



County of Tuolumne Voter Information Guide

Tuolumne County Fire Authority Special Election

June 8, 2021



Ballot Drop-off locations inside

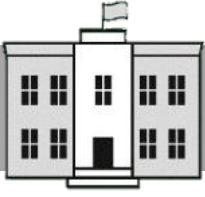
If you are looking for a
place to drop off your
ballot



www.co.tuolumne.ca.us/elections

Visit us for voter and election information





Ballot Drop-off Locations

All voters can drop-off their vote-by-mail ballot at any ballot drop-off location.

Ballot drop-off location boxes will open on May 3rd, and close at 8pm Election Day, June 8th.

Ballot Drop-off Locations

Name	Address	Opening Day	Hours
Tuolumne County Elections Department	2 South Green Street Sonora, CA 95370	May 3 rd	Weekdays, 8 am – 5 pm
Sonora Library	480 Greenley Rd Sonora, CA 95370	May 3 rd	24 hours
Junction Shopping Center	13775 Mono Way Sonora, CA 95370	May 3 rd	24 hours
Mi-Wuk Library/MAHA	24411 Sierra Park Rd Mi-Wuk Village, CA 95346	May 3 rd	24 hours
Columbia Elementary	22540 Parrotts Ferry Rd Columbia, CA 95310	May 3 rd	24 hours
Groveland Library	18990 Main St, Groveland, CA 95321	May 3 rd	24 hours
Twain Harte Market	18711 Tiffeni Dr. Twain Harte, CA 95383	May 3 rd	24 hours
Willow Springs Clubhouse	20522 Willow Springs Dr. Soulsbyville, CA 95372	May 3 rd	24 hours
Rocca Park, Jamestown	18218 Main St. Jamestown, CA 95327	May 3 rd	24 hours

What is a ballot drop-off location?

Our ballot drop-off locations are secure, locked boxes located at various locations throughout the county. The ballots are picked up regularly and transported directly to our central office.





Local ballot measures: Measure V

V

Tuolumne County Fire Authority Parcel Tax

Ballot question

“To protect lives and property from fire, upgrade fire equipment, improve response capabilities, and provide a dedicated source of local funding, shall the measure be adopted authorizing a new parcel tax on real property within the boundaries of the Tuolumne County Fire Authority at a rate of \$75 per unimproved parcel and \$150 per improved residential or commercial parcel, with a 2% annual inflation adjustment, providing \$4,184,471 annually, and continuing until repealed by the voters?”

What your vote means

YES	NO
A “Yes” vote on this ballot measure means that you want the Authority to impose the special tax.	A “No” vote means that you do not want the Authority to impose the special tax.

For and Against Measure V

FOR	AGAINST
s/Ryan Campbell, Chair, Tuolumne County Fire Authority s/Nick Casci, Chief, Tuolumne County Fire Department / Groveland Fire Department / Jamestown Fire Protection District s/Mark Ferreira, Chief, Columbia Fire Protection District s/Aimee New, Chief, Sonora City Fire Department s/Nick Ohler, Chief, Tuolumne Fire District	No argument against Measure V was filed.



Local ballot measures: Measure V

Impartial Analysis

Christopher Schmidt, Deputy County Counsel

In 2021, six Tuolumne County agencies with fire prevention responsibilities formed the Tuolumne County Fire Authority (“Authority”) through a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. The Authority’s mission is to provide adequate funding for local fire services. This Measure was placed on the ballot by the Board of Directors of the Authority.

If this Measure is approved by two-thirds of the votes cast on this special tax proposal, the Authority, through the taxing authority of its member agencies, will be authorized to levy an annual special tax within the members’ jurisdictional boundaries. The Authority members are the County of Tuolumne, City of Sonora, Groveland Community Services District, Tuolumne Fire District, Jamestown Fire Protection District, and the Columbia Fire Protection District.

If approved, the Authority will levy a special tax of \$75 per unimproved parcel and \$150 per improved parcel on all parcels of real property within the boundaries of the Authority member agencies, subject to an annual increase of no more than 2% per year to adjust for inflation. This proposed tax would begin on July 1, 2021, and remain in effect until repealed by the voters.

