



# COUNTY VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE

## Northshore Fire Protection District Special Election

Tuesday, November 5, 2019

Polls open 7:00am—8:00pm

County of Lake

Office of the Registrar of Voters

255 N. Forbes St.

Lakeport, CA 95453

Open Monday - Thursday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

Closed on Fridays



[www.lakecountyca.gov/rov](http://www.lakecountyca.gov/rov)



[elections@lakecountyca.gov](mailto:elections@lakecountyca.gov)



707-263-2372



Toll Free: 888-235-6730



FAX: 707-263-2742



**Catherine McMullen**  
County of Lake  
Office of the Registrar of Voters

Dear Lake County Voter,

This Voter Information Guide is for the November 5, 2019 Northshore Fire Protection District Special Election and is being mailed to all voters eligible to participate in this election.

Please advised that the November 5, 2019 Special Election is not a countywide election. This election consists of only one (1) single ballot measure to be voted on by registered voters residing within the Northshore Fire Protection District.

This guide contains information about this election including the Impartial Analysis, arguments for the measure along with polling place locations and a sample ballot. Please note, our ballot format has changed. Instructions on how to vote your ballot will also be included in the guide.

If you Vote by Mail, you will notice that the return postage is paid on your Vote by Mail ballot envelope. You are no longer required to pay postage when returning your voted ballot. Vote by Mail ballots must be mailed by Election Day, November 5, 2019 in order to be counted.

If you or a family member have a change in your voter registration information, you can still vote. This is true even if you are not yet registered to vote. Any eligible citizen can register and vote at the Registrar of Voters Office up to and including Election Day-even if they have missed the deadline. This is a new California law. Please feel free to contact us at the number below for more information, or to check that you are registered to vote.

We hope the information provided in this guide will help you make an informed decision.

Please contact our office at (707) 263-2372 if you have any questions. You may also refer to our website for information at: [www.lakecountyca.gov/ROV](http://www.lakecountyca.gov/ROV).

Sincerely,

Catherine McMullen  
Registrar of Voters

# What's in this guide?

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## Voter Bill of Rights

You have the following rights:

**1. The right to vote if you are a registered voter.**

You are eligible to vote if you are:

- a U.S. citizen living in California
- at least 18 years old
- registered where you currently live
- not currently in state or federal prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony
- not currently found mentally incompetent to vote by a court

**2. The right to vote if you are a registered voter even if your name is not on the list.** You will vote using a provisional ballot. Your vote will be counted if an election official determines that you are eligible to vote.

**3. The right to vote if you are still in line when the polls close**

**4. The right to cast a secret ballot** without anyone bothering you or telling you how to vote.

**5. The right to get a new ballot if you have made a mistake,** if you have not already cast your ballot. You can:

- Ask an elections official at a polling place for a new ballot;
- Exchange your vote by mail ballot for a new one at the elections office or at your polling place; or
- Vote using a provisional ballot.

**6. The right to get help casting your ballot** from anyone you choose, except from your employer or union representative.

**7. The right to drop off your completed vote by mail ballot at any polling place** in California.


**8. The right to get election materials in a language other than English** if enough people in your voting precinct speak that language.

**9. The right to ask questions to elections officials about election procedures** and watch the election process. If the person you ask cannot answer your questions, they must send you to the right person for an answer. If you are disruptive, they can stop answering you.

**10. The right to report any illegal or fraudulent election activity** to an elections official or to the Secretary of State's office.

If you believe you have been denied any of these rights, call the Secretary of State's confidential toll-free Voter Hotline at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)**.

 On the web at [www.sos.ca.gov](http://www.sos.ca.gov)

 By phone at **(800) 345-VOTE (3683)**

 By email at [elections@sos.ca.gov](mailto:elections@sos.ca.gov)

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ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED LAWS ARE THE OPINIONS OF  
THE AUTHORS

# NORTHSHORE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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## PROPOSED TAX MEASURE MEASURE N

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To improve rapid, local emergency medical and fire services, hire firefighters, and replace out-dated fire equipment/apparatus, shall the Northshore Fire Protection District replace the current tax, adopt a new annual special tax at \$126/residential parcel and other rates for other land-uses; raising approximately \$1,713,000 annually; with an optional yearly increase based on the CPI-West Region to start in 2023 up to 3%, reviewed by citizen's oversight committee; until ended by voters; with funds staying in Northshore Fire Protection District?

