

Santa Clara County Measures

November 8, 2016

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino Sunnyvale



League of Women Voters

Local Ballot Measures Pro and Con

This event is intended to provide facts about these Measures to help voters make voting decisions.

We are here to

- Give you the tools you need to examine these measures
- Explain what they say and present the supporting & opposing elements – not take sides



Agenda

- **Measure A – Affordable Housing**
- **Measure B – Transportation**



A

**\$950 Million Bond for
Affordable or Supportive
Housing**
Bond Act



- **County to raise \$950 M in bonds for housing**
- **Paid for with property tax**
 - **Cost ~ \$64 per year per \$500,000 of assessed value**
 - **30 year bonds**
- **Requires 2/3 vote to pass**
- **Oversight committee**



- **\$800 M – extremely, very low, and low income**

Goals: 3600 long term units

2400 transitional units

- **\$150 M – moderate income**
 - **Up to \$50 M may be used for first time homebuyers**

- **Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors**
- **Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County**
- **Veterans Voice of Santa Clara County**
- **Habitat for Humanity Silicon Valley**
- **Santa Clara County Senior Care Commission**

www.YesonAffordableHousing.org



- **Santa Clara County has the fourth largest homeless population in the US.**
- **The county needs an additional \$220 M annually to meet the affordable housing needs of low income households.**
- **Measure A will create housing opportunities for our most vulnerable community members**

- **Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association**
- **John M Inks, Councilman- Mountain View City**

- **Sets a bad precedent of taxing business based on property valuation, and not per parcel**
- **Does not address the need for adequate workforce housing**
- **Could pay for this out of the existing budget and defund other projects thus indicating this is not a high priority**

A: Housing

Questions

B

Santa Clara County Traffic Relief & Road Repair

1/2 Cent Sales Tax Increase



- **Will increase the sales tax by ½ cent for 30 years**
- **Generate an estimated \$6.3 billion (in 2017 dollars)**
- **Requires 2/3 vote to pass**



B: Where the money goes Transportation

- **Local street and road improvements - \$1.2 B**
- **BART, four station expansion from Berryessa to Santa Clara- \$1.5 B**
- **Improve Bicycle and Pedestrian safety - \$250 M**
- **Caltrain Improvements; capacity and grade separation - \$1 B**



B: Where the money goes Transportation

- **Highway improvement - \$750 M**
- **Expressway improvement - \$750 M**
- **85 Corridor improvements - \$350 M**
- **Transit operations for bus and light rail - \$500 M**



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- **Silicon Valley Leadership Group**
 - **Leagues of Women Voters of Santa Clara County**
 - **10 Chambers of Commerce**
 - **Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition**
 - **Cities Association – Santa Clara County**

- **Reduced GHG**
- **New transit options for seniors, disabled, students and low-income workers**
- **Repairs streets**
- **Relieves congestion on expressways and highways**
- **Improves bicycle and pedestrian safety**



- **Gladwyn D'Souza**
- **Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association**
- **John M Inks, Councilman- Mountain View**
- **BayRail Alliance**
- **Elizabeth C. Brierly**

- **Population has increased since 2001 while bus ridership has declined**
- **Bart expansion from Berryessa to Santa Clara could eat up all the tax money**
- **"VTA may modify this program for any prudent purpose." There is no commitment to the projects listed.**

B: Transportation

Questions



League of Women Voters

Join the League

www.lwvcs.org

- Membership is open to **men** and **women** of all ages
- Learn about crucial issues in your community
- Gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
- Contribute valuable service to the community



Cupertino Measures

November 8, 2016

The League of Women Voters of Cupertino Sunnyvale



Agenda

- **Measure C – Cupertino Citizens' Sensible Growth Initiative**
- **Measure D – The Vallco Town Plan Initiative**



C & D

At the end of the presentation on C and D we will discuss the combination of possible outcomes and the related implications.

C

**Cupertino Citizens' Sensible
Growth Initiative (CCSGI)**



- **Allows only retail, hotel, dining and entertainment uses. No residential or office**
- **Maintains the 1,200,000 square feet of commercial/retail use**
- **Limits maximum height limits for new development at Vallco to 45 feet**
- **Increases building height from 30 feet to 45 feet in the Neighborhoods**
- **Only the voters could change the General Plan amendments adopted by Measure C**



- Ballot language was modified to state that the General Plan would change *Neighborhoods* to 45 ft.
- At the court hearing:
 - Proponents argued that *Neighborhoods* are regarded as a *Special Area* and therefore stay at 30 feet
 - Opponents argued *Neighborhoods* are separate from *Special Areas* and therefore the initiative increases building heights.
- Santa Clara County Superior Court has affirmed the modified ballot language is factually correct.



