

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE R

Vote No on Measure R

We are not supporting the Special Tax Measure R for the following reasons:

Arcata currently has one of the highest fire tax rates in the county at \$88 per residence. Measure R would ADD \$118 for a total Fire District tax of \$206 per single family residence.

For comparison Fortuna has a tax rate on a single family residence of \$72, Blue Lake \$36 and Ferndale \$20.

The question we must ask is why would Arcata Residents be asked to pay more than two-and-a-half times the rate of Humboldt Bay Fire District residents whose district also has paid employees. Single family residents in that district pay \$72.

This added Measure R tax would impact both rental property and trailer park residents. Arcata mobile home park residents currently pay \$81 and if measure R is approved it would cause residents to pay an additional \$90. This would total \$171 per mobile home for those who can least afford it.

Is there a better approach? Humboldt County Taxpayers League (HCTL) thinks so. For instance, an organized county-wide fire district and dispatch would likely be much more efficient.

Another option worth considering, as was supported by the community in the past, is to consolidate the two Arcata fire stations into one centralized station.

The community may have other suggestions for potential improvements to our fire districts. If so, please contact the HCTL or the Arcata Fire District.

The Humboldt County Taxpayers League supports effective law enforcement and Fire protection. The added tax of Measure R is just too much and unjustified.

/s/ Kent Sawatzky, Executive Director Humboldt County Taxpayers League

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE R

It's not logical to compare operational costs for the 5 communities / 62 square miles our Fire District protects and serves, with the Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Power Authority that has major funding from the City of Eureka. The remainder of the communities in the County are covered by volunteer fire departments that are struggling to recruit and retain firefighters. Again, these comparisons are not proportionate.

As property owners, our costs for **MEASURE – R** will be based on property type and size. Example: A single family residence would add \$118 per year to the existing \$88 that was last assessed in 2006. A rural residence would increase \$192 per year, and a Mobile Home in a park would increase \$90 per year. Breaking this down more, staffing all three fire stations 24 hours per day / 365 days per year would cost a single family residence a total of .57 cents per day; a rural residence .89 cents per day; and a mobile home in a park would pay .43 cents per day.

During the past 2 years, the Fire District Board of Directors and staff have been working very hard to increase efficiencies and cut costs wherever possible. **MEASURE –R** is “bare bones” funding needed to continue providing the vital public safety services our communities must have.

Vote YES for **MEASURE – R**.

/s/ Rene Campbell, Board Member - President