

TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE B	
B MEASURE B: To maintain quality public high school education including small class sizes and exceptional instructional programs in Belvedere, Bolinas, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Larkspur, Marin City, Mill Valley, Nicasio, Ross, San Anselmo, San Geronimo, Sausalito, Stinson Beach, and Tiburon, shall Tamalpais Union High School District be authorized to renew a parcel tax for ten years commencing July 1, 2012, at the current rate plus an annual 3% increase (\$245.94 – tax year 2012-2013), with an exemption for parcels owned and occupied by persons 65 and older?	YES
	NO

**COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS
OF MEASURE B
TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARCEL TAX RENEWAL TO MAINTAIN
QUALITY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION
AND SERVICES**

If this Measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the Tamalpais Union High School District will be authorized to levy a special tax for a period of ten years beginning on July 1, 2012. The Measure states that the amount of the special tax shall begin at the level of the existing parcel tax, plus an annual three percent (3%) increase, which the Measure states will equal \$245.94 for tax year 2012-2013.

An exemption is created for owners aged Sixty-Five (65) years or older who own and occupy the parcel.

s/PATRICK K. FAULKNER
County Counsel

**FULL TEXT OF MEASURE B
TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF MARIN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION #20
Specifications of the election order
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE TAMALPAIS UNION
HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the California State Legislature has failed to provide adequate funding to the Tamalpais Union High School District, and as a result of this lack of financial support for the schools (Redwood, Tamalpais, Sir Francis Drake, San Andreas, and Tamiscal) the District has been and will be forced to reduce or eliminate important programs; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the voters of the District authorized a parcel tax which expires on June 30, 2012 at \$238.78 per parcel; and

WHEREAS, without a renewed authorization by the voters for the parcel tax, an immediate and substantial reduction and elimination of educational programs and services will be necessary which will have a severe negative impact on the students of the District; and

WHEREAS, the voters in the District have consistently supported the District's quality education program with approval of parcel taxes for school operations and bonds for school modernization; and

WHEREAS, the District has engaged in a variety of efforts to generate funds for the educational program, including lobbying in the State Legislature, supporting local fundraising efforts, and seeking grants from foundations and governmental agencies, and has initiated economic and operational efficiencies for beneficial and necessary resource maintenance; and

WHEREAS, a thorough and well-developed high school public education program delivers many long-lasting benefits and advantages to all the residents of our community; and a high quality community-directed school system favorably impacts property values which is vital to the overall well-being of the entire community; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and Government Code Sections 50075, 50077, 50079, and 53720 et seq. authorizes a school district to levy a parcel tax to raise funds for the purpose of conducting its business upon the approval of two-thirds of the votes cast by voters voting upon such a special tax proposal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Tamalpais Union High School District conducts a special election on November 8, 2011, to be consolidated with the regularly scheduled uniform district election on that date, to submit to the qualified voters of the Tamalpais Union High School District a measure to authorize a parcel tax for the purpose of continuing vital programs critical to the education of the District's students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Tamalpais Union High School District Board of Trustees as follows:

Section 1. Said election is hereby called to be held within the boundaries of the Tamalpais Union High School District, to submit to the qualified voters, the following measure, to wit:

“MEASURE”

To maintain quality public high school education including small class sizes and exceptional instructional programs in Belvedere, Bolinas, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Larkspur, Marin City, Mill Valley, Nicasio, Ross, San Anselmo, San Geronimo, Sausalito, Stinson Beach, and Tiburon, shall Tamalpais Union High School District be authorized to renew a parcel tax for ten years commencing July 1, 2012, at the current rate plus an annual 3% increase (\$245.94 – tax year 2012-2013), with an exemption for parcels owned and occupied by persons 65 and older?

The parcel tax shall maintain the following programs and services:

- *Small class sizes
- *Comprehensive academic programs, including
 - English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Foreign Language, Visual and Performing Arts, Applied Technologies/Computer Science, and Physical Education
 - Advanced Placement and/or honors opportunities in core and elective subject areas
 - Seven period academic schedules available for all students
 - Graduation requirements and standards which exceed those of the state
 - Academic counseling and student support services, including college and school-to-work/career programs
 - Alternative school programs for at-risk students
- *Commitment to attract and retain highly qualified and experienced staff
- *Acquisition of equipment and supplies supporting the instructional program
 - Science and computer lab equipment
 - Textbooks and classroom supplies, materials, and equipment
 - Library books and other reference media
 - Physical education and athletic equipment

The parcel tax for each assessor’s parcel will be renewed at the current amount of \$238.78 per year (tax year 2011-2012) plus a 3% annual adjustment for a total of \$245.94 commencing July 1, 2012. An exemption for the assessment will be made available to each individual in the District who will attain the age of 65 years prior to May 1 of the assessment year, who owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, who uses this parcel as his or her principal place of residence, and who applies to the District on or before May 1, 2012 or May 1 of any succeeding assessment year. Any one application from a qualified applicant will provide an exemption

for the parcel for the remaining term of the assessment so long as such applicant continues to use the parcel as his or her principal residence. Senior exemptions granted during the term of the current parcel tax will continue in effect during the term of the renewal.