The estimated revenue from the proposed special tax is approximately \$4,184,471 for fiscal year 2021/2022. This Measure states that proceeds of the tax will be placed in a special fund for the purpose of providing fire emergency response, protection, prevention, suppression and related incidental services including but not limited to acquiring, operating and maintaining fire prevention and suppression equipment, payment of personnel costs, and funding capital improvements. The proposed special tax would be collected by the Tuolumne County Tax Collector in the same manner as ad valorem property taxes and subject to the same exemptions, except the homeowners and veterans’ exemptions shall not be applicable to this tax because such exemptions are determined by dollar amount of value. Based on the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement of the Authority, proceeds of the proposed special tax would be allocated to each member agency in proportion to the revenue raised in each member’s respective tax rate area, after deduction of the Authority’s administrative expenses.

In order for the ballot measure to be adopted, it must receive a “Yes” vote by two-thirds (2/3) of those voting on the measure. A “Yes” vote on this ballot measure means that you want the Authority to impose the special tax. A “No” vote means that you do not want the Authority to impose the special tax.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure V. If you desire a copy of the ordinance or measure, please call the elections official’s office at (209) 533-5570 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.



Local ballot measures: Measure V

Fiscal Impact Statement

Deborah Bautista, County Auditor-Controller

In 2021, six Tuolumne County agencies with fire prevention responsibilities formed the Tuolumne County Fire Authority (“Authority”) through a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. The Authority’s mission is to provide adequate funding for local fire services. This Measure was placed on the ballot by the Board of Directors of the Authority.

This ballot measure, if approved by the required margin of not less than 2/3 of the votes cast by voters voting on the measure, would authorize the Authority to levy a parcel tax on all taxable parcels located within the members’ jurisdictional boundaries, beginning with Fiscal Year 2021-22. The Authority members are the County of Tuolumne, City of Sonora, Groveland Community Services District, Tuolumne Fire District, Jamestown Fire Protection District, and the Columbia Fire Protection District.

The authorized amount of the annual parcel tax for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, if approved, would be:

- a. One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150) for each improved parcel; and
- b. Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75) for each unimproved parcel.

The authorized amount of the annual parcel tax may be increased no more than 2% per year to adjust for inflation.

The following is an estimate of the revenue which would be generated for the authorized purpose of funding fire emergency response, protection, prevention, and suppression services.

1. There are 23,894 improved taxable parcels and 7,998 unimproved taxable parcels within the members’ jurisdictional boundaries for Fiscal Year 2020-21. The classification of a taxable parcel as either improved or unimproved for a given Fiscal Year will be made prior to the start of that Fiscal Year, based upon the records of the Tuolumne County Assessor.



Local ballot measures: Measure V

2. The amount of the parcel tax on each taxable parcel for each of the next five Fiscal Years would be as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Improved Parcel</u>	<u>Unimproved Parcel</u>
2021-2022	\$150	\$75
2022-2023	153	76
2023-2024	156	78
2024-2025	159	80
2025-2026	162	81

Thereafter 2% increase each year unless repealed by voters

3. Assuming that the number of improved taxable parcels and unimproved taxable parcels remains the same from one Fiscal Year to the next, the estimated total amount of revenue generated by the parcel tax for the next five Fiscal Years would be approximately as follows:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total Revenue Generated</u>
2021-2022	\$4,184,471
2022-2023	4,268,160
2023-2024	4,353,523
2024-2025	4,440,594
2025-2026	4,529,405

Thereafter 2% increase each year unless repealed by voters

This fiscal impact statement is submitted by the Office of the Auditor-Controller of the County of Tuolumne pursuant to the requirements of Section 9160(c) of the Elections Code of the State of California.



Local ballot measures: Measure V

Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

Argument for Measure V

A YES vote for Measure V creates a consistent, predictable source of funding that will only be used by fire departments for firefighter safety, protecting lives and property, replacing aging fire engines, purchasing emergency response equipment such as “Jaws-of-Life”, reducing wildfire risks and improving emergency response capabilities. If approved by the voters, this funding will be distributed directly to the Tuolumne County Fire Department, Sonora City Fire Department, Groveland Fire Department, Jamestown, Columbia and Tuolumne Fire Districts only, based on the number of properties served by each.

