

RESOLUTION NO. 3572-20

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WINDSOR
ENDORING THE SONOMA COUNTY WILDFIRE PREVENTION, EMERGENCY
ALERT AND RESPONSE TRANSACTION AND USE TAX ORDINANCE
(MEASURE G) ON THE MARCH 3, 2020 BALLOT**

WHEREAS, on November 5, 2019, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed Sonoma County Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Alert, and Response Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance (Ordinance), and all interested persons were given the opportunity to hear and be heard; and

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of the public hearing, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors closed the hearing, deliberated, and adopted Resolution No. 19-0480 introducing, reading the title of, and waiving further reading of the Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2019, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors by a two-thirds vote of its membership, adopted said Ordinance, a transaction and use tax ordinance, pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code §7285.5; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2019, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors by four-fifths vote adopted a Resolution calling a Special Election to submit to the voters of Sonoma County a proposed one-half of one percent (0.5%) sales tax measure entitled the “Sonoma County Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Alert, and Response Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance,” and ordering that the Special Election be consolidated with the statewide general election to be conducted on March 3, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma County Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Alert, and Response Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance (Measure G) asks voters whether the County of Sonoma should impose a ½-cent special sales tax countywide to be used exclusively to supplement existing funding for disaster alerts, vegetation management, fire suppression and fire-fighting services, and wildfire prevention provided by the 38 fire agencies within Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, Measure G is based on the planning recommendations of Fire Services Strategic Leadership Group (a group consisting of local and state fire officials) that were developed in the aftermath of the October 2017 fires and would advance a long-term framework for planning, funding, and implementing enhanced fire and emergency alert services within Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, Measure G would improve local fire prevention and protection by providing a designated funding source for installing emergency warning sirens and alerting systems; improving vegetation management to prevent the spread of wildfire; attracting and retaining qualified local firefighters and emergency personnel; and modernizing fire department equipment, facilities and stations; and

WHEREAS, an Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee would be established as part of Measure G to provide transparency and fiscal accountability to the voters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Windsor finds that Measure G would result in more efficient, effective, and sustainable fire response, emergency alert, and wildfire capabilities that are necessary for protecting the health and safety of the public in the Town of Windsor and in greater Sonoma County and hereby endorses and supports voter approval of the Sonoma County Wildfire Prevention, Emergency Alert, and Response Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 5th day of February 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS FUDGE, OKREPKIE, SALMON AND
VICE MAYOR LEMUS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: MAYOR FOPPOLI



ESTHER LEMUS, VICE MAYOR

ATTEST:



MARIA DE LA O, TOWN CLERK