

## Voter Information Pamphlet

# Special All-Mail Ballot Election Santa Cruz City School District Tuesday, November 17, 2015

This election is conducted only with ballots mailed to all registered voters within the Santa Cruz City High School and Elementary School Districts.

The last day to register to vote in this election is November 2. [registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)

The enclosed ballot **is the only one you will receive.**

If you lose your ballot or make a mistake you may request a new one.

### What's in this guide

How to vote by mail & Election Day Voter Assistance Centers	page 1
Information about Measure O	page 3
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**Santa Cruz County Elections Department**  
701 Ocean Street, Room 210, Santa Cruz  
Open Monday—Friday, 8am to 5pm

Information: 831-454-2060  
Toll Free: 866-282-5900  
TDD: 831-454-2123  
FAX: 831-454-2445

[www.votescount.com](http://www.votescount.com)  
[info@votescount.com](mailto:info@votescount.com)

Información en español al otro lado →

## Información Para el Votante

# Elección Especial de Boletas Enviadas por Correo Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de Santa Cruz Martes, 17 de noviembre de 2015

Esta elección se llevará a cabo solamente por medio de boletas enviadas por correo a todos los votantes registrados dentro de los Distritos Escolares de las escuelas secundarias y de las escuelas primarias de la Ciudad de Santa Cruz.

El último día para registrarse para votar en esta elección es el 2 de noviembre.  
[registertovote.ca.gov](http://registertovote.ca.gov)

La boleta incluida es **la única que recibirá.**

Si usted pierde su boleta o comete un error, puede solicitar una nueva.

## Lo que hay en esta guía

Cómo votar por correo y Centros de Asistencia para el  
Día de las Elecciones

pagina 1

Información sobre medida O

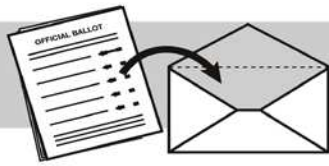
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A fin de preparar mejor a los estudiantes de las escuelas medias y secundarias locales para el éxito en el colegio y las carreras profesionales, ¿debe el Distrito de Escuelas Secundarias de la Ciudad de Santa Cruz preservar la instrucción y los programas extracurriculares en Educación Técnica Profesional, ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y artes interpretativas, y apoyar los programas deportivos para mantener a los niños seguros, saludables e involucrados con la escuela, estableciendo un impuesto a la parcela de \$72 por año durante 8 años únicamente, con exenciones para ciudadanos mayores, supervisión ciudadana independiente, y que todos los fondos sean para beneficiar a las escuelas medias y secundarias locales?

Información sobre medida P

pagina 8

A fin de proteger la calidad de la educación en las escuelas primarias locales, atraer y retener a los maestros altamente calificados, continuar los programas de ciencia, instrucción en artes y música, mantener cupos reducidos de las clases, proporcionar servicios de biblioteca y evitar que el financiamiento actual para las escuelas expire, ¿debe el Distrito de Escuelas Primarias de la Ciudad de Santa Cruz renovar su impuesto a la parcela de \$105 durante un período de 8 años sin aumentar la tasa impositiva, incluyendo una exención para los ciudadanos mayores, supervisión ciudadana independiente, y que todos los fondos permanezcan localmente para beneficiar a las escuelas primarias de Santa Cruz?



## How to vote by mail

### Make your vote-by-mail ballot count!

#### Mark your ballot

Use a blue or black ballpoint pen.

Use a single line to connect the head and tail of the arrow that points to your choice.

If you lose your ballot or make a mistake, you may request a new ballot. You can:



Call the Elections Department at **831-454-2060**



For a new ballot, email [2ndballot@votescount.com](mailto:2ndballot@votescount.com)

For assistance, email [info@votescount.com](mailto:info@votescount.com)



#### Sign and date the envelope

Remove the top stub from your ballot by tearing at the perforated line.

Place the ballot in the **green** postage-paid return envelope provided.

