

Information on Measure A Seismic Safety

Earlier this year, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to place a General Obligation Bond Measure on the November 4, 2008, presidential election ballot. The \$840 million bond would provide the funding needed for Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) to replace seismically deficient facilities in order to meet the 2013 state seismic (earthquake) safety requirements, as well as provide \$50 million toward the construction of outpatient medical services in downtown San Jose. A two-thirds majority is required to pass the measure. The funding would prevent the closure of over half of SCVMC's hospital beds and critical trauma services.

The last day to register to vote is October 20th.

Text of Measure A

To prevent the state mandated shutdown of half of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's beds, closure of SCVMC's trauma, burn center; and, loss of disaster response, by rebuilding, and improving earthquake safety of the hospital, meeting state seismic laws, and help replace closed medical facilities in downtown San Jose, shall the county of Santa Clara issue \$840 million in general obligation bonds with independent citizens' oversight committee, annual audits, and no money for administrators' salaries?

What Measure A Will Do:

- Allows the County's only public hospital to rebuild and repair buildings so that it will remain standing and operational after a major earthquake.
- Prevents the closure of over half (272) of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center's patient beds.
- Maintains specialized medical services provided by the hospital's Level 1 Trauma Center and Santa Clara County's only Burn Center.
- Will assess property owners less than \$14.00 per \$100,000 in assessed home value annually.

Background on Measure A

Following the Northridge earthquake in 1994, the California Legislature passed seismic safety legislation (SB 1953). This legislation required that by 2013 all hospitals be able to remain standing and easy to exit in the event of a major earthquake. The law also mandates that by 2030, all hospitals in California be capable of remaining open and fully operational following a major quake. The state did not provide any funding for this mandate, so Santa Clara County is seeking to pay for these upgrades through a bond.

If Measure A passes . . .

- After a major earthquake, the County's only public hospital will be able to remain standing and operational and provide emergency medical services.
- SCVMC's Level 1 Trauma Center will be able to continue to treat the most serious accident and emergency patients.
- The County's only Burn Center will remain open.
- The average homeowner will pay \$60-65 per year.

If Measure A does not pass . . .

- SCVMC will fail to meet state requirements for seismic safety and will be legally required to close 272 of its 574 beds in the next five years. Hospital beds in Santa Clara County are already scarce, Santa Clara County has the fifth lowest ratio of beds per person in the nation at 1.5 beds per 1,000 residents.
- With fewer beds, SCVMC will be forced to close its nationally renowned Trauma and Burn Centers.
- The shortage in available beds would lead over 11,000 ambulances per year to be rerouted from SCVMC to alternative care centers.
- 70 hospitals have closed across California already. Without this bond measure, the hospital will be legally required to shut down half its beds.

Commonly Asked Questions about Measure A

What is Measure A?

Measure A is a General Obligation Bond Measure to provide funds to replace several of Santa Clara Valley Medical Center buildings in order to meet state seismic (earthquake) safety requirements.

Who will vote on Measure A?

All registered voters in Santa Clara County are eligible to vote in this election. The measure will be on the ballot in the November 4, 2008 Presidential election. A two-thirds majority is required to pass the measure. The last day to register to vote is October 20th.

How much will Measure A cost?

If passed, the bond provides \$790 million dollars for Santa Clara County Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) seismic safety building and \$50 million toward the construction of outpatient medical services in downtown San Jose. Property owners will be charged under \$14 per \$100,000 of assessed value on their homes, which is about \$60-65 a year for the average homeowner.

How long will Measure A last?

If passed, Measure A's assessment would last for 30 years.

Who uses Santa Clara Valley Medical Center?

One in four county residents were treated at SCVMC sometime during the past four years. By providing specialized treatments – emergency, trauma and burn care, as well as rehabilitation from severe injuries, Santa Clara Valley Medical Center is here to deliver quality care to all residents of the community when they may need it most.

Is there financial oversight for Measure A?

The measure includes strict accountability provisions, including required independent audits, oversight by a citizens committee, and full and complete public disclosure of all spending from the measure. And the measure states no money can be spent on administrators' salaries.