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I recommend a Yes vote on Measure A and Measure G

At my request, in 2013 the Board of Supervisors added Education as a 4th "E" to the County's already established three E's of sustainability: Economy, Equity and Environment. This was a commitment from the County to advocate for a sustainable early childhood, K-12 and higher education system – as well as promote quality, accessible and affordable education for all.

Because of my strong commitment to the importance of education, I, along with my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, voted to put Measure A (a Strong Start for Marin Kids) on the November ballot.

Measure A is a nine year ¼ cent sales tax that will generate approximately \$12 million a year and will provide access to healthcare, preschool, childcare and afterschool academic support that decades of research show are critical for all of Marin's children to succeed. By investing in our children on the front end, with quality education and health care, it is not only the child that benefits, but our community and economy will benefit too. Access to these services is linked to a reduction in future community costs through decreased crime, healthy communities and a better prepared workforce.

Currently one out of every three children in Marin cannot attend preschool because of the cost to their family. Fewer than 50% of poor children are school ready compared to 75% of children from higher income families - a 27% gap. Measure A will boost academic achievement and make children more likely to start school ready, stay in school and increase high school graduation rates and college attendance.

30% of Marin families have an insufficient income to meet basic needs including childcare. 800 families are on a wait list and unable to secure affordable childcare. Access to affordable, quality childcare reduces the burden on working families, increases self-sufficiency and improves economic productivity. Measure A will provide affordable, quality childcare that nurtures the environment for brain development while enabling parents to stay in the workforce and support their families.

Students who attend after school and extended learning programs consistently show improvement in academic achievement. Students with access to afterschool programs are less likely to join gangs, get involved with alcohol and drugs, or drop out of school. Measure A will assist children that generally have unequal access to academic supports such as tutoring to meet state targets in math and English.

Measure A will expand access to health care services such as vision, dental and mental health services for all children. Early detection improves the lives a child's long term health.

I support Measure A not only to provide a strong start for all of Marin's children, but because it makes economic sense for our community to do so. Research shows for every \$1 invested, a public savings of \$7 is generated.

Another opportunity to support education this November in Novato is through Measure G, a Novato Unified School District Bond Measure. Our schools in Novato average over 55 years in age! The "newest" school was built in 1968. Education has changed and we need our students to learn in updated classrooms to accommodate 21st century learning.

The measure will help pay to provide high quality innovative education for Novato students, by: providing science, technology, engineering, math and language labs, classrooms and equipment that meet modern academic standards at all middle and high schools; upgrading computers and instructional technology in all classrooms, labs and libraries and providing stable funding to keep them up-to-date; repairing aging and deteriorating roofs

and outdated electrical, lighting, plumbing, heating and cooling systems; and enhancing school security systems and video surveillance systems to ensure student safety at all schools.

I believe these two measures, tailored for the children of Marin from infant to high school, will provide the foundation and support needed that our children deserve. If we invest in the health and education of our children now, we as a community will all benefit.

I recommend a Yes vote on Measure A and Measure G.

As always, my door is open to you and I welcome your suggestions and ideas. You can reach me at: (415) 473-7331 or jarnold@marincounty.org.