Write the **address where you live** in Santa Cruz County on the envelope in the space provided.

**Sign** your name on the envelope. If you do not sign your envelope, we cannot count your ballot.

If you cannot sign your name, make a mark and have a witness sign in the line provided.

*Do not let someone else sign your name for you.*

Write the **date** you signed the envelope.

### How to return your vote-by-mail ballot

To be counted your ballot must be **postmarked on or before Election Day, November 17** and received by the Elections Department by Friday, November 20. To return your ballot, you can:

#### Mail your ballot early to be sure it is received on time

Send it by mail to the address on the return envelope. This election is being conducted only with vote-by-mail ballots, so the postage is paid.

- OR -

#### Drop it off at the 24-hour drop box by 8pm on Election Day

Use the white mail box in front of the County Building

- County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

- OR -

#### Return it in person before and including Election Day

You may personally drop it off at one of the locations below or you can have a relative or someone who lives with you drop it off.

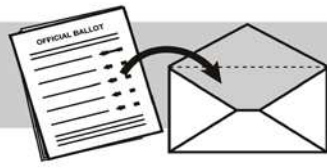
- |   |                              |              |
|---|------------------------------|--------------|
| • County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210 | Mon – Fri, 8am—5pm           | 831-454-2060 |
| • Santa Cruz City Clerk: 809 Center St.     | Mon – Fri, 8am—noon, 1pm—5pm | 831-420-5030 |
| • Capitola City Clerk: 420 Capitola Ave.    | Mon – Fri, 8am—noon, 1pm—5pm | 831-475-7300 |

- OR -

#### Return it in person on Election Day

Two locations are open on Election Day from 7am—8pm to assist voters

- County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz
- Congregational Church of Soquel: 4951 Soquel Drive, Soquel



## Cómo Votar Por Correo

### ¡Haga que su boleta de voto por correo cuente!

#### Marque su boleta

Use un bolígrafo con tinta azul o negra.

Use una sola línea que conecte la cabeza y la cola de la flecha que señale su selección.

Si usted pierde su boleta o comete un error, puede solicitar una nueva boleta. Usted puede:



Llamar al departamento de elecciones **831-454-2060**



Para una boleta nueva, mande correo electrónico **2ndballot@votescount.com**

Para asistencia, mande correo electrónico **info@votescount.com**

#### Firme y feche el sobre

Remueva el talón superior de su boleta desgarrarlo en la línea perforada.

Coloque la boleta en el sobre **verde** con franqueo pagado proporcionado.

Escriba **la dirección de donde usted vive** en el condado de Santa Cruz en el sobre en el espacio proporcionado.

**Firme** su nombre en el sobre. Si usted no firma el sobre, no podemos contar con su voto.

Si no puede firmar su nombre, haga una marca y que un testigo firme en la línea proporcionada.

*No permita que otra persona firme su nombre por usted.*

Escriba la **fecha** en que firmó el sobre.

#### Cómo regresar su boleta de voto por correo

Para que su boleta cuente, debe tener el **sello postal en el día o antes del día de las elecciones, 17 de noviembre** y ser recibida por el Departamento de Elecciones hasta el viernes, 20 de noviembre. Para regresar su boleta, puede:

##### Enviar por correo su boleta de votación anticipadamente para asegurar que se reciba a tiempo

Envíe por correo a la dirección en el sobre de retorno. Esta elección se llevara a cabo únicamente por voto por boletas por correo, así que el franqueo es pagado.

- O -

##### Deposítelo en el buzón de 24 horas hasta las 8pm en el día de las elecciones

Utilice el buzón de correo blanco que está enfrente del edificio del condado.

- County Government Center, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

- O -

##### Regréselo personalmente antes e incluyendo el día de las elecciones

Puede dejarlo personalmente en una de las localizaciones anotadas abajo o puede dejar que un pariente o alguien que viva con usted lo entreguen por usted.

