



# NEWS



## News Headlines 11/10 – 11/11/2020

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## County votes on Measure U

Saula A. Flores, Mohave Daily News

Posted: November 10, 2020



NEEDLES – One of the measures on the ballot during the Nov. 3 general election was Measure U to repeal the special parcel tax for **San Bernardino County Fire** Protection District.

The argument for the repeal of the special tax, put forth by Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association President Jon Coupal and Rob Cable of San Antonio Heights Association among others, stated that politicians traded away local fire protection and joined a large, regional agency, saddling residents with a tax increase that penalizes poor and middle-class families the same as rich cooperate property. They state that the tax, approved by only a small number of people, impacts over 1 million county residents. They stated that over 99% of those impacted never had the chance to vote on dismantling local fire protection or paying a new tax.

The argument against the repeal of the special tax, put forth by IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters) Local 935 San Bernardino County President James Grigoli and Fontana Fire District President John B. Roberts among others, stated that the repeal of the special parcel tax would result in more than \$40 million slashed for emergency medical and fire protection services. They stated that as the result of the lack of funding, 19 local fire stations would close across the county and stated that the mountain and desert communities will be especially hard hit by the fire station closures caused by Measure U. They stated that the passing of the measure would delay response times in medical emergencies by an average of nine minutes and that it would raise homeowners' insurance costs by at least \$500 per year and that renters would face monthly rent increases as landlords pass along these higher insurance costs.

As of Nov. 6, the yes count was 73,143 (would repeal special parcel tax) and the no count, was 77,561 (would not repeal the special tax).

<https://mohavedailynews.com/news/29053/county-votes-on-measure-u/>

## New resuscitation system equipment implemented in Fontana's fire stations

Staff Writer, Fontana Herald News

Posted: November 10, 2020



The San Bernardino County Fire Department has deployed a ZOLL Auto-Pulse Resuscitation System unit to each fire station within the City of Fontana.

In order to increase cardiac arrest survival rates, the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department has deployed a ZOLL Auto-Pulse Resuscitation System unit to each fire station within the City of Fontana.

The Resuscitation System delivers high-quality circumferential chest compressions without interruption, the Fire Department said in a news release.

Easy to use and battery-operated, AutoPulse squeezes the patient's entire chest to improve blood flow to the heart and brain, ensuring that patients receive nonstop care without compromising CPR quality. When the system's stabilizing board is placed on a soft stretcher, responders can continue providing CPR down steep stairwells, around sharp corners, or even in a cramped elevator.

Compared with manual CPR, AutoPulse has been shown to reduce interruptions in compressions during transport by more than 85 percent.

Division 1 Assistant Chief Jeff Birchfield worked to acquire and coordinate training for Division 1 stations.

"County Fire is excited for this opportunity to bring state of the art technology such as these devices that will ensure we are providing the best life-saving service possible to the citizens of Fontana and its visitors," he said.

Crews have been trained by San Bernardino County Fire Department nurse educators and ZOLL staff on use and integration with ZOLL cardiac monitors.

For more information about the ZOLL Auto-Pulse Resuscitation System, contact San Bernardino County Fire Department Battalion Chief/Public Information Officer Mike McClintock at [MMcClintock@sbcfire.org](mailto:MMcClintock@sbcfire.org).

[https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/new-resuscitation-system-equipment-implemented-in-fontanas-fire-stations/article\\_af2188c0-239e-11eb-b234-db0a13f4786f.html](https://www.fontanaheraldnews.com/news/new-resuscitation-system-equipment-implemented-in-fontanas-fire-stations/article_af2188c0-239e-11eb-b234-db0a13f4786f.html)

## Yucca Valley Man Accused of Trying To Burn Down His Home

Staff Writer, z1077fm.com

Posted: November 10, 2020



A Yucca Valley man was arrested Friday, accused of trying to set fire to his home. Deputies and firefighters were called to the 9100 block of Hermosa Avenue in Yucca Valley just before 9 p.m. because a man, identified as Andrew Redmond, 19, was setting fire to papers inside a bedroom. Redmond was detained without incident, and firefighters determined there were no other threats of fire or hazards inside the home. Andrew Redmond was arrested on suspicion of arson, booked in the West Valley Detention Center, with his bail set at \$100,000.

<http://z1077fm.com/2020/11/10/page/2/>

## Repeal of fire tax failing by narrow margin

Jene Estrada

Posted: November 11, 2020 at 10:41AM

MORONGO BASIN — More than 176,000 ballots still need to be counted in San Bernardino County but preliminary reports show Measure U failing by a narrow margin.

If passed, Measure U would repeal the special tax charged to properties in Fire Protection Service Zone Five, reducing the fire department's revenue by \$41.5 million annually.

"This repeal would have represented a major loss in revenue for the fire district, including all of the revenue to provide the city of Twentynine Palms fire, rescue and EMS protection," **Fire Chief Dan Munsey** said last week.

As of Tuesday morning, Nov. 10, 51.9% of the 189,243 counted votes were marked "no" on Measure U. A "no" vote kept the special tax in effect and a "yes" vote repealed the special tax.

Twentynine Palms has been in FP5 for several years, and the zone was expanded to most other county areas in October 2018. Properties in the expanded boundaries are all subject to the tax, which amounts to \$157.26 per parcel.

In an interview Wednesday, Nov. 4, Munsey said the early projections made him hopeful that the measure would fail, since the passing of the measure likely would have resulted in lower service to the Morongo Basin.

"This would have closed several fire stations in our Morongo Basin and reduced staffing," he said.

Munsey went on to say that he was thankful for the residents who supported the fire district by voting no on the measure.

"We appreciate the support of our residents and will continue to work hard to earn trust with transparency, careful spending habits and providing exceptional customer service."

After the county expanded Fire Protection Zone 5 was expanded across the county, some argued it was unconstitutional since affected landowners did not vote on it. Instead, the county board used a protest process that required 25% of property owners who own at least 25% of the impacted land to submit a "no" by mailing a protest form or showing up to a public hearing. None of the affected areas reached the 25% protest standard, so the tax was implemented.

Two groups sued the county but a superior court judge ruled the FP5 tax was not unconstitutional.

One of the plaintiffs, the Red Brennan Group, then submitted a petition with 32,017 signatures calling for a repeal of the fire tax. After receiving the petition, the county board of supervisors voted to repeal the tax and put it on the November ballot.

<https://hidesertstar.com/news/178391/repeal-of-fire-tax-failing-by-narrow-margin/>