



Voter Information Guide

Branciforte Fire Protection District Special All-Mail Ballot Election Tuesday, August 30, 2016

This election is conducted only with ballots mailed to all registered voters within the Branciforte Fire Protection District.

The last day to register to vote in this election is August 15. registertovote.ca.gov

The enclosed ballot **is the only one you will receive.**

If you lose your ballot or make a mistake you may request a new one.

What's in this guide

How to vote by mail & Election Day Voter Assistance Centers	page 1
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Santa Cruz County Elections Department
701 Ocean Street, Room 210, Santa Cruz
Open Monday - Friday, 8am to 5pm

www.votescount.com
info@votescount.com

Information: 831-454-2060
Toll Free: 866-282-5900
TDD: 711
FAX: 831-454-2445

Información en español al otro lado →

Branciforte Fire Protection District
Elección Especial de Boletas Enviadas por Correo
Martes, 30 de agosto de 2016

Esta elección se llevará a cabo solamente por medio de boletas enviadas por correo a todos los votantes registrados dentro del Distrito de Branciforte Fire Protection.

El último día para registrarse para votar en esta elección es el 15 de agosto.
registertovote.ca.gov

La boleta incluida es **la única que recibirá**.
Si usted pierde su boleta o comete un error, puede solicitar una nueva.

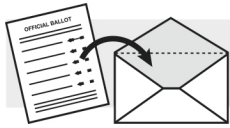
Lo que hay en esta guía

Cómo votar por correo y Centros de Asistencia para el
Día de las Elecciones

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How to vote by mail

Make your vote-by-mail ballot count!

Mark your ballot

Use a blue or black ballpoint pen.

Use a single line to connect the head and tail of the arrow that points to your choice.



If you lose your ballot or make a mistake, you may request a new ballot. You can:



Call the Elections Department at **831-454-2060**



For a new ballot, email **2ndballot@votescount.com**

For assistance, email **info@votescount.com**

Sign and date the envelope

Remove the top stub from your ballot by tearing at the perforated line.

Place the ballot in the **green** postage-paid return envelope provided.

Write the **address where you live** in Santa Cruz County on the envelope in the space provided.

Sign your name on the envelope. If you do not sign your envelope, we cannot count your ballot.

If you cannot sign your name, make a mark and have a witness sign in the line provided.

Do not let someone else sign your name for you.

Write the **date** you signed the envelope.

How to return your vote-by-mail ballot

To be counted your ballot must be **postmarked on or before Election Day, August 30** and received by the Elections Department by Friday, September 2. To return your ballot, you can:

Mail your ballot early to be sure it is received on time

Send it by mail to the address on the return envelope. This election is being conducted only with vote-by-mail ballots, so the postage is paid.

- OR -

Drop it off at the 24-hour drop box by 8pm on Election Day

Use the white mail box in front of the County Building

- County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

- OR -

Return it in person before and including Election Day

You may personally drop it off at one of the locations below or you can have a relative or someone who lives with you drop it off.

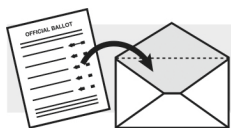
- County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210 Mon – Fri, 8am—5pm 831-454-2060

- OR -

Return it in person on Election Day

We will be open on Election Day from 7am—8pm to assist voters

- County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz



Cómo Votar Por Correo

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¡Haga que su boleta de voto por correo cuente!

Marque su boleta

Use un bolígrafo con tinta azul o negra.

Use una sola línea que conecte la cabeza y la cola de la flecha que señale su selección.

Si usted pierde su boleta o comete un error, puede solicitar una nueva boleta. Usted puede:



Llamar al departamento de elecciones **831-454-2060**



Para una boleta nueva, mande correo electrónico **2ndballot@votescount.com**

Para asistencia, mande correo electrónico **info@votescount.com**

Firme y feche el sobre

Remueva el talón superior de su boleta desgarrarlo en la línea perforada.

Coloque la boleta en el sobre **verde** con franqueo pagado proporcionado.

Escriba **la dirección de donde usted vive** en el condado de Santa Cruz en el sobre en el espacio proporcionado.

Firme su nombre en el sobre. Si usted no firma el sobre, no podemos contar con su voto.

