

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.

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

B Shall the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors repeal the existing Emergency Response Fee on telephone land lines that currently finances 9-1-1 services, and be authorized to replace the fee with a tax in the same amount per access line on land lines and cellular lines in the unincorporated area of the County so as to enable the Board of Supervisors to allocate additional funding for public services including public safety and 9-1-1 services?

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE B ORDINANCE NO. _____

ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 4.30 TO THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE RELATING TO A COMMUNICATIONS USERS TAX

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordains as follows:

SECTION I

The Santa Cruz County Code is hereby amended by adding new Chapter 4.30 to read as follows:

Chapter 4.30

COMMUNICATIONS USERS TAX

4.30.010 Short Title

4.30.020 Tax imposed.

4.30.030 Disposition of tax revenue.

4.30.040 Definitions.

4.30.050 Tax rate/payments.

4.30.060 Tax collection.

4.30.070 Rules and regulations.

4.30.080 Penalties.

4.30.090 Failure to collect and report tax—Determination of fee by Tax Administrator.

4.30.100 Refunds.

4.30.110 Failure to pay tax—Administrative remedy.

4.30.120 Appeal.

4.30.130 Exemptions.

4.30.140 Registration, reporting and remitting.

4.30.150 Administrative agreements.

4.30.160 Actions to collect.

4.30.170 California Public Utilities Commission jurisdiction.

4.30.180 Suspension of tax.

4.30.190 Severability.

4.30.010 Short title.

This chapter shall be known as the "Communications Users Tax Ordinance."

4.30.020 Tax imposed.

A. There is established and imposed, on the effective date of this chapter, a Communications Users Tax. For purposes of this Chapter, a person who has a billing address for telephone service in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County shall be deemed to subscribe to telephone service within the County. For purposes of this Chapter, with respect to mobile or wireless telecommunications services, a person shall be deemed to subscribe to telephone service within the County if his or her place of primary use of mobile or wireless telecommunications service is within the unincorporated area of County.

B. The amount of the tax imposed by this section shall be paid, on a per-line basis, by the person paying for such telephone service; however, no residential telephone subscriber shall be required to pay taxes in excess of \$7.35 per month per service provider per service location; no business subscriber shall be required to pay taxes in excess of \$14.70 per month per service provider per service location; and no trunk line subscriber shall be required to pay taxes in excess of \$33.09 per month per service provider per service location; provided, however that the Tax Administrator may approve administrative agreements with service providers pur-

suant to Section 4.30.150 to compute the maximum taxes on an annual basis rather than a monthly basis.

C. Only one payment of the tax herein imposed shall be required for any access or trunk line, notwithstanding that access lines of more than one person are used in furnishing telephone service to a telephone subscriber.

4.30.030 Disposition of tax revenue.

The tax imposed by this chapter is for the purpose of raising revenues for the general governmental purposes of the County. All of the proceeds from the tax imposed by this chapter shall be placed in the County's general fund and used for the usual current expenses of the County including, but not limited to, public safety communication services.

4.30.040 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by this section:

A. "Access line" shall mean any connection from a customer location within the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County to a service provider as defined in subparagraph F of this section and offered to the public for compensation. Within the meaning of this Chapter, and without limitation, access lines include connections providing residential basic exchange service, business basic exchange service, PBX service (private branch exchange), foreign exchange service, and Centrex service.

B. "County" shall mean the County of Santa Cruz.

C. "Month" or "monthly" shall mean a calendar month.

D. "Person" shall mean any domestic or foreign corporation, firm, association, syndicate, joint-stock company, partnership of any kind, joint venture, club, common-law trust, society, other entity or individual.

E. "Place of Primary Use" shall mean the street address where a land line is used or where a mobile telecommunications service subscriber's mobile telecommunications service primarily occurs. For purposes of this Chapter said address shall be conclusively presumed to be the residential street address or the primary business street address of the subscriber.

F. "Service Provider" shall mean any person supplying telephone service by land line or wireless service, mobile telecommunications service or voice over internet protocol (VoIP) service, pursuant to authority granted by the California Public Utilities Commission, to any person at any location in the unincorporated area of the County, including, but not limited to, places of primary use within the County, and may include, without limitation, local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, competitive access providers, cable television providers offering telecommunication services, mobile telecommunication service providers, and any other persons offering direct telecommunication connections between their premises and the premises of a telephone or telecommunications subscriber.

