



# Official Voter Information Guide

## June 6, 2017

### Town of Atherton

### Special Mail Ballot Election

To request a copy of this pamphlet in an accessible format or for voting assistance, call 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) or email registrar@smcare.org.

Para solicitar una copia en Español de este folleto de información para el votante en formato accesible o asistencia para votar, llame 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) o envíe un correo electrónico a registrar@smcare.org.

要索取這一份無障礙格式手冊或需投票協助，請致電888.SMC.VOTE(888.762.8683)或電郵registrar@smcare.org。

This official election information is compiled and distributed by the  
**Office of the Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder**

**1E** 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402 | phone 650.312.5222 | www.shapethefuture.org



### 3 Easy Steps to Vote by Mail

#### 1 Vote



Mark your ballot. Remove the ballot stub. This is your receipt. Put your ballot in the envelope.

**Make a mistake on your ballot?** We will send another one to you if we receive your request by May 30.

Check the box on the back of the return envelope and put the ballot in the envelope to return to us.

You can also call 650.312.5222, email registrar@smcare.org or exchange your ballot in person at the Voting Center listed below.

#### 2 Sign Your Envelope

1. Sign next to the **X** in the box and write the date.

The signature will be compared with your signature when you registered to vote.

Power of Attorney Not Accepted. Signature will be compared with signature on file. Disabled voters may use a "mark" but must include witness signature.

**VOTER'S SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR VERIFICATION**

**X** Jane Doe Date  
6/5/2017

2. Seal the envelope.

#### 3 Return Your Ballot



Mail your voted ballot in the POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE postmarked by **June 6** and it will be counted if it is received by **June 9**.



##### May 8 through June 6

Drop off your voted ballot during regular business hours at the Atherton Town Hall or at the 24-hour drop box at the Voting Center listed below.



##### Election Day, June 6

Drop your voted ballot on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Voting Center below.

#### Voting Center

Registration & Elections Division — **40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402**  
Office of the San Mateo County Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder  
Monday through Friday, open from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m.  
**On Election Day, June 6, 2017, open from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m.**

# Town of Atherton

Compiled by Town of Atherton City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta

## Measure A (Advisory Vote Only)

Should the Town of Atherton supplement private donations with available non-dedicated General Funds to meet the funding shortfall, where one exists, for construction of the new Town Center?

### Full Text

Measure L was approved by Atherton voters in 2012 as an advisory measure supporting the use of donor funds as the primary funding source for the Civic Center Project. Since 2012, the Town has spent four years in the design process, completed 100% Design Development and is now engaged in the preparation of construction documents. Donor funds have served as the primary funding source for all of this design work; but current donations are not sufficient to complete construction of the designed project.

The City Council has developed a funding plan that would supplement current and future private donations with available general funds without adding any new project-specific taxes, changes to the current Parcel Tax or use of the Town's mandatory reserves. Other funding sources include funds derived from building fees and grants. The City Council would like input from the voters as to how best to proceed with respect to additional funding needs. They pose the following question:

Should the Town of Atherton supplement private donations with available non-dedicated General Funds to meet the funding shortfall, where one exists, for construction of the new Town Center?

### Impartial Analysis of Measure A

In 2012 Measure L was passed by the voters to allow design and construction of a new Town Center City Hall complex. That measure asked voters what type of funds might be used to pay for the new structures, and indicated, possibly erroneously, that if approved, more than half the costs of construction would need to be non-general fund taxes. It was specifically noted that donations, grants, and existing building fees would be the primary source of funds.

Measure L was proposed by the City Council and was intended to be binding on future Councils. Recent case law interpretations would indicate the matter was advisory only because it failed to include an ordinance making the vote a law.

The Town Center project has gone through extensive design and is ready to move forward to construction. Despite extensive fund raising, it is clear that the substantial donations to date are insufficient to fund the total cost of the project.

The Town has substantial general tax funds it has identified that could be used to complete the project. While it is probable the City Council could simply approve use of these funds without voter approval, because of the confusion that Measure L might create, the Council has chosen to submit the matter to the voters for their opinion as to whether or not it is acceptable to use these available funds to complete the project, and they have placed this matter on the June 6, 2017 ballot for that purpose.

