

Citizens for Quality Schools



YES!

What is PUSD?

The Pasadena Unified School District serves 19,654 students in Altadena, Pasadena, Sierra Madre and nearby unincorporated parts of Los Angeles County.

How is PUSD doing in terms of educating our community's young people?

Over the past several years our local schools are showing significant improvement. Math scores are up. English language proficiency scores are up. The API (academic performance index) is up. More students are being accepted at colleges and universities.

What, exactly, does a parcel tax do?

A parcel tax provides local funds for education that cannot be taken away by the state. These funds will be used only for academic programs. Specifically in our community funds will be used to:

- Attract and retain qualified teachers
- Provide funding for advanced programs in math, science and technology
- Maintain manageable class sizes
- Keep school libraries open
- Provide funding for college prep programs
- Provide funding for art and music programs

How much is the parcel tax for - and how long will it last?

\$120 per year (\$10 a month or about 33 cents a day) for 5 years only.

How will the voting take place?

This will be a mail ballot only election however; all registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail. Ballots will be sent out by the Registrar of Voters to all registered voters around the first week of April and they must be returned and received by the Registrar no later than May 4, 2010.

How much will this Measure raise?

Approximately \$7,000,000 a year for 5 years.

Why do we need a parcel tax now?

Our local schools are primarily funded by the state government. Not only is California 49th in the country in per-student state funding, new state cutbacks in education are hurting classroom instruction even more. Just this year the state eliminated \$20 Million dollars in funding for our local schools.

What will happen if voters reject this Measure?

Class size will increase, school libraries will be closed, music and art programs will be eliminated, advanced courses in math and science will be eliminated, summer school will be eliminated and physical education courses will be cut.

How many voters are needed to pass this Measure?

State law requires that 2/3 of those who vote support the measure.

Did voters just pass a tax for PUSD in 2008?

Measure TT was a bond measure for the renovation and repair of facilities. Money from that measure cannot be used for academic programs.

Will the parcel tax have an independent community oversight committee to make sure the money is well spent?

Yes.

State budget cuts will result in a \$20 million budget gap for PUSD, but this Measure will only raise \$7+ million. Even if the Measure passes, what will you do about the other \$13 million budget cuts?

Teachers, librarians, district staff, administrators, are working to agree on a furlough plan to help address the budget crisis. Even so, there will be other cuts and layoffs but the District will keep them away from the classroom as much as possible.

I don't have children in the schools. How will this impact me?

Education matters to our entire community - to all of us, whether or not we have children or grandchildren in the public schools. Investing in our schools is the best investment we can make. Good schools help young people become strong, contributing citizens. Good schools also help ensure an educated workforce, reduce school dropouts, delinquency, crime, incarcerations and welfare costs, protect property values, support the local economy and enhance the quality of life for all of us. Good schools are essential to a strong national economy, a vibrant democracy and a great country.

What about low-income seniors on fixed incomes?

Low-income seniors may apply for an exemption.

Who supports this Measure?

The endorsement list grows every day. We have the endorsements of:

- ❖ Pasadena Unified School District Board of Education
- ❖ The Pasadena Educational Foundation
- ❖ The Pasadena-Foothills Association of Realtors
- ❖ United Nations Association Pasadena/Foothills Chapter Board of Directors
- ❖ The American Association of Retired People (AARP)
- ❖ United Teachers of Pasadena
- ❖ Pasadena Councilmembers Jacque Robinson and Steve Madison
- ❖ Senator Carol Liu
(*partial list*)