Section 2. The text of the measure as displayed on each individual ballot shall be abbreviated and shall read as follows:

**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARCEL TAX RENEWAL TO MAINTAIN
QUALITY PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION
AND SERVICES
MEASURE B**

To maintain quality public high school education including small class sizes and exceptional instructional programs in Belvedere, Bolinas, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Larkspur, Marin City, Mill Valley, Nicasio, Ross, San Anselmo, San Geronimo, Sausalito, Stinson Beach, and Tiburon, shall Tamalpais Union High School District be authorized to renew a parcel tax for ten years commencing July 1, 2012, at the current rate plus an annual 3% increase (\$245.94 – tax year 2012-2013), with an exemption for parcels owned and occupied by persons 65 and older?

YES

NO

Section 3. Commencing on July 1, 2012, the parcel tax collected annually on all assessor’s parcels at the rate specified above, shall be collected and administered in the same manner as ad valorem property taxes are fixed and collected under provisions of the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

Section 4. The Superintendent of Schools of Marin County is hereby requested to call an election of said parcel tax to be held on and consolidated with the uniform district election on November 8, 2011. The County Clerk is hereby requested and authorized to: 1) set forth on all sample ballots relating to said election to be mailed to the qualified electors of the Tamalpais Union High School District said measure; 2) to provide absentee voter ballots for said parcel tax election for use by qualified electors of the Tamalpais Union High School District who are entitled thereto in the manner provided by law; and 3) to consolidate this election with the regular election on November 8, 2011.

Section 5. If any section, subsection, phrase, or clause of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this resolution. This governing board declares that it would have adopted this resolution and each section, subsections, phrase, or clause thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, phrases, or clauses shall be declared invalid.

Section 6. The secretary of the Tamalpais Union High School District governing board is hereby authorized and directed to certify to the due adoption of this resolution and to transmit a copy hereof so certified to the Superintendent of Schools of Marin County and to file a copy hereof so certified with the County Clerk of Marin County.

The foregoing resolution was moved by Susan Schmidt, and adopted on roll call on May 10, 2011, by the following vote:

Board Member: Susan Schmidt

Board Member: Bob Walter

Board Member: John Wright

Board Member: Monica Bonny

Board Member: Cindy McCauley

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

WHEREUPON, the President declaring the foregoing resolution duly adopted and

SO ORDERED

s/CINDY J. McCAULEY

President, Governing Board

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B
Maintain Excellence – A Sensible Investment in
Local High School Education

The citizens of the Tamalpais Union High School District recognize the importance of outstanding local high schools – they are assets that distinguish our cities and towns and help maintain property values. Strong support from community members and parents has helped place Drake, Redwood, Tam, San Andreas, and Tamiscal among the best high schools in California for outstanding academic achievement.

Now our quality instructional programs are in danger. Due to the declining economy, the district has already reduced its budget by \$4.5 million over the past three years, slashing administrative costs by 33%. Stable local funding helps maintain high student achievement and offsets some of these state cuts. Failure to renew this funding would require the reduction or elimination of crucial programs and student services. Therefore, we must protect our communities' high schools by voting **YES** on Measure B.

Measure B is a continuation of the existing parcel tax that the voters have overwhelmingly supported since 1989. This local tax, deductible from state and federal income taxes, amounts to \$238.78 per parcel annually or \$19.90 per month. It maintains the current inflation factor of 3% and extends the term to 10 years. Property owners 65 and older may apply for an exemption.

Measure B will:

- Maintain class sizes and a seven period day
- Support a full spectrum of courses including electives, advanced placement, and programs for at risk students
- Attract and retain accomplished, experienced educators
- Continue critical counseling services, athletics, and student activity programs

Belvedere, Bolinas, Corte Madera, Fairfax, Greenbrae, Kentfield, Lagunitas, Larkspur, Marin City, Mill Valley, Muir Beach, Nicasio, Ross, San Anselmo, Sausalito, Stinson Beach, Tiburon, and Woodacre have a proud tradition of supporting our exemplary high schools. Please join us on November 8th in reaffirming that commitment. Vote **YES** on Measure B, a sensible investment in local high school education.

s/HAL BROWN

Marin County Board of Supervisors, 2nd District

s/ALICE FREDERICKS

Tiburon Town Council Member,
Co-Chair, Community United

s/DAVID M. GILMOUR

Owner, Paradise Foods

s/KATHRIN SEARS

Marin County Board of Supervisors, 3rd District

s/KENNETH WACHTEL

Mayor, City of Mill Valley

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF
MEASURE B

We must recognize that taxpayers will carry the cost of unsustainable pensions for years to come. The California State Teachers' Retirement System has a \$56 Billion funding shortfall. We cannot continue to enable pension bloating. We must reduce administrative costs, put teacher administrators back in classrooms, and consolidate school administrations so money goes directly to classrooms where it belongs. Otherwise, we'll continue to pay more while students continue to get less.

