

**MILPITAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEASURE Q**

To maintain high-quality local schools; protect essential programs in science, technology, engineering, athletics, and math; provide educator training and tools to prepare students for college, careers and community leadership; and retain school counselors and health professionals for student mental-physical wellness, shall Milpitas Unified School District's measure levying \$119 per parcel annually be adopted, providing approximately \$2,200,000 annually for eight years, with senior exemptions, independent oversight, no funds for administrator salaries, and all funds benefiting local students?

**Yes**  
**No**

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

A school district may levy a qualified special tax upon approval by two-thirds of the votes cast on a measure pursuant to section 4 of article XIII A of the California Constitution and California Government Code section 50079. The Board of Education (Board) of the Milpitas Unified School District (District) has placed on the ballot a measure to enact a \$119 per year parcel tax. If approved by the voters, the tax would commence on July 1, 2025 and continue for eight (8) years from that date.

State law requires such measures to state the specific purposes for which the tax proceeds will be used and spend the proceeds only for these purposes. The stated purposes of the tax proposed by Measure Q are to:

- Attract and retain highly qualified educators;
- Provide training and tools for educators to prepare students for college, careers, and community leadership;
- Retain student mental health counselors, social workers, and healthcare professionals;
- Support academic programs in science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics, and math; and
- Maintain and expand career technical education and workforce training programs.

The Measure states that tax proceeds shall not be used for administrators' salaries, benefits, or pensions. Pursuant to State law, the Measure provides 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 required or authorized to be funded from the tax.

The Measure states that, for purposes of this proposed tax, any parcels that are (1) contiguous; (2) used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes; and (3) held under identical ownership may, by the owners of such parcels submitting an application to the District by June 15 of any year, be treated as a single parcel. According to the Measure, the proposed tax also does not apply to property that is otherwise exempt from taxation, or on which no property taxes are levied that year.

The Measure states that any person who owns a parcel that is used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and who is (1) 65 years of age or older on or before June 30 of the prior fiscal year; (2) receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age; or (3) receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, and 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

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

from the proposed tax by submitting an application to the District by June 15 of any year. Once granted, exemptions remain in place until the parcel is transferred or the owner no longer qualifies.

A "yes" vote is a vote to approve a tax of \$119 per parcel on parcels within the District for eight years, beginning on July 1, 2025.

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

Tony LoPresti  
County Counsel

By: Nick DeFiesta  
Deputy County Counsel

## COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE Q

MILPITAS Unified School District

Quality Education and Local Control Measure Q

### INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To provide local school funding that cannot be taken by the State; maintain core academic programs in science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics and math; attract and retain highly qualified educators, protect computer science programs, with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, benefits and pensions, the Milpitas Unified School District ("District") proposes to levy a quality education and local control parcel tax for a period of eight years starting on July 1, 2025 at the rate of \$119 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:

- Attract and retain highly qualified educators;
- Provide training and tools for educators to prepare students for college, careers and community leadership;
- Retain student mental health counselors, social workers, and healthcare professionals;
- Support academic programs in science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics and math;
- Maintain and expand career technical education and workforce training programs;

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 Milpitas Unified 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 parcel tax in such year.

For purposes of this quality education and local control 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 high quality education 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

## COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE Q-Continued

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.

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 and local control 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 and local control 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 and local control parcel tax must be deposited; and (d) an annual written report shall be made to the Board of Education of the District showing (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the quality education and 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.

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE Q

**Vote YES on Q to protect outstanding academic instruction and retain highly qualified teachers for Milpitas students.**

Milpitas Unified School District is facing a \$2 million deficit due to cuts in state and federal funding. Programs such as advanced career prep including artificial intelligence courses, support for struggling students, those with special needs and healthcare professionals—such as health clerks and mental health counselors—are in jeopardy of being cut from our schools.

Offering strong educational programs such as computer science and technology courses is essential for preparing our students for quickly changing workforce and the jobs of tomorrow.

**Measure Q protects our schools from the instability of the state budget** and provides stable local funding Milpitas students can count on every year. All funds must stay local and cannot be taken away by the state.

**Vote YES on Q to:**

- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff
- Prevent cuts to science, technology, engineering, arts, athletics and math programs
- Provide educator training and tools to prepare students for college, careers and community leadership
- Retain school counselors and health professionals
- Maintain and expand career technical education and workforce training programs
- Protect essential computer science programs

**Every Penny of Measure Q Stays Local:**

- All funds must stay in our local schools and cannot be taken by Sacramento
- No funds can be used for administrator salaries
- An independent oversight committee ensures all funds are spent as promised
- Senior homeowners are eligible for an exemption

Whether or not you have school-aged children, supporting quality local schools is an essential community investment that protects property values, our quality of life and supports future generations.