PROPERTY TYPE	RATE
<b>Residential</b>	
Single Family Residential /Secured Mobile Home; 1st unit	\$126.00
Multi Family Residential: additional units after 1st unit	\$94.50
Mobile Home Park/Campgrounds (per unsecured mobile home unit)	\$63.00
<b>Vacant</b>	
Vacant (unimproved, parking lot)	\$63.00
<b>Agricultural</b>	
Agriculture/Timberland	\$31.50
<b>Commercial/Industrial</b>	
Commercial / Industrial with building square feet (sf) less than or equal to 2,000 sf	\$189.00
Commercial / Industrial with building square feet greater than 2,000 sf and less or equal to 6,000 sf	\$441.00
Commercial / Industrial with building square feet greater than 6,000 sf	\$756.00

## COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE N

The Northshore Fire Protection District (hereinafter, "NFPD") has adopted Ordinance Number 2019-01, an ordinance imposing a special tax for emergency medical response and fire protection services for the communities of Witter Springs, Bachelor Valley, Blue Lakes, Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, Glenhaven, Clearlake Oaks, Bartlett Springs, and Spring Valley. A 2/3 vote is required for the approval of this special tax prior to it becoming effective.

This measure, Measure "N", placed on the ballot by the NFPD, submits Ordinance Number 2019-01 for voter approval and would authorize a special tax on parcels of real property in the district to be used for the costs of funding local emergency medical and fire services, hiring firefighters, and replacing outdated fire equipment and apparatus. State law requires that the proceeds of a special tax may be used only for the purposes specified.

This special tax would be levied annually on each taxable parcel of real property located within NFPD, beginning with the 2020-2021 fiscal year. The amount of the proposed special tax varies depending upon the type of use of the property. The amount of the proposed special tax is more fully set forth in Ordinance Number 2019-01. The maximum tax rates may be increased annually beginning on July 1, 2023, based on the December Consumer Price Index for the West Region (CPI-West Region), not to exceed 3% per year. The annual special tax rate per parcel is as follows:

- \$126.00 per single family residence or secured mobile home;
- \$94.50 for each additional residential unit after the first residential unit;
- \$63.00 for mobile home parks or campgrounds, per each unsecured mobile home unit;
- \$63.00 for vacant, unimproved, or parking lot;
- \$31.50 for agricultural or timberland parcels;
- \$189.00 for commercial/industrial parcels with building square feet (sf) less than or equal to 2,000 square feet;
- \$441.00 for commercial/industrial parcels with building square feet greater than 2,000 sf and less or equal to 6,000 sf;
- \$756.00 for commercial/industrial parcels with building square feet greater than 6,000 sf.

NFPD currently collects revenues from taxes previously approved at different rates by each of four (4) prior fire agencies as follows: Nice Community Services District, approved in November of 1996; Upper Lake Fire Protection District, approved in March of 1997; Lucerne Recreation and Park District, approved in March of 1997; and the Clearlake Oaks Fire Protection District, approved in August of 1994. Ordinance Number 2019-01 would repeal and replace these four taxes in their entirety, with all funds from the proposed special tax staying in the NFPD as one unified agency.

Ordinance Number 2019-01 would also increase NFPD's appropriation limit to allow the district to retain and spend the taxes levied by the district should this special tax be approved by the voters.

A "YES" vote is a vote to authorize the special tax provided in the measure. A "NO" vote is a vote against the special tax provided in the measure.

s/Anita L. Grant  
County Counsel, County of Lake

**If you desire a complete copy of the Northshore Fire Protection District's Ordinance, please call the Northshore Fire Protection District at (707) 274-3100 and a copy will be mailed to you at no cost.**

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE N

The Northshore Fire Protection District was formed in November 2006 with the consolidation of four existing fire agencies: Clearlake Oaks, Lucerne, Nice, and Upper Lake Fire Departments. The District serves a population of over 10,000 residents in the communities of Witter Springs, Bachelor Valley, Blue Lakes, Upper Lake, Nice, Lucerne, Glenhaven, Clearlake Oaks, Bartlett Springs, and Spring Valley.