- County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210    lun - vie, 8am—5pm    831-454-2060
- Santa Cruz City Clerk: 809 Center St.    lun - vie, 8am—noon, 1pm—5pm    831-420-5030
- Capitola City Clerk: 420 Capitola Ave.    lun - vie, 8am—noon, 1pm—5pm    831-475-7300

- O -

##### Regréselo personalmente en el día de la elección

Dos lugares están abiertos en la jornada electoral de 7am-8pm para asistir a los votantes

- County Elections: 701 Ocean St., Room 210, Santa Cruz
- Congregational Church of Soquel: 4951 Soquel Drive, Soquel



# **O Measure O Santa Cruz City High School District**

## **Summary**

To better prepare local middle and high school students for college and career success, shall Santa Cruz City High School District preserve instructional and after-school programs in Career Technical Education, science, technology, engineering and performing arts, and support athletic programs to keep kids safe, healthy and engaged in school, by establishing a parcel tax of \$72 per year for 8 years only, with exemptions for senior citizens, independent citizen oversight, and all funds benefitting local middle and high schools?

## **What your vote means**

<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
A "yes" vote on this measure authorizes the Santa Cruz City High School District to levy a special tax on real property. The tax would be imposed for eight years beginning July 1, 2016, at the rate of \$72 per year on each parcel. The measure requires 2/3 vote for passage.	A "no" vote on this measure is against imposition of the special parcel tax.

## **For and against Measure O**

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>
<p><b>John Leopold</b> Santa Cruz County Supervisor</p> <p><b>Michael Watkins</b> Superintendent Santa Cruz County Office of Education</p> <p><b>Geoffrey Dunn</b> Writer, Historian &amp; Lifelong Resident</p> <p><b>Kathy Ferraro</b> Parent at Harbor High</p> <p><b>Leif L. "Hal" Rovick</b> Career Technical Education Instructor at Soquel High</p>	<b>No argument against was filed.</b>

Measure O continues on page 2 with the argument for, impartial analysis, and the full text of the measure.



## Local ballot measure: O

### Argument in favor of Measure O

If you value protecting the quality of local schools – whether to prepare students for college and successful careers, keep kids safe and engaged in school, or simply to protect your property values – **Measure O deserves your YES VOTE.**

Our local secondary schools work hard to prepare students from Santa Cruz, Soquel, Live Oak, Capitola, Bonnie Doon, Happy Valley and surrounding communities for college and career success. The high quality education at Branciforte and Mission Hill Middle Schools, and Harbor, Santa Cruz, and Soquel High Schools includes advanced courses and enrichment in math, science, technology, the arts, and career training.

But State and County budget cuts are taking their toll, eliminating funding for secondary programs that contribute to a well-rounded education. As college admissions standards continue to rise, we need to give our kids a competitive edge by maintaining these important educational programs.

#### Measure O will:

- Support science, technology, and engineering educational initiatives
- Preserve Career Technical Education (ROP) programs
- Continue visual and performing arts enrichment
- Support athletic programs that keep kids safe, healthy, and engaged in school

Measure O is a wise investment. **ALL Measure O funds stay LOCAL** to support middle and high school classroom instruction and after-school programs. The cost is modest, just \$6 a month for property owners, and it's temporary, lasting only eight years. By law, these funds CAN'T be taken away by the State or be used for other purposes. An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee ensures funds are spent as promised.

Measure O provides an exemption for senior citizens.

If we want our kids to be prepared for college and career success, they need to have a high quality education. Measure O will help.

Teachers, parents, civic and business leaders throughout our community URGE YOUR SUPPORT.

**Please VOTE YES on O** – for our local middle and high schools.

[www.FriendsOfSantaCruzSchools.com](http://www.FriendsOfSantaCruzSchools.com)

s/John Leopold, Santa Cruz County Supervisor  
 s/Michael Watkins, Superintendent Santa Cruz County Office of Education  
 s/Geoffrey Dunn, Writer, Historian & Lifelong Resident  
 s/Kathy Ferraro, Parent at Harbor High  
 s/Leif L. "Hal" Rovick, Career Technical Education Instructor at Soquel High

### Argument against Measure O

No argument against was filed.