A yes vote on this measure would advise the Council that their desired use of general fund tax money to supplement the building fees and citizen donations is an appropriate means of funding this needed and essentially designed project.

A no vote on this measure would indicate that you do not wish the Council to use the available general tax funds to supplement donations and fees to allow completion of this project.

Regardless of how voters respond, the City Council will remain free to pursue design and construction of a new Town Center if appropriate funding sources can be identified.



# Town of Atherton

Compiled by Town of Atherton City Clerk Theresa DellaSanta  
Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

## Argument Against Measure A

## Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure A

In 2012, 74% of Atherton voters approved a new civic center, provided it was paid for by donated funds. The current council now wishes to divert more than \$14M of unallocated taxpayer dollars. Is this the most desirable course?

- Yes, the building department occupies temporary buildings and our library is earthquake unsafe, **but they can be replaced utilizing their own special funds which** cannot be used elsewhere.
- Yes, the police department needs improvements, but is the answer a huge \$24M structure --more than \$10,000 per household -- with a large foyer, gym, copper gutters **and potentially millions more** needed once bids are received, plus the cost of furnishings, increased upkeep, landscaping and more?
- Recent studies concluded Atherton needs \$36M for drainage deficiencies, \$20M to make bike and pedestrian routes safe for residents and school children. More than \$16M of health and pension costs remain unfunded. Obviously, Atherton has considerable debt and many financial obligations. Without tax increases, how will these be funded?
- Why did the civic center committee raise so little over so many years? Having been conceived with the idea that it was to be privately funded, has this proposed complex become too grandiose for our actual operational requirements?
- Atherton residents are successful, hardworking people who invest and spend money wisely. If potential donors have seen an extravagant town center as a poor investment for private funds, why should taxpayer money - much of which has indirectly **become available due to parcel taxes levies** – be used?
- **This measure would essentially wipe out ALL uncommitted funds, anticipates the use of millions in future educational rebates from the state and assures that more special taxes will be required.**
- Now is the time to consider a much smaller, **combination** remodeled and new structure.

Vote NO! There is a better way!

- |   |                |
|---|----------------|
| /s/ <b>John Ruggeiro</b>                              | March 10, 2017 |
| Former Vice-Chairman Transportation Committee         |                |
| /s/ <b>Charles Ramorino</b>                           | March 12, 2017 |
| Former Member General Plan Committee                  |                |
| /s/ <b>Jim Massey</b>                                 | March 15, 2017 |
| Member Finance Committee                              |                |
| /s/ <b>Kathy McKeithen</b>                            | March 16, 2017 |
| Former Atherton Mayor                                 |                |
| /s/ <b>Howard (Sandy) Crittenden</b>                  | March 16, 2017 |
| Former Commissioner Atherton Park and Rec. Commission |                |

The argument against Measure A misses the critical issue: **Atherton desperately needs a new Town Center and has needed one for 20+ years.** Current facilities are deplorable and have reached the end of their useful life. These include a condemned structure and non-compliant police/emergency facilities. A new Town Center is necessary to deliver essential services and enable us to hire and retain top-quality staff.

- The new Town Center is designed responsibly. Alternatives were seriously evaluated. The new Administration and Police facilities are approximately the same size as they are today. Designed as one building, it is better organized, more efficient, modern and code-compliant.
- Residents have and continue to raise private funds; however many residents strongly believe that public funds should pay for public buildings. Therefore, it is appropriate to use public funds to partner with our private donors.
- The proposed Town Center is a one-time capital expense that will reduce long-term costs. Professional consultants have advised that retrofitting, renovating and maintaining these 30-90 year-old dilapidated structures to meet current codes would be far more costly.
- Your Atherton City Council unanimously recommends a prudent funding plan for the new Town Center that requires **NO new taxes**, maintains all current reserves and retains all approved pension liability reductions and capital improvement projects in the pipeline, including important drainage, bike lane and park improvements. **NONE** of these important projects are sacrificed by allocating funds to the new Town Center.

