

## Measure A = 1/2 Cent Sales Tax

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to place a ½ cent sales tax measure on the June ballot.

During the past three years, the County has had to find General Fund budget solutions totaling \$638 million. These cumulative budget solutions equal 30% of the \$2.1 billion FY2006 General Fund budget.

The most recent forecast by the Office of Budget and Analysis affirms that the deficit in FY2007 is projected to be \$120.6 million with deficits in FY2008 and FY2009 as well. The actions necessary to achieve a balanced budget next fiscal year in the current economic environment would require continued significant reductions to essential County services, which places not only the safety net at risk, but also basic public safety and other governmental services.

The ½ cent sales tax would generate a low of \$153.9 million, \$163.1 million, or \$170.3 million in the high range. To illustrate the potential effect of the proposed rate increases, County Executive, Pete Kutas reported that based on annual consumption of \$25,000, currently the taxes paid amount to \$2,063. At the ½ cent rate, the amount would be \$125 more annually.

The Board listened to testimony from speakers representing a wide variety of interests, many of whom supported going forward with the ½ cent sales tax measure. Supervisor Gage, District 1, weighed in with a practical example of what it is like not to have ultimate control of County funding. "To understand the position the County is in, think about it this way, Gage told the audience. "If 65 percent of your household budget were not in your control, what would you do? That is the position the county is in and this tax measure will give us a self-help tool."

Referring to recent newspaper articles, Supervisor Liz Kniss, District 5, asked the questions: "Are the voters being misled? Has there been a deal struck? Not on my watch," she replied. "I've never been a big BART supporter, but I have been a transportation supporter." Kniss went on to list a number of transportation improvements that have been undertaken by the County, including Highway 85 and 101, the noise mitigation project on Highway 85, in total \$1.5 billion transportation projects delivered - roads, expressways, resurfacing, fixing potholes, signal synchronization. "Transportation is not a 4-letter word," said Kniss. "I support keeping transportation improvements in the ballot measure language." "This sales tax measure is all about all of us taking responsibility for our own destiny," continued Supervisor Pete McHugh, District 3. "There is a wide diversity of perspectives on this board. And I believe that transportation and roads are an integral part of taking care of our community."

The measure will be a general purpose sales tax on the June ballot. If approved by the voters, the measure will sunset in 30 years. The language for this ballot measure is on the back of this publication and reads as follows:

### Wage Increase

Effective May 8, 2006, there is a two percent (2%) realignment for all classifications represented by RNPA. This increase will be reflected on May 26, 2006 paycheck.

### New Contract

The new contract is here. RNPA will be mailing the contract to your home the week of April 24th. Please, update your home address with the RNPA office at 292-6061 or email [karla@rnpa.net](mailto:karla@rnpa.net), ASAP. You may access the contract at any time at <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/esa/>

# Measure A. Sales Tax -- County of Santa Clara

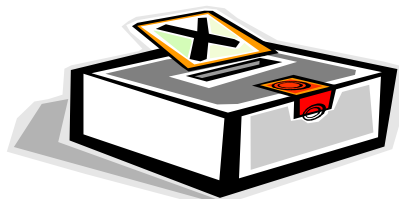
Shall a one-half cent sales tax be enacted, for 30 years, for general county purposes, such as:

- The County hospital and clinics;
- Trauma and emergency services;
- Affordable homes for families and seniors;
- Health insurance for uninsured children;
- Prevention programs for at-risk youth, families and seniors;
- Transportation improvements approved in city and countywide transportation plans;

- Services for abused and neglected children;

with a Citizens Oversight Committee ensuring fiscal accountability by reviewing the Annual Audit?

RNPA is currently reviewing this measure and will have more information on how it will impact our membership next month.



## Voting Information

Last Day to [Register to Vote](#) - May 22, 2006

First Day to [Request an Absentee Ballot](#) - May 8, 2006

Last Day to [Request an Absentee Ballot](#) - May 30, 2006

## Upcoming CE Class

Legal and Professional

Issues in Nursing

Practice,

7.0 contact hours

**Where:** Doubletree Hotel  
San Jose, CA

**When:** Thursday, May 4, 2006 or Friday, May 5, 2006

**Time:** 8:30am-3:30pm

**Please note:** This is a One Day Class offered on 2 consecutive days. The content will be the same on both days. Look for flyers on your unit and register today! Please be prompt the day of the class. Be courteous to those in attendance and to the speakers.

## Professional Practice Corner



In our last Newsbreak we reported on the Superior Court ruling that overturned the January 2003

regulation that allowed LVNs to administer IV drugs in certain outpatient settings. The basis for the judge's decision was that the regulation illegally expanded the LVN scope of practice. This brings to the forefront the question; What exactly is the LVN's scope of practice?

The Vocational Nursing Practice Act allows for the LVN to perform services requiring technical and manual skills which include: 1)Performing basic physical assessment 2)Participating in care planning 3)Executing interventions contained in the care plan and 4) contributing to the evaluation of the individual interventions related to the plan of care. All of the above are performed under the direction of a licensed physician or registered professional nurse.

On the surface there seems to be many similarities between LVN and RN

practice. The above description contains the very words of the nursing process we learned so long ago: Assess, Plan, Intervene, and Evaluate. This process generates tasks, many of which both the RN and LVN can legally perform. Many feel the court's decision halted the erosion of the RN scope of practice. One task however, does not an RN practice make. Perhaps the question should be what exactly is the RN scope of practice.

Can you as an RN clearly articulate your scope of practice? In Section 2725 of the California Business and Professional Code the practice of nursing is defined. Here you will find the nursing process, shared by the RN and LVN, taken one step further. Section 2725 speaks to the critical thinking and decision-making processes that must accompany the nursing process in order to practice as a registered nurse.

Our class in May will be examining the California Nurse Practice Act and discussing the RN's professional practice responsibilities. We feel the information in this class is so important to each of you that we are offering two separate dates to enable more of you to attend. See you there!!!

## Welcome New Area Representatives!

Mary Lacy, PICU  
Margie Pedroni, OPD  
Mary Verna, Derm/Cardio/VHC  
Laurey Shumaker, MICC  
Mary Kowalski, EPS