Changes in state law over decades have reduced the amount of funding local Fire Departments like ours receive. Current funding for Fire Departments does not keep pace with rising costs or allow them to replace aging fire engines and expensive rescue equipment. Demand for state and federal grants is at an all-time high with departments throughout the state competing for limited funds. Almost all of Tuolumne County is designated a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and now is not the time to risk reductions in our local fire protection services. We simply cannot afford the devastation caused by fires like other areas of the state.

For the first time in our history, local Fire Departments have joined forces to form the Tuolumne County Fire Authority. The TCFA has a common vision to solidify fire and emergency response services in the region and give our local communities the opportunity to vote on a secure, consistent and reliable source of funding for your Fire Departments. Through citizens’ oversight and with annual reports, your Measure V tax dollars are protected, and funding can ONLY be spent for fire and emergency services. This specific source of fire service funding cannot be taken or diverted for any other purpose by federal, state or county governments.

s/Ryan Campbell, Chair, Tuolumne County Fire Authority
s/Nick Casci, Chief, Tuolumne County Fire Department / Groveland Fire Department /
Jamestown Fire Protection District
s/Mark Ferreira, Chief, Columbia Fire Protection District
s/Aimee New, Chief, Sonora City Fire Department
s/Nick Ohler, Chief, Tuolumne Fire District

Argument Against Measure V

No argument against Measure V was filed.

How to vote a ballot

Use a blue or black pen to mark the bubble to the left of your choice. Do not use pencil.
Important! Fill in the bubble completely. Do not make other marks on your ballot.



Measure: Fill in the bubble to the left of Yes or No.

BT-1

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:
To vote on any measure, mark the voting target next to the word "Yes" or next to the word "No."
Marking the ballot outside of the designated space to vote for a measure may compromise the secrecy of the ballot.
If you wrongly mark, tear, or deface this ballot return it to the precinct board member and obtain another.

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY SPECIAL ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021

MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY PARCEL TAX MEASURE
To protect lives and property from fire, upgrade fire equipment, improve response capabilities, and provide a dedicated source of local funding, shall the measure be adopted authorizing a new parcel tax on real property within the boundaries of the Tuolumne County Fire Authority at a rate of \$75 per unimproved parcel and \$150 per improved residential or commercial parcel, with a 2% annual inflation adjustment, providing \$4,104,471 annually, and continuing until repealed by the voters?

DISTRICT

YES NO

Precinct: 1005

Use a blue or black pen. Do not use pencil.

If you make a mistake, simply "X" out the incorrect mark, and mark your vote.

No extra marks please! No numbers, initials, or drawings..

Please try not to spill food or drink on the ballot.



How to vote by mail

How to get a vote-by-mail ballot

As a registered voter, you were automatically mailed a ballot.

If you would like to apply to have a vote-by-mail ballot re-issued, the last day to request one be mailed is **Tuesday, June 1st**.

 (209) 533-5570

 In person: 2 S Green St, Sonoma, Ca

How to vote a vote-by-mail ballot



Vote your ballot



Place your ballot in the envelope



Sign the back of the envelope

How to return a vote-by-mail ballot

Return your vote-by-mail ballot:

 By mail: 2 S Green St, Sonoma, Ca 95370

 By hand at our office or any drop-off location.

If hand delivered, vote-by-mail ballots must be received at our office or drop-off location by Election Day **Tuesday, June 8, 2021**, 8pm. If mailed, it must be postmarked by Election Day, and received by June 11, 2021.



Avoid problems with your vote-by-mail ballot

Have your vote counted. At times, we are unable to accept a vote-by-mail ballot for easily avoidable legal reasons.

Sign the envelope



There must be a signature on the vote-by-mail ballot envelope for it to be counted. All signatures are compared to the voter's signature on file before accepting.

Sign the correct envelope



If you have more than one voter in the home, you might sign the wrong envelope. Check the name before signing.

Have the person sign before returning your ballot

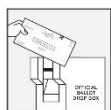


Any person returning your ballot must complete the "Authorized Agent" section on the back of the envelope. They must also say how they are related to you.

Return your ballot by the deadline



If mailed, it must be postmarked by Election Day, **Tuesday, June 8th**, and received by June 11th. Mail early.



