

**CAMBRIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEASURE BB**

Advisory Vote Only. To continue to provide Cambrian neighborhood elementary and middle school students with stable funding for instruction in math, science, reading, engineering, technology, and arts, retaining highly qualified teachers, and maintaining manageable class sizes, should Cambrian School District continue the annual parcel tax that was approved by 67 percent of voters in 2018 (with no changes), with exemptions for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries, and every dollar benefitting Cambrian children?

Yes
No

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

A school district may hold an advisory vote pursuant to California Elections Code section 9603. An advisory vote is not controlling on the sponsoring legislative body but is instead held to allow voters to voice opinions on an issue.

The Board of Trustees (Board) of the Cambrian School District (District) has placed on the ballot an advisory vote measure regarding whether to continue an existing parcel tax. In 2018, District voters approved Measure H, enacting the parcel tax. The Measure H parcel tax was first levied in fiscal year 2018-19 at a rate of \$84 per parcel, adjusted annually by the change in the Consumer Price Index (all urban consumers) for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Metropolitan Area, published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The text of Measure H stated that the Board would cease to levy the tax following fiscal year 2025-26 unless continuation of the parcel tax is approved by a majority of voters in an advisory vote. The Board is now asking voters whether to continue the Measure H parcel tax.

There is a legal question regarding whether the existing Measure H parcel tax may continue beyond 2025-26 based solely on an advisory vote. Neither Measure H nor this Measure specify a termination date for the parcel tax should it continue beyond 2025-26.

This Measure states that, should the parcel tax be levied after fiscal year 2025-26, the proceeds will provide Cambrian schools with ongoing stable local funding to provide instruction in math, science, reading, engineering, technology, and arts; retain highly qualified teachers; maintain class sizes; and continue to provide physical education that promotes student health and fitness.

This Measure re-states the exemptions to the parcel tax provided by Measure H. According to this Measure, exemptions will continue to be available for property (1) that is otherwise exempt from or upon which no *ad valorem* property taxes are levied in any year and (2) for which an exemption has been approved because the parcel is owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or over occupying the parcel as a principal residence.

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

A "yes" vote is an advisory vote to support continuation of the Measure H parcel tax after fiscal year 2025-26.

A "no" vote is an advisory vote to oppose continuation of the Measure H parcel tax after fiscal year 2025-26.

Tony LoPresti
County Counsel

By: Nick DeFiesta
Deputy County Counsel

COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE BB

Abbreviated Ballot Measure

Advisory Vote Only. To continue to provide Cambrian neighborhood elementary and middle school students with stable funding for instruction in math, science, reading, engineering, technology, and arts, retaining highly qualified teachers, and maintaining manageable class sizes, should Cambrian School District continue the annual parcel tax that was approved by 67 percent of voters in 2018 (with no changes), with exemptions for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries, and every dollar benefitting Cambrian children?

Levy of Special Tax

In June 2018, voters of the Cambrian School District (the "District") approved the Measure H Parcel Tax, including a commitment that the Board of Trustees (the "Board") continue the Measure H Parcel Tax following fiscal year 2025-26 if approved by a majority of voters voting in an election held consistent with the requirements of Elections Code section 9603. The Board is now asking voters whether to continue the Measure H Parcel Tax, consistent with the Abbreviated Ballot Measure stated above and this Full Text of Measure BB.

The Measure H Parcel Tax shall continue to be adjusted annually by the change in the Consumer Price Index (all urban consumers) for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Metropolitan Area, published by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, or an equivalent index.

Parcels to be taxed each year will be any unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Santa Clara County Tax Collector's Office unless an exemption applies. Exemptions include only 1) property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which no *ad valorem* property taxes are levied in any year and 2) property for which an exemption has been approved due to the parcel being owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or over who occupies said parcel as a principal residence.

