

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.

LOMA PRIETA JOINT UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

G To retain qualified and experienced teachers, keep schools safe and clean, maintain high quality academics, including reading, writing, math, and science, continue a well-rounded education including Spanish, art, and other educational enrichment programs, maintain updated computer technology, and maintain small class sizes, shall Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District authorize an annual school parcel tax of \$95 per parcel for four years, with an exemption for seniors, no funds used for administrator's salaries, and every dollar staying in local schools?

LOMA PRIETA SCHOOLS QUALITY EDUCATION MEASURE G

Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To retain qualified and experienced teachers, keep schools safe and clean, maintain a high quality core academic education, including reading writing, math, and science, continue a well-rounded education that includes Spanish, Art, PE and other educational enrichment programs, maintain up-to-date computers and technology, and maintain small class sizes, the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District (K-8) proposes to establish an education parcel tax for a period of 4 years, beginning July 1, 2010, at the rate of \$95 per year, on each assessor's parcel located within the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary 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 to ensure the funds are used to:

- retain qualified and experienced teachers;
- keep schools safe and clean;
- maintain a high quality core academic education, including reading writing, math, and science;
- continue a well-rounded education that includes Spanish, Art, PE and other educational enrichment programs;
- maintain up-to-date computers and technology; and
- maintain small class sizes.

AMOUNT OF EDUCATION PARCEL TAX; PERIOD OF ASSESSMENT

The education parcel tax shall be \$95 (or less as provided below) per year for four (4) 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 Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary 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 Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary 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 Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary 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 Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District during the period of the education parcel tax. In the event that the levy and collection does have such an effect, the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary 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.

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IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE G

If this measure is approved by at least two-thirds of those voting on it, the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary School District ("the School District") will be authorized to levy a special tax on real property. The tax would be imposed for four years beginning July 1, 2010, at the rate of \$95 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 G 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.

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 to the School District's Board of Trustees. 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 G

Vote Yes on Measure G to support continued academic excellence in Loma Prieta Elementary and CT English Middle Schools.

Our local Loma Prieta schools offer something special to our children – experienced teachers, safe and clean facilities and high-quality programs in reading, writing, science and math. Our students experience small classes, a comprehensive academic curriculum, and achieve test scores that are in the top 7% in the state.

However, ongoing state budget cuts are threatening the schools' ability to continue providing a well-rounded and challenging education for local students. The state is simply an unreliable partner when it comes to protecting education.

That is why your YES vote on Measure G is so critical. It will provide stable funding to protect the excellent education in our Loma Prieta schools. Not one penny of these funds can be taken away by the State.

Measure G would help:

- Retain qualified and experienced teachers
- Protect core academic programs including reading, writing, science and math
- Keep schools safe and clean
- Maintain up-to-date computers and technology in classrooms
- Preserve a well-rounded education including Spanish, music, art and other educational enrichment programs
- Maintain small class sizes

Measure G is fiscally responsible:

- Every penny of Measure G will go directly to our schools and cannot be taken away by the State
- No funds can be spent on administrators' salaries
- Expires in 4 years and cannot be renewed without voter approval
- Senior citizen homeowners can receive an exemption

Join parents, teachers and community members in voting YES on Measure G to protect the keys to student success—strong academic programs, safe classrooms and excellent teachers. Our great schools are part of what makes this community such a desirable place to live.

Help continue Loma Prieta's tradition of academic excellence. Vote YES on Measure G.

s/ Neil Wiley
Editor, Mountain Resident 45 years

s/ Sharon Dahnert
President of Loma Prieta Teachers' Assoc; CT English Teacher

s/ Patricia Hughes
Retired Assistant Principal, Los Gatos High School

s/ Jill Logar
Parent; President of the CT English Home & School Club

s/ Terence Leary
President of Loma Prieta Community Foundation

NO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE G WAS FILED.