tax.

A "Yes" vote is a vote to authorize a new special tax for the stated purposes.

A "No" vote is a vote against a new special tax.

This analysis is submitted by the Office of the County Counsel of Placer County, pursuant to the requirements of Section 9313 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

Anthony J. La Bouff
County Counsel

By: Brian R. Wirtz
Deputy County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

Newcastle Fire Protection District provides our primary emergency response services, while depending on funding from a very small contribution from property taxes and local fundraisers. With falling property values over the last few years resulting in funding cuts, our District now desperately needs our community's support.

Our fire station is no longer safe to use, forcing our firefighters to work out of temporary quarters. We negotiated a very favorable long term lease on the land for a new fire station, at a rate of only \$100 per month. We have planned for the most cost-efficient fire station we can build.

Our firefighters are members of our community, putting their lives on the line for us regularly, but we pay them barely above minimum wage. They are the lowest paid professional firefighters in our area. In order to attract and retain qualified firefighters available around the clock, we need to pay them a living wage.

Newcastle FPD is asking for your help. Please support Measure B. A YES vote will:

- Ensure that we have local fire protection and emergency medical services
- Save lives with fast responses to fires and medical emergencies
- Ensure we have professional firefighters available 24/7
- Keep insurance rates from increasing much more than the amount of this measure

If Measure B fails, we can't build a new fire station, and our District cannot continue to operate out of temporary quarters, causing us to rely on help coming from further away, if it is even available. Please vote YES to save our emergency response services here in Newcastle.

Measure B includes strict accountability provisions to ensure that all funds will only be used locally. Annual financial audits are required and an Independent Auditor will oversee all expenditures.

Please vote YES on Measure B to keep our community safe!

Robert W. Stearns
Chairman of the Board, Newcastle Fire Protection District

Michael Leydon
President, Board of Trustees, Newcastle Elementary School District

Elliott F. Rose
Past President, Newcastle Area Business Association

Dan Robinson
Owner, Sierra Safety, Inc., Newcastle, CA.

Nianne Fisch
Resident, Castle City Mobile Home Park

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST
MEASURE B WAS SUBMITTED**

RESOLUTION #2011-11-10B

RESOLUTION TO ENACT THE NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SPECIAL TAX ON ALL TAXABLE REAL PROPERTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INCLUDING FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION, RESCUE AND OTHER SERVICES; AND TO CALL AN ELECTION THEREON.

WHEREAS, the Board of the Newcastle Fire Protection District (the "Board") has determined that it is in the best interests of the District's citizens to prevent significant cutbacks and to provide the appropriate level of fire protection and emergency services for the Newcastle community as well as to provide a safe, adequate fire station; that the cost to maintain such adequate levels of service is beyond the reach of the District absent this proposed special tax and that this tax is therefore necessary for public protection and public safety; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that the special municipal election be conducted by the County of Placer Election Department and it is necessary for the District to request services of the County; and

WHEREAS, all necessary expenses in performing these services shall be paid by the Newcastle Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of California Health & Safety Code section Article 13911 and Government Code sections 50075-50077.5, the Board of Directors is authorized to adopt this resolution which shall, subject to the approval of the voters, impose a special tax, which shall be applied against all taxable real property within the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board has also determined that it is in the best interest of the community to seek voter approval, which will require approval by two-thirds of the voters voting thereon, for the proposed special tax in order to be able to maintain appropriate fire protection and emergency medical response facilities, equipment and services; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined that it is necessary and appropriate to submit a proposal to the voters in the District for the adoption of a special tax; and

WHEREAS, if approved by the voters, the special tax will be used solely for the purpose of providing fire protection and emergency medical response facilities, equipment and services within the District, including construction of a new fire station; and

WHEREAS, all district elections shall be called, held and

conducted in all respects as nearly as is practicable in conformity with the Uniform District Election Law (Election Code 10500 et seq.). Section 10517 of which provides that the County Elections Official shall conduct such elections and Section 10518 of which allows the County Elections Officer to authorize an appropriate officer of the district to perform the functions of the elections official.

WHEREAS, Section 9280 of the Elections Code authorizes the filing of an impartial analysis and Sections 9282 et seq. of said code authorize the filing of written arguments for or against any ballot proposition and rebuttal arguments.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1 There is hereby enacted within the Newcastle Fire Protection District (the "District"), a special tax to be assessed against all taxable real property within the District. The full text of the proposed ballot measure is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.

If approved by the voters, the special tax shall continue until repealed by the Board of Directors or by the voters.

Section 2. That the Placer County Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the County Election Department to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the all mail ballot special municipal election for the Newcastle Fire Protection District on March 6, 2012.

Section 3. That the County Election Department is authorized to canvass the returns of the special municipal election.

Section 4. That District shall reimburse the County for services performed when the work is completed and upon presentation to the District of a properly approved bill.

Section 6 The special tax shall be deemed established and shall be in effect as of the day following the election, upon certification of the election results evidencing approval by at least two-thirds of the registered voters voting thereon by the Board of Directors of the District. The increase in the District's appropriations limit shall be deemed effective beginning in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The special tax shall be levied against all taxable real property within the District beginning with the 2012-13 fiscal year.

