

**VOTER'S PAMPHLET**  
**MEASURES, ANALYSES AND ARGUMENTS**

(whichever is applicable to your ballot)  
Arguments in support of, or in opposition to, the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

**SANTA CRUZ CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**B** **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS FUNDING RENEWAL.** To provide continued funding to retain quality teachers, art and music programs, credentialed librarians and counselors for at-risk youth and students with academic needs, shall the Elementary District of the Santa Cruz City Schools renew without increase its existing assessment of \$70/year per parcel for seven years, beginning July 1, 2006, exempting parcels owned/occupied by seniors (65+), with independent community oversight and accountability to ensure funds are used only to improve student learning?

**FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE B**

**Local Elementary Schools Funding Renewal**

To provide continued funding to retain quality teachers, art and music programs, credentialed librarians and counselors for at-risk youth and students with academic needs, shall the Elementary District of the Santa Cruz City Schools renew without increase its existing assessment of \$70/year per parcel for seven years, beginning July 1, 2006, exempting parcels owned/occupied by seniors (65+), with no funds taken by the state, independent community oversight and accountability to ensure funds are used only to improve student learning as specified below?

In order to retain qualified and experienced teachers, librarians and counselors, the following educational programs and services for elementary and middle school students shall be supported by this assessment:

School libraries: Credentialed librarians and other resources to support the development of independent research skills and the study of literature by all students.

Counseling Services: Resources and credentialed counselors for at-risk youth and students with academic counseling needs.

Arts and Music Education: Teachers and supplies for elementary and middle school arts and music programs.

The parcel tax will be imposed at the rate of \$70 per year for each assessor's parcel within the Elementary School District (grades K-8). A parcel is defined as any unit of land in the District that now receives a separate tax bill from Santa Cruz County. All property that would otherwise be exempt from property taxes will also be exempt from the imposition of said qualified special tax.

An exemption from the assessment will be made available to each individual in the District who will attain 65 years of age prior to July 1 of the assessment year, and who owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, and who uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence, and who applies to the Schools on or before July 1, 2006, or July 1 of any succeeding assessment year. Any one application from a qualified applicant will provide an exemption for the parcel for the remaining term of the assessment so long as such applicant continues to own and use the parcel as his or her principal residence.

In addition to the accountability measures required by law, an independent community oversight committee shall be appointed by the Board of Education to oversee all expenditures funded by the measure 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.

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL**  
**MEASURE B**

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 assessment on real property. The tax would be imposed for seven years beginning July 1, 2006, at the rate of \$70 per year on each parcel within the School District.

The proceeds of the special tax, if approved, may be applied only for the purposes set out in the full text of Measure B which is included in this pamphlet.

In accordance with State law, the School District Board would create a designated account into which the proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited. Furthermore, 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. Additionally, an independent community oversight committee would be appointed to monitor expenditures and report annually.

The special tax shall be collected in the same manner as those property taxes which are based upon property value. An exemption from the tax will be granted for any parcel owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or over who occupy the parcel as a principal residence, if the owner makes a one-time application for exemption.

A separate parcel tax of \$70 per parcel per year approved by the District's voters in March 2002 was for a four-year period which ends June 30, 2006; therefore that particular tax will have expired as of the commencement of this new \$70 tax presently before the voters, and it is the existing assessment to which the ballot question refers.

In June 2003, voters of the School District approved a five-year parcel tax on parcels within the District at the rate of \$6.75 per month (\$81 per year) beginning July 1, 2003. Consequently, if the measure presently before the voters is enacted it would overlap with the parcel tax approved in 2003 during the two-year period July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2008.

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

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

DANA McRAE, COUNTY COUNSEL

By Jane M. Scott, Assistant County Counsel

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### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

Years of state budget cuts have threatened Santa Cruz schools. Fortunately, our community has invested in local schools to protect students, teachers, librarians, arts, music and counseling from state cuts.

Along with Measure A for local high schools, Measure B will renew vital school funding for Santa Cruz elementary and middle schools – without increasing taxes.

For the past four years, voter-approved local school funds have protected teachers, librarians, arts, music and counseling programs to help at-risk youth in local elementary and middle schools. Local funds have also supported instruction in science, English and math, preserved small class sizes and provided basic classroom supplies. Critical elementary and middle school funds are set to expire next year, along with Measure A's high school funding.

If we don't act, local schools face \$2.1 million in across-the-board cuts that threaten teachers, librarians, counselors, other academic programs and small class sizes.

Together, Measures A & B will renew this vital school funding and prevent drastic cuts – without increasing taxes.

All funds raised by Measure B will support teachers, librarians, counselors and academic instruction in our local schools.

No funds can be taken by the state or used for administrative salaries.

A citizen's oversight committee will review all spending.

Senior citizens 65 and older can file a one-time, permanent exemption.

Measure B funds will:

- Retain experienced, qualified teachers and librarians
- Provide arts and music classes
- Continue counseling for at-risk youth
- Prevent cuts that could impact small class sizes and academic instruction in core subjects

This is a chance for our community to support local elementary and middle schools in the face of ongoing state cuts.