2.2% (approximately 4,800) CalSTRS retirees receive pensions exceeding \$100,000/yr. Pensions are further increased through spiking, where unused sick pay boosts years of service in pension calculations. The Pacific Research Institute estimated that pension spiking cost taxpayers \$100M annually. The District has failed to properly address "spiking".

During the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression, most taxpayers lack a future of even \$40k pensions; the average social security check is between \$15k-\$25k. This climate is not one where taxpayers should be asked for a new a parcel tax with a 3% annual increase, while the District does nothing to control pension inflation. The supposedly higher salaries from the private sector that funded 401K plans have been slashed like the 401Ks.

Marin voters must withhold support for this parcel tax and require the District to seek pension reform and real cost cutting. The \$4.5M in "cuts" in administrative costs claimed by the District came from the departure of the extra administrative employees who dealt with recent \$200M taxpayer-funded building improvements. We need a practical and well-conceived solution.

s/MARIN UNITED TAXPAYERS ASSN.

by Fielding Greaves

s/MARIN LIBERTARIAN PARTY

by Paul Kelley, Chair

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

The Great Recession has hit residents hard; many homeowners are under water, unemployed, with slashed 401Ks and reduced paychecks. Renters struggle to cover their rents.

In this economic climate, one would think the Tam Union High School District would seek a lesser parcel tax. Instead, the district seeks renewal of the full amount – \$248 per parcel – plus a 3% annual increase for ten years. We encourage taxpayers to say “no” to this \$248 tax. Let the District come back to the ballot box next year with a more Recession-sensitive tax.

We support our schools and teachers, but we must also feed, cloth, and provide medical and dental care for our children, and we must finance shelter for our families. Unlike teachers, most of us do not have pensions or medical subsidies for life, and cannot retire at 55 or 60.

In the last five years, we taxpayers have given up to \$200 million in tax/bond money to the District. Marin taxpayers will need close to \$1 billion to repay the last bonds with interest, costs, etc. included.

Marin residents have given much during the boom years; we ask the District to meet us half way during these lean years. Come back to next year’s ballot box with a more reasonable tax dollar amount. The District should not balance its pension costs on the backs of property owners and renters. Vote “no” on this 100% tax renewal that includes annual increases for ten years.

s/PAUL KELLEY

Chairman, County Libertarian Party

s/FIELDING GREAVES

President, MUTA

s/LINDA PFEIFER

Sausalito City Councilmember

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B

Measure B is simply about maintaining quality education at our local high schools. Our opponents may mean well, but they are misinformed.

Here are the facts:

*Measure B is not a new tax. It is the continuation of the current parcel tax, strongly supported by voters since 1989, and the existing 3% annual adjustment. This tax is \$238.78 per year, not \$248, and amounts to \$19.90 per month to preserve outstanding academic programs.

*When the Tamalpais Union High School District’s income dropped, it responded by spending less, exhibiting stable and conservative financial management. The District has slashed \$4.5 million from its budget, cut administrative staff by 33% and support staff by 9%. If Measure B fails, an additional \$8.8 million will be lost annually, resulting in deep cuts to academic programs and services for students.

*There are \$266 million - *not \$1 billion* - principal and interest, left to pay on the high schools’ modernization bonds. Through bond refinancing, the District has already saved taxpayers \$4.5 million. It anticipates an additional \$4 million in savings by October 2011.

*Pensions are not controlled by the school district; state law regulates them. Pension costs have nothing to do with the parcel tax and the District is obligated to pay them with or without Measure B. In addition, teachers do not receive lifetime health benefits.

Renewing the parcel tax is a prudent investment in our community. Quality high schools draw families to our neighborhoods and protect property values.

Learn more by visiting www.citizens4tamdistrict.org and join us in voting YES ON MEASURE B.

s/DONALD GRAFF

Former Mayor, City of Larkspur

s/MIKE KELLY

Vice Mayor, City of Sausalito

s/CINDY J. McCAULEY

President, Board of Trustees,
Tamalpais Union High School District

s/THOMAS McINERNEY

Vice Mayor, Town of San Anselmo

s/MARILEE ROGERS

President, Redwood Alumni Association