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE Q-Continued

Join parents, MUSD teachers and staff, seniors, longtime residents, business and community leaders—vote **YES on Q to protect quality education in Milpitas schools.**

Yolanda "Yolie" Garcia

President, Sunnyside Neighborhood Association

Deborah Langley

Chair, Senior Advisory Commission

Kim Cuong Voong

Treasurer, Milpitas Community Education Foundation

H. George Parsons

Retired Educator

Jeff W. Ma

Local Businessman

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE Q

**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! and business license taxes!—that we taxpayers (and consumers) must shoulder!

Milpitas Unified School District claims they need this latest **supposedly temporary parcel tax** for "retaining qualified teachers."

Have they *earned* this tax increase, through having improved our children's academic performance?

Let's examine the results of 2022-23 testing, with **declines** in performance, in *the* two key subjects:

<b><u>Students not meeting standards:</u></b>	English	<b>29.85%</b>
	Math:	<b>38.21%</b>

Milpitas Unified School District, which spends \$17,384 per student, annually, rewarded parents by **increasing the number** of students who **failed to meet English & Math standards!**

Source: Ed-Data.org

Should you, the voter, reward the district for *missing standards in both fundamental subjects*?

If your answer is "no," we encourage you to vote **NO on Measure Q.**

Milpitas Unified School District is spending \$17,384/student annually (ADA) with a student/teacher ratio of 22.9 to 1. That's \$398,093 per classroom per year.

Yet, they want **even more of your hard-earned money** to pad their salaries and fat pension plans.

MUSD punished parents and taxpayers, by increasing—despite the drop in test scores—the average teacher's salary from \$89,916 for 2018-19 to \$111,298 and up to \$14,652 in benefits.

Tell our trustees to be financially responsible: vote **NO on Measure Q.**

**If you reward failure, you will get more failure!**

**Just say NO to Measure Q.**

[www.SVTaxpayers.org](http://www.SVTaxpayers.org)  
[SCCLP.org](http://SCCLP.org)

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

Alan Newman  
Milpitas Resident

Joe Dehn  
Chair, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Q

Milpitas Unified School District claims they need this latest, supposedly temporary tax hike so they can "maintain...high-quality education" and "[retain] qualified teachers."

Have they earned this **\$952 per parcel tax increase**, through improving students' test scores?

Let's look at district children's performance in the two key subjects:

- 2022-23 **students not meeting** English literacy standards: **29.85%**
- 2022-23 **students not meeting** math literacy standards: **38.21%**

The district, which spends \$17,384 per student, per year, "rewarded" parents and taxpayers by **increasing the percentage** of students who **failed to meet English and math standards!**

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

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

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

MUSD is spending \$17,384 per student per year (ADA) and has 22.9 students per teacher. That's a whopping \$398,093 per classroom per year. Yet, they want even more of your and your neighbors' hard-earned money, to pad their salaries and fat pension plans.

The district discourage taxpayers and voters (and parents and children) with the decline in test scores, then increased the average teacher's salary from \$89,916 for 2018-19, to \$111,298 plus up to \$14,652 in benefits for 2022-23.

Please tell the school board to be financially and academically responsible, by voting **NO on Measure Q.**

**If you reward failure, you will get more failure!**

**Just say NO to Measure Q.**

You can be FOR students, FOR teachers, and FOR education—while opposing government schools' exorbitant levels of spending—the cause of our mushrooming taxes!

For more information, please visit us at [SVTaxpayers.org](http://SVTaxpayers.org).

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

Alan Newman  
Milpitas Resident

Joe Dehn  
Chair, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE Q

The authors of the argument against Measure Q have their facts **WRONG**. Two of them don't live in our community, they habitually oppose local education ballot measures and file an argument against nearly **EVERY** measure in Santa Clara County. They don't understand the needs of our schools and they are not invested in our community's or students' futures.

### FACT:

**Excellent schools support our great community.** Strong schools make our neighborhoods desirable, attracting new families to our community. Measure Q will maintain high-quality education in local schools, keeping our property values strong.

### FACT:

**Opponents are WRONG about student performance.** English and Math literacy scores have increased annually and are far above California state average.

<https://www.caschooldashboard.org/reports/43733870000000/2023>

### FACT:

**Measure Q protects quality education for all Milpitas students.** Without Measure Q, \$2 million would have to be cut from the school district's annual budget, impacting advanced career prep in technology, support for struggling students, those with special needs and healthcare professionals like health clerks and mental health counselors.

### FACT:

**Citizens' oversight ensures all funds go directly to our local schools.** All Measure Q funds go directly to supporting our students and no funds can be spent on administrators' salaries. Measure Q requires audits and independent citizens' oversight, just like previous measures. You can read the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee reports, verifying that funds have been spent wisely as voters intended, at <https://www.musd.org/measure-e-parcel-tax-oversight-committee.html>.

As local parents, business leaders, and neighbors, we believe that maintaining excellent education in our local schools is important. **Join us—and vote YES on Q.**

Thomas Valore  
Retired Veteran

Pamela Foley  
Retired Construction Manager

Jonathan Collaco  
Milpitas Youth Soccer Coach

Norma Morales Herrera  
Community Leader

Amin Fazal  
Co-President MCEF, Communications Director