G. "Service location" means the premises of a telephone subscriber at which a working service point or primary station set provides the subscriber with basic exchange service and to which extension services are charged.

H. "Telephone Service" shall refer to any of the telephone or telecommunications services referenced in subparagraph F above. "Telephone service" shall not include land mobile services or maritime mobile services as defined in Section 2.1 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as this section existed on January 1, 1970. Notwithstanding this exclusion, "telephone service" shall include wireless telephone service.

I. "Tax" shall refer to the Communication Users Tax imposed by this Chapter.

J. "Tax Administrator" shall mean the County Tax Collector.

K. "Taxpayer" shall mean a person required to pay the tax imposed by this Chapter.

L. "Telephone subscriber" shall mean a person receiving telephone service from a telephone service provider.

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

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M. "Trunk line" means a line between a service provider's switching device and a private branch exchange, automatic call distributing system, or other similar device, at a telephone subscriber location.

4.30.050 Tax rate/payments.

The tax rate shall be \$1.47 per access line per month or \$11.03 (7.5 x \$1.47) per trunk line per month. Unless otherwise specified in the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to Section 4.30.070, the tax shall be paid by taxpayers on a monthly basis.

4.30.060 Tax collection.

A. Taxpayers shall remit the tax to their telephone service provider. Telephone service providers shall hold tax revenues in trust for the County and shall remit the tax revenues to the Tax Administrator on a monthly basis on or before the last day of the month following the month during which the tax is collected.

B. The tax required to be collected by telephone service providers under this Chapter shall be added and stated separately as the Santa Cruz County Communications Users Tax in the telephone service provider's billing invoices to the taxpayer.

C. If the amount paid by a taxpayer to a telephone service provider in response to a customer billing invoice is less than the full amount of the charges for telecommunication services made by the telephone service provider and the tax to be collected by the telephone service provider pursuant to the invoice, a proportionate share of both the charges for service and the tax shall be deemed to have been paid.

D. The telephone service provider, at its option, may assess the County a service charge of up to one-eighth of one percent (0.125%) of the tax revenues actually collected by the telephone service provider. The service charge may be deducted from the tax revenues remitted to the County at the time of disbursement by the telephone service provider to the County.

E. The duty to collect the tax from a taxpayer shall commence with bills issued by the telephone service provider on or after the effective date of this Chapter.

4.30.070 Rules and regulations.

The County Board of Supervisors has the authority to adopt rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Chapter for the purpose of carrying out and enforcing the payment, collection and remittance of any tax herein imposed, and the Board of Supervisors may also make administrative agreements to vary the strict requirements of this Chapter so that the collection of any tax imposed herein may be made in conformance with the billing procedures of a particular service supplier so long as the overall results of such agreements result in the collection of the tax in conformance with the general purpose and scope of this Chapter. A copy of such rules and regulations and a copy of any such agreement shall be on file and available for public examination in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Failure or refusal to comply with any such rules, regulations or agreements promulgated under this section shall be deemed a violation of this Chapter.

4.30.080 Penalties.

A. Taxes required to be collected from a telephone subscriber which are not remitted to the Tax Administrator on or before the due date provided in this chapter are delinquent.

B. Service Providers. Interest and penalties for delinquency in remittance of any tax shall be assessed as follows:

1. Any service provider who fails to remit any tax imposed by this chapter within ten days after receipt of written notice from the Tax Administrator of such failure shall pay a penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax.

2. If the Tax Administrator determines that the nonpayment of any remittance due hereunder is due to fraud, a penalty of one hundred percent of the amount of the tax shall be added thereto in addition to the penalty stated in paragraph 1 of this subsection.

3. In addition to the penalties imposed in this subsection B, any service provider who fails to remit any tax imposed by this chapter, shall pay interest on the amount of the tax, exclusive of penalties, from the date on which the remittance first became delinquent until paid. Interest shall be paid at the rate of one percent per month, or fraction thereof.

C. Telephone Subscribers. Failure by a telephone subscriber to pay any tax herein imposed shall result in the following interest and penalties on the telephone subscriber:

1. Any telephone subscriber who fails to pay any tax imposed by this chapter within one hundred twenty days of the date of the receipt of notice of the amount of tax due from the service provider shall pay a penalty of ten percent of the amount of the tax.

