

Coalition of Sensible Taxpayers

Mimi Willard, President

**Marin Coalition
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WHO WE ARE

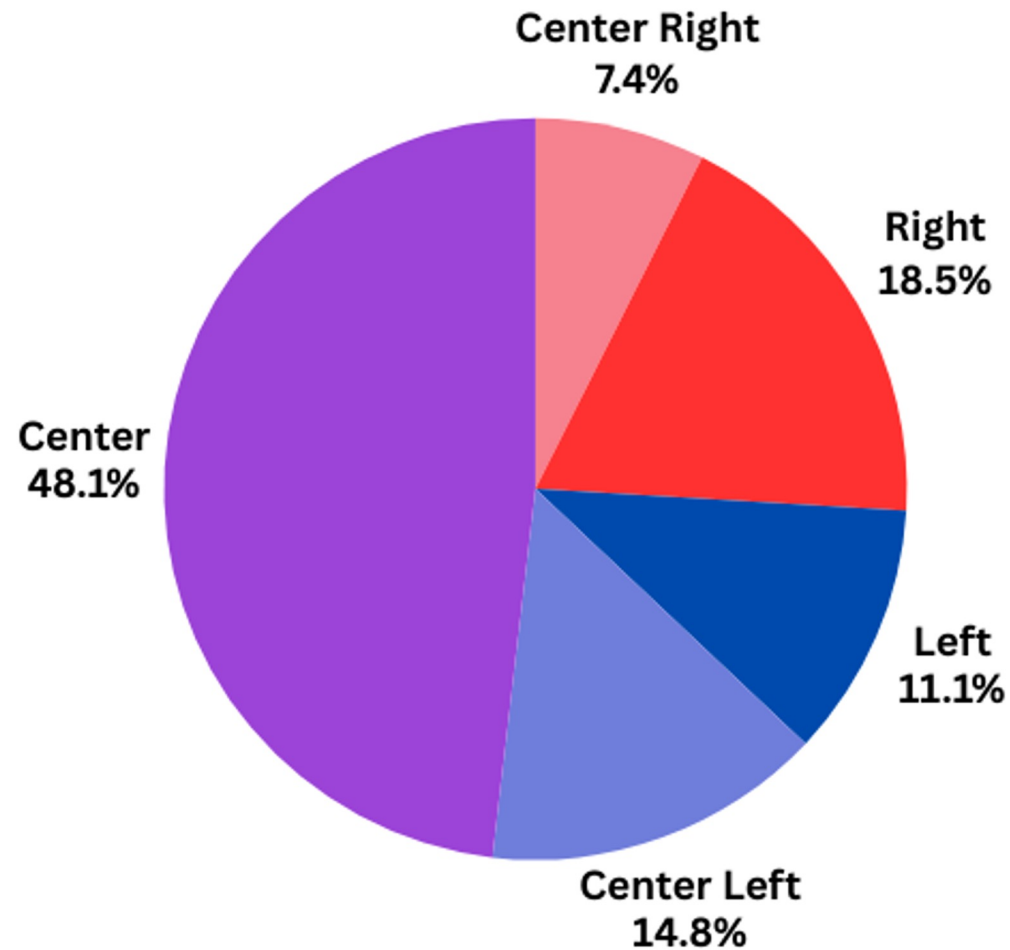
CO\$T's Unique Model

Nonpartisan Broad Coalition of Marin Tax- and Rate-Payers

- **Span the political spectrum**
- **Focus mainly on local issues... for maximum impact**
- **Led by 6 member operating board**
- **Advised by Brain Trust – subject experts**
- **Supported by 1700-1800 reader/subscriber/donors**

WHO WE ARE

CO\$T's Unique Transpartisan Coalition



WHO WE ARE

Accomplished Team Key to Success

- **Finance Professionals**
- **Former grand jurors**
- **Elected officials**
- **Citizen activists**
- **Legal experts**
- **Communicators**
- **Oversight committee members**
- **Researchers**
- **ACTION-ORIENTED COMMUNITY MEMBERS!**

WHAT WE DO

Surveil, Advocate, Educate & Collaborate
To Make Local Government

- **Fair**
- **Transparent**
- **Fiscally responsible**
- **Responsive**
- **Law-Abiding**
- **Affordable**

How CO\$T Has Evolved

2016/7 – Financial analysis-based advocacy for AFFORDABLE local government. Developed SENSIBLE Tax Criteria.

2017/8 – Added 501(c)3 EDUCATION mission

2019 - FAIRNESS, LEGALITY issues prompted MMWD Suit

2020 - Urgent work on FAIRER tax structures & HONEST ballot language

2022 - COMPROMISE solution & ENDORSEMENT key to wildfire JPA tax

2020 - UNNECESSARY TUHSD parcel tax hike defeated

CO\$T's CONTINUING EVOLUTION

2020 – FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY & TRANSPARENCY issues sink SMART tax renewal. CO\$T led ballot Arguments Against & won IJ's backing

2021 – NEW EDUCATION – Tax/fee discounts & exemptions annual email

2022 – Spotswood-moderated VOTER EDUCATION webinar series start

2022 – COST-endorsed challengers sweep MMWD board elections

2023 – MMWD settles CO\$T's lawsuit, fixes unfair rate structure

CO\$T's CURRENT FOCUS

- **TUHSD's \$1 billion tax measure – Advocating for more affordable, better-prioritized alternative**
- **Refuse rate pass-through to local government – Fair? Legal? Affordable?**
- **Hybrid meetings – Defending disabled, elderly, low-income, & free speech rights**
- **Improving communications about who we are and what we do**

HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH CO\$T

Visit COSTMarin.org and...

- **Click on SIGN UP to receive our very popular free email alerts**
- **Click on CONTACT US to send a message, ask a question, or volunteer to help**
- **Meet a COST director to learn more**

TUHSD \$1.04 Billion Tax Measure

- **\$1.04 Billion is just too much.**
- **We are already paying multiple bond and parcel taxes.**
- **Inflation & economic uncertainty are stressing seniors & low/moderate income residents. No tax exemptions are available.**
- **Enrollment set to decline 23% by 2030.**
- **Existing taxes could fund smaller classes, lower achievement gap & fund more maintenance.**
- **Why not refocus? Most of the \$ goes to Priority 2 and 3 projects.**

Refuse Collection Rate Revenue Issue

- **Councils/Boards award refuse franchises and rate increases**
- **Conflict of interest: refuse rate hikes boost city/county coffers.**
- **Are the \$ flowing to cities/county a TAX without voter approval?**
- **Or, is it a FEE that needs prop 218 rate notice & protest option?**
- **Zolly v City of Oakland raises legal risk**
- **Reducing or eliminating revenue pass-through should lower refuse rates & increase accountability**

COST Coalition of
Sensible
Taxpayers
The Taxpayers' Voice

COSTMarin.org