



Local ballot measure: V-Soquel Elem School parcel tax

V

Soquel Union Elementary School District parcel tax

Ballot question

To maintain quality education in local elementary/middle schools by attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers/school staff; preserving strong academic programs in reading, writing, math, science, technology, arts and music; maintaining small class sizes; and providing locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the State, shall Soquel Union Elementary School District's measure levying \$96 per parcel annually for 6 years be adopted, raising approximately \$1,500,000 annually with independent oversight, senior exemptions, and all funds benefitting local schools?

Pregunta de Boleta

Para mantener una educación de calidad en las escuelas primarias/intermedias locales atrayendo y reteniendo maestros/personal escolar altamente calificado, preservando programas académicos sólidos en lectura, escritura, matemáticas, ciencias, tecnología, artes y música, manteniendo clases pequeñas y proporcionando fondos controlados localmente que no pueden ser tomados por el Estado, ¿deberá adoptarse la medida del Distrito de escuelas primarias de Soquel Union que recauda \$96 por parcela anualmente durante 6 años, recaudando aproximadamente \$1,500,000 anualmente con supervisión independiente, exenciones para adultos mayores y con todos los fondos al beneficio de las escuelas locales?

What your vote means

YES	NO
A "Yes" vote is a vote to authorize a special parcel tax of \$96 annually for six years.	A "No" vote is a vote against the special parcel tax.

For and against Measure V

FOR	AGAINST
<p>Angelo DeBernardo, Jr. Community Banker</p> <p>Yvette Brooks City of Capitola Councilmember</p> <p>Carissa Lemos Soquel Education Assoc. President</p> <p>For Kids Foundation Monterey Bay Sandra Wallace, Member, Board of Directors</p> <p>Soquel Elementary Home & School Club Gwen Trowbridge, Board President</p>	<p>No argument against Measure V was filed.</p>



Local ballot measure: V-Soquel Elem School parcel tax

Arguments are the opinions of the authors. We print them exactly as submitted, including errors.

Argument for Measure V

Vote YES on V to keep outstanding teachers and high-quality academic programs in Soquel Union Elementary School District schools.

All funds from Measure V will be spent right here in our local schools and cannot be taken by the State.

Great teachers are essential for student achievement. However, Santa Cruz County is one of the most expensive places to live in the country and many of our teachers and staff struggle to afford to live here. **Measure V will help attract and retain the highest quality teachers so that kids in all our schools have access to the best education possible.**

Without Measure V our local schools will face deep cuts to academic programs for students, teachers will be laid off and class sizes will increase. We need Measure V to keep qualified and experienced teachers in our classrooms.

Measure V requires local control and independent citizen oversight to ensure that every penny is spent as promised.

Vote YES on V for Local Control and Outstanding Teachers

- Maintain strong academic programs in reading, writing, math, science, technology, arts and music
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers and school staff
- Maintain small class sizes
- Keep teacher salaries competitive with neighboring districts
- Keep schools safe, clean and well-maintained
- Support hands on science instruction

All Measure V Funds Stay in Soquel Schools

- Every penny stays local
- No funds can be taken away by the State
- Citizens' oversight and annual audits are required
- No funds can go to administrator salaries
- Senior citizens are eligible for an exemption

Strong schools make strong communities. Measure V will keep our neighborhood schools strong and will help maintain property values in our communities.

Join local community leaders, seniors, business leaders, parents and teachers in voting YES on Measure V.

Angelo DeBernarde, Jr.
Community Banker

Yvette Brooks
City of Capitola Councilmember

Carissa Lemos
Soquel Education Assoc. President

For Kids Foundation Monterey Bay
Sandra Wallace, Member, Board of Directors

Soquel Elementary Home & School Club
Gwen Trowbridge, Board President

No argument against Measure V was filed.



Local ballot measure: V-Soquel Elem School parcel tax

Impartial Analysis of Measure V

Jason Heath, County Counsel

By: Ruby Márquez, Assistant County Counsel

Under the California Constitution and other related state laws, school districts may levy an education parcel tax if approved by at least 66% percent (two-thirds) of voters within the boundaries of that district. Parcel taxes are paid equally by all property owners, regardless of the size or value of the property.

The Board of Trustees of the Soquel Union Elementary School District (“the School District”) proposes a parcel tax in the amount of \$96 per parcel annually for a period of six years, beginning July 1, 2020. The School District anticipates this tax would raise \$1,500,000 annually.

Within the full body of the proposed measure, the School District has submitted a specific description of how the funds will be spent, including:

- Salaries for teachers and support staff;
- Student enrichment programs;
- Instruction in the arts focusing on music; and/or
- “Hands-on” science in life labs and/or school gardens.

As required by law, the School District must follow certain accountability provisions during the duration of the parcel tax. This includes creating a special account into which the proceeds shall be deposited. Additionally, the School District will be required to publish an annual report describing the amount of taxes collected and expended as well as the status of any projects funded by these proceeds. Finally, the proposed measure includes the creation of an independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee comprised of parents and community members.

