

## TOWN OF PORTOLA VALLEY

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT CHARTER MEASURES AND PROPERTY TRANSFER TAXES

**Q:** *What is a Charter Measure?*

A: While some California towns/cities are organized under the State's general many others are governed by a charter adopted by local voters. Doing so would allow the Town, should voters choose to do so, to enact a real property transfer tax, to financially stabilize Portola Valley and keep it independent. The funding generated could not be taken by the County, Sacramento or the Federal Government.

**Q:** *Has a decision been made? Why do this now?*

A: NO decision has been made; the Town is conducting public input. To become a charter town, a majority of voters must adopt a town charter.

**Q:** *What is an RPTT?*

A: If placed before voters and enacted, an RPPT would allow Portola Valley to tax the sale of property within City limits, which is a common ordinance in other cities. RPTTs are paid ONLY by the buyer or seller during their specific transactions, and those parties reach their own agreement on who pays. Adopting this common mechanism here, helps Portola Valley maintain essential city services such as wildfire prevention services, vegetation and brush management/clearance programs to reduce the chance of a wildfire, maintaining 911 emergency response times and police patrols, preventing a County takeover of local zoning and planning services, repairing deteriorating storm drains to prevent system failure, flowing and water pollution and sinkholes.

**Q:** *Is the Town's intent to help its budget?*

A: Globally, Portola Valley must protect our Town autonomy and ability to make our own zoning decisions as our own incorporated community. Unless the Town maintains its fiscal stability, it loses our independent status, zoning decisions would be made by the County.

**Q:** *What's the next step?*

A: Over the coming weeks the City will be continuing to collect more input and will decide whether to put this measure before voters.