

Road Measure Fails; Up Next, Schools

By Lee Borrowman

Measure C, the proposed parcel tax which would have raised funds for the repair of Lafayette's worst roads, was narrowly defeated on June 5. The measure received 63% of the vote, but needed 66% to pass.

Mayor Carol Federighi expressed disappointment that the measure did not obtain the 2/3 majority required. "I was heartened that more than 6 out of 10 voters supported Measure C," she said. "But the need for road repairs remains, and the City simply doesn't have the funds to do the job."

The City of Lafayette estimates that an additional \$24 million would be required to repair all of its failing roads.

"I was really impressed, however," Federighi continued, "with the wonderful campaign that was waged. The volunteers worked so hard to get out the message and garner the support." Over 100 residents had mobilized over the last several weeks to campaign in favor of Measure C.

Measure D, on the other hand, passed with over 70% of the vote. A companion to Measure C, this advisory measure requested that the town continue its annual allocation of \$1 million in General Funds to road repairs should Measure C pass.

Voters in Lafayette appear to want the City to continue fixing the roads, and are reluctant to pay for it themselves. Federighi concluded, "It's likely that our strongest support came from voters on the failed roads that are the most expensive to repair and rebuild. Many of our roads are (private or are) in pretty good shape thanks to our successful Road and Drain bond measure in 1995."

On the November ballot:

As the city considers what the future of Lafayette road repairs might look like, the Lafayette School District is making plans to renew and increase, to between \$290-\$315, the 1999 parcel tax which supports local schools. The current tax, which expires next summer, is \$132.

Did you Know?

Of those who voted in the special election, nearly 71% of Lafayette voters and 77% of Orinda voters used absentee ballots in this election.

Lest you ever think your vote doesn't count, Orinda's Measure E and Lafayette's Measure C were both less than 170 votes away from obtaining the 66% majority required to pass (165 votes in Lafayette, 163 in Orinda).

In the three Contra Costa County communities that held special elections on June 5 (Lafayette, Orinda and Clayton), total voter turn-out was less than 42% of registered voters.

Find the numbers at: <http://cocovote.us/>



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