Si no puede firmar su nombre, haga una marca y que un testigo firme en la línea proporcionada.

No permita que otra persona firme su nombre por usted.

Escriba la **fecha** en que firmó el sobre.

Cómo regresar su boleta de voto por correo

Para que su boleta cuente, debe tener el **sello postal en el día o antes del día de las elecciones, 30 de agosto** y ser recibida por el Departamento de Elecciones hasta el viernes, 2 de septiembre. Para regresar su boleta, puede:

Enviar por correo su boleta de votación anticipadamente para asegurar que se reciba a tiempo

Envíe por correo a la dirección en el sobre de retorno. Esta elección se llevara a cabo únicamente por voto por boletas por correo, así que el franqueo es pagado.

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Deposítelo en el buzón de 24 horas hasta las 8pm en el día de las elecciones

Utilice el buzón de correo blanco que está enfrente del edificio del condado.

- County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

- O -

Regréselo personalmente antes e incluyendo el día de las elecciones

Puede dejarlo personalmente en una de las localizaciones anotadas abajo o puede dejar que un pariente o alguien que viva con usted lo entreguen por usted.

- County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210 lun – vie, 8am—5pm 831-454-2060

- O -

Regréselo personalmente en el día de la elección

Estamos abiertos en la jornada electoral de 7am-8pm para asistir a los votantes

- County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz



Local ballot measure: T

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Branciforte Fire Protection District

Ballot question

Shall the Branciforte Fire Protection District be authorized to increase the special tax within the district and use said funds to maintain financial stability at current level of services to the community? These funds will enable the District to fund the Contingency Fund for unfunded emergencies, the Building Fund and a Vehicle Replacement Fund as determined by the Board of Directors. Such increase will raise an estimated \$80,000 dollars per year.

Pregunta de boleta

¿Debe ser autorizado el Distrito de Protección de Fuego de Branciforte para incrementar el impuesto especial dentro el distrito y usar estos fondos para mantener estabilidad financiero de servicios a la comunidad a niveles corrientes? Estos fondos permitirán al distrito financiar el Fondo Para Imprevistos para casos de urgencia sin financiación prevista el Fondo Para Construcción y un Fondo de Reemplazo de Vehículos como sea determinado por la Junta Directiva. Tal incremento recaudará un estimado de \$80,000 por año.

What your vote means

YES	NO
A “yes” vote on this measure authorizes the Branciforte Fire Protection District to levy a special tax on real property. The measure requires 2/3 vote for passage.	A “no” vote on this measure is against imposition of the special parcel tax.

For and against Measure T

FOR	AGAINST
<p>Benjamin F. Cahill Chairman Branciforte Board of Directors</p> <p>James Adkisson Retired Executive, President Healthy Child Foundation</p> <p>Neal Austin Vice President and Business Manager, Mercury Systems</p> <p>George I. Purnell Trustee, Board Chairman, Happy Valley School District</p> <p>Pat O’Connell Retired Fire Chief, Branciforte Fire Protection District</p>	<p>No argument against was filed.</p>



Local ballot measure: T

Argument in favor of Measure T	Argument against Measure T
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The 2015 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury reported that Branciforte Fire Protection District lacks the funds to sustain operations at the present level, leaving its residents vulnerable to a significant reduction in service, or the closing of one or both fire engine locations.

The Grand Jury recommended a merger with Scotts Valley Fire Protection District as well as an increase in the district annual assessment. In October 2015, the District entered into an agreement with Scotts Valley Fire Protection District to provide management oversight, with the Scotts Valley Chief acting as Branciforte Chief. As a result, the Branciforte Fire Protection District was able to renegotiate labor and administrative costs that have enabled the District to operate at near normal levels through Fiscal year 2016.

The District has, and continues to review all possible cost cutting measures. However, Branciforte Fire is operating with insufficient financial reserves. Reliably maintaining service levels requires funding basic contingency monies for unforeseen emergencies such as a serious medical emergency to any staff or volunteer, funding the Building Fund, and creating a Vehicle Replacement program for apparatus nearing their end of life.

In addition, costs such as retirement and Workman's Compensation continue to increase and must be funded. Without the increase, the District runs the risk of reducing service levels, which would impact all citizens, along with potential impact on homeowner's fire insurance.

