

PROS & CONS GUIDE



Nonpartisan information about election ballot measures

Proposition RTM Regional Transit Measure

Placed on the ballot by signature initiative, sponsored by the Connect Bay Area Transit Committee.

The question: Shall a 1% sales tax in San Francisco and a 0.5% sales tax in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties be added to fund public transit?

Background: Bay Area public transit lost most of its fare revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic. A series of federal and state emergency funds has covered the gap since, ending with a \$590 million state loan that runs out in June 2027. After that, agencies project a combined shortfall of about \$800 million a year.

The proposal: This regional transit measure would add a 1% sales tax in San Francisco and a 0.5% sales tax in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. Regional tax measures do not change the items that are already exempt from sales tax, such as groceries, diapers, and prescription medicine. This is expected to generate \$980 million per year.

About 95% of the money is allocated among county transportation agencies and public transit operators. This measure would benefit Alameda-Contra Costa Transit, Bay Area Rapid Transit, Caltrain, Golden Gate Transit, Muni, SamTrans, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, SF Bay Ferry, and small bus operators. The percentage of tax revenue allocated to each is set depending on the originating county. County transportation agencies outside of San Francisco could use the money for infrastructure improvements related to public transit, such as repaving roads on bus or rail routes.

The remaining ~5% would go to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the agency that administers the tax, and could be spent on fare discount programs, Clipper START, accessibility, mapping and wayfinding, and administrative costs.

The proposal would require an independent oversight committee to make sure that the money is spent appropriately. The funding would be contingent on agencies following through on financial efficiency commitments.

👍 **If you vote YES**, you support that a 1% sales tax in San Francisco & a 0.5% sales tax in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties be added to fund public transit & oversight of finances and service consistency.

👎 **If you vote NO**, you do not support these changes.

Supporters include: Chamber San Mateo County, Connect Bay Area, Friends Of Caltrain, International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1165, League of Women Voters Bay Area, SamTrans, Santa Clara County, United Way Bay Area

Supporters claim: The measure will reduce traffic, support our local and regional economy and ensure families, seniors, people with disabilities, students, and workers have an affordable way to get where they need to go. The measure prevents transit cuts that will cause reduced service, station closures, higher fares, and shorter operating hours.

Opponents include: Silicon Valley Taxpayers' Association, Committee for Affordable Bay Area Transit, South County Business Alliance, Contra Costa Taxpayers Association

Opponents claim: This tax affects households with limited incomes the hardest. In some cities, combined sales tax would be increased above 11%. Agencies should redirect existing money and defer megaprojects before asking voters to increase taxes.