

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)

Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

SANTA CRUZ CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

P To reduce class size in all elementary grades, support achievement in science, reading, writing, and the arts, and fund school libraries and literacy instruction, shall Santa Cruz City Elementary School District continue its expiring parcel tax for nine years at an annual rate of \$105/ parcel, exempting parcels owned/ occupied by senior citizens (65+)? An independent oversight committee will audit spending, with every dollar staying in this community to support local elementary schools and no funds used for administrator salaries.

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE P

Santa Cruz City Elementary School District Small Class Size and Academic Achievement Act

To provide revenue that cannot be taken by the State and will remain in our community to reduce class size in all elementary grades and enhance elementary student achievement in science, reading, writing and the arts, shall the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District continue its expiring education parcel tax for a period of 9 years, beginning July 1, 2008, at a rate of \$105 per year on each assessor's parcel located within the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District?

To this end, funds raised by this parcel tax shall be used to strengthen and enrich elementary academic programs by means such as:

- providing the local funding for class size reduction (K-3), which is then matched more than six-fold by the state, and preventing a 60% increase in class size in Kindergarten, First, Second and Third Grades;
- providing local funding for class size reductions in grades 4-5, so that classes contain a maximum of 27 students per class on average, rather than 32;
- funding elementary school science instruction;
- providing early literacy instruction programs for elementary students and funding pre-kindergarten programs; retaining; and
- retaining credentialed librarians, library assistants, teachers and other employees; and
- providing arts education teachers and supplies, including music, performing and visual arts.

The School District's expiring parcel tax for elementary education began in 2003 and has been collected at the flat rate of \$81 per parcel per year since then. This Measure will extend the expiring parcel tax for nine years, beginning July 1, 2008, at the flat rate of \$105 per year, for each assessor's parcel within the Elementary School District (grades K-6). A parcel is defined as any unit of land in the District that now receives a separate real property tax bill from Santa Cruz County. All property that would otherwise be exempt from property taxes will also be exempt from the imposition of said qualified special tax.

An exemption from the tax will be made available to each individual in the District who will attain 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the tax year, owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence. Applications for such senior exemptions shall be made to the District on or before July 1, 2008, or July 1 of any succeeding tax year. Any one application from a qualified applicant will provide an exemption for the parcel for the remaining term of the tax so long as such applicant continues to own and use the parcel as his or her principal residence.

In addition to the accountability measures required by law, the independent community oversight committee that has been appointed by the Board of Education to oversee all expenditures funded by the existing parcel tax will continue to audit all funds in order to ensure that said funds are spent wisely and used only for the purposes approved by the voters. The oversight committee shall monitor the expenditures of these funds by the District and shall report on an annual basis to the community on how these funds have been spent.

None of the funds raised by the parcel tax will be used for administrator salaries.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL MEASURE P

If this measure is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District (the "School District") will be authorized to levy a special tax assessment on real property in the amount of \$105 per year on each assessor's parcel within the School District for a period of nine years. The proceeds of the special tax, if approved, may be used only for the purposes set out in the text of Measure P in this pamphlet and include funding for school libraries and reduced class size in all elementary grades, and support for science, reading, writing, arts and literacy instruction.

In June 2003, the voters approved a special parcel tax on parcels within the Santa Cruz Elementary School District at the rate of \$81 per year for a period of five years, expiring on June 30, 2008. The special tax assessment authorized by this measure, if approved, would begin July 1, 2008 and continue until June of 2017.

In accordance with State law, the School District Board shall deposit the proceeds of the special tax into a designated account. An annual written report shall show the amount of the special tax collected and expended, and the status of projects to be funded from these proceeds. Additionally, the independent community oversight committee appointed by the School District Board for the parcel tax approved by the voters in 2003 will continue to monitor expenditures and report annually.

The special tax shall be collected in the same manner as those property taxes which are based upon property value. An exemption from the tax will be granted for any parcel owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or over who occupy the parcel as a principal residence, if the owner makes a one-time application for exemption.

A "yes" vote is to approve imposition of the special parcel tax.

A "no" vote is against imposition of the special parcel tax.

s/ DANA McRAE, COUNTY COUNSEL

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE P

Small class sizes make all the difference for students in our Santa Cruz City Schools Elementary District. Individual attention from talented teachers helps students achieve in school. It helps them learn science, reading, writing, mathematics, the arts and other crucial subjects.

State and federal funding alone does not support small classes and the high-quality academic programs we need for our kids.

That's why Santa Cruz voters approved a parcel tax in 2003: to support academic enhancements that give our local students a high-quality education.

This local funding that protects our schools from state budget cuts will end: unless voters choose to renew it by voting Yes on Measure P. Measure P supports small classes, science education, early literacy instruction, the arts, libraries and much more.

Without Measure P, local elementary schools will have to cut nearly \$1,250,000 per year needed to maintain high-quality educational programs.

Without Measure P, class sizes will increase by 50% from Kindergarten through 3rd grade, meaning crowded classrooms and less individual attention for students.

Vote Yes on Measure P to:

- Ensure small classes in Kindergarten through 3rd grade—a maximum of 20 students
- Reduce class sizes from 32 to an average of 27 students in the other elementary grades
- Enhance school science instruction
- Provide early literacy instruction
- Support school library programs
- Provide arts education teachers and supplies

Every dollar from Measure P will be spent in our local schools to improve elementary education. Not a single dime will go to the state or to administrator salaries.

Measure P includes community-based citizen oversight, ensuring all funds are spent wisely to maintain excellent education in our schools, and it allows an exemption for senior citizens.

Help make sure local students get the quality education they need to succeed—**Vote Yes on Measure P.**

s/ John Laird
State Assemblymember

s/ Sharon Maxwell
3rd Grade Teacher at DeLaveaga Elementary

s/ George Ow, Jr.
Businessperson

s/ Patty Zoccoli
Former Westlake Elementary PTA President, Business Owner

s/ George "Bud" Winslow
Former School Superintendent, Senior Senator

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE P WAS FILED.