Please join us in voting YES on Measure B to continue our investment in Santa Cruz elementary and middle schools – without increasing taxes.

s/ John Laird  
State Assemblymember

s/ Patty Zoccoli  
Local Business Owner, Past PTA President

s/ Neal Coonerty  
Owner Bookshop Santa Cruz

s/ Manuel Pastor  
Professor, UC Santa Cruz

s/ George Ow, Jr.  
Businessperson

### REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B

State budget cuts have never threatened Santa Cruz City Schools. In 2001 when they first wanted this tax, they said revenues were down when in fact they were up. Per pupil spending had risen from \$4,800 (or more) in 1997-1998 to \$7129 (or more) in 2001- 2002 when Measure D was passed. This years state budget puts 2005-2006 per pupil spending at a whopping \$10,325 (go to [www.STOP-EM.us](http://www.STOP-EM.us)). Has your annual income increased by 45% since 2002?

The first Measure B followed Measure D and was meant to keep our schools open, It didn't!!! They then told us that the \$1.25 million per year funding from that first Measure B was insufficient to keep schools open and also fund "additional programs and staff ...." (Santa Cruz Sentinal 2-22-2004). Huh??? The ballot arguments favoring the first Measure B said nothing about funding additional programs and staff. It was supposed to keep schools open.

Finally, we are frequently accused of being against all taxes. That's not true!! We will overwhelmingly support any new tax the day our schools tell the truth, "we are flush with revenue – we just want more money to spend," and grant an exemption to anyone who wants it regardless of age or financial status. In other words, grant the same consideration to all citizens that they use to bribe that special class of citizens called seniors; you don't have to pay the tax if you don't want to.

**ON NOVEMBER 8, 2005**

**VOTE NO ON MEASURE B**

s/ Alan W. Bailey  
Retired Financial Consultant

STOP-EM  
s/ Vernon C. Bohr Jr., Chairperson

STOP-EM  
s/ Carolyn M. Busenhart, Treasurer

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### ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

In March 2002, we approved Santa Cruz City School District parcel tax Measure D based on the assertion that revenues were down. They were not!

One year later, the elementary district told us, "Without Measure B our schools face drastic cuts such as closing 2 of 6 neighborhood schools;" and "School closures will result in overcrowding...." We approved Measure B and schools closed anyway.

The District now wants us to renew Measures D with Measure B stating "...the California Legislature has failed to provide adequate funding for .....("Schools"). Is a rise of ADA school funding from \$6,630 in 2001 to \$10,325 this year inadequate?

Finally, the district seems willing to violate Article I Section 7(b) of the California State Constitution which says "A citizen or class of citizens may not be granted privileges or immunities not granted on the same terms to all citizens." Aren't seniors a class of citizen? Isn't a "senior only exemption", a privilege granted to this class of citizens only and a privilege not granted on the same terms to all citizens?

Let's see, we should now approve a parcel tax for a district that has told us revenues were down when they were up, told us that the legislature has failed to provide adequate funding to our schools when they have increased funding by more than 55% in just 3 years, and a district that appears to be willing to violate the state constitution that they swore to uphold?

Fool me once shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me, fool me a third time, I'm just a fool. Will we be duped into voting for this unnecessary parcel tax this time?

**DON'T ENCOURAGE BAD BEHAVIOR BY REWARDING IT.**

**ON NOVEMBER 8, 2005, VOTE NO ON MEASURE B.**

s/ Alan W. Bailey  
Retired Financial Consultant

STOP-EM  
s/ Vernon C. Bohr, Jr., Chairperson

STOP-EM  
s/ Carolyn M. Busenhart, Treasurer

### REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

Santa Cruz students are fortunate that our community values education and academic opportunity in the face of state budget cuts. Local parcel tax funds have saved experienced and qualified teachers, librarians and counselors, along with arts and music programs.

Measures A & B renew this vital funding for Santa Cruz elementary, middle, and high schools—without increasing taxes. A citizens' oversight committee will review all Measure A & B spending to ensure it's used only for voter-approved purposes.

The state has steadily shortchanged school funding. This year, the Governor broke his promise to stop that trend. Our opponents invented numbers claiming that ADA funding has increased by 55%, but it's just not true! Santa Cruz City Schools' ADA funding per-student was \$7,511 in 2001-02 and \$7,842 in 2003-2004. (See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us) for California Department of Education official numbers.)

The state won't provide adequate funding for Santa Cruz schools. If we don't renew our investment in our local schools, Santa Cruz students and teachers will suffer.

Measures A & B prevent drastic cuts, without increasing taxes. If A & B fail, local schools face \$2.1 million in across-the-board cuts that threaten teachers, librarians, counselors, art, music, and class sizes.

All A & B funds will be used in local schools and classrooms and cannot be taken by the state.

An exemption is available for those 65 and older.

Please join us in voting YES on A & B. Let's renew our investment in Santa Cruz elementary, middle, and high schools, without increasing taxes.

s/ Emily Reilly  
Santa Cruz Councilmember and Owner, Emily's Good Things to Eat

s/ Liz Pollock  
Treasurer, Gault Parent Teacher Alliance (GPTA)

s/ Scott Daly  
O.D., Optometrist/Business Owner

s/ Ziggy Rendler-Bregman  
Arts Advocate and Santa Cruz High Parent

s/ Cindy Geise  
Owner-Ristorante Avanti and Santa Cruz High Site Council