Purpose of Measure H Parcel Tax

Revenue raised from the District's Measure H Parcel Tax will continue to be expended in order to maintain the high quality of education at all elementary, middle and transitional kindergarten (TK) through eighth grade schools. The District's goal is to continue providing high-quality education by retaining teachers, maintaining class sizes, instructing students in science, art and music, so that Cambrian students may find success in high school, college, and careers. However, due to reductions in State funding, the District is struggling to continue providing high-quality instruction and academic programs for Cambrian children in grades transitional kindergarten through eighth grade.

Reductions in State funding, the requirement to maintain District reserves, and the need to reduce deficit spending have impacted our schools. We can no longer rely on the State to fully fund the instruction and academic programs our students need. The District has tightened its belt, improved efficiencies, and made cuts as far away from the classroom as possible. The District has conducted a full assessment of all of its local school instructional program needs—including the need to retain our best teachers and maintain core academics for children in grades TK-8. Additional local revenue is needed to fund these core priorities. Accordingly, the District is asking its community to continue the

COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE BB-Continued

Measure H Parcel Tax and to protect the high quality of education at Cambrian schools.

Continuing the Measure H Parcel Tax will provide Cambrian schools with ongoing stable local funding for instruction in math, science, reading, engineering, technology, and arts; retain highly qualified teachers; and maintain class sizes and continue to provide physical education that promotes student health and fitness.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE BB

VOTE YES on Measure BB to maintain the quality of education in our local public Cambrian schools without raising taxes!

Measure BB will be used to protect the quality of education in our neighborhood schools by attracting and retaining high quality teachers, keeping class sizes manageable, and providing advanced academic programs including courses in math, science, engineering and technology. These instructional programs enable our students to compete for the best colleges and careers. **Yes on measure BB makes this possible.**

Measure BB is necessary! We depend on local revenue to supplement limited State funding. Without Measure BB, the budget would need to be cut by nearly a million dollars. This would force all Cambrian schools to make drastic cuts to academic programs and increase class sizes.

Measure BB does NOT increase taxes, it simply continues our already existing modest parcel tax.

Measure BB funds will:

- Attract and retain high-quality teachers
- Continue STEAM programs in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math
- Sustain quality core academic programs in reading and writing
- Maintain small class sizes
- Continue music and physical education

Taxpayer safeguards are REQUIRED:

- **ALL funds STAY LOCAL** for our schools and students
- The State CANNOT take this funding away
- No funds for administrators' salaries and pensions. Every penny will go into supporting classroom instruction.
- Annual independent audits for transparency

Senior citizens are eligible for an exemption. We do not want this measure to become a burden to those living on a fixed income.

Good schools improve the quality of life in our community and protect the value of our homes. Protecting the quality of our local schools is a wise investment for property owners, business people, parents—everyone!

Please join Cambrian parents, teachers, community leaders, local business, and residents in **VOTING YES on BB.**

Kim Mercer
Owner, Valley Sports Camp

Terri Griggs

Carol Presunka
CSD Board Member

Barbara Wilets Bandanza
Nonprofit Exec

Michael D. Kretsch
Principal

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE BB

Government debt is crushing our economy. The federal debt, alone, now totals more than 100% of GDP.

On top of that, the state, cities, and school districts are burdening us with endless taxes—sales! hotel! property transfer! business license taxes!—that we taxpayers (and consumers) must shoulder!

Cambrian School District, through Measure BB, is conducting a POLL using district funds. This poll asks whether you're interested in "retaining highly qualified teachers."

Most school districts hire polling firms, at a fraction of the cost of running this "Advisory Vote."

Have they earned a tax increase based on improved test scores?

Let's observe 2022-23 test results, showing a **decrease** in students' performance in English and virtually no improvement in math—the two fundamental subjects:

Students not meeting standards: English literacy: **33.06%**
Math literacy: **39.22%**

CSD, which spends \$17,693 per student, per year, "thanked" parents and taxpayers with a **higher percentage** of students **failing to meet English standards**, and with **no improvement in meeting math standards!**

Source: Ed-Data.org

Perhaps that why CSD lost 552 students since 2019.

