

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE D

We believe safety and security are extremely important. We support our firefighters who protect our property and lives. That is shown by the fact that our firefighters are the highest paid Sausalito employees and the only employees not required to contribute to their retirement plans. Our objection to the proposed annexation is not anti firefighter but pro Sausalito residents.

Consolidations can be beneficial and cost-saving if structured properly; however, this is an "annexation" with the following unacceptable provisions:

- The proposed annexation is permanent, requiring the city to send 45% of property tax revenues to the Southern Marin Fire District (SMFD) forever, even if a lower cost alternative is later identified. Fire annexation gives SMFD a windfall and deprives Sausalito residents of revenue critical to fund numerous other vital city services.
- Fire annexation eliminates Sausalito's right to manage its fire services. No other city in Marin has totally given up control of its fire services. Mill Valley has said no to SMFD twice.
- Sausalito residents (26% of SMFD) do not have adequate votes to block a new SMFD parcel tax or to ensure fair representation.

Options exist between the far extremes of a complete and permanent takeover (annexation) of our emergency medical and fire services (and our tax dollars) versus a standalone fire department.

There is time: Our current contract with SMFD requires a one-year notice to terminate it. That one-year clock has not started running.

Vallejo went bankrupt and Stockton is close behind because they did not properly plan for their future. We must not follow their lead.

Vote NO on fire annexation. Direct the City Council to conduct an independent analysis that considers all available options to meet our emergency medical and fire needs.

For more information, see www.sausalitofirevote.com.

John Flavin

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