- 1/4 of Neighborhoods' heights are set by reference to the General Plan; these would be immediately impacted
- 3/4 of Neighborhoods' heights are set via zoning, currently 30 feet – **this is the area of ambiguity**
- Is the City's Zoning Ordinance inconsistent with the Measure C's proposed height limit?
- If zoning is found inconsistent all Neighborhoods could increase to 45 feet



- **Cupertino Citizens for Sensible Growth**

www.ccSensibleGrowth.org

www.BetterCupertino.org

- Gives voters the opportunity to reject growth in Cupertino
- Retains the Vallco Shopping District primarily as a retail, hotel, dining and entertainment venue
- Helps prevent further school over-crowding and traffic congestion
- Requires voter approval for certain changes to the general plan



- Sand Hill Property Company
- Judy Wilson, Education Advocate
- Richard Lowenthal, Former Cupertino Mayor
- Hung Wei, 2016 Cupertino Citizen of the Year
- Hemant Buch, California Cricket Academy Co-Founder
- Keith Warner, Cupertino Chamber of Commerce President-Elect

<http://revitalizevalco.com>

<http://cupertinomeasurec.com>



- **Changes General Plan to increase height limit in Neighborhoods to 45 feet**
- **Prevents office and residential use in Vallco**
- **Blocks millions of dollars in onetime revenue for schools and transportation improvements**
- **Prevents the creation of a 30-acre park**
- **Requires an election to approve changes to developments in our city**



D

Vallco Town Center Specific Plan Initiative



- **Residential: 389 up to 800 units**
- **Office: 2,000,000 sf**
- **Commercial: 640,000 sf**
- **Hotel: 339 rooms**
- **Public/Civic: Minimum 50,000 sf**
- **Open Space/Parks: 30-acre green roof, 3.8 miles of public trails, and two "town squares" comprising at least 3 acres.**

- **\$40 M for local schools**
- **\$30 M toward transportation**
- **\$6 M for bike/pedestrian trail**
- **Senior housing (minimum 80 units, or 20% of all units)**
- **Require voter approval of any changes made prior to January 1, 2027.**

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- **D is consistent with Cupertino's General Plan.**
- **30-acre Community Park**
- **A destination Town Center**
- **Free space for nonprofits**
- **\$40 million in onetime revenue for schools**
- **New homes for local seniors**
- **Provides funds to minimize traffic impact**

Cupertino Citizens for Sensible Growth

www.ccSensibleGrowth.org

www.BetterCupertino.org

- Replaces the mall with an office park, housing, and less retail space
- Increases daily commute traffic on local streets and highways.
- More workers competing for insufficient housing
- Insufficient vehicle parking, bike paths, and bike parking
- Does not require a development agreement with City of Cupertino

C & D: Possible Outcomes

Both C and D pass

- Pass = simple majority
- Only the Measure with the greatest affirmative votes will pass.

C passes and D fails

- Neighborhood heights increase to 45 ft.
- Vallco current use stays largely as is

D passes and C fails

- Neighborhood height limit unchanged
- Vallco becomes multi use

Both C and D fail

- Each group can try again via the initiative process or via working with the Cupertino City Council



C & D: Independent Analysis

The measures and the City of Cupertino's independent analyses are available at:

<http://www.cupertino.org/index.aspx?page=896>



C and D: Vallco

Questions



League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters **does not** support or oppose candidates or political parties, it does:

- Encourage informed and active **participation** in government,
- Work to increase **understanding** of major public policy issues, and
- Influence public policy through **education** and **advocacy**.



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END OF SLIDE SHOW



League of Women Voters

Empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide

- Founded in February 1920, six months before the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote was ratified
- The League never supports political parties or candidates
- The League studies issues, develops positions, and actively works to support those positions
- We have two separate and distinct roles:
 - Voters Service/Citizen Education
 - Action/Advocacy