2. Any telephone subscriber who fails to pay any delinquent remittance within 180 days after the date of the receipt of notice of the amount of tax due from the service provider shall pay a second delinquency of ten percent of the amount of the tax in addition to the ten percent penalty first imposed.

3. In addition to the penalties imposed in this subsection C any telephone subscriber who fails to pay any tax imposed by this chapter, shall pay interest on the amount of the tax, exclusive of penalties, from the date on which the tax first became delinquent until paid plus an additional collection charge for each delinquent account in an amount to be determined by rules and regulations of the Tax Administrator. The Tax Administrator shall establish collection charges which reimburse the costs incurred by the County for collecting delinquent taxes. Interest shall be paid at the rate of one percent per month, or fraction thereof.

4. The penalties, interest and collection charges imposed in this subsection C shall not be collected by the service provider, but shall be determined and collected by the County as set forth hereinafter.

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

4.30.090 Failure to collect and report tax—Determination of tax by Tax Administrator.

If any service supplier shall fail or refuse to collect any tax imposed by this chapter and to make, within the time provided in this chapter, any report and remittance of said tax or any portion thereof required by this chapter, the Tax Administrator shall proceed in such manner as the Tax Administrator deems best to obtain facts and information on which to base an estimate of the tax due. As soon as the Tax Administrator is able to procure facts and information upon which to base the assessment of any tax imposed by this chapter and payable by any service provider who has failed or refused to collect the same and to make such report and remittance, the Tax Administrator shall proceed to determine and assess against such service provider the tax, interest and penalties provided by this chapter. In case such determination is made, the Tax Administrator shall give a notice of the amount so assessed by serving it personally or by depositing it in the United States mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the service provider at its last known place of address. The service provider may within ten days after the serving or mailing of such notice make application in writing to the Tax Administrator for a hearing on the amount assessed. If application by the service provider for a hearing is not made within the time prescribed, the tax, interest and penalties, if any, determined by the Tax Administrator shall become final and conclusive and immediately due and payable. If such application is made, the Tax Administrator shall give not less than five days' written notice in the manner prescribed herein to the service provider to show cause at a time and place fixed in the notice why the amount specified therein should not be fixed for such tax, interest and penalties. At the hearing, the service provider may appear and offer evidence why the specified tax, interest and penalties should not be so fixed. After the hearing, the Tax Administrator shall determine the proper tax to be remitted and shall thereafter give written notice to the service provider in the manner prescribed herein of the determination and the amount of the tax, interest and penalties. The amount determined to be due shall be payable within fifteen days from the date of the serving or mailing of the written notice, unless an appeal is taken as provided hereinafter.

4.30.100 Refunds.

A. A service provider may claim a refund or claim a credit against taxes to be collected and remitted of the amount overpaid or paid more than once, or erroneously or illegally collected or received by filing a claim in accordance with Chapter 1.05 of the Santa Cruz County Code; provided, however, that neither a refund or a credit shall be allowed unless the amount of the tax so collected has either been refunded

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

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to the person entitled thereto or credited to the charges subsequently payable by such person to the service provider.

B. A telephone subscriber may obtain a refund of taxes overpaid or paid more than once or erroneously or illegally collected or received by the County by filing a claim in accordance with Chapter 1.05 of the Santa Cruz County Code, but only when the tax was paid by the telephone subscriber directly to the Tax Administrator, or when the telephone subscriber, having paid the tax to the service provider, establishes to the satisfaction of the Tax Administrator that the telephone subscriber has been unable to obtain a refund from the service provider who collected the tax.

4.30.110 Failure to pay tax—Administrative remedy.

Whenever the Tax Administrator determines that a telephone subscriber has deliberately withheld the amount of the tax owed by him for the amounts remitted to a service provider or that a telephone subscriber has failed to pay the amount of the tax for a period of four or more billing periods, or whenever the Tax Administrator deems it in the best interest of the County, he or she shall relieve the service provider of the obligation to collect taxes due under this chapter from certain named service users for specified billing periods. The Tax Administrator shall notify the telephone subscriber that the Tax Administrator has assumed responsibility to collect the taxes due for the stated periods and demand payment of such taxes. The notice shall be served on the telephone subscriber personally or by United States mail, postage prepaid thereon, addressed to the telephone subscriber at the address to which billing was made by the service provider, or, should the telephone subscriber have changed address, to the subscriber's last known address. If a telephone subscriber fails to remit the tax to the Tax Administrator within fifteen days from the date of the service of the notice, which shall be the date of mailing if service is not accomplished in person, a penalty of one hundred percent of the amount of the tax set forth in the notice, but not less than \$5, shall be imposed. The penalty shall become a part of the tax herein required to be paid. Such penalty shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed by this chapter.

