

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District

The SMART Initiative:

“Safe, Modern, and Accessible Rail and Transit”

January 21, 2026



The SMART Initiative

- Background
- Ballot Question
- Staff Recommendations
- Questions

The SMART Initiative

- August 25, 2025: The SMART Initiative proponents submitted documents to the Registrars of Voters and SMART:
 - Notice of intention to circulate initiative petition
 - Written text of the initiative measure
 - Affidavits from newspaper representatives confirming publication
- Initiative proposes renewing funding for the SMART system by extending public funding for another 30 years, without increasing taxes
- November 21, 2025: Petition submitted to the Registrars of Voters for signature verification.



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- December 18, 2025: Sonoma County Register of Voters notified SMART that the requisite number of voters in Marin/Sonoma signed the petition qualifying the initiative measure for the ballot
 - Required valid signatures = 48,809
 - 10% of registered voters (Marin/Sonoma)
 - Estimated valid signatures = 57,418
 - Exceeded requirement by 17.6%
- Register of Voters requested SMART Board of Directors accept the certification
 - SMART District Clerk of the Board reviewed the certification and concurs



The SMART Initiative

Proposed Ballot Question:

Without increasing taxes, continue Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit District regional train and bicycle/pedestrian pathway service beyond 2029 to serve residents including seniors, youth, essential workers, and low-income households; relieve traffic congestion; complete planned rail/pathway expansion; increase ridership; preserve community's historic rail infrastructure investment; maintain clean/safe trains; reduce greenhouse gas emissions, shall the measure extending the $\frac{1}{4}$ cent, voter-approved, sales tax for 30 years, generating approximately \$51,000,000 annually beginning in 2029, be adopted?



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Recommend Board adopt Resolution No 2026-01, to take the following actions:

1. Accept the certifications of the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters that the SMART Initiative contains sufficient signatures to qualify for the ballot.
2. Request the Boards of Supervisors of the Counties of Sonoma and Marin to call a special election to be held on June 2, 2026, and to consolidate the special election with the Statewide election on the same date.
3. Establish ballot language to be provided to the Boards of Supervisors in Sonoma and Marin Counties, and the Registrars of Voters for submission to the voters.
4. Request the Board of Supervisors of the Counties of Sonoma and Marin to transmit the text of the Initiative Measure to the Sonoma County Counsel's Office to prepare an impartial analysis of the Initiative Measure.



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Resolution actions continued:

5. Request the Sonoma County and Marin County Registrars of Voters render full election services relating to the conduct of an election held in the counties on June 2, 2026.
6. Acknowledge the District will reimburse the Counties of Marin and Sonoma upon request for the incremental costs of submitting a measure to the voters.
7. Direct District Clerk to take any and all actions necessary under law to prepare for and conduct the Election.



Questions ?

