



## Local Ballot Measure: A

Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted.

### Argument In Favor of Measure A

#### Vote Yes on Measure A — Save Emergency Fire and Medical Response in Soledad

When someone we love suffers a heart attack, stroke, or serious car accident, every second counts. In our rural community, the nearest emergency room in Salinas is over 30 minutes away. That means Soledad firefighter/EMTs are the difference between life and death — delivering critical care before a hospital is within reach.

Today, that safety net is at risk.

Soledad operates below national firefighter staffing standards — meaning fewer firefighters respond when we call 911. Meeting minimum staffing levels improves survival rates, protects firefighter safety and ensures crews are ready for the next emergency. Without Measure A, those gaps will widen as equipment ages and resources stretch thin.

Without Measure A, the Soledad Fire Department cannot keep pace with rising demand and costs. Essential services could be cut — leading to slower response times, fewer firefighters, and higher homeowners' insurance costs. In a rural community like ours, that's dangerous.

#### Measure A Will:

- Help ensure 24/7 staffing for rapid emergency 911 medical and fire response
- Replace old or outdated medical equipment, breathing apparatuses, protective clothing and other equipment
- Maintain fast, reliable response times to medical emergencies, car accidents, wildfires, floods and other natural disasters
- Ensure our local fire department has up-to-date working equipment and resources to assist in emergency medical situations and fight wildfires

#### Strict Fiscal Accountability and Local Control

- Funds will **only be used for the Soledad Fire Department**
- An independent citizens' oversight committee and audits ensure funds are being spent as promised
- No funds can be taken by the state

Small towns across California are facing the same crisis. Neighboring Greenfield has stepped up to create local funding solutions to protect fire and emergency medical services. Soledad follow suit to protect our families, homes and future.

#### Vote Yes on Measure A to Protect the Soledad Fire Department

/s/Richard "Punky" Lopez, Fire Battalion Chief

/s/Janet Hernandez, Registered Nurse

/s/Ivan Ibarra-Mora, President, Soledad Unified School District Board of Trustees

/s/Josefina P. Aguilera, Chair, Soledad Planning Commission

/s/Graig R. Stephens, Former Mayor, City of Soledad

### Rebuttal To Argument In Favor of Measure A

No arguments against Measure A were submitted.