
MEASURE T

TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

“To reduce the risk of wildfire/improve wildfire prevention, including removing dry brush, dead trees, fuels and fire hazards; improving emergency evacuation systems, routes and procedures; supporting defensible space around homes, neighborhoods and critical infrastructure, providing more green waste disposal options; shall the Truckee Fire Protection District measure levying \$179 per parcel for eight years be adopted, providing \$3,700,000 annually in locally-controlled funding for wildfire protection, with independent audits, exemptions for low-income residents, and citizen oversight?”

YES _____

NO _____

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY THE COUNTY OF NEVADA OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

Measure T was placed on the ballot by the Board (“Board”) of the Truckee Fire Protection District (“District”). This Measure, if approved by two-thirds of the voters voting on the Measure, would authorize the District to levy a parcel tax. The proceeds of this special tax will be used solely for the purpose of reducing wildfire risk and improving local wildfire prevention, and for any expenses incurred to collect and enforce the tax. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2022-23, the tax would be levied at the rate of \$179.00 per parcel within the District as identified on the District Boundary Map for FY 2022-23. If approved, the tax would continue in effect for eight years until December 2030 and would not renew unless approved by voters.

Measure T authorizes an exemption for a property owner who owns and occupies a single-family home as their principal residence and qualifies as low income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The tax will be assessed on all parcels in the District unless exempt from this tax by law. The special tax will be collected annually on the County of Nevada and the County of Placer property tax bills in the same manner and subject to the same penalty as the county property taxes.

The District estimates the special tax will raise \$3,700,000 in annual funding; however, the amount of annual funding raised by the tax may vary from year-to-year due to changes in the number of parcels subject to the levy. All funds collected from the tax will be deposited into a special fund and will be expended only for the purposes authorized by this Measure. The tax may be used, for example, for early fire detection, emergency warning systems, establishing fire-safe evacuation routes, hazardous vegetation abatement, adding firebreaks, and providing homeowners with green waste disposal options.

As required by state law, Measure T is subject to the following accountability restrictions: (1) proceeds of the tax will be deposited in a fund separate from other District funds and used only as authorized by the Measure; (2) no later than December 31 of each year while the tax is in effect, the District must prepare and file with the Board a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project funded by this Measure; and (3) an oversight committee of citizens, appointed or designated by the Board, shall annually report to the Board and public regarding the expenditures of the tax proceeds.

If two-thirds of the qualified electors voting on Measure T vote for approval, the special tax will be imposed annually for a period of eight years, and collected by Nevada County and Placer County at the same time, and in the same manner, as property taxes.

If two-thirds of the qualified electors voting on this measure do not vote for approval, the measure will fail, and the District will not be authorized to levy the special tax.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure T. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the Placer County Elections Office at (530) 886-5650 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE T

Vote YES on T to protect our Truckee and Donner Summit communities from wildfire.

The forests surrounding our neighborhoods are packed with dry brush and dead trees because we have suppressed natural fires for 100 years. This leaves our communities vulnerable to wildfire. Measure T helps remove these materials in an environmentally responsible way - reducing the risk of wildfire and improving the health of our forests and watersheds.

The deadly, destructive fires of Paradise and Sonoma made clear that taking action is essential and cannot wait any longer.

Measure T provides our local fire district with the resources needed to remove fire hazards, help ensure our evacuation routes remain free of obstruction, and better protect against wildfire emergencies.

When wildfires start, quick community notifications can save lives. Measure T investments in early detection and emergency warning systems will help residents escape danger in less time.

YES on T: Firesafe Truckee and Donner Summit Communities

- Remove dry brush, dead trees and fire hazards in and around our neighborhoods and wildlands
- Add firebreaks to prevent the spread of wildfire
- Improve emergency evacuation routes and procedures
- Provide homeowners with easy, inexpensive green waste disposal options
- Improve defensible space around homes, neighborhoods and critical infrastructure

All Measure T Funds Stay Local for Fire Prevention

- Measure T funds will be spent locally for fire protection and prevention
- Funds cannot be taken by the counties or state
- An independent citizens' oversight committee is required

If your insurance hasn't yet been increased or canceled, it will be. We are already behind the curve in protecting our region. We cannot wait for someone else to solve our problem.

Vote YES on T to prevent wildfire - our homes, businesses, economy and families depend on it.