The District's fire tax has not been increased in 20 years. A YES vote on this measure would increase the assessment fee for the average single family home from \$100 to \$200 annually. This increase will generate approximately \$80,000. When combined with continued cost controls this increase allows Branciforte Fire to continue to operate at current service levels.

We urge you to vote YES on this measure.

Benjamin F. Cahill

Chairman Branciforte Board of Directors

James Adkisson

Retired Executive, President Healthy Child Foundation

Neal Austin

Vice President and Business Manager, Mercury Systems

George I. Purnell

Trustee, Board Chairman, Happy Valley School District

Pat O'Connell

Retired Fire Chief, Branciforte Fire Protection District

No argument against was filed.



Local ballot measure: T

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Impartial analysis of Measure T

Dana McRae, County Counsel

By Jane M. Scott, Assistant County Counsel

The voters of the Branciforte Fire Protection District (“the District”) previously passed ballot measures which imposed a special tax on properties within the District, and made the tax indefinite in duration.

The Directors of the District have called this election for the purpose of submitting to the voters the ballot question identified as Measure T in this ballot pamphlet.

If approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, Measure T would enact the increases in the special tax as shown in the Resolution 2016-5 which is printed in this ballot pamphlet. At the adoption of each annual final budget, the District’s Board of Directors would establish the exact amount of increase in the special tax to be levied during the ensuing fiscal year, not to exceed the maximum amounts shown in the Resolution.

The special tax will continue to be collected by the County of Santa Cruz in the same manner as other taxes collected by it on behalf of the District. Appeals regarding application of the tax amounts set out in the Resolution will be resolved by the District’s Board of Directors pursuant to rules it establishes for such appeals.

A “yes” vote is in favor of Measure T.

A “no” vote is opposed to Measure T.

Full text of Measure T

BRANCIFORTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION 2016-5

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE DISTRICT’S SPECIAL TAX BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN FINANCIAL STABILITY AT THE CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. THESE FUNDS WILL ENABLE THE DISTRICT TO FUND CONTINGENCIES FOR UNFUNDED EMERGENCIES, THE BUILDING FUND, AND A VEHICLE REPLACEMENT FUND, AS DIRECTED BY THE BOARD.

The people residing in the Branciforte Fire Protection District of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, do resolve as follows:

Section I

The Board of Directors of the Branciforte Fire Protection District deem and determine it necessary to increase the District’s Special Tax to fund Contingencies for unfunded emergencies, Building Fund, and a Vehicle Replacement Fund, which the District is authorized to under Fire Protection District Law of 1987, as amended, as set forth at Health and Safety Code Sec. 13800 and following.

Section II

Duration. If said change is approved by the voters for use in District operations as determined by the Board of Directors on a permanent basis.

Section III

Priorities. To the extent that additional revenues are received from the District as a result of the adoption of this resolution, the District may use the revenues for Contingency Funds, Vehicle Replacement Funds, and Building Maintenance and Construction Funds. Because the exact nature of additional tax revenues cannot be predicted and major unforeseen events can force a reordering of priorities, the Board of Directors shall have final responsibility for determining the time, financing and extent of expenditures pursuant to the established priorities.

Section IV

Increase of the Special Tax Upon Voter Approval. The Board of Directors of the Branciforte Fire Protection District hereby enact a resolution authorizing the increase of the District’s Special Tax to be submitted on August 30, 2016, to the voters voting upon said resolution. The cognation of the Special Tax thereby authorized to be imposed by the District shall be as follows:



Local ballot measure: T

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Category	Current Amount	Proposed Increase To:
Land/Parcel less than 10,000 square feet	\$10	\$20
Land/Parcel greater than 10,000 square feet and less than 25 acres	\$40	\$80
Land/Parcel greater than 25 acres	\$60	\$120
Improved Residential per single family dwelling unit	\$60	\$120
Special Charges	Current Amount	Proposed Increase To:
Residential Care Facility per licensed bed	\$20	\$100
Commercial Campground/Trailer Park per space	\$20	\$25
Hotel, Motel, Hostel or Apartment per sleeping room	\$20	\$25

The current typical cost for a Single Family Home at \$40 for a parcel with more than 10,000 square feet **plus** \$60 for a single dwelling unit will equal \$100 per year.

