

**UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
MEASURE V**

To attract and retain highly qualified teachers and counselors at local elementary/middle schools; maintain manageable class sizes; and continue funding high quality programs in math, science, engineering, technology, music, and arts; shall Union Elementary School District's measure replacing the expiring school parcel tax for seven years be adopted at \$148 per parcel, generating approximately \$2,000,000 in annual school funding that cannot be taken away by the State, with senior exemptions, independent citizen oversight, all money locally-controlled?

**Yes
No**

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

A school district may levy a qualified special tax upon approval by two-thirds of the votes cast on a measure pursuant to article XIII A, section 4 of the California Constitution and California Government Code section 50079. The Board of Trustees (Board) of the Union Elementary School District (District) has placed on the ballot a measure to replace an existing \$96 per year parcel tax, which is set to expire on June 30, 2026, with a \$148 per year parcel tax. If approved by the voters, the tax would begin on July 1, 2026 and continue for seven (7) years.

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

- Attract and retain high-quality teachers;
- Provide high-quality reading and writing programs;
- Provide high-quality programs in science, technology, engineering, and math;
- Maintain manageable class sizes; and
- Provide academic intervention for students who need additional support.

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 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 also states that the Board will maintain its existing citizens' oversight committee to provide oversight as to the expenditure of the tax revenues.

The Measure provides that, for purposes of the levy of this 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. The Measure states that the proposed tax does not apply to property that is otherwise exempt from taxation, or on which no property taxes are levied that year.

According to the Measure, any owner of a parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes who is (1) 65 years of age or older as of June 30 of the preceding fiscal year; (2) receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age; or (3) receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age,

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

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 from the proposed tax by submitting an application to the District before June 15 of any year. Per the Measure, persons currently exempt from the District's expiring parcel tax shall automatically be exempted from the proposed tax without need to reapply.

A "yes" vote is a vote to replace an existing parcel tax with an increased tax of \$148 per parcel on parcels within the District for seven years, beginning on July 1, 2026.

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

Tony LoPresti
County Counsel

By: Nick DeFiesta
Deputy County Counsel

COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE V

UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Quality Education and Local Control Funding Measure V

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To continue funding for core programs in science, technology, engineering and math, provide local reliable funding for local schools that cannot be taken away by the State, attract and retain high-quality teachers, provide high quality reading and writing programs, maintain manageable class sizes, provide academic intervention for students who need additional support, preserve high quality programs in art, music and performing arts, and continue funding for counselors and mental health support, with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, benefits and pensions, the Union Elementary School District ("District") proposes to replace its existing education and local control parcel tax for a period of seven years from its current expiration date (June 30, 2026), starting on July 1, 2026 at a rate of \$148 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 high-quality teachers;
- Provide high quality reading, and writing programs;
- Provide high quality programs in science, technology, engineering and math;
- Maintain manageable class sizes;
- Provide academic intervention for students who need additional support.

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

DEFINITION OF "PARCEL"

For purposes of the high quality education parcel tax, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Union 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 education and local control parcel tax in such year.

For purposes of this 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 and local control parcel tax.

EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS AND SSI RECIPIENTS

Pursuant to California 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

COMPLETE TEXT OF MEASURE V-Continued

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.

Persons who are owners of Parcels used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and currently exempted from the District's expiring Measure B 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 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 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 California 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 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 high 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. 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.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V

VOTE YES on Measure V to maintain the local education students receive at Union School District (USD) schools.

Our public elementary and middle schools are a key part of what makes the Union community unique. Great teachers, rigorous math, science, and reading curriculum have prepared generations of children to succeed in high school, college, and careers.

Measure V is necessary! All of the funds raised will be used to protect the quality of education in our local schools by attracting and retaining high quality teachers and providing high quality academic programs that our students need.

If we don't pass measure V, about \$1.3 million will disappear from USD school budgets. Our local TK-8 schools will have to make drastic cuts to academic programs, increase class sizes, and maintain only basics. **USD depends on local revenue to supplement limited State funding.**

Measure V will:

- **Provide** high quality programs in science, technology, engineering/math
- **Attract** and retain highly qualified teachers/instructional support staff
- **Support** high quality reading/writing programs
- **Maintain** manageable class sizes
- **Keep** academic intervention for students who need additional support
- **Provide** high quality programs in music, visual, and performing arts
- **Continue** funding for counselors/mental health support

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

Taxpayer safeguards are REQUIRED:

- **ALL funds STAY LOCAL** for USD schools/students
- The State CANNOT take this funding away
- NO funds are allowed for administrators' salaries or pensions
- Independent Citizens' Oversight and mandatory audits ensure funds are spent properly

Even if you do not have school-age children, supporting measure V is a wise investment. Good schools improve the quality of life in our community and protect the value of our homes.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V-Continued

Please VOTE YES on V.