### Impartial analysis of Measure 0

Dana McRae, County Counsel

Jane M. Scott, Assistant County Counsel

If this measure is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, the Santa Cruz City High School District ("the School District") will be authorized to levy a special tax on real property. The tax would be imposed for eight years beginning July 1, 2016, at the rate of \$72 per year on each parcel -- as defined by the measure -- within the School District.

Previously voters of the School District approved an eight-year parcel tax (Measure I) on parcels within the District at the rate of \$38 per year, ending in 2021. The measure presently before the voters does not affect that existing parcel tax and if approved it would overlap with that tax for a period of time in which both parcel taxes would be owing; that is, the new tax would be in addition to the existing tax from 2016 to 2021.

The proceeds of the special tax, if approved, may be applied only to the purposes set out in the full text of Measure O which is printed in this pamphlet. It may not be used for administrative salaries.

In accordance with State law, the School District Board would implement accountability measures if the tax is approved. It would create a separate fund into which the proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited. An annual written report would show the amount of the special taxes which have been collected and expended, and the status of projects to be funded from those proceeds. An independent community oversight committee would monitor expenditures funded by this tax.

The special parcel tax is to be collected in the same manner as those property taxes which are based upon property value.

The measure adjusts the appropriations limit of the District by the amount collected through this parcel tax.

A property owner who is 65 years of age or older before July 1 of the tax year may apply for an exemption from the tax if the property is used as his or her principal place of residence. Specified recipients of SSI and SSDI benefits may also apply for exemption. Once granted, the exemption will continue for the term of the tax so long as the applicant remains eligible.

A "yes" vote is to approve imposition of the special parcel tax.

A "no" vote is against imposition of the special parcel tax.



### Full text of Measure 0

#### Santa Cruz City High School District Protection of Quality Education Act

To better prepare local middle and high school students for college and career success, the Santa Cruz City High School District shall preserve instructional and after-school programs in Career Technical Education, science, technology, engineering and performing arts, and support athletic programs to keep kids safe, healthy and engaged in school, by establishing a parcel tax of \$72 per year for 8 years only, with exemptions for senior citizens, independent citizen oversight, and all funds benefitting local middle and high schools.

Accordingly, moneys raised under this Measure shall be authorized to be used for the following purposes in accordance with priorities established by the Board and to the extent of available funds:

- (a) Supporting career-technical education, STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs, visual and performing arts and job-training instructional programs;
- (b) Preserving after-school athletic and enrichment programs in middle and high schools to protect student safety, health and well-being.

No parcel tax funds will be spent on administrative salaries.

#### **A. Amount and Basis of Tax**

This special tax shall authorize the Santa Cruz City High School District to levy a special tax of \$72 per Parcel of Taxable Real Property beginning in July 1, 2016, and continuing for a period of eight (8) years.

To the extent allowed by law "Parcel of Taxable Real Property" shall be defined as:

- (a) Any unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the County Tax Collector.
- (b) All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall not be considered a Parcel of Taxable Real Property for purposes of the special tax in such year.
- (c) Multiple parcels which are contiguous, under common ownership, and that constitute one economic unit, meaning that they have the same primary purpose as the principal parcel and are not separate and distinct properties that may be independently developed or sold, shall comprise a single Parcel of Taxable Real Property for purposes of the special tax.

If any portion of this definition is deemed contrary to law, the Board declares and the voters by approving the Measure concur, that every other section and part of this definition has independent value, and the Board and voters would have adopted each other section and part hereof regardless of every other section or part hereof. If all sections or parts of this definition are deemed contrary to law, "Parcel of Taxable Real Property" shall be defined as any real property in the District assigned an assessor's parcel number.