Learn more at: YesOnT.vote

Anna Klovstad, Mayor of Truckee & 24 year Truckee Resident

Roxanne Duffield, Local Insurance Agent & 40 year Truckee Resident

Perry Norris, Co Executive Director Tahoe Donner Land Trust

Bill Seline, Fire Chief Truckee Fire Protection District

Andrew Barr, Local Business Owner – 50/50 Brewery & Drunken Monkey Restaurant

FULL BALLOT TEXT
TRUCKEE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Wildfire Protection Measure
Measure T

[letter designation to be assigned by Nevada County Registrar of Voters]

BALLOT QUESTION

To reduce the risk of wildfire/improve wildfire prevention, including removing dry brush, dead trees, fuels and fire hazards; improving emergency evacuation systems, routes and procedures; supporting defensible space around homes, neighborhoods and critical infrastructure providing more green waste disposal options; shall the Truckee Fire Protection District measure levying \$179 per parcel for eight years be adopted, providing \$3,700,000 annually in locally-controlled funding for wildfire protection, with independent audits, exemptions for low-income residents, and citizen oversight?

A. Findings

The Truckee Fire Protection District ("District") Board of Directors ("Board") is authorized and charged to provide fire protection and prevention services, including reducing the risk of wildfire and improving local wildfire prevention.

The Truckee and Donner Summit areas' scenic forests and lush vegetation make it a desirable place to live, work and visit, it also makes our residents, businesses and natural environment vulnerable to wildfire.

Truckee and Donner Summit area forests are now experiencing a 100-year buildup of dry brush and dead trees, and removing these materials in an environmentally responsible way would help reduce the risk of wildfire and improve the health of our forests and watersheds by restoring a more natural balance.

As wildfires continue to get larger, faster, and more destructive, additional resources are needed to clear dry brush, remove fire hazards and better protect against wildfire emergencies.

In 2016, the District collaborated with the community to develop the first Truckee area Community Wildfire Protection Plan ("CWPP").

The CWPP is a comprehensive, scientifically based assessment of the wildfire hazards and risks within District, which has been identified as a Very High Fire Severity Zone by Cal Fire.

The CWPP identifies the risks facing our community and helps the District develop short-term and long-term strategies to reduce the risk of wildfire and improve emergency preparedness.

The District has already been able to complete some of the priority projects identified in the CWPP; however, the full scope of needs cannot be addressed without an additional funding source.

The Board has determined that it is in the best interest of the community to seek voter approval, which will require approval by two-thirds voters voting thereon, for the Wildfire Protection Measure, a proposed special tax that would provide a stable, dedicated source of local funding to be used for the purpose of reducing the risk of wildfire and improving local wildfire prevention within the District.

The Wildfire Protection Measure would provide local funding to remove dry brush, dead trees and other fire hazards, add firebreaks where needed to help prevent or slow the spread of wildfire, and provide homeowners with easy and inexpensive disposal options for trimmings and green waste.

The Wildfire Protection Measure would enable the District to invest more in early fire detection, emergency warning systems and fire-safe evacuation routes to help ensure residents are notified quickly and have safe ways to escape danger if a wildfire does break out.

All money raised by the Wildfire Protection Measure would be spent locally, with preference given to local bidders in accordance with District policy as appropriate, to provide fire protection and prevention services and could not be taken by the State.

An independent citizens' oversight committee would review expenditures to ensure funds are spent as set forth in this Measure.

An exemption from the Wildfire Protection Measure will be available for low-income residents of single-family homes to ensure that this Measure is not a burden to local homeowners on fixed or limited incomes.

The Wildfire Protection Measure would automatically expire after eight (8) years and cannot be renewed without voter approval.

Pursuant to its rights and authority under State law, the Board may call an election for the purpose of submitting a ballot measure to the voters of the District.

Pursuant to the authority of Sections 13911 and 13913 of the California Health and Safety Code and Sections 53978 and 50075 et seq. of the California Government Code, the District may levy a special tax on all parcels of real property in the District for the purpose of reducing the risk of wildfire and improving local wildfire prevention, subject to the approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the qualified voters of the District voting in an election on the issue.

If approved by the voters, the special tax will be used solely for the purpose of reducing the risk of wildfire and improving local wildfire prevention within the District.

If this special tax is approved by the voters, the District may exceed the appropriations limit as previously established for the District in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

In the judgment of the Board, it is advisable to call an election and submit to the voters of the District the question of whether the District shall levy a special tax within the District for the purpose reducing the risk of wildfire and improving local wildfire prevention within the District.

Pursuant to the Elections Code such election may be completely or partially consolidated with any other election held on the same day and in the same territory or territory that is in part the same.

Sections 9160 and 9313 of the Elections Code authorize the filing of an impartial analysis, and Section 9600 et seq. of said code authorizes the filing of written arguments for or against any ballot proposition and rebuttal arguments.

