



Moreland School District –Measure G – Spring 2016

## Measure G Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### What is Measure G?

Measure G is a local parcel tax measure on the June 7, 2016 ballot seeking voter authorization of a parcel tax of \$142 dollars per year/per parcel for 8 yrs. to fund outstanding core academic programs in reading, writing, math, and science, retain highly qualified and experienced teachers, maintain small class sizes, and prepare students for success in high school and beyond. A “YES vote” approves funding for the District’s plan, which will be used to support critical programs and resources in our schools; a “NO vote” rejects the plan. All voters living within the jurisdiction of the Moreland School District registered to vote by May 23rd will be eligible to vote on Measure G.

### Why has the Moreland School District placed this Measure on the ballot?

Moreland shines as a model of educational excellence. Standardized test scores, polling surveys, and other measures continue to bear witness to the quality that has marked the school district since its origin in 1851. Our great teachers and rigorous math, science and reading curriculum have prepared generations of students to succeed in high school, college and careers. Unfortunately, years of state budget cuts have hurt our schools. Measure G is a modest, thoughtful proposal supported by parents, teachers and community leaders. It will protect core academics, help retain our high quality teachers, and ensure that Moreland students continue to flourish.

### What is the actual question that voters will be asked to decide in June?

“To maintain quality education at our neighborhood elementary and middle schools by attracting and retaining high quality teachers, strengthening strong reading, math and science, maintaining music and art programs, keeping school libraries open, class sizes small and campuses clean and safe, shall the Moreland School District renew its expiring school parcel tax at \$142 per year for eight years, with an exemption for seniors, a citizens’ oversight committee, no money for administrator salaries, and every dollar benefiting Moreland schools?”

### How will Measure G funds be used?

- Continue funding for core programs in math, science, technology, arts and reading
- Help attract and retain high quality teachers
- Provide funds for innovative science education programs
- Keep school libraries open
- Maintain smaller class sizes in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Maintain funding for integrated classroom technology

**By law, ALL Measure funds MUST stay local, dedicated to Moreland SD K-8 schools.**

**Who is eligible to vote on Measure G?**

All of the nearly 20,000 registered voters living within the jurisdiction of the Moreland School District registered by May 23rd will be eligible to vote on this Measure. The last day to register to vote and be eligible to vote on Measure G in the June 7, 2016 Election is May 23, 2016.

**What's required for Measure G to pass (win)?**

At least two-thirds of 66.7% of the voters who cast their ballots in the June 7th Primary Election must vote in favor of Measure G for it to be approved.

**Will Measure G improve instruction?**

YES! Our local schools strive for teaching and learning excellence in **every** educational setting. Our goal is to provide all students with access to the education and technologies they will need to be successful throughout school, college, and careers of the future. High quality educators, innovative programs, and integrated technology are essential to ensuring student achievement and peak-performing schools.

**How much will Measure G cost?**

Measure G costs \$142 per parcel per year tax, or just under \$12 a month, for 8 years to provide a stable, local source of funding for Moreland schools that cannot be taken away by the state. Senior citizen homeowners age 65 or older may apply for an exemption for their primary residence. To find out more about the exemption process, please contact the Moreland School District at (408) 374-8827.

**Will businesses share in the cost of Measure G?**

Yes, both commercial and residential property owners will be subject to the same flat rate of \$142 per parcel.

**Who is the Moreland School District?**

The Moreland School District consists of four elementary schools, two K-8 schools, and one middle school, located in West San Jose.

**What about the Lottery or Proposition 30? Weren't they supposed to take care of and fix our schools?**

Unfortunately, Lottery funds make up less than 2% of our annual General Fund Budget. Lottery funds alone are simply not enough to fund the core programs that our schools need.

**No one in my household attends the Moreland School District. Why should I care about Measure G?**

Great schools are the foundation of healthy, thriving communities. Quality schools protect property values. Home resale values will benefit as our neighborhood schools are improved. Investing in local schools is a wise investment in the quality of life for everyone in the community.

**Can senior citizens receive an exemption?**

Yes, through a simple application process, senior citizen homeowners age 65 or older may apply for an exemption for their primary residence. If you already have an exemption on file, you do not need to reapply. To find out if you have an existing exemption on file or more about how to apply, please contact the Moreland School District at (408) 374-8827.

**Who makes the final decision on a local parcel tax measure?**

The locally elected Board of Education of Moreland School District is the legal entity that has called for the Measure G election. Ultimately, Moreland School District REGISTERED VOTERS will have the final say when they vote for or against the measure.

**Have there been other Moreland School District parcel taxes? If so, when was the last one?**

In 2009, voters in the Moreland School District approved Measure A, a parcel tax of \$95 for eight years. Measure A is set to expire next year. Now Moreland SD is asking the community to continue supporting local schools by approving the current parcel tax, which has been a critical part of the District's budget for the past seven years.

**How can we be assured that Measure G money will be spent properly?**

**Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED.** An oversight committee comprised of community members will be established to ensure that Measure G funds are spent properly to support our students. Safeguards like the committee and a district-wide audit guarantee transparency for taxpayers. Additionally, all Measure G funds stay **local** - they cannot be taken away by the State or used for administrator salaries.

**Who will serve on the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee?**

The Committee consists of at least seven members of the public, and cannot include any District employee, vendor or contractor. Members of the Citizens Oversight Committee include representatives from the business community, a senior citizens organization, a parent, and a taxpayer association. The role of the Committee is to review the independent audit.

**How is the parcel tax money being used now?**

The current parcel tax supports our library program, lowering class size at all levels, and professional development to attract and retain high quality staff.

**How will it be used in the future?**

In addition to maintaining the programs above Measure G will provide much needed funding to enhance our current reading, math and science programs and provide additional support for art, music and performing arts programs.

**Why are you asking for more money?**

The current California State funding goal is to return funding to schools at the financial levels they were receiving in the 2007-2008 school year by the year 2021. This funding outlook does not result in meeting the additional financial burdens being placed upon district in the area of health care and other state mandated programs. In order to maintain our current programs and continue to make Moreland School District thrive in areas like high quality reading, math and science programs while maintaining a balanced education program, Moreland must secure this extra funding.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information, please contact District Superintendent Mary Kay Going at (408) 874-2901 or email [mkggoing@moreland.org](mailto:mkggoing@moreland.org) or visit our website [www.moreland.org](http://www.moreland.org)