This special tax does not effect the continued authorization to levy a special tax of \$38 per parcel for eight years as approved by District voters in 2012.

#### **B. Exemptions**

Under procedures adopted by the District, upon application or confirmation of a continuing exemption, an exemption from payment of the special tax may be granted on any parcel owned by one or more persons who is/are:

1. An individual who will attain 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the tax year, owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence ("Senior Citizen Exemption").
2. Receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age and occupying said parcel as a principal residence ("SSI Exemption"); or
3. 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 ("SSDI Exemption").

Any one application from a qualified applicant will provide an exemption for the parcel for the remaining term of the tax so long as such applicant continues to own and use the parcel as his or her principal residence.





## Local ballot measure: 0

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The District shall annually provide to the Santa Cruz County Tax Collector ("County Tax Collector") or other appropriate County official a list of parcels that the District has approved for an exemption.

### **C. Claims / Exemption Procedures**

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the County Tax Collector or other appropriate County tax official 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 special tax, including the Senior Citizen Exemption, the application of the definition of "Parcel of Taxable Real Property" to any parcel(s), the legality or validity of the special tax, or any other disputed matter specific to the application of the special tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding. The procedures described herein, and any additional procedures established by the Board shall be the exclusive claims procedure for claimants seeking an exemption, refund, reduction, or re-computation of the special tax. Whether any particular claim is to be resolved by the District or by the County shall be determined by the District, in coordination with the County as necessary.

### **D. Appropriations Limit**

Pursuant to California Constitution article XIIB and applicable laws, the appropriations limit for the District will be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of this special tax.

### **E. Mandatory Accountability Protections**

1. *Specific Purposes.* The proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only to the specific purposes identified above.
2. *Annual Reports.* The proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited into an account, which shall be kept separate and apart from other accounts of the District, pursuant to the Government Code. No later than December 31 of each year while the tax is in effect, the District shall prepare and file with the Board a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended during the prior fiscal year, and the status of any project authorized to be funded by this measure. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period, as said officer shall determine, and may be incorporated into or filed with the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.
3. *Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee.* The independent community oversight committee that has been appointed by the Board of Education to oversee all expenditures funded by parcel taxes will continue to audit all funds in order to ensure that said funds are spent wisely and used only for the purposes approved by the voters. The oversight committee shall monitor the expenditures of these funds by the District and shall report on an annual basis to the community on how these funds have been spent.

### **F. Protection of Funding**

Current law forbids any decrease in State or federal funding to the District resulting from the adoption of an education parcel tax. However, if any such funding is reduced or affected because of the adoption of this local funding measure, then the Board may reduce the amount of the special taxes levied as necessary in order to restore such State or federal funding and/or maximize the District's fiscal position for the benefit of the educational program. As a result, whether directly or indirectly, no funding from this measure may be taken away by the State or federal governments.

### **G. Severability**

The Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this Measure concur, that every section and part of this Measure has independent value, and the Board and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this Measure by the voters, should any part of the Measure or taxing formula be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts of the Measure or taxing formula hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law.



## Local ballot measure: P

# P Measure P Santa Cruz City Elementary School District

### Summary

To protect the quality of education in local elementary schools, attract and retain highly qualified teachers, continue science programs, arts and music instruction, maintain smaller class sizes, provide library services and prevent existing school funding from expiring, shall Santa Cruz City Elementary School District renew its \$105 parcel tax for a period of 8 years without raising the tax rate, including an exemption for senior citizens, independent citizen oversight, and all funds staying local to benefit Santa Cruz elementary schools?