If the measure passes, certain property owners may apply with the School District to request an exemption from paying the parcel tax. This includes persons who are 65 years of age or older and/or specified recipients of SSI and SSDI regardless of age.

Measure V was placed on the ballot by the Board of Trustees of the Soquel Union Elementary School District.

A “yes” vote on Measure V is a vote to authorize a special parcel tax of \$96 annually for six years.

A “no” vote on Measure V is a vote against the special parcel tax.

Full text of Measure V

TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT SERVICES
FOR STUDENTS WITHIN SOQUEL UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION

This Measure provides needed funding to continue educational programs and support services for students within the Soquel Union Elementary School District (the “District”).

This Measure will generate revenues to be spent only within District schools and cannot be taken by the State. It calls for an independent Citizen’s Oversight Committee comprised of parents and representatives of the community at large to ensure that the money raised under this Measure is spent only for purposes described in this Measure, and for annual audits that ensure all funds are spent for educational purposes and that no funds go toward administrators’ salaries or benefits. The following persons may request an exemption from paying the parcel tax: (i) persons who are 65 years of age or older, (ii) persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, and (iii) persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, whose yearly income does not exceed 250 percent of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF THE MEASURE

“To maintain quality education in local elementary/middle schools by attracting and retaining highly qualified teachers/school staff; preserving strong academic programs in reading, writing, math, science, technology, arts and music; maintaining small class sizes; and providing locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the State, shall Soquel Union Elementary School District’s measure levying \$96 per parcel annually for 6 years be adopted, raising approximately \$1,500,000 annually with independent oversight, senior exemptions, and all funds benefitting local schools?”

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

Proceeds of the parcel tax may be used to provide local revenue that cannot be taken by the State and to maintain high-quality public education in schools in the District. The District proposes to levy and collect the education parcel tax annually for six years as more fully described below under the heading “RATE AND PROCEDURE,” and to implement accountability measures in connection with the education parcel tax to ensure that funds are used only for the following specific purposes:



Local ballot measure: V-Soquel Elem School parcel tax

- Retain & recruit quality teachers and support staff;
- Student enrichment programs;
- Instruction in the arts focusing on music;
- Hands-on science in life labs (school gardens).

The Board of Trustees will not fund any program other than those listed above from the proceeds of the education parcel tax.

RATE AND PROCEDURE

Amount of Education Parcel Tax. Subject to two-thirds approval of the voters, this local funding measure and its parcel tax will be in effect for six years, commencing July 1, 2020. The tax will be levied at the rate of \$96 per parcel of taxable real property (except exempt parcels, as described below), per year. The tax will be collected by the Santa Cruz County Tax Collector (the "Tax Collector") at the same time as and along with, and will be subject to the same penalties as, general *ad valorem* taxes collected by said Tax Collector. The tax and penalty will bear interest at the same rate as the rate for unpaid *ad valorem* property taxes until paid. Any tax levied will become a lien upon the properties against which taxes are assessed and collectible as herein provided.

The Board may adopt such additional or supplemental procedures as it deems necessary or convenient for the administration of the education parcel tax.

Definition of Parcel. A "parcel of taxable real property" is defined as any unit of real property within the District's boundaries that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the County Tax Collector.

Exemptions. All property that is otherwise exempt from property taxes levied in any year will also be exempt from the education parcel tax in such year.

In addition, exemptions shall be available to the following persons, upon application to the District:

- persons who are 65 years or older;
- persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability regardless of age; or
- persons receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, whose yearly income does not exceed 250 percent of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Persons qualifying for such exemptions must apply to the District for such exemption under procedures established by the District or otherwise as required by law or by the Santa Cruz County Tax Collector.

When an exemption has been granted to a parcel, an application for exemption will not have to be re-submitted for such exempt parcel annually, if the facts are such that said parcel continues to qualify for the exemption described in this Measure.

The District will annually provide to the Tax Collector or other appropriate County tax officials a list of parcels that the District has approved for an exemption as provided for herein.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE MEASURES

In accordance with California Government Code sections 50075.1 and 50075.3, and as proscribed by the Board of Trustees of the District, the following accountability measures shall apply to the education parcel tax levied in accordance with this Measure:

(a) The proceeds of the education parcel tax shall be applied only to the specific purposes identified under the heading "PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE," above.

(b) The proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited into a fund, which shall be kept separate and apart from other funds of the District.

(c) No later than January 1 of each year while the education parcel tax is in effect, the chief fiscal officer of the District shall prepare and file with the Board of Trustees of the District a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project, programs, or purposes identified under the heading "PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE," above.

(d) The Board shall appoint a Citizens' Oversight Committee for the purpose of reviewing the District's expenditures of proceeds of the education parcel tax to ensure they are expended for the purposes set forth under the heading "PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE," above, and to report annually to the Board and the public regarding the expenditure of such proceeds.

(e) The Board will conduct an annual financial audit of the proceeds of the special tax ensuring funds are spent for educational purposes.

SEVERABILITY

The Board of Trustees of the District hereby declares, and the voters by approving this Measure concur, that every section, paragraph, sentence and clause of this Measure has independent value, and the Board of Trustees and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this Measure by the voters, should any part be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law.