4.30.120 Appeal.

A service provider or a taxpayer aggrieved by any decision of the Tax Administrator with respect to the payment or nonpayment of the tax imposed by this Chapter or with respect to the Tax Administrator's computation of the due and payable tax, interest and/or penalties, if any, may appeal to the Board of Supervisors by filing a notice of appeal with the Clerk of the Board within fifteen days of the serving or mailing of the determination of the tax, interest and/or penalties due. The Board of Supervisors shall fix a time and place for hearing such appeal, and the Clerk of the Board shall give notice in writing to the service provider's or taxpayer's last known place of address. The findings of the Board of Supervisors shall be final and conclusive and shall be served upon the service provider or taxpayer either personally or by mail. Any amount found to be owed by the service provider or taxpayer shall be immediately payable to the Tax Administrator upon the service of the notice.

4.30.130 Exemptions.

Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as imposing a tax upon:

A. A lifeline customer provided discounted service by a telephone service provider;

B. Any customer of a service provider who certifies that he or she is 62 years of age or older;

C. A person using a coin-operated telephone;

D. Any person upon whom the imposition of such tax would violate the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of California, or preemptive federal or state law; or

E. Agencies which are members or associate members of the Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center Joint Powers Authority.

4.30.140 Registration, reporting and remitting.

A. Each service provider furnishing telephone service to telephone subscribers within the unincorporated area of the County shall register with the Tax Administrator upon a form prescribed by the Tax Administrator and shall set forth the name under which the service provider transacts or intends to transact business, and such other information as the Tax Administrator may require.

B. Each service provider shall, on or before the last day of each month, make a return to the Tax Administrator, on forms provided by the Tax Administrator, stating the amount of taxes collected by the service supplier during the preceding month. At the time the return is filed, the full amount of the tax collected shall be remitted to the Tax Administrator. The Tax Administrator may require further information in the return including, but not limited to, an auditable record of the total number of lines by type used to generate the remittance for the preceding month. Returns and remittances are due immediately upon cessation of business for any reason.

C. It shall be the duty of every service provider required to collect and remit to the County any tax imposed by this chapter to keep and preserve, for a period of three (3) years, all records as may be necessary to determine the amount of such tax as such service supplier may have been required to collect and remit to the County, which records the Tax Administrator and County Auditor-Controller have the right to inspect at all reasonable times.

4.30.150 Administrative agreements.

The Tax Administrator may make administrative agreements with service providers to vary the strict requirements of this chapter so that collection of any tax imposed herein may be made in conformance with the billing procedures of a particular service provider so long as the overall result of said agreements results in collection of the tax in conformance with the general purpose and scope of this chapter. A copy of each agreement shall be on file and available for public examination in the Tax Administrator's office.

4.30.160 Actions to collect.

Any tax required to be paid by a taxpayer or remitted by a telephone service provider under the provisions of this Chapter shall be deemed a debt owed to the County. Any person owing or holding taxes due to the County under the provisions of this Chapter shall be liable in an action brought in the name of the County for the recovery of such amount including applicable penalties, interest, attorney's fees, and costs, and shall also be subject to any applicable judicial, administrative or criminal enforcement action authorized by this Code.

4.30.170 California Public Utilities Commission jurisdiction.

Nothing contained in this chapter is intended to conflict with applicable rules, regulations, and tariffs of any service supplier subject to the jurisdiction of the California Public Utilities Commission. In the event of any conflict, the provisions of those rules, regulations, and tariffs shall control.

4.30.180 Suspension of tax.

The tax imposed by this Chapter shall be suspended, and therefore neither remitted nor collected, during any period in which a tax imposed by the Santa Cruz County Emergency Communications Center Joint Powers Authority for the operation and/or capital improvement of the Santa Cruz County Emergency Communications Center is in effect.

4.30.190 Severability.

If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Chapter, or any part thereof, is for any reason held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Chapter or any part thereof. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional.

