

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.

LAKESIDE JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

C To protect quality education and small class sizes for all students in Lakeside Joint School District, and provide qualified teachers with specialized training, comprehensive science programs, updated classroom technology, and quality academic programs for middle school students, shall the Lakeside Joint School District be authorized to implement an annual education parcel tax of \$311 for seven years, with citizen oversight, an exemption available for senior citizens, no funds for administrators' salaries, and every dollar spent on Lakeside students?

LAKESIDE QUALITY EDUCATION MEASURE C

Lakeside Joint School District

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To protect high-quality core educational programs like English, math and science, provide a comprehensive education for middle school students including science and academic enrichment programs, provide updated computers and learning technology, protect small class sizes, and retain and attract qualified teachers, the Lakeside Joint School District (K-8) proposes to establish an education parcel tax for a period of 7 years, beginning July 1, 2010, at the rate of \$311 per year, on each assessor's parcel located within the Lakeside Joint School District, with an exemption available for senior citizens and persons on Supplemental Security Income, and to implement accountability measures in connection with the temporary levy that are over and above those required by law, including the appointment of an independent citizen oversight committee to provide oversight and accountability to ensure the funds are used to:

- protect high-quality core educational programs like English, math and science;
- provide a comprehensive education for middle school students including science and academic enrichment programs;
- provide updated computers and learning technology;
- protect small class sizes; and
- retain and attract qualified teachers.

AMOUNT OF EDUCATION PARCEL TAX; PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT

The education parcel tax shall be \$311 (or less as provided below) per year for seven (7) full years assessed against each parcel.

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

DEFINITION OF "PARCEL"

For purposes of the special tax, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Lakeside Joint School District, that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Santa Clara County Assessor/Tax Collector's office or the Santa Cruz County Assessor/Tax Collector. 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 parcel tax in such year.

EXEMPTION FOR CONTIGUOUS PARCELS

For purposes of this special tax, any such "Parcels" which are (i) contiguous, (ii) used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and (iii) held under identical ownership may, by submitting an application of the owners thereof by June 15 of each year to the Board of Trustees of the Lakeside Joint School District be treated as a single "parcel" for purposes of the levy of this education parcel tax.

EXEMPTION OF SENIORS AND SSI RECIPIENTS

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 50079 (b), any owners of a Parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and who are either (a) 65 years of age or older or (b) persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, may obtain an exemption from the education parcel tax by annually submitting an application, by June 15 of each year, to the Board of Trustees of the Lakeside Joint School District.

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the Santa Clara County and the Santa Cruz County Assessor/Tax Collector, respectively, 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 education parcel tax, including the Senior Citizen and SSI 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 parcel tax is not intended to decrease or offset any increase in local, state or federal government sources that would otherwise be available to the Lakeside Joint School District during the period of the education parcel tax. In the event that the levy and collection does have such an effect, the Lakeside Joint School District shall cease the levy or shall reduce the education 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 education parcel tax levied in accordance with this Measure: (a) the specific purposes of the education parcel tax shall be those purposes identified above; (b) the proceeds of the education 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 parcel tax must be deposited; and (d) an annual written report shall be made to the Board of Trustees of the District showing (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the education parcel tax and (ii) the status of any projects or programs required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the education parcel tax, as identified above.

In addition to the accountability measures required by law, an independent citizen oversight committee shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees to advise the Board on the expenditures funded by the measure in order to ensure that said funds are spent for the purposes approved by the voters. The oversight committee will monitor the expenditures of these funds by the District and will report on an annual basis to the Board and community on how these funds have been spent.

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IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE C

If this measure is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, the Lakeside Joint School District ("the School District") will be authorized to levy a special tax on real property. The tax would be imposed for seven years beginning July 1, 2010, at the rate of \$311 per year on each parcel within the School District.

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

In accordance with State law, the School District Board would implement accountability measures. It would create a separate account 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 citizen oversight committee would also be appointed to monitor expenditures and report annually to the Board and the community how the funds have been spent.

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

Property owners who are 65 years of age or older, or who are receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability regardless of age, may obtain an exemption if the property is used solely for owner-occupied, single family residential purposes, by applying annually prior to June 15 of any year. An owner of contiguous parcels meeting specified criteria may also apply annually to have the parcels treated as a single parcel for purposes of the tax.

The School District Board of Trustees proposes to reduce this parcel tax if it should develop that it has an unintended effect of decreasing or offsetting local, state or federal government funding sources that would otherwise be available to the School District.

Any necessary increases in the School District's appropriations limit will be accomplished pursuant to State law, in order to permit proceeds of the special tax to be spent for the authorized purposes.

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

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

Lakeside School has provided an excellent education for local students here in our mountain community for over 127 years.

Lakeside is the fourth highest ranked elementary school district in Santa Clara County in student achievement, with small class sizes and excellent teachers for kindergarten through fifth grade students.

A Lakeside partnership with Campbell Union School District provides a comprehensive education for middle school students, including teachers with specialized training in the subjects they teach, strong academics like reading, writing and math, art and a science program with labs.

Yet, due to ongoing declines in state funding, Lakeside School faces drastic cut-backs and the middle school program is in jeopardy. Without Measure C, Lakeside will be required to educate nine grades of students with a budget that currently supports five teachers, resulting in two or three grade combination classes and a reduced educational quality.

That is why Measure C is critical. With funds that cannot be taken away by the state, Measure C will preserve high-quality education that students deserve.

Yes on Measure C

- Protect core academics in English, math and science for all students
- Provide a comprehensive middle school education with teachers who specialize in the subjects they teach
- Provide updated computer learning technology
- Maintain small classes
- Retain and attract qualified teachers

Measure C is fiscally responsible

- All funds will support Lakeside students and cannot be taken away by the state or be used for administrators' salaries
- Citizen oversight and independent audits ensure funds are used wisely
- Exemption available for homeowners 65 and older
- Expires in 7 years and cannot be renewed without voter approval

Our excellent Lakeside School keeps our community strong and protects local property values for all of us, even if we don't have kids in school. Please join parents, teachers and community leaders—vote YES on Measure C.

s/ Richard White
Small Business Owner

s/ Patricia A. Bjorlie
Retired Lakeside School Teacher

s/ Karen C. Fishback
Retiree

s/ Anne Plane
Lakeside middle school parent

s/ Sarah Hitchcock Glover
Lakeside Community Resident

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C WAS FILED.