The proposed typical cost for a Single Family Home if the increase is approved will be \$80 for a parcel with more than 10,000 Square feet but less than 25 acres **plus** \$120 per single family dwelling unit will equal \$200 per year.

- (a) **Land.** The maximum amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax imposed annually upon each parcel of land in the District which does not exceed 10,000 square feet in size shall be an amount not to exceed an additional \$10.00. The maximum amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax imposed annually upon each parcel of land in the District which is larger than 10,000 square feet and less than 25 acres in size shall be an amount not to exceed an additional \$40.00. The maximum annual amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax imposed upon each parcel of land in the District which is 25 acres or more in size shall be an amount not to exceed an additional \$60.00. The term 'parcel of land', as used herein, shall mean any unit of land as shown on the last equalized secured assessment roll of the County of Santa Cruz. The following additional amounts shall be added to the amount due for the parcel, as applicable to each individual parcel.
- (b) **Improved Residential Property.** The maximum amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax imposed annually upon improved residential property shall be an amount not exceeding an additional \$60.00 per dwelling unit. This amount shall be in addition to the amount imposed upon the parcel. The term 'dwelling unit' as used herein shall mean any structure, including mobile home, composed of one or more rooms, habitable for humans, which is occupied or is intended or designated to be occupied by one or more persons with complete independent facilities for living, sleeping, cooking, eating and sanitation. Hotels, motels, hostels and apartment structures are excluded from the term 'dwelling unit'.



Local ballot measure: T

- (c) **Special Charges.** There shall be special charges imposed upon occupancies of parcels as listed below. The maximum amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax imposed upon each residential care facility annually

shall be an amount not to exceed an additional \$80.00 per licensed bed in such facility. The maximum amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax imposed upon each commercial campground or travel trailer park shall be an amount not to exceed an additional \$5.00 per camping/travel trailer/motor home space. The maximum amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax imposed upon each hotel, motel, hostel or apartment structure annually shall be an amount not to exceed an additional \$5.00 per sleeping room.

Section V

Authority for Reduced Amounts. The Board of Directors of the Branciforte Fire Protection District shall be authorized to annually establish the amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax at or below the amounts set forth at Section IV hereof.

Section VI

Annual Establishment of Amount. At the time of adoption of its annual final budget, the Board of Directors of the Branciforte Fire Protection District shall establish the amount of the increase in the District's Special Tax to be levied during the ensuing fiscal year; provided, however, that such tax shall not exceed the maximum amounts set forth in Section IV hereof.

Section VII

Collection. The revenues collected by the way of the permanent increase in the District's Special Tax imposed by this resolution shall be collected with and in the same manner as, and be subject to the same penalty as, other taxes fixed and collected by the County of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Branciforte Fire Protection District. The County of Santa Cruz may deduct its reasonable costs incurred for such service before remittal of the balance to the Branciforte Fire Protection District.

Section VIII

Regulations. The Board of Directors of the Branciforte Fire Protection District may from time to time adopt regulations necessary or convenient for the administration and enforcement of the increase in the District's Special Tax provided herein; provided that any such regulation be consistent with the purpose and intent of this resolution.

Section XI

Appeals. The Board of Directors of the Branciforte Fire Protection District is established as the Board of Appeals for any and all appeals to the application of various charges listed in Section IV hereof. The Board shall establish the rules relating to such appeals and the method of processing same.

Section X

Amendment to Conform with Judgment of Court. If any part of this resolution is held invalid or unenforceable by the final judgment of any court, that part may be amended by majority vote of the Board of Directors of the Branciforte Fire Protection District to conform with the judgment of such court, provided that such amendment be consistent with the purpose and intent of this resolution.

Section XI

Severability. If any part of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid by the final judgment of any court, such judgment shall not effect the validity of the remaining portion of this resolution. The people of the Branciforte Fire Protection District hereby declare that they would have adopted this resolution and each and every section, subsection, sentence, phrases, clauses, or parts may be declared invalid.

Section XII

Estimated Revenue. Estimated revenue from this Resolution, if approved by the voters, will be approximately Eighty Thousand dollars (\$80,000.00) per year.