B. Amount and Basis of Special Tax

This Measure shall authorize the District to annually levy a special tax of \$179 per parcel on parcels within the District's boundaries beginning with the FY 2022-23 tax year and continuing for a period of eight (8) years. This special tax is estimated to raise \$3,700,000 in annual local funding for the District. The amount of annual local funding raised by this qualified special tax will vary from year-to-year due to changes in the number of parcels subject to the levy.

C. Use of Special Tax Proceeds

The special tax shall be used solely for the purpose of reducing the risk of wildfire and improving local wildfire prevention, providing a stable, dedicated source of local funding for wildfire prevention and mitigation. Types of projects may include investing more in early fire detection, emergency warning systems and fire-safe evacuation routes that would ensure residents are notified quickly and have safe ways to escape danger if a wildfire does break out, removing dry brush, dead trees, fuel and other fire hazards, adding firebreaks where needed to help prevent or slow the spread of wildfire, providing homeowners with easy and inexpensive disposal options for trimmings and green waste, updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, home hardening, investing in future green waste systems, investing in capital and equipment to help remove fire fuels and reduce the risk of wildfire, improving inspection programs, expenses related to management of these types of programs, and providing for any incidental expenses related to the collection of the tax and managing of exemptions. Where appropriate, preference in contracting to accomplish the above-stated purposes will be given to local bidders in accordance with the District's local bidder preference policy, as it may be amended or revised by the Board.

D. Exemptions

The Measure authorizes an exemption for a property owner who owns and occupies a single-family home as their principal residence and qualifies as low income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD"). Pursuant to any procedures adopted by the District, upon application an exemption from payment of the special tax may be granted on any parcel owned by a qualified property owner. To qualify for the low-income exception, the applicant must meet the following specific criteria:

1. Own and occupy the single-family residence as their primary residence.
2. Combined family income in the calendar year prior (from all sources from January 1 to December 31 to the property tax year (July 1 to June 30) that is at or below the income level qualifying as "low income" for a family of such size as defined by HUD. A low-income property owner, as defined HUD is the owner of the property and has an income of 80% of the median income for either Nevada County or Placer County. For example, if a family of four makes less than \$68,800 in the 2020 calendar year (January 1 - December 31), they would qualify as low income and would be eligible for the low-income exemption for the following property tax year (July 1 - June 30). For the purposes of defining median income, the household size shall be presumed to be: one person in a studio unit, two persons in a one-bedroom unit, three persons in a two-bedroom unit, and one additional person for each additional bedroom thereafter.

FY 2020 Low Income Limit (80%)
 California Department of Housing and Urban Development
Nevada County, CA
 Median Family Income - \$92,400
 Effective April 1, 2020

Persons in Family	Low Income Limit (\$)
1	\$48,200
2	\$55,050
3	\$61,950
4	\$68,800
5	\$74,350
6	\$79,850
7	\$85,350
8	\$90,850

FY 2020 Low Income Limit (80%)
 California Department of Housing and Urban Development
Placer County, CA
 Median Family Income - \$86,300
 Effective April 1, 2020

Persons in Family	Low Income Limit (\$)
1	\$48,350
2	\$55,250
3	\$62,150
4	\$69,050
5	\$74,600
6	\$80,100
7	\$85,650
8	\$91,150

The District shall annually review and update as appropriate the median family income and low-income limits for Nevada and Placer Counties for purposes of qualifying for the low-income exemption. The District shall annually provide to the Nevada and Placer County Tax Collectors or other appropriate County official a list of parcels that the District has approved for an exemption.

E. Claims / Exemption Procedures

With respect to all general property tax matters within their respective jurisdictions, the Nevada County Tax Collector and the Placer County Tax Collector 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 special tax, including the exemptions, 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.

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 qualified special tax.

G. Levy, Collection, and Deposit of the Special Tax.

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

H. Reporting and Oversight

- a) *Specific Purpose.* The proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only to the specific purposes identified in this Measure as required by Government Code section 50075.1. The proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited into a fund, which shall be kept separate and apart from other funds of the District.
- b) *Annual Report.* No later than December 31 of each year while the special tax is in effect, the District shall prepare and file with the Board a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project authorized to be funded by this Measure.
- c) *Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee.* The Board shall provide for the creation of an independent citizens' oversight committee to oversee expenditure of the funds collected pursuant to this Measure to ensure that moneys raised under this Measure are spent only for the purposes described in this Measure. The Board shall provide for the composition, duties, and other necessary information regarding the committee's formation and operation.