SECTION II

This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

SECTION III

Immediately upon this ordinance taking effect, Chapter 4.28 of the Santa Cruz County Code is repealed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of August, 2008, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS Stone, Coonerty, Beautz, Campos & Pirie

NOES: SUPERVISORS None

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS None

ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS None

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IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE B

Under existing County ordinances, an emergency response fee is imposed upon subscribers to local telephone service in the unincorporated area of the County. The fees are deposited in the 911 emergency response fund which is used solely for the County's share of costs related to the 911 communications system operated by the Santa Cruz County Emergency Communications Center Joint Powers Authority, a separate legal entity whose members are the County of Santa Cruz and the cities of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and Capitola, each contributing its share of costs. The system provides "911" public safety and emergency communication dispatch service for jurisdictions throughout Santa Cruz County except Scotts Valley, including 10 fire districts and the local paramedic and ambulance transport provider.

Under the existing ordinances, the fee is set at \$1.47 per month per access line and is not applicable to cell phone or other wireless accounts.

The County Board of Supervisors has put to the voters in the unincorporated area of the County the ballot question shown as Measure B.

If this measure is approved, the County Board of Supervisors will be authorized to repeal the existing \$1.47 fee and replace it with a tax in the same amount applied to each access line, including mobile or wireless accounts. As with the current fee, the maximum monthly tax for residential service would be capped at \$7.35 per service provider per service location. Current rates and caps for commercial and trunk line service would also be retained. Exemptions available to persons 62 or older, lifeline customers, and others specified under the current ordinances will continue to be available under the new tax. An appeals procedure will also be available.

Printed elsewhere in this voter's pamphlet is the complete text of the proposed new ordinance as well as the Fiscal Impact Statement by the Auditor-Controller.

The measure proposes a general tax rather than a special purpose tax and thus is subject to majority approval. The revenues generated by this tax would be deposited into the County's General Fund and would be available for all County programs including the 911 system funding.

A "yes" vote is a vote to authorize the Board of Supervisors to adopt the tax described above and to repeal the existing emergency response fee.

A "no" vote is against authorizing the Board of Supervisors to adopt the new tax and repeal the existing fee.

s/ Dana McRae
County Counsel

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT BY COUNTY AUDITOR
MEASURE B

The proposed Measure:

- repeals the existing Emergency Response Fee;
- replaces the fee with a tax of an equivalent amount per access line; and
- charges both land lines and wireless devices.

All revenue generated by the proposed tax would be deposited into the County's General Fund. 911 emergency communications services and the cost of related public safety communications infrastructure for the unincorporated area are both General Fund responsibilities, and the County's plan is to use the funds from this measure to finance those General Fund responsibilities. In this regard, the measure accomplishes two objectives.

(1) The measure provides approximately \$1,200,000 annually in replacement revenue for the fee which is being repealed. These funds now finance the unincorporated area's share of cost for the operation of the 911 Center.

(2) The measure will also provide approximately \$1,200,000 annually in funds to service the debt associated with upgrading the communications infrastructure for the unincorporated area. This infrastructure provides communications services for the Sheriff, the unincorporated area fire services, emergency medical services, animal services and general government functions. The communications infrastructure must be upgraded before 2013, when the existing infrastructure and radio frequencies can no longer be used because of a Federal Communications Commission mandate.

s/ MARY JO WALKER
Auditor-Controller
County of Santa Cruz

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

You will probably only call 911 once in your life... but when you do every second will count.

The men and women who serve in law enforcement, as firefighters and as paramedics will be there at a moment's notice, but only if the 911 Emergency Response System is the best it can be. When someone's life or health is at stake, the first minutes are the ones that matter most.

Funding for 911 call centers and public safety communications systems are essential for public safety. Without adequate funding there will be fewer 911 dispatch operators to answer your calls. Fewer 911 dispatch operators means that calls will take longer to respond to, and precious moments will be lost. The 911 Emergency Response System cannot operate at its current high standard without Measure B.

What if:

You wake up in the middle of the night and smell smoke. You call 911 and get put on hold.

Or –

You are awakened by the sound of an intruder in your home and call 911, and the phone rings and rings and rings.

And consider the expense and trauma that would result if a first responder could not be there for you in time, such as:

- The cost of replacing your burned-out home — \$\$
- The cost of a medical emergency — \$\$
- The cost of restoring your vandalized property — \$\$

And most importantly,

- The loss of a life that could have been saved.