The District wants to eliminate the taxes inherited from the previous four agencies and replace them with a new uniform tax throughout the entire District as one agency.

Since 2012, wildfires have burned 53% of Lake County, and the Ranch Fire last year burned close to 90% of the area served by the Northshore Fire Protection District. Additionally, the District responded to 3,300 emergency calls last year, and the number continues to increase each year, while the District's revenues have not increased since 1996 in most areas and 2004 in Clearlake Oaks.

In order to continue providing rapid fire protection and emergency medical response services to our communities, we need to hire and retain firefighters staffed for 24/7 duty with reliable engines, equipment, and fire stations.

Consider the following reasons to **Support Northshore Fire** on Measure N:

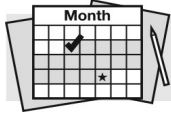
- A Yes vote will save lives.
- A Yes vote will maintain wildland fire protection.
- A Yes vote will maintain local emergency medical response services.
- All revenue from this ballot measure will stay local.
- A Yes vote will allow the District to hire and retain firefighters and trained personnel.
- A Yes vote will maintain rapid emergency response times for fire protection.
- A Yes vote will maintain and replace fire engines and equipment.
- A Yes vote will keep fire stations maintained and operable into the future.

Measure N includes strict accountability provisions to ensure all funds will only be used locally. A Citizens' Oversight Committee will review the annual budgets, expenses, and rates for recommendations to the Board.

### **Northshore Needs your Vote – Yes on Measure “N”**

s/James Burton, Retired Clearlake Oaks Fire Chief  
s/Patrick Lynch, Business Owner  
s/James C. Robbins, Retired Northshore Fire Chief  
s/Olga Martin Steele, Retired Community Advocate  
s/John H. Tomkins, Business Owner

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE N WAS SUBMITTED**



## Voting Deadlines

- OCTOBER 7, 2019 - THRU NOVEMBER 4, 2019** - YOU MAY VOTE EARLY AT THE OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-5PM
- OCTOBER 21, 2019** - DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE OR UPDATE YOUR RESIDENCE ADDRESS.  
You can register online at <http://registertovote.ca.gov>  
After this date voters wishing to vote in this election must register with Conditional Voter Registration at the Registrar of Voters Office.
- OCTOBER 30, 2019-** LAST DAY TO REQUEST VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT THROUGH THE MAIL.
- NOVEMBER 5, 2019-** ELECTION DAY. POLLS OPEN FROM 7AM TO 8PM. THIS IS THE LAST DAY TO VOTE! VOTE AT YOUR POLLING PLACE, THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE OR RETURN YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT BEFORE 8PM ON THIS DAY.



### Instructions to Voters

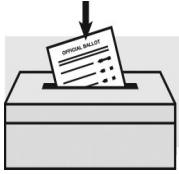
Your sample ballot is at the end of this guide. To vote this measure, completely fill in the rectangle next to your choice in black or blue ink pen. Do not use pencil, colored pencil, marker etc.

**Please do not put any personal information on the actual ballot such as signature, name, initials or information that identifies you as the voter (Elections Code §14287).**

**Please do not write in the blank space at the bottom of your ballot or tear off any portion of your ballot.**

Check your ballot carefully. If you make a mistake, ask a pollworker for a new ballot or, if voting by mail, place the ballot in the yellow Identification Return Envelope, check the "Spoiled Ballot" box on the envelope and return it to the Office of the Registrar of Voters for a new ballot.





## Polling Place Locations

<b>Polling Places</b>	
<b>Northshore Fire Protection District Election-November 5, 2019</b>	
<b>Polling Place/Site</b>	<b>Voting Precinct(s)</b>
North Shore Christian Fellowship 9456 Main St., Upper Lake, CA 95485	311-Upper Lake 311A; 311B; 311C; 311E; 312A; 312B; 312C
Community Baptist Church 2877 E. Highway 20, Nice CA 95464	341-Nice 341; 342
Lutheran Church Parish Hall 3863 Country Club Dr., Lucerne, CA 95458	351-Lucerne 351A; 351B; 352A; 352B; 353A; 353B; 353C
Orchard Shores Clubhouse 500 Orchard Shores Dr. Clearlake Oaks CA 95423	381-Long Valley 381A; 381B; 381C; 381D; 382A; 382B; 383A; 383B; 384A; 384B

# Sample Ballot

NOVEMBER 5 SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTION  
November 5, 2019  
LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Precinct

Page 1 of 1

Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box next to your choice. Please do not write your name or make any notes on the ballot.