### What your vote means

YES	NO
<p>A "yes" vote on this measure authorizes the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District to levy a special tax on real property. The tax would be imposed for eight years beginning July 1, 2016, at the rate of \$105 per year on each parcel. The measure requires 2/3 vote for passage.</p>	<p>A "no" vote on this measure is against imposition of the special parcel tax.</p>

### For and against Measure P

FOR	AGAINST
<p><b>Ryan Coonerty</b> Santa Cruz County Supervisor</p> <p><b>Reyna Ruiz</b> Director of Youth City Council</p> <p><b>Hilary Bryant</b> Former Santa Cruz Mayor</p> <p><b>Beth Landry</b> Kindergarten Teacher and Long Term Resident</p> <p><b>Tim Madsen</b> Parent, Westlake Elementary PTA</p>	<p>No argument against was filed.</p>

Measure P continues on page 2 with the argument for, impartial analysis, and the full text of the measure.



## Argument in favor of Measure P

**WITHOUT RAISING YOUR TAX RATE**, VOTE YES on Measure P to protect the outstanding quality of education provided in Santa Cruz elementary (K-6) schools.

Santa Cruz has a tradition of supporting its local schools. Exceptional teachers, small class sizes, challenging instructional programs, dedicated parent volunteers, and outstanding science, art and music curricula have prepared generations of local children to succeed in middle and high school, college, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers.

But years of state budget cuts and now, the State’s new funding formula, continue to threaten our local schools.

Fortunately, in 2008 **over 80%** of Santa Cruz voters approved a modest school parcel tax that today provides a stable funding source to maintain educational excellence and protect neighborhood elementary schools from continued unpredictable and inadequate state funding. **Without approval of Measure P, this funding will expire next school year.**

**Measure P will NOT raise your tax rate.** It simply extends **without increasing** the existing measure already approved by voters.

**Measure P continues K-6 funding to:**

- Protect small class sizes
- Attract and retain high-quality teachers
- Preserve arts and music instruction
- Maintain elementary science programs
- Keep school libraries open with certificated teacher librarians

**Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED.** Every Measure P penny stays local to support Santa Cruz instructional programs. BY LAW these funds cannot be taken by the State or spent on administrators’ salaries. An Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee ensures funds are spent properly.

Senior citizens will continue to be eligible for an exemption.

Whether or not you have school-age children, good schools protect local property values and contribute to a strong community. Measure P helps by providing a prudent solution that **won’t** increase your tax rate but *will* protect local elementary schools.

Please join Santa Cruz parents, teachers, and civic leaders fighting to protect our local quality of education.

**VOTE YES on P.**

[www.FriendsOfSantaCruzSchools.com](http://www.FriendsOfSantaCruzSchools.com)

s/ Ryan Coonerty, Santa Cruz County Supervisor

s/ Reyna Ruiz, Director of Youth City Council

s/ Hilary Bryant, Former Santa Cruz Mayor

s/ Beth Landry, Kindergarten Teacher and Long Term Resident

s/ Tim Madsen, Parent, Westlake Elementary PTA

## Argument against Measure P

No argument against was filed.

**Impartial analysis of Measure P**

**Dana McRae**, County Counsel

By Jane M. Scott, Assistant County Counsel

If this measure is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District ("the School District") will be authorized to levy a special tax on real property. The tax would be imposed for eight years beginning July 1, 2016, at the rate of \$105 per year on each parcel -- as defined by the measure -- within the School District.

Previously voters of the School District approved an eight-year parcel tax (Measure J) on parcels within the District at the rate of \$85 per year, ending in 2021. The measure presently before the voters does not affect that existing parcel tax and if approved it would overlap with that tax for a period of time in which both parcel taxes would be owing.

As the text of Measure P indicates, in 2008 the voters approved another "Measure P," also a special tax in the annual amount of \$105. The ballot measures are given their letter designations in alphabetical order by the elections official; no legal significance is attached to the fact that these two measures carry the same alphabet letter, rather they are separate measures.

The term of the 2008 Measure P, however, will be changed if this 2015 Measure P is approved. The final year of the earlier Measure P tax will be dropped, and the new eight-year term based on the 2015 Measure P will commence at what would have been the final year of the 2008 Measure P.

