

**Union Elementary School District  
Educational Funding FAQ**

**Q. Why is the District considering renewing its education parcel tax measure?**

**A.** In 2010, our community overwhelmingly approved a local education parcel tax measure to support key academic programs for our students. This measure has provided a secure, stable source of funding that the District can count on every year—money that stays local and cannot be taken away by the state. This critical funding is set to expire next year.

To keep our schools among the top in the state and continue strong student achievement, the District is considering placing a measure on the November 2015 ballot to renew local funding, without increasing the current tax rate.

**Q. What would a local education funding measure protect in our schools?**

**A.** This measure would continue to provide funding for educational priorities including:

- Maintaining strong core academic programs like English, reading, math and science
- Attracting and retaining highly qualified, experienced teachers
- Allowing the District to maintain smaller class sizes
- Expanding rigorous science, technology, engineering and math programs district-wide

**Q. Can funding from the measure be taken away by the state?**

**A.** No. All funds generated by the measure would go straight to Union Elementary School District schools—the state could not take away a single penny.

**Q. How do I know that these local funds would be spent as promised?**

**A.** The measure would continue strict fiscal accountability provisions.

- Every dollar would stay in local schools and could not be taken by the state
- Annual audits and citizen oversight would continue to ensure all funds are spent as promised
- None of the funds could be used for administrators' salaries
- Homeowners age 65 and older would continue to be eligible to receive an exemption
- The measure would expire in 10 years and could not be renewed without voter approval
- The measure would not increase taxes—it would simply renew existing funding at current rates

**Q. Would this measure increase my taxes?**

**A.** No. The measure would renew the expiring education parcel tax at the current tax rate, without any increase. The existing parcel tax measure costs property owners \$96 per parcel per year.

**Q. Would there be a citizen oversight committee?**

**A.** Yes. The citizen oversight committee would continue to oversee the spending of parcel tax funds. All reports have been positive and verify that funds have been spent as promised. To view these reports, visit [www.unionsd.org/Page/66](http://www.unionsd.org/Page/66).

**Q. How long would the measure be in place?**

**A.** If approved by at least 66.7% of local voters, the measure would be in place for 10 years. This measure could not be renewed without voter approval.

**Q. Would the measure include an exemption for senior citizens?**

**A.** Yes. To be eligible for an exemption, senior citizen homeowners, aged 65 or older, would need to fill out an application to receive the exemption on their primary residence. To learn more about the exemption and how to apply, please contact the District at (408) 377-8010 ext. 44202.

**Q. When would the measure appear on a ballot?**

**A.** While no final decision has been made, the District has been considering an election in November 2015. The District is still seeking input from the community, parents, teachers and staff. If the Union Elementary School District Board of Trustees votes in favor of moving forward with the measure, it would need to be supported by 66.7% of those who vote. All registered voters in the Union Elementary School District would be eligible to vote on the measure.

**Q. How can I receive more information or ask questions?**

**A.** We invite all parents and community members to share their thoughts and ask questions about renewing funding for our local schools. For questions or comments please contact Superintendent Dr. Jacqueline Horejs at [horejsj@unionsd.org](mailto:horejsj@unionsd.org).

## Tough Questions

**Q. Didn't we just pass a bond for local schools? Why does the District need more money?**

**A.** In 2014, voters approved a bond measure for Union Elementary School District to upgrade, modernize and improve its schools. By law, bond money can only be used for facilities and equipment and cannot be used for academic programs or to retain teachers. That is why the District is considering renewing its local parcel tax measure. The parcel tax would continue providing funding for key academic programs, attracting and retaining qualified teachers and maintain smaller class sizes. The passage of the parcel tax renewal would not increase the taxes being paid.

**Q. What is the difference between a parcel tax measure and a bond measure?**

**A.** A bond measure and parcel tax measure are used for different purposes. A bond measure can *only* fund facility and equipment improvements and cannot be used for operating costs or programs. A bond requires 55% voter approval to pass. Parcel tax measures differ in that funds can be spent on identified school needs, including academic programs and supporting teachers. A parcel tax requires 66.7% voter approval to pass and allows for senior exemptions.