

**MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEASURE H**

Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District Quality Education Renewal Measure. To maintain strong core academic programs, including math and science, attract/retain qualified teachers, provide current educational materials, protect art, music, reading and writing programs/access to technology training, keep libraries open, shall Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District's measure **renewing without increasing** its expiring \$95 annual parcel tax for seven years, be approved, raising \$480,000 annually which cannot be taken by the State, with exemptions for seniors, audits, independent oversight, no funds for administrators?

**YES  
NO**

**COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF  
MEASURE H**

A school district may levy a special tax upon approval by two-thirds of the votes cast on a proposal pursuant to the California Constitution and the California Government Code. Subject to voter approval, the Board of Trustees (Board) of the Mount Pleasant Elementary School District (District) has placed on the ballot a measure to renew the existing \$95 per year school parcel tax for seven year at the same rate, which will commence on July 1, 2022, and end on June 30, 2029.

State law requires the District to state the specific purposes for which the tax proceeds will be used and to 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 highly qualified teachers;
- Preserve tutoring programs for students with special needs;
- Maintain strong core academic programs, including reading, writing, math, and science;
- Provide up-to-date educational materials for students;
- Protect art and music programs;
- Keep school libraries open and up-to-date;
- Provide access to technology and computer training;
- Maintain after school programs for at-risk children; and,
- Maintain pre-school programs.

The Measure also states that tax proceeds shall not be used for administrator salaries. State law requires the District to provide additional accountability measures for the proceeds including (1) depositing the proceeds into a fund that is separate from other District funds, and (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. The existing citizens' oversight committee will continue to provide oversight regarding the expenditure of the proceeds of the proposed tax revenues.

The proposed tax does not apply to any parcel, upon approval by the District of an application submitted by June 15 of any year for exemption, that is an owner-occupied single-family residence of one or more persons 65 years of age 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

**COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF  
MEASURE H-Continued**

Services. The Measure also states that parcels that are contiguous to each other, used solely for single-family residential purposes, and are held under identical ownership may be treated as a single parcel for purposes of the levy of the tax upon approval of an application submitted to the District. The Measure states that persons who currently receive an exemption from the District's expiring Measure K parcel tax will not be required to reapply for the exemption.

A "yes" vote is a vote to renew the tax of \$95 per parcel on parcels within the District for seven years.

A "no" vote is a vote to not renew the tax.

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## COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE H

### MT. PLEASANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Quality Education Measure H

#### INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To continue funding to protect the academic excellence of neighborhood schools, provide up-to-date educational materials, attract and retain qualified teachers, keep libraries open, provide local reliable funding for local schools that cannot be taken by the State, with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, benefits and pensions, the Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District ("District") proposes to **renew without increasing** its existing quality education parcel tax for a period of seven years from its current expiration date (June 30, 2022), starting on July 1, 2022 at the current rate of \$95 per parcel per year, with an exemption available for senior citizens and certain disabled persons, and to implement accountability measures, including citizen oversight, to ensure the funds are used to help:

- Protect neighborhood schools' academic excellence;
- Enhance student success;
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers;
- Preserve tutoring programs for students with special needs;
- Maintain and protect strong core academic programs, including reading, writing, math and science;
- Provide up-to-date educational materials for students;
- Protect art and music programs;
- Keep school libraries open and up-to-date;
- Provide access to technology and computer training;
- Maintain after school programs for at-risk children; and
- Maintain pre-school programs which provided early childhood education.

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

#### DEFINITION OF "PARCEL"

For purposes of the quality education renewal parcel tax, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Mt. Pleasant Elementary School District, that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Santa Clara County Assessor/Tax Collector, as applicable. All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall also be exempt from the quality education renewal parcel tax in such year.

For purposes of this quality education renewal 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

## COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE H-Continued

thereof by June 15 of any year, be treated as a single "parcel" for purposes of the levy of the high quality education renewal parcel tax.

#### EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS AND SSI RECIPIENTS

Pursuant to Government Code Section 50079 (b)(1), any owner of a Parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and who are either (a) 65 years of age or older on or before June 30 of the fiscal year immediately preceding the year in which the tax would apply, or (b) persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, or (c) 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, may obtain an exemption from the parcel tax by submitting an application therefore, by June 15 of any year, to the District. Once granted, exemptions remain in place until the property is transferred or not owner-occupied by a qualifying person.

Persons who are owners of Parcels used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and currently exempted from the District's expiring Measure K parcel tax shall automatically be exempted from this Measure without having to file a new application.

The District may establish administrative procedures to periodically verify the continuance of any previously granted exemption.

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the Santa Clara County Treasurer and Tax Collector or other appropriate county tax officials, shall make all final determinations of tax exemption or relief for any reason, and that decision shall be final and binding. With respect to matters specific to the levy of the high quality education renewal parcel tax, including any exemptions and the classification of property for purposes of calculating the tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding.

#### REDUCTION IN TAX IF RESULT IS LESS OTHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The collection of the quality education renewal parcel tax is not intended to decrease or offset any increase in local, state or federal 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 quality education renewal 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 high quality education renewal parcel tax and (ii) the status of any projects or programs required or authorized to be funded

## COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE H-Continued

from the proceeds of the parcel tax, as identified above. In addition to the accountability measures required by law, the District will maintain its existing Citizens' Oversight Committee to provide oversight as to the expenditure of parcel tax revenues.

**NO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE H WAS SUBMITTED**

## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE H

The Mount Pleasant Elementary School Board says "***To maintain strong core academic programs, including math and science,...***". Essentially the same thing they said in the ballot argument for the last parcel tax increase in 2014.

Is that true?

Will any of this money do anything to improve dismal district academics???

According to the State Department of Education's website: [www.ed-data.org](http://www.ed-data.org) website, **63.52% of the students in the district are BELOW grade level for English.**

**And for math, it's even worse at 73.6% BELOW grade level.**

Clearly, the school district has failed its students for years.

If you want to reward bad behavior, by all means vote for Measure H. However, rewarding failure usually leads to more failure. Can the District stand any more failure?

Can our students test scores get any worse? **Sadly, the trend is getting worse.**

A yes vote will just reward bad behavior. As parents, we know rewarding bad behavior, just gets you more bad behavior. That's nuts! The number of teachers has declined from 131 in 2015-16 to 111 in the 2018-19 school year (latest figures available).

The number of students and teachers are declining, but **administration is up a whopping 37.5%.**

Shouldn't expenses be down with fewer teachers?

Families' budgets are being squeezed throughout the district by government caused inflation.

The measure says that none of the funds will be used for administration. But funds generated outside of this parcel tax can, and are, being used for administration expenses without limits. So, that is really an empty promise. **Do not be fooled.**

Tell the Mount Pleasant Elementary School Board to be fiscally responsible by voting **NO** on H.

**Vote NO to stop bad behavior.**

For more information: <http://www.svtaxpayers.org>

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