

MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

SCHOOL

**ROSS SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL PARCEL TAX ASSESSMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
MEASURE C**

C To maintain science, technology, library, fine arts, Spanish, learning lab and small class size programs, shall the Ross School District extend its special assessment at the new rate of \$495 per year with an annual 3% cost-of-living adjustment for a period of eight years, beginning July 1, 1999, which in tax year 1999-2000 would replace the existing parcel tax of \$450, with specific exemptions for property owners age 65 or older?

**ROSS SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL PARCEL TAX ASSESSMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
FULL TEXT OF MEASURE C**

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE ROSS SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION NO. 13-99
COUNTY OF MARIN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**RESOLUTION AND ORDER OF ELECTION FOR A
SPECIAL PARCEL TAX ASSESSMENT**

WHEREAS, for a period of years the provision of a superior educational program in the Ross School District ("District") has been inadequately funded by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the District has engaged in a variety of efforts to generate funds for the educational program, including lobbying in the State Legislature, local fund-raising efforts and cost-cutting measures; and

WHEREAS, Section 4 of Article XIII A of the California Constitution and Government Code Section 50075 et. seq., 53720 et. seq., and 50079 authorizes a school district, following notice and public hearing, to levy a special tax for specified purposes upon approval of two-thirds of the electorate voting on the measure; and

WHEREAS, this Board believes that such a special tax is necessary at this time to provide superior educational opportunities for the students of this District;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The Board hereby proposes to call an election on March 2, 1999, for a special tax for the specific purposes enumerated in Section 2 of this resolution.

2. At said election the following measure shall be submitted to the voters of this District;

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Said special tax shall be at the rate of \$495 per year with a 3% cost-of-living to be applied annually per assessor's parcel for a period of eight (8) years. An exemption from the assessment will be made available to each individual in the District who will reach age 65 prior to September 1 of the assessment year, who owns a beneficial interest in the parcel, who uses that parcel as his or her principal place of residence, and who applies to the District on or before September 1, 1999 or September 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.

3. On July 1, 1999, and thereafter, the tax shall be collected and administered by the Marin County Tax Collector at the same time as and along with the general ad valorem property taxes collected by said tax collector.

4. If any section, sub-section, 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 Board declares that it would have adopted this resolution and each section, sub-section, phrase or clause thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, sub-sections, sentences, phrases or clauses be declared invalid.

5. This measure shall be submitted to the voters of the Ross School District at the general election to be held March 2, 1999, and shall take effect immediately upon its confirmation by two-thirds (2/3rds) of the voters voting upon the proposition at said election.

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

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YES

NO

7. This Board requests that the District election be consolidated with any and all elections to be held on the same date as specified above.

8. The Superintendent of Schools of Marin County is hereby requested to call a special election of the said "special tax" to be held on March 2, 1999. 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 Ross School District said measure; and 2) to provide absentee voter ballots for said "special tax" election for use by qualified electors of the Ross School District who are entitled thereto in the manner provided by law.

9. The clerk of the Ross 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.

Regularly passed and adopted by the Board of Education of the Ross School District, Marin County, State of California, this 14th day of October, 1998, by the following Board Members:

Cam Lanphier, David Peterson, Elizabeth Robbins, Bryant L. Young, Cynthia Zak and adopted on roll by the following vote:

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0
ATTEST:

WHEREUPON, the President declared the foregoing resolution duly adopted and

SO ORDERED,

s/ Cameron M. Lanphier, President
Governing Board of Ross School District
DATED: November 4, 1998

s/ Elizabeth Robbins, Clerk
Governing Board of Ross School District
s/ Catherine A. Townsley,
Superintendent Ross School District

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**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE C**

If this Measure is approved by a two thirds vote, the Ross School District will be authorized to levy a special tax of Four Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars (\$495.00) on each developed or undeveloped parcel of land within the District each year for eight (8) years, beginning July 1, 1999, with Three Percent (3%) annual cost of living adjustments over the prior year's rate. The proceeds of the tax may be used only for the purposes set forth in the Measure.

Exemptions will be available for individuals who have attained the age of sixty-five (65) years on or before September 1 of any applicable year, who are beneficial owners of a parcel used as their principal place of residence, and who apply for the exemption before September 1, 1999, or September 1 of any succeeding assessment year.

Dated: December 9, 1998

PATRICK K. FAULKNER
County Counsel

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C

Ross School continues to face a budget shortfall. California ranks 37th nationally in per student spending. Ross School receives even less per student than the low state average and the lowest amount of all elementary schools feeding Redwood High School. The gap between what Sacramento provides and what it costs to educate a child is significant. The current cost to educate a child at Ross School is:

STATE	+	PARENT DONATIONS	+	PARCEL TAX	=	PER STUDENT COST
\$4,357		\$2,013		\$900		\$7,270

Measure C is imperative to continuing the high quality education Ross School provides our community. Without Measure C, four classroom teachers and K-5 Spanish will be cut; technology support, art and music will be scaled back or eliminated; and class size will escalate.

All property owners benefit from our outstanding school. Its excellence draws families to our community and strengthens property values. Ross School has received the California Distinguished School Award twice and the academic Pentathlon Team won first place the last two years. Our eighth graders scored in the top 1% on the 1998 State STAR test.

Measure C would replace our current parcel tax of \$450 at a new rate of \$495 per year for eight years with an annual 3% inflation adjustment. **WHENEVER PROPERTY OWNERS REACH 65 OR OLDER THEY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR EXEMPTION.**

The Town of Ross has been and continues to be a wonderful place in which to raise our children. This is an opportunity to give back to our community in the form of the parcel tax for our excellent school. We are fortunate as parents, grandparents and property owners to have such an outstanding school in our town. Let us come together to support Ross School, support our children and support strong property values. Retain Our Strong School. Please VOTE YES ON MEASURE C!

s/ Maria Van Buskirk
Parent, Grandparent and Educator
s/ Jan L. Booth, Chairperson
Ross School Financial Advisory Committee
s/ Cameron M. Lanphier
President, Ross School Board
s/ Nancy Wayne Holter
Former Ross School Board President
s/ Charles Goodman
Town Councilmember

**NO ARGUMENT AGAINST THIS MEASURE
WAS SUBMITTED**

End of Measure C