**We recommend a YES vote on Measure A. THIS is the better way.**

- |                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| /s/ <b>Michael Lempres</b> | March 27, 2017 |
| Mayor                      |                |
| /s/ <b>Cary Wiest</b>      | March 27, 2017 |
| Vice Mayor                 |                |
| /s/ <b>Bill Widmer</b>     | March 27, 2017 |
| Councilmember              |                |
| /s/ <b>Elizabeth Lewis</b> | March 27, 2017 |
| Councilmember              |                |
| /s/ <b>Rick DeGolia</b>    | March 27, 2017 |
| Councilmember              |                |



# Accessible Voting

## in San Mateo County

In order to ensure that every citizen can vote privately, securely and independently, the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division offers many options for people to cast their vote. Voters may Vote by Mail, Vote In Person or vote via our Mobile Voting Center.

### Voter Information

Information regarding this election is available here in print, electronically as a PDF and through a screen readable link at [www.shapethefuture.org/MyElectionMaterials](http://www.shapethefuture.org/MyElectionMaterials).

### Vote by Mail

Voters must sign the return envelope so it can be compared to the voter's signature on file in accordance with state law. Voters who currently cannot sign the return envelope have three alternatives:

1. The voter can use his or her authorized signature stamp;
2. The voter can make his or her "mark" or print an "X". Then, a witness must write "Witnessed by:" and sign near the mark; or
3. The voter can re-register with their new signature or mark so that the voter registration record has the voter's most recent signature.

### Assistance Available in Person

Voters have access to English, Chinese and Spanish language ballots on all eSlate Voting Machines. The eSlate Disabled Access Unit has an integrated audio ballot reader, accessibility buttons (tactile input switches) and an input jack which may be used for a personal sip-and-puff device. Voters may bring up to two people, including Elections Division staff into the voting booth for assistance. Voters may not bring an employer or union agent.



**Voting Center at the Registration & Elections Division** at 40 Tower Road, San Mateo

- Accessible for voting under federal and state regulations and guidelines.
- May 8 to June 5, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Election Day: June 6, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



**Mobile Voting Center** – For voters who are unable to vote at the Voting Center nor on a Vote by Mail ballot

- We can help arrange a ride to a voting location or set up an accessible eSlate voting machine at a convenient location inside or outside a home.
- Service is available May 8 to June 6, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.
- Service is by appointment only. Voters who contact us Monday through Thursday will receive service the following day or sooner. Voters who contact us on Fridays can schedule an appointment for the following Monday or sooner if possible.

\*Special accommodations can be made for service outside established hours.

- To schedule an appointment, call 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) or email us at [registrar@smcare.org](mailto:registrar@smcare.org) no later than the day before the desired voting date.