## NORTHSHORE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### SPECIAL TAX MEASURE

#### MEASURE N

To improve rapid, local emergency medical and fire services, hire firefighters, and replace outdated fire equipment/apparatus, shall the Northshore Fire Protection District replace the current tax, adopt a new annual special tax at \$126/residential parcel and other rates for other land-uses; raising approximately \$1,713,000 annually; with an optional yearly increase based on the CPI-West Region to start in 2023 up to 3%, reviewed by citizen's oversight committee; until ended by voters; with funds staying in Northshore Fire Protection District?

YES

NO

# Sample Ballot

SEPARATE HERE

FROM:

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PLACE STAMP HERE

DID YOU SIGN YOUR APPLICATION?

TO: **REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE**  
**COUNTY OF LAKE**  
**255 N FORBES STREET RM 209**  
**LAKEPORT CA 95453-4748**



SEPARATE HERE

SEPARATE HERE

From  
**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**  
255 N FORBES STREET, RM 209  
LAKEPORT, CA 95453-4748



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
**MMS**

SEPARATE HERE

SEPARATE HERE

# APPLICATION FOR VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTER'S BALLOT

BALLOT  
TYPE

**POLLING PLACE  
LOCATION**

**POSTMASTER  
DELIVER TO:**

I HEREBY REQUEST A  
**VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT FOR:**  
NORTHSHORE FIRE PROT DIST SPEC ELEC  
TUESDAY NOV. 5, 2019

Your request for a Vote-by-Mail Voter Ballot must be received by:

BY MAIL **OCT 30, 2019**  
**\*\*IN PERSON\*\* NOV 5, 2019**

**Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voter**  
Initial here if you wish to become a  
Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voter  
(see information below).

**SIGNATURE**  
(Required to

Receive ballot)

(Each applicant must sign own signature)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Street & Number Required (No P.O. Box)

CITY OR TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAIL VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT TO ME AT THIS ADDRESS:**  
(If different from preprinted address above)

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SEPARATE HERE

## NOTICE

SEPARATE HERE

If you find that for any reason you will be unable to vote in person on Election Day, promptly complete and sign the application for Vote-by-Mail Voter's ballot printed above and return it to the Registrar of Voters office, 255 N Forbes St., Rm. 209, Lakeport, CA. Your completed application must reach this office no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2019 through the mail. If you need a vote-by-mail ballot after this date, you must come in person to apply for and obtain a ballot; up to and including Election Day.

### PERMANENT VOTE-BY-MAIL VOTER STATUS

State law allows any voter who so requests to be a Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voter. If you initial the Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voter box on the Application for Vote-by-Mail Voter's Ballot above, a Vote-by-Mail ballot will automatically be sent to you for future elections. Failure to vote in two consecutive statewide general elections will cancel your Permanent Vote-by-Mail Voter Status and you will need to reapply. If you have questions concerning voting by vote-by-mail ballot telephone the **Registrar of Voters office at 707-263-2372.**

### POLLING PLACE ACCESSIBLE?

If the letter "Y" appears to the right of the polling place location shown above, your polling place is accessible to voters with disabilities. Mitigation measures such as temporary thresholds, ramps, signage, cones, and door props, are used to improve access to the polling place. If you wish to know more about the accessibility of your polling place, please phone the **Registrar of Voters office at 707-263-2372.**

If a voter is unable to enter and vote inside the polling place, a precinct board member will bring a ballot to the voter at a place which is accessible, as near to the polling place as possible.

**Ballot delivery to your home:** Staff can deliver a ballot to your home and return it to the Registrar of Voters office for counting. Please call **707-263-2372** or toll-free **888-235-6730** to arrange for an appointment.