**MEASURE B RESOLUTION
CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

**MEASURE B RESOLUTION
CONTINUED**

Section 7 The special tax shall be used solely for the purpose of providing fire protection, both prevention and suppression, and emergency medical response facilities, equipment and services within the District, for any responses outside of the District under automatic/mutual aid agreements with other fire suppression or emergency service agencies, for the construction and maintenance of a new fire station, and for any incidental expenses related to the collection of the tax.

In accordance with Government Code Section 50075.3, District's Fire Chief, as the chief fiscal officer of the District, shall file a report with the District Board of Directors no later than January 1 of each year. The annual report shall contain both of the following: (a) the amount of funds collected and expended; (b) the status of any project required or authorized to be funded with the proceeds of the special tax in accordance with this Section.

Section 8 There may be an annual adjustment in the special tax rate based upon changes in the San Francisco Bay Area Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3% WHICHEVER IS LESS. The District will consider changes using data provided by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Cities averages for the preceding calendar year (or, if discontinued, a comparable index). Under no circumstances can the cost of living adjustment be put in place without the proposed adjustment of the tax rate being placed on the agenda of the NFPD Board of Director's regular meeting with an opportunity for public input and discussion.

Section 9 Unless otherwise ordered pursuant to a resolution adopted by the Board, the special property taxes shall annually be collected on the County of Placer property tax bill in the same manner and subject to the same penalty as the county property taxes are collected. The District Board shall annually take such steps as are necessary to have the special tax collected through the property tax bill and shall coordinate with the County Auditor and Tax Collector in this regard. The County shall be entitled to deduct its reasonable costs incurred in collecting the special tax before the balance of the tax is remitted to the District.

Upon receipt of the special taxes the District shall cause same to be deposited in a special tax account or such other account established by the District which allows the District to properly account for the special taxes in compliance with the provisions of Government Code Section 50075.3.

Section 10 Any property owner who is assessed a special tax as provided for herein may appeal any determination by the District concerning the nature of the use of the property or the calculation of the amount of the

tax by filing a notice of appeal with the District offices. Any such appeal shall be filed by December 1st of the calendar year for which the tax is levied. The appeal shall be filed on the form provided by the District and shall contain a statement by the property owner as to the nature and basis for the appeal in accordance with the District's appeal procedure.

Section 11. That the District Secretary is directed to forward without delay to the Board of Supervisors and to the County Election Department, each a certified copy of this resolution.

Section 12 Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 50077.5 any judicial action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void or annul this resolution and/or the approval of the subject special tax and/or increase in the appropriations limitation pertaining to the special tax shall be commenced, if at all, within 60 days of the date of the adoption hereof.

Adopted on this 10th day of November, 2011 by the following roll call vote of the Board of Directors of the Newcastle Fire Protection District.

Chairman Stearns	Yay
Vice-Chairman Lewis	Yay
Secretary Calkins	Yay
Director Orsolini	Yay
Director Poore	Yay

Attest:	
Clerk to the Board	Board Chairperson
Patrice Metz	Robert W. Stearns

EXHIBIT A

TEXT OF THE BALLOT MEASURE

The question submitted to the voters shall read substantially as follows:

To provide local fire protection and rapid emergency response services for the Newcastle Fire Protection District, to replace the old, condemned fire station with a cost-effective, safe building, to maintain rapid response times to emergencies, and to keep property insurance rates manageable, shall an annual special tax be authorized with all revenue staying in our community for local fire protection and prevention services and to construct a new fire station?

The special tax shall be assessed against real property based upon the size of the property and in the amounts of: \$146.46 per taxable parcel. Parcels with structures in excess of 3,000 square feet will be assessed an additional \$0.05 per square foot for the structure area greater than 3,000 square feet. The special tax shall not become effective unless approved by two-thirds of the registered voters of the District voting thereon.

**Our number one goal is to count every ballot. We need your help!
Make sure you do not fall into any of the categories listed below.**

- 1. NO SIGNATURE ON ENVELOPE.** You must sign your return envelope or your ballot cannot be counted. State law requires the Office of Elections to match the signature on your registration card to the signature on the outside of your return envelope before we count your ballot.
- 2. UNAUTHORIZED RETURN.** While most mail ballot voters return their voted ballots by mail, you may choose to return your ballot in person to the Placer County Office of Elections in Auburn. Dates and hours vary, see the inside front cover for information. You may also authorize certain people to return your ballot, but you must sign your envelope where required and the designee must print his/her name and sign the authorization box on the return envelope or we cannot accept your ballot from that person.
- 3. BALLOT ARRIVES AFTER 8:00 PM ON ELECTION DAY.** We must receive your ballot at the Office of Elections in Auburn no later than 8:00 PM on Election Day for it to count. An Election Day postmark does not allow us to count your ballot if delivered after Election Day, so mail back your ballot as early as possible.
- 4. RETURNING YOUR BALLOT IN A PLAIN ENVELOPE.** In most instances, state law does not allow the Office of Elections to count your ballot unless the ballot is returned in the envelope we have provided to you. If you lose your return envelope, call us at 530-886-5650 or toll-free in California at 1-800-824-8683 and we will send you another return envelope.



**Consider mailing
back your ballot
early and make
your voice heard!**