Jennifer Petroff
Board President

Helen Kamali
Teacher

Christina Olvera
Teacher

Evan Suzuki
Retired Parole Agent

Vicki Saenz
Longtime Resident and Parent

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V

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

To boot, 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!

With this latest "temporary" parcel tax, Union School District claims they need a tax increase so they can "retain highly qualified teachers."

Have they *earned* this tax increase, through improving children's academic performance?

Let's see the 2022-23 test results, showing a **drop** in student performance in English, and almost no improvement in math:

| | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|
| <u>Students not meeting standards:</u> | English literacy: | 25.75% |
| | Math literacy: | 26.04% |

USD, which spends \$15,245/student per year, "thanked" parents and taxpayers with a **higher percentage** of children who **failed to meet English standards!**

Source: Ed-Data.org

Should voters reward the district's **dropping scores in the two fundamental subjects?**

If you answered "no," please vote **NO on Measure V.**

Union School District is spending \$15,245/student per year (ADA) with a student:teacher ratio of 21.6 to 1. **That's \$458,892/classroom per year.**

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

USD punished taxpayers by, despite the drop in test scores, increasing the average teacher's salary from \$87,144 for 2018-19 to \$100,642, plus up to \$20,400 in benefits.

Tell the trustees to **be financially responsible**—vote **NO on Measure V.**

If you reward failure, you will get more failure!

Just say NO to Measure V.

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 V

Union School District claims they need this supposedly temporary tax hike so they can "retain highly qualified teachers and counselors."

Have they earned this \$1,036 per parcel tax increase, by improving children's test scores?

Let's check student performance:

- 2022–23 **students not meeting** English literacy standards: **25.75%**
- 2022–23 **students not meeting** math literacy standards: **26.04%**

Children's performance **declined** in English and saw practically no improvement in math!

The district, which spends \$15,245 per student, per year, "rewarded" parents and taxpayers by **increasing the percentage** of students who **failed to meet English standards!**

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

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

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

UnionSchoolDistrict is spending \$15,245 per student per year (ADA) with an average of only 21.6 students per teacher.

That 's a whopping \$458,892 of spending 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.

UnionSchoolDistrict punished taxpayers with the drop in test scores, then increased the average teacher's salary from \$87,144 for 2018-19 to \$100,642 and up to \$20,400 in benefits for 2021-22.

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

If you reward failure, you will get more failure!

Just say NO to Measure V.

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.

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

Joe Dehn
Chair, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE V

Here's what Measure V's opponent didn't tell you: They don't live in our community, always file similarly cynical, inaccurate, and deliberately misleading statements across the county.

Measure V is absolutely needed and a sound investment in our local elementary and middle schools.

As longtime community members—we know the facts, and we're voting **YES on Measure V.**

FACT: Measure V is about one thing—maintaining the high-quality education students receive at Union School District (USD) schools.

FACT: The level of school funding provided by the State is one of the lowest in the nation and **USD is the lowest funded district in Santa Clara County.**

FACT: The quality of Union schools, teachers, class sizes, and challenging instructional programs depends on Measure V to supplement limited State funding.

FACT: The cost of Measure V is less than \$13 a month for property owners. Senior citizens are exempt and the measure is temporary; it lasts just seven years. Every penny goes to supporting classroom instruction.

FACT: Union School District is one of the highest performing districts in San Jose. Student performance exceeds BOTH county and state. 2022-23 English Language Arts: **USD-74.25%** above standard vs County-59.48% & State-46.66%. Math: **USD-73.97%** above standard vs County-51.43% & State-34.62%. California Department of Education (<https://caaspp-elpac.ets.org/>)

FACT: Independent Citizens' Oversight and mandatory audits are required for fiscal accountability, and no money will be used to pay for administrators' salaries.

Protect **your** investment in our UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT schools—**VOTE YES on V.**

Douglas Evans
Governing Board Member

Mary Jo Sponseller
Retired Teacher

Brian Tam
Parent

Kristina Suzuki
Registered Nurse

Rachel (Catherine) Duncan
Parent