Measure B continues an existing \$1.47 per line charge. This is a small price to pay for the safety and security of you and your family. When you dial 911, every second is crucial.

Support Public Safety. Vote YES on Measure B.

s/ Steve Robbins
Sheriff-Coroner, County of Santa Cruz

s/ Melody MacDonald
Dispatcher of the Year and 2008 Red Cross Community Hero

s/ Betsy McCarty
Chief of Public Health (Retired) Santa Cruz County Health Services

s/ Gary W. Smith
Fire Chief (Retired), Aptos – La Selva Fire Protection District and Watsonville Fire Department

s/ Brenda V. Brenner
Paramedic and Director of Operations for American Medical Response

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

This tax is not about police, fire and medical respondents. They receive their salaries and support from other sources of money.

This **phone tax** is about county representatives taking money out of your wallet to fatten their County General Fund, not to support the state-mandated emergency response answering service **ALREADY** paid for by California phone users.

Promoters of Measure B are using threats and intimidation to extort more money from you or else when you call 9-1-1, you "get put on hold" or "the phone rings and rings and rings."

- Fear: an emotional response to threats and danger.
- Protection racket: where a powerful individual coerces other less powerful individuals to pay protection money to purchase "protection" services against various external threats.

Are promoters of Measure B using your fear of an impending emergency to advance this protection racket?

- Cal State 9-1-1 fees are on our telephone bills – local, long distance, internet and cell phone connection.
- If this "general tax" proposal actually went into a dedicated 9-1-1 call center fund, would it amount to double-taxation?

WE are **NOW** paying a **STATE TELEPHONE TAX** to support 9-1-1 emergency call centers.

VOTE NO on Measure B

Santa Cruz County Libertarian Party
s/Patrick Dugan, Chairperson

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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

The tax imposed by Measure B is for the purpose of **raising revenues for the general governmental purposes** of the County. All of the proceeds from the tax shall be placed in the County's **general fund** and used for the usual current expenses of the County including, but not limited to, public safety communication services.

What Measure B does not tell you:

- The 911 emergency telephone number system is supported by the state through the Revenue and Taxation Code §41030 which states: "The Department of General Services shall determine **annually**, on or before September 1, a surcharge rate that it estimates will produce sufficient revenue to fund the current fiscal year's 911 costs."
- Local governments can access the State 911 fund to get their expenses reimbursed for the costs associated with their 911 communication systems.
- Local governments can use the State 911 fund to get their expenses reimbursed for wireless 911 infrastructure.
- Emergency 911 funds are not intended to fund dispatch centers or pay the salaries of police personnel.
- The existing 911 state surcharge is used to pay for local services that are strictly defined by the California Department of General Services' 911 program office.
- It is a dramatic expansion for fees to exceed the costs of providing those 911 services.
- Under state law, E-911 is an emergency communications system, not an emergency response system.
- The fee is intended to ensure that there is an emergency communications system that allows people to complete calls for help.

Vote NO on Measure B

Santa Cruz County Libertarian Party
s/ Patrick Dugan, Chairperson

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

Clear communication is critical. Here is what Measure B will do.

Measure B continues a **local revenue source** for the County's 911 emergency response dispatch system and public safety services. State funding is simply not available for these critical services. Measure B will ensure that our emergency communication system is the best it can be.

In the past three years, the Santa Cruz County 911 Center has received **State reimbursement funding totaling less than 2% of the amount** required to adequately fund the emergency response system. Over 90% of the funds generated by a State surcharge (averaging approximately \$0.17 per telephone line per month) are used by the State to pay AT&T for statewide telephone routing equipment.

The State does not pay for any of the local costs for answering our 911 calls and dispatching law enforcement, fire, medical, and rescue responders to those in need. A phone may ring under the State system, but no one will be there to answer it. Measure B is necessary to help pay for over 98% of the total cost of the 911 emergency response system in Santa Cruz County.

Measure B is our community's security system to ensure that protection is there for you and your family, any time of the day or night.

Vote Yes on Measure B.

s/ Terry B. Lapid, M.D.
Emergency Services, Dominican Hospital

s/ Tom Crosser
Fire Chief

s/ Caroline Bliss-Isberg
Director (Retired), Cabrillo College Stroke Center

s/ Nancy Macy
Member, Board of Directors, The Valley Women's Club

s/ Michael J. McDougall
Former General Manager, Santa Cruz Consolidated
Emergency Communications Center