

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

MEASURE H

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL AND TEACHER EXCELLENCE MEASURE. To provide funding for local colleges that cannot be taken by the State; keep college education affordable; attract and retain quality teachers; support homeless, hungry students; maintain science, technology, health-science programs; and prepare students for university transfer, career and job training, shall Foothill-De Anza Community College District's measure levying \$48 per parcel for 5 years (\$5,500,000 annually), be adopted, with citizens' oversight, and with no funds for administrator salaries?

YES
NO

COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE H

A community college district may levy a tax upon approval by two-thirds of the votes cast on a proposal pursuant to section 4 of article XIII A of the California Constitution and section 50075 *et seq.* of the California Government Code. Subject to voter approval, the Board of Trustees (Board) of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District (District) has placed on the ballot a new \$48 per year parcel tax to be levied beginning July 1, 2020 for five (5) years from that date, ending June 30, 2025.

State law requires the District to state the specific purposes for which the tax proceeds will be used and only spend the proceeds of the tax for these purposes. The stated purposes of the tax proposed by Measure H are to attract and retain a high-quality faculty; better prepare students and workers for transfer to four-year colleges and universities; maintain programs that prepare students for good-paying jobs; provide affordable programs to students facing food insecurity and hunger; provide affordable programs to students experiencing homelessness; expand mental health services and counselors; and support the repair, upgrade, and maintenance of aging facilities.

The District is required by law to provide additional accountability measures for the proceeds. These measures include (1) depositing the proceeds into a fund that is separate and apart from other District funds; (2) providing an annual written report to the Board detailing the amount of funds collected and expended and the status of any project authorized to be funded from the tax; and (3) establishing a citizens' oversight committee, which will provide oversight regarding the expenditure of the proceeds of the proposed tax revenues and submit an annual report to the Board on the expenditure of these funds.

The Measure also states that parcels that are contiguous to each other, used solely for owner-occupied single family residential purposes and held under identical ownership may be treated as a single parcel for purposes of the levy of the school parcel tax upon approval of an application from the owners thereof submitted to the District by June 15, 2020, or June 15 of any succeeding year.

A "yes" vote is a vote to approve a special tax of \$48 per parcel on parcels within the District for five years.

COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE H-Continued

A "no" vote is a vote to not approve a special tax of \$48 per parcel on parcels within the District for five years.

James R. Williams
County Counsel

By: Mary E. Hanna-Weir
Deputy County Counsel

COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE H

FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT Educational and Teacher Excellence Measure H

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To provide funding for programs which prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, provide local reliable funding for Foothill College and De Anza College that cannot be taken by the State, attract and retain high quality faculty, ensure an affordable education to local students and families, support homeless, hungry students, maintain programs to prepare students for good-paying jobs, provide counselors, with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, benefits and pensions, the Foothill-De Anza Community College District ("District") proposes a voter approved educational and teacher excellence parcel tax for a period of five years from starting date of July 1, 2020, at a rate of \$48 per parcel per year, and to implement accountability measures, including citizen oversight, to ensure the funds are used to help:

- Attract and retain a high-quality faculty;
- Better prepare students and workers for transfer to four-year colleges and universities;
- Maintain programs that prepare students for good-paying jobs;
- Provide affordable programs to students facing food insecurity and hunger;
- Provide affordable programs to students experiencing homelessness;
- Expand mental health services and counselors; and
- Support the repair, upgrade and maintenance of aging facilities.

The proceeds of the parcel tax shall be deposited into a separate account created by the District.

DEFINITION OF "PARCEL"

For purposes of the educational and teacher excellence parcel tax, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Santa Clara County Assessor. All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall be exempt from the educational and teacher excellence parcel tax in such year.

For purposes of this education parcel tax, any such "Parcels" which are (i) contiguous, and (ii) used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and (iii) held under identical ownership may, by submitting to the District an application of the owners thereof by June 15 of any year, be treated as a single "parcel" for purposes of the levy of the educational and teacher excellence parcel tax.

REDUCTION IN TAX IF RESULT IS LESS OTHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The collection of the educational and teacher excellence parcel tax is not intended to decrease or offset any increase in local, state or federal

COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE H-Continued

government revenue sources that would otherwise be available to the District during the period of the parcel tax. In the event that the levy and collection does have such an effect, the District may cease the levy or shall reduce the parcel tax to the extent that such action would restore the amount of the decrease or offset in other revenues.

ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

In accordance with the requirements of Government Code Sections 50075.1 and 50075.3, the following accountability measures, among others, shall apply to the parcel tax levied in accordance with this Measure: (a) the specific purposes of the parcel tax shall be those purposes identified above; (b) the proceeds of the parcel tax shall be applied only to those specific purposes identified above; (c) a separate, special account shall be created into which the proceeds of the local control parcel tax must be deposited; and (d) an annual written report shall be made to the Board of Trustees of the District showing (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the local control parcel tax and (ii) the status of any projects or programs required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the parcel tax, as identified above. In addition to the accountability measures required by law, the District will maintain a Citizens' Oversight Committee to provide oversight as to the expenditure of parcel tax revenues.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE H

California is the 5th largest economy in the world—yet here in the heart of Silicon Valley, 52% of our local Foothill and De Anza college students experience food and housing insecurity, and 16% are Homeless.

How can we tolerate this? We shouldn't.