The proceeds of the special tax, if approved, may be applied only to the purposes set out in the full text of Measure P which is printed in this pamphlet. It may not be used for administrative salaries.

In accordance with State law, the School District Board would implement accountability measures if the tax is approved. It would create a separate fund into which the proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited. An annual written report would show the amount of the special taxes which have been collected and expended, and the status of projects to be funded from those proceeds. An independent community oversight committee would monitor expenditures funded by this tax.

The special parcel tax is to be collected in the same manner as property taxes which are based upon property value.

The measure adjusts the appropriations limit of the District by the amount collected through this parcel tax.

A property owner who is 65 years of age or older before July 1 of the tax year may apply for an exemption from the tax if the property is used as his or her principal place of residence. Specified recipients of SSI and SSDI benefits may also apply for exemption. Once granted, the exemption will continue for the term of the tax so long as the applicant remains eligible.

A "yes" vote is to approve imposition of the special parcel tax.

A "no" vote is against imposition of the special parcel tax.



### Full text of Measure P

#### **Santa Cruz City Elementary School District Small Class Size and Academic Achievement Act**

To protect the quality of education in local elementary schools, attract and retain highly qualified teachers, continue science programs, arts and music instruction, maintain smaller class sizes, provide library services and prevent existing school funding from expiring, the Santa Cruz City Elementary School District shall renew its \$105 parcel tax for a period of 8 years without raising the tax rate, including an exemption for senior citizens, independent citizen oversight, and all funds staying local to benefit Santa Cruz elementary schools.

Accordingly, moneys raised under this Measure shall be authorized to be used for the following purposes in accordance with priorities established by the Board and to the extent of available funds:

- (a) Protecting small class sizes;
- (b) Funding elementary school science instruction;
- (c) Supporting early literacy instruction programs for elementary students and pre-kindergarten programs;
- (d) Retaining credentialed librarians, library assistants, teachers and other employees; and
- (e) Providing arts education, teachers and supplies, including music, performing and visual arts.

No parcel tax funds will be spent on administrative salaries.

#### **A. Amount and Basis of Tax**

The District's expiring parcel tax for elementary education began in 2003, and was renewed in 2008 at the rate of \$105 per parcel for a period of 8 years. The special tax authorized by this measure shall commence July 1, 2016 and replace the final year of levy of the 2008 Measure P tax and continue the tax levy of \$105 per Parcel of Taxable Real Property for a period of eight (8) years, through June 30, 2024.

To the extent allowed by law, "Parcel of Taxable Real Property" shall be defined as:

- (a) Any unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the County Tax Collector.
- (b) All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall not be considered a Parcel of Taxable Real Property for purposes of the special tax in such year.
- (c) Multiple parcels which are contiguous, under common ownership, and that constitute one economic unit, meaning that they have the same primary purpose as the principal parcel and are not separate and distinct properties that may be independently developed or sold, shall comprise a single Parcel of Taxable Real Property for purposes of the special tax.

If any portion of this definition is deemed contrary to law, the Board declares and the voters by approving the Measure concur, that every other section and part of this definition has independent value, and the Board and voters would have adopted each other section and part hereof regardless of every other section or part hereof. If all sections or parts of this definition are deemed contrary to law, "Parcel of Taxable Real Property" shall be defined as any real property in the District assigned an assessor's parcel number.

This special tax does not effect the continued authorization to levy a special tax of \$85 per parcel for eight years as approved by voters in 2012.

#### **B. Exemptions**

Under procedures adopted by the District, upon application or confirmation of a continuing exemption, an exemption from payment of the special tax may be granted on any parcel owned by one or more persons who is/are:

1. An individual who will attain 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the tax year, owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence ("Senior Citizen Exemption").
2. Receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age and occupying said parcel as a principal residence ("SSI Exemption"); or



3. 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 (“SSDI Exemption”).