If hand delivered, it must be received at our office or any drop-off location by Election Day, **Tuesday, June 8th**, 8pm.



Accessibility

We work very hard to make voting accessible for all voters. This includes providing materials to support voting and issuing a remote accessible vote-by-mail ballot upon request.

What type of support is available?

For this election, a voter may vote in-person at our office. This will include:

- A wheelchair accessible voting booth
- Magnifiers
- Pens with easy-hold grips
- An accessible voting device to help mark your ballot independently and privately.

What is a Remote Accessible vote-by-mail ballot?

A Remote Accessible Vote by Mail (RAVBM) system allows voters to mark their selections using their own compatible technology to vote independently and privately in the comfort of their own home.

To use a RAVBM system, after marking your selections, you must print your ballot, sign, and return it in-person or by mail. It **cannot** be returned electronically.

Please contact our office to request a RAVBM ballot.

Where can I find more information?

-  www.co.tuolumne.ca.us/elections
-  (209) 533-5570
-  elections@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Disability Rights of California Hotline

 1-888-569-7955

 1-800-719-5798

California Relay: 711



Conditional voting

What is a conditional ballot?

A “conditional ballot” is used when a person is a new voter in Tuolumne County, or their name cannot be located on the roster. This must be completed in person.

The ballot will be counted after the Election Department has verified the information.

Common reasons you may be asked to vote a conditional ballot

- You are not registered already
- Your name cannot be located on the roster

4 Simple steps to vote a conditional or provisional ballot

1. Sign and complete the right portion of the conditional envelope.
2. The worker will issue the ballot to you.
3. After voting, insert the ballot inside the envelope and seal.
4. Return the envelope to the worker.

Provisional Ballot Envelope
Tuolumne County Elections Department

OFFICE USE ONLY

Provisional Status: ☐ Issued ☐ Partially Completed ☐ Not Counted

Provisional Reason: _____

Voter ID: _____

Registered Party Preference (provide full name): _____

Processed by: _____

PRECINCT OFFICER ONLY

Precinct Number: _____ Poll Worker Name: _____

☐ Voter not listed on roster

☐ Voter listed on roster at different address

☐ Voter "ID Required", but does not show ID

☐ Voter designated "Vote-by-mail", but does not have ballot to surrender

☐ Representative Member case

☐ Voter declares different party preference than on roster

Party ballot issued: _____

Comments: _____

VOTER MUST COMPLETE

Your ballot may only be counted if this section is not signed and completed

I declare under penalty of perjury that I am a U.S. Citizen, a resident of Tuolumne County, and at least 18 years of age on the day of this election. I am not registered in any party for consideration of being on the general election ballot and I am not currently found annually ineligibility on voter list as a result. I understand that it is a crime to knowingly provide incorrect information on this form. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information on this form is true and correct. I understand that using false information constitutes a crime. I have not voted previously in this election or any other pending election. (C.E.C. 10302(g))

Voter signs in blue below

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Home Address (Not a P.O. Box or Mailing): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mailing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Precinct Number: _____

State of Birth: _____ Precinct Number: _____

OK (enter number or CA ID) _____ (see 4th Number)

My Political Party Preference is: _____

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 in prison or on parole for a felony
- 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 elections officials determine 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; or
 - Exchange your vote-by-mail ballot** for a new one at an elections office, or at your polling place; or
 - Vote using a provisional ballot,** if you do not have your original vote-by-mail 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 the county where you are registered to vote.
- 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 the Secretary of State's office.
 -  On the web at www.sos.ca.gov
 -  By phone at **(800) 345-VOTE (8683)**
 -  By email at elections@sos.ca.gov

**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).**



The California Secretary of State is now offering voters a new way to track and receive notifications on the status of their vote-by-mail ballot. Powered by BallotTrax, Where's My Ballot? lets voters know where their ballot is, and its status, every step of the way.

Sign-up at WheresMyBallot.sos.ca.gov to receive automatic email, SMS (text), or voice call notifications about your ballot.

**Tracking your ballot
—when it is mailed, received, and counted—
has never been easier.**

WHERE'S MY BALLOT.SOS.CA.GOV



*Where's My Ballot? is only available to voters if their county elections office has adopted the tool.