Act now to address these urgent, compelling needs by voting **YES on H: HELP students who need High Quality Education the most!**

YES on H helps our most vulnerable local students receive the affordable, high-quality education and job training that Foothill and De Anza colleges provide.

Foothill and De Anza colleges are safety nets for students who dream of a better life—students who want to attend 4-year universities or get specialized job training to compete for better paying jobs in business, technology, nursing, manufacturing, first responders and other high-demand careers.

Did you know that UC and Cal State now cost FIVE TIMES what our colleges do? **YES on H** maintains High Quality, affordable local education!

YES on H increases opportunities for our local students to earn college credits, certifications, and job skills at a reasonable price—helping students and saving local families tens of thousands of dollars.

YES on H ensures every penny stays in our community. NO funds can be used for administrators' salaries or taken by Sacramento politicians.

Remember, **YES on H:**

- Recruits and attracts high quality faculty for Great Teachers and Education at Foothill and De Anza colleges
- Expands transfer to 4-year colleges/universities
- Helps local students facing food insecurity and hunger
- Supports local students experiencing homelessness

That's why YES on "H" for Helping Students is endorsed by Educators and Community Leaders like Martha Kanter, Savita Vaidhyanathan, Dick Henning, Linda Thor, Dolly Sandoval, Gay Kraus, and others.

Luis Herrera
Former Sergeant U.S. Marine Corps & Foothill College Student

Bruce Swenson
Chair, Friends of Foothill-De Anza CCD

Ron Labetich
Local Business Owner & 45+ year Homeowner & Taxpayer

Laura Casas
Member, Foothill-De Anza Community College District Board of Trustees

Tiffany Nguyen
Student Trustee, Foothill College

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE H

Correcting a figure cited in our opening argument of \$22 million to be obtained from this proposed 5-year parcel tax, the college district is actually estimating \$5.5 million per year (total of \$27.5 million).

This district (elected board) could have promised in Measure H how the money raised would be spent—or at least established priorities. It did NOT.

Under Measure H as written, the district board could use the money largely as it pleases—including raising STILL HIGHER the salaries and benefits given to its many employees-or just the employees it likes best.

Look at "Transparent California" for the compensation paid to employees of this district (and others in the State).

This community college district in 2018 had dozens and dozens of employees receiving compensation packages in excess of \$200,000 per year.

Voters in this district are not fools. But voters in richer districts tend to approve tax increases without insufficient analysis.

Taxpayers in California and across America are "on the hook" for a fortune in deficit spending as well as government pensions and promised benefits. Trillions are owed. This massive borrowing is not "free."

For more information, visit: svtaxpapers.org

Mark W.A. Hinkle
President: Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association

Gary Wesley
Attorney, Mountain View

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H

In this measure, the community college district is seeking \$48 per parcel in additional tax every year (for 5 years) which would raise about \$22 million for the operation of the district—including higher salaries and/or benefits for employees.

In recent years, enrollment in the two local community colleges (Foothill and De Anza) has dropped. What has increased is the number of retirees. Local (and state) retirees are mounting. State and local taxpayers are liable for pensions and various post-retirement benefits that will cost hundreds of billions of dollars.

Meanwhile, local governments keep asking for more money—borrowing through the sale of bonds and increasing operating revenue through per-parcel taxes and other means.

Which employees of the college district would receive the extra \$22 million taken from residents under this measure? It would be entirely up to the district.

Currently, the highest compensated employee in the district is the "chancellor" whose total package was \$425,916 in 2018. See the "Transparent California" website for all California local government employees.

The second highest compensation package in 2018 went to a lower-level administrator whose "regular pay" was \$111,405, but who also received "other pay" of \$228,782 and benefits costing the district \$29,714 for a yearly total of \$340,187.

The district has dozens of employees receiving compensation over \$250,000 per year—many of whom do not even teach a single class.

Foothill-De Anza Community College District. Quite a **CASH COW** for some.

For more information, visit: www.svtaxpayers.org

Mark W.A. Hinkle
President: Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H

Special Interest Groups always attack the most vulnerable—now they are attacking OUR local colleges and students who need help—don't let political grandstanders get away with it!

Vote **YES on H: HELP** local students who need High Quality Education the most!

HERE ARE THE FACTS the opponent doesn't want you to know:

FACT: 52% of local Foothill-De Anza college students experience food and housing insecurities and 16% are homeless! **YES on H** supports these students and ensures access to the high-quality affordable education our local colleges provide.

FACT: NO MEASURE H MONEY CAN BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATORS SALARIES OR PENSIONS! Measure H keeps our tax dollars in our communities specifically to fund high quality education for local students, veterans and senior life-long learners!

FACT: Quality education relies on QUALITY TEACHERS. **YES on H** recruits and retains Great Faculty for Great Education at Foothill-De Anza colleges!

FACT: UC/Cal State cost FIVE TIMES what Foothill-De Anza colleges do. **YES on H** maintains the affordable local education local families need to save thousands of dollars.

FACT: Our colleges have been excellent stewards of your taxpayer dollar! According to Morgan Stanley, since 2000, the District completed five bond refinances saving taxpayers over \$65,800,000.

YES on H HELPS local students facing food insecurity, hunger and homelessness and recruits/retains the faculty who provide the academics they need for a successful future.

Join local educators, community leaders, students, veterans and your neighbors in voting **YES on H**—we need every vote, as it requires 2/3's to pass.

Tiffany Nguyen
Student Trustee, Foothill College