Any one application from a qualified applicant will provide an exemption for the parcel for the remaining term of the tax so long as such applicant continues to own and use the parcel as his or her principal residence.

The District shall annually provide to the Santa Cruz County Tax Collector (“County Tax Collector”) or other appropriate County official a list of parcels that the District has approved for an exemption.

### **C. Claims / Exemption Procedures**

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the County Tax Collector or other appropriate County tax official 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 special tax, including qualification for exemptions, the application of the definition of “Parcel of Taxable Real Property” to any parcel(s), the legality or validity of the special tax, or any other disputed matter specific to the application of the special tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding. The procedures described herein, and any additional procedures established by the Board shall be the exclusive claims procedure for claimants seeking an exemption, refund, reduction, or re-computation of the special tax. Whether any particular claim is to be resolved by the District or by the County shall be determined by the District, in coordination with the County as necessary.

### **D. Appropriations Limit**

Pursuant to California Constitution article XIII B and applicable laws, the appropriations limit for the District will be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of this special tax.

### **E. Mandatory Accountability Protections**

1. *Specific Purposes.* The proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only to the specific purposes identified above.

2. *Annual Reports.* The proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited into an account, which shall be kept separate and apart from other accounts of the District, pursuant to the Government Code. No later than December 31 of each year while the tax is in effect, the District shall prepare and file with the Board a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended during the prior fiscal year, and the status of any project authorized to be funded by this measure. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period, as said officer shall determine, and may be incorporated into or filed with the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.

3. *Independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee.* In accordance with District policy, the independent community oversight committee that has been appointed by the Board of Education to oversee all expenditures funded by existing parcel taxes will continue to audit all funds in order to ensure that said funds are spent appropriately and used only for the purposes approved by the voters. The oversight committee shall monitor the expenditures of these funds by the District and shall report on an annual basis to the community on how these funds have been spent.

### **F. Protection of Funding**

Current law forbids any decrease in State or federal funding to the District resulting from the adoption of an education parcel tax. However, if any such funding is reduced or affected because of the adoption of this local funding measure, then the Board may reduce the amount of the special taxes levied as necessary in order to restore such State or federal funding and/or maximize the District’s fiscal position for the benefit of the educational program. As a result, whether directly or indirectly, no funding from this measure may be taken away by the State or federal governments.

### **G. Severability**

The Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this Measure concur, that every section and part of this Measure has independent value, and the Board and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this Measure by the voters, should any part of the Measure or taxing formula be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts of the Measure or taxing formula hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Use the top of the form to correct the information we have about your voter registration. Use the middle of the form to tell us what you need to make voting better for you. You can also use this form to apply to be an election officer by filling in the bottom part. Remember to sign and date the form.



Fill out the form, scan and Email to: [info@votescount.com](mailto:info@votescount.com)

Or Mail it to:

**Santa Cruz County Elections Department**  
**701 Ocean Street, Room 210**  
**Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

## Voter Information

Name:

Email:

Address where I live:

Birthdate:

City:

State:

ZIP code:

**I want to be a permanent vote-by-mail voter.**

Mailing address (if different from the address where you live)

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Country:

**Please update my registration.**

My name is misspelled. It should be:

I have moved within Santa Cruz County.  
My new home address is:

**Change how I get my Sample Ballot & Voter Information Pamphlet**

I will get it online. I no longer want to receive it in the mail

I want my voting materials in the language below in addition to the English version

Spanish (en español)  Chinese (中文)  Tagalog

**Please cancel my voter registration**

I have moved out of the State.

The voter named above is deceased.

Other reason:

**I want to be an Election Officer in 2016 (check all that apply)**

I am fluent in English.

I am also fluent in: \_\_\_\_\_

I have my own transportation.

I am willing to travel to serve outside my neighborhood.

I have a space that could be used as a polling place

## We must have your signature. Do not print.

I certify under penalty of perjury that this information is true and correct.

Signature:

Date: