*03-09-22 Draft*

**BALLOT ARGUMENT**

**MEASURE \_\_**

 For victims of heart attacks, strokes, accidents and other emergencies, rapid 9-1-1 paramedic response can be the difference between life and death. Voting YES on \_ will ensure paramedics are ready to respond quickly when you or a loved one needs help the most.

 For 40 years, local paramedic services in the Ross Valley have been supported by a modest parcel tax that provides dedicated local funding to protect critical lifesaving paramedic services. When this funding was initially approved by local voters, it funded a single dedicated ambulance for the Ross Valley. As our community has grown and emergency medical services evolved, dedicated local paramedic funding now supports state-of-the-art fire department ambulance units with trained paramedics aboard fire engines so that advanced emergency care arrives as quickly as possible.

 Local paramedic funding is now set to expire unless renewed by voters for four more years. Increases in the annual tax rate are capped at no more than $3.

Voting YES on \_ will:

* Protect rapid 9-1-1 emergency response times
* Preserve the number of on-duty paramedics ready to respond to medical emergencies and accidents
* Ensure local paramedics are highly trained and equipped with advanced lifesaving equipment
* Preserve the existing high level of paramedic response services

Voting YES on \_ continues strict fiscal accountability protections:

* Funds from Measure \_ may only be used for local paramedic services
* No funds can be taken away by the State, the County, cities or towns, or other districts
* All funds are subject to annual audits
* Public disclosure of all spending is required

 Nobody knows when a life-threatening accident or emergency will occur. Voting YES on \_ will ensure that paramedics are at the ready when needed.

 Join local firefighters, paramedics, elected leaders, and residents in voting YES on \_.

Richard C. Shortall, Jr.

Director, Sleepy Hollow Fire Protection District

Thomas J. Finn

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