Should you, the voter, reward CSD for dropping scores in two key subjects?

If you answered "no," we encourage you to vote **NO on Measure BB.**

CSD punished taxpayers, despite the drop in test scores, by increasing the average teacher's salary from \$85,638 for 2018-19 to \$101,078.

Tell CSD to **be financially responsible** by voting **NO on Measure BB.**

If you reward failure, you will get more failure!

Just say NO to Measure BB.

www.svtaxpayers.org
SCCLP.org

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

Joe Dehn
Chair, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE BB

The Cambrian School Board is conducting a POLL using district funds, in theory, to provide "high quality education" to students in the District. This POLL asks you if you're interested in "retaining highly qualified teachers".

Most school districts hire Polling firms, at a fraction of the cost of this "Advisory Vote", to gauge support for a tax increase.

Have they earned a tax increase based on improved test scores?

Let's look at the student performance **declines** for English and virtually unchanged in math: two key subjects:

- 2022-23 **students not meeting** English literacy standards: **33.06%**
- 2022-23 **students not meeting** Math literacy standards: **39.22%**

The District, which spends \$17,693 per student, per year, rewarded parents and taxpayers by **increasing the number** of students who **failed to meet English standards & no improvement in Math standards!**

Source: California Department of Education Data Partnership (ed-data.org)

Perhaps that why the District lost 552 students since 2019.

Should you, the voters, reward the district for dropping scores in 2 key subjects?

If not, we encourage you to vote **NO on Measure BB.**

The School District is spending \$17,693 per student per year (ADA) with a student/teacher ratio of 21.9 to 1. That's \$387,476 per classroom per year. Yet, they want more of your hard-earned money to pad their salaries and fat pension plans.

The District rewarded taxpayers with the drop in test scores by increasing the average teacher's salary from \$85,638 for 2018-19 to \$101,078 and up to \$21,575 in benefits for 2022-23.

Tell the School Board to be fiscally responsible by voting **NO on Measure BB.**

If you reward failure, you will get more failure!

Just say NO to Measure BB.

For more information, please visit us at:

<http://www.svtaxpayers.org>

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

Joe Dehn
Chair, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE BB

We must continue to invest in our children to protect the outstanding education they receive at Bagby Elementary, Fammatre Elementary, Farnham Elementary, Price Middle, Sartorette Elementary, and Steindorf STEAM Magnet—**without raising taxes!**

Don't be deceived by the opponents inaccurate, cynical and misleading statements. They regularly oppose all school measures, and they are NOT from our community. **Vote YES on Measure BB.**

Measure BB preserves the quality of academic instruction we offer by helping attract and retain high-quality teachers; continuing core programs in science, technology, math, reading, music, and the arts; maintaining class sizes and continuing to provide physical education that promotes student health and fitness.

Cambrian School District (CSD) is one of the highest performing districts in San Jose. Student performance exceeds BOTH county and state. 2022-23 English Language Arts: **CSD—66.9%** vs County—59.5% & State—44.7%. Math: **CSD—60.8%** vs County—51.4% & State—34.6%. California Department of Education (<https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/>)

Measure BB REQUIRES strong accountability provisions:

- All funds are locally controlled and used to support classroom instruction
- No funds used for administrators' salaries
- BY LAW these funds cannot be taken by the State
- **Senior citizens are eligible for an exemption.**

The level of school funding provided by the State is one of the lowest in the nation. We rely on local funding to fill in the gap. **Measure BB is about continuing this critical local funding to provide the high-quality education offered in Cambrian elementary and middle schools.**

Protect **your** investment in our neighborhood schools—**without raising taxes!**

Please VOTE YES on BB.

Laurie Rae Drew
Retired

Jarod Middleton
Board President

Emily White
Teacher

Brian Tanger
Local Realtor

Melissa Wuenschel
Cambrian Educational Foundation President