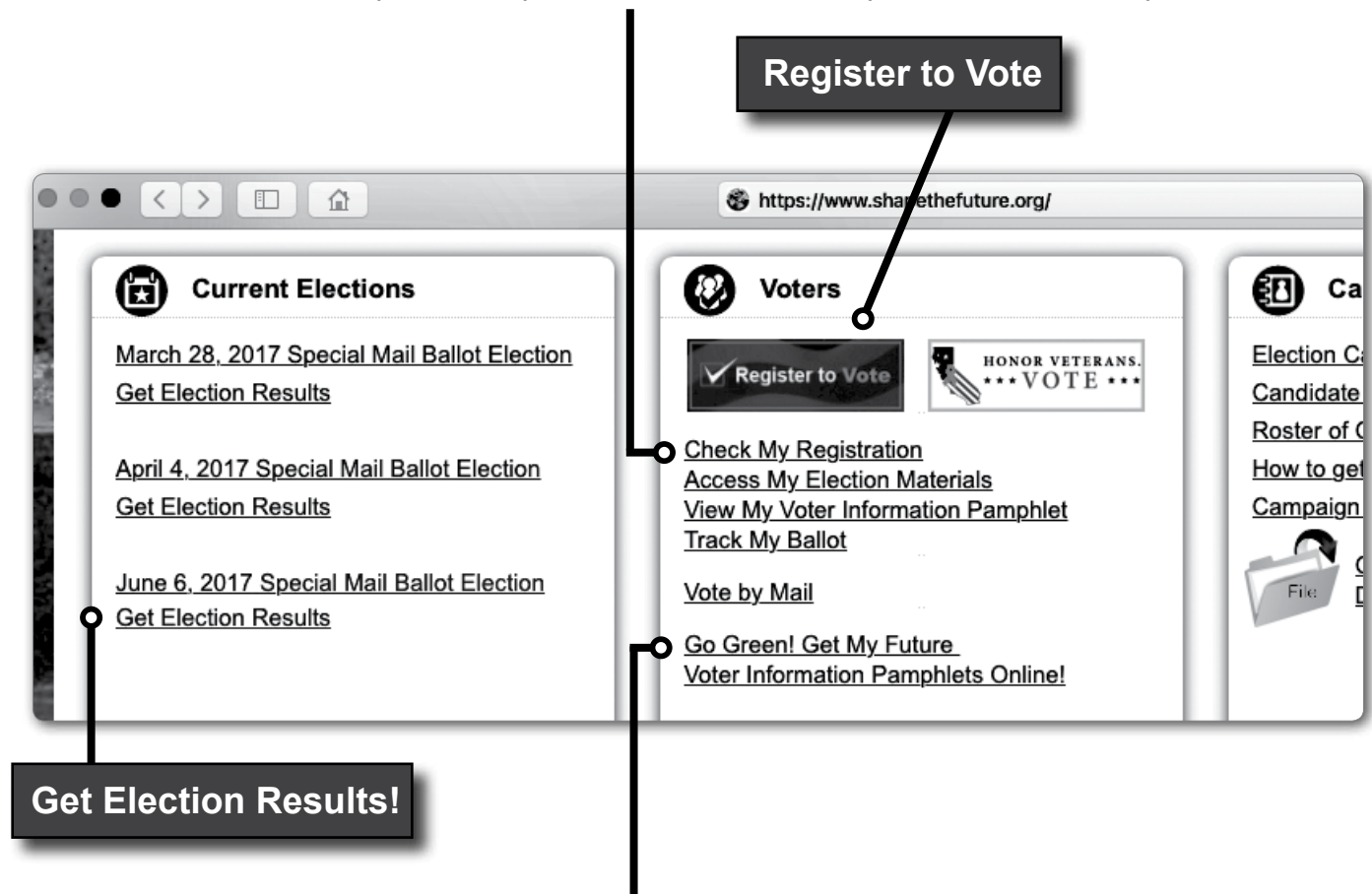
## Your Online Elections Resource: www.shapethefuture.org

Click on:

**Check My Registration | Access My Election Materials | View My Voter Pamphlet**

Here you will be able to:

- Confirm your registration status and your political party
- Find out the hours and location of our Voting Center
- View or print PDF and Accessible versions of your Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet
- Sign up to Vote by Mail for future elections, if you are not already signed up
- Track and confirm that your Vote by Mail ballot was mailed to you and/or received by our office



### Go Green and Go Paperless with the Accessible Sample Ballot Pamphlet

**To get your Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet online:**

Click the “**Go Green! Get My Future Voter Information Pamphlets Online!**” link on www.shapethefuture.org and fill in the blanks. Once you are signed up, you will no longer receive a paper Sample Ballot & Official Voter Information Pamphlet in the mail. *This will not affect Official Ballots mailed to voters.*



Sample Ballot 12000010100011



**SAMPLE BALLOT  
SPECIAL ELECTION  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
June 06, 2017**

1

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:**

Use a black or blue ink pen to mark your choice on the ballot. To vote for your choice in this contest, completely fill in the box provided to the left of your choice.

**MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS  
CITY**

**TOWN OF ATHERTON  
MEASURE A**

**Advisory Vote Only**

Should the Town of Atherton supplement private donations with available non-dedicated General Funds to meet the funding shortfall, where one exists, for construction of the new Town Center?

YES

NO

Sample Ballot

2783031172





**Sample Ballot**12000010200018



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**Sample Ballot**

2783031172

