

FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE R

The Santa Monica-Malibu Schools Quality Education Funding Renewal Measure

1. TITLE AND PURPOSE

The revenues raised by the "Santa Monica-Malibu Quality Education Funding Renewal Measure" (the "Funding Measure") shall be used to prevent serious deterioration in the quality of public education in Santa Monica and Malibu in the face of inadequate state funding for public schools and to promote continued student achievement in the core curriculum.

2. SPECIFIC PURPOSES

The revenues raised by this Funding Measure shall be used by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (the "District") exclusively for the following purposes:

A. To preserve programs and replace funds lost or reduced due to inadequate state funding (including state budget reductions that are the result of reduced federal funding of state programs);

B. To sustain achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics for all students at all grade levels and to fulfill the District's core curriculum which includes music, arts, and athletics;

C. To attract and retain highly qualified teachers; and

D. To protect the taxpayers' investment in education and ensure District accountability by providing for special citizen financial oversight and independent annual audits of revenues and expenditures.

3. SEPARATE ACCOUNT

The revenues raised by this Funding Measure shall be deposited in a separate account in accordance with Government Code section 50075.1 (or applicable successor law) and shall be expended solely for the specific purposes identified above.

4. THE TAX LEVY

A. Tax Base. The two existing qualified special taxes presently levied by the District annually against each parcel of land within the boundaries of the District shall be combined into a single annual levy and renewed in an amount not to exceed \$346 per parcel, adjusted annually for inflation in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for All Urban Consumers (Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange area) base year 1982-84=100, not otherwise exempted by law. The annual CPI-U adjustment shall be the twelve (12) month change in the index over the most recently available twelve (12) month period preceding the date on which the adjustment needs to be calculated for assessment purposes. Any change in the levy (other than those described herein) shall be placed before the voters.

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B. Senior Exemption. An exemption to the qualified special tax is available for a person sixty-five (65) years or older who owns and occupies a parcel as a principal residence and applies for an exemption in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education of the District (the "Board").

C. Effective Date. The effective date of this renewal shall be July 1, 2008.

D. Public Review Requirement. The Board of Education annually shall conduct a noticed public hearing to assess the continuing need for the tax revenues resulting from the Funding Measure. This evaluation will include, but not necessarily be limited to, consideration of the costs of programs to which these revenues have been dedicated, the general condition of the School District's finances, the District's enrollment, the structure of public financing of public education in California, and the regulations by which the School District qualifies for State funding.

E. Constitutional Apportionment Limit. Pursuant to Section 4 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution, the apportionment limit of the District is hereby increased commencing with the date of approval of this Funding Measure by the levy of this qualified special tax, and the Board shall increase the District's appropriations limit as necessary in each year during which proceeds of this qualified special tax are available, to ensure that the proceeds of this qualified special tax may be spent for the authorized purposes, pursuant to Section 7902.1 of the Government Code (or applicable successor law).

F. Collection. The District may request that the qualified special tax be collected by the County of Los Angeles, or other lawfully designated agency. The collection of taxes under this Funding Measure, including the imposition of penalties, additional fees, and interest upon persons who fail to remit the qualified special tax imposed by this Funding Measure, or who fail to remit any delinquent remittance, shall be subject to and governed by the rules, regulations, and procedures authorized by law. Every penalty imposed and such interest as accrues under the provisions of this Funding Measure shall become a part of the tax herein required to be paid.

G. Savings Clause. The provisions of this Funding Measure shall not apply to any person, association, or corporation or to any property as to whom or which it is beyond the power of the District to impose a qualified special tax. If any part of this Funding Measure, as written or as applied to any person, is finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such determination shall affect only such part of this Funding Measure and shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, or other parts of this Funding Measure. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board and of the electorate that this Funding Measure would have been adopted had such part thereof not been included.

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5. ACCOUNTABILITY, PLANNING, PUBLIC INFORMATION, AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROVISIONS

A. Citizen Oversight. The Board shall appoint a special citizen financial oversight committee that is charged to review the District's administration of and compliance with the terms of this Funding Measure. The committee so charged by the Board is referred to in this Funding Measure as the "Independent Citizens Oversight Committee."

B. Annual Plan. An expenditure plan (the "Proposed Annual Plan") shall be developed annually for the succeeding fiscal year by the District staff in consultation with the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. The Proposed Annual Plan will recommend expenditures of the tax proceeds that are consistent with the intent of the Funding Measure. The assumptions associated with the recommended expenditures shall be included in the Proposed Annual Plan. The Proposed Annual Plan shall be presented for Board action each fiscal year in conjunction with the District's annual budget adoption process for the subsequent fiscal year. To facilitate public discussion, the Proposed Annual Plan shall be made available for public review ninety (90) calendar days prior to Board adoption of its annual budget. The Proposed Annual Plan together with regular financial and audit reports shall be promptly distributed to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee.

C. Public Comment Process. No fewer than 60 calendar days before the Board acts on the annual budget for the subsequent fiscal year, the Board shall hold a noticed public hearing on the Proposed Annual Plan in order to allow for public input on whether the priority programs to be supported by Funding Measure revenues should be modified. No fewer than 30 calendar days before the Board acts on the annual budget for the subsequent fiscal year, the Proposed Annual Plan and the findings from the public hearing shall be reviewed by the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee which shall forward its recommendation to the Board. In adopting the District budget each year, the Board will approve an Adopted Annual Plan for Funding Measure revenues, taking into account comments from the public hearing and the recommendation of the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee. Members of the public may comment on the plans, reports, and conditions of the Funding Measure during the public comment period of any meeting of the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee or any meeting of the Board.

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FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE R (Continued)

D. Financial Reports. The District shall make available to the public and to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee updated budget and financial expenditure reports concerning the special account holding the proceeds of this qualified special tax in conjunction with the regular interim budget reporting required by the State. As part of this reporting, at least once per fiscal year, the chief fiscal officer of the District shall file a report with the Board and the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee identifying the amount of the funds collected and expended pursuant to this Funding Measure, together with the status of any project required or authorized to be funded hereunder. All of the foregoing reports shall be organized to display clearly how the expenditures relate to the Adopted Annual Plan approved by the Board.

E. Independent Auditors' Annual Report. Each year, an independent auditor retained by the District shall review District records to determine that funds generated by this Funding Measure have been maintained and expended in compliance with the Adopted Annual Plan and that other conditions of this Funding Measure have been satisfied. Said audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the Standards and Procedures for Audits of K-12 Local Educational Agencies, and this Funding Measure. The independent auditor shall transmit a "Finding of Violation" to the Board if: (1) the funds raised by this Funding Measure have been spent for purposes other than those specified in section 2; or (2) other conditions of this Funding Measure have not been satisfied.

F. Civil Remedies Available At Law. The provisions of this section are in addition to civil remedies available at law for assuring compliance with the terms of this Funding Measure.

6. Because the Funding Measure combines and renews two existing parcel tax measures (Measures S and Y) into a single parcel tax, Measures S and Y are hereby repealed as follows:

Measure "S"

**SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION PRESERVATION ACT OF 2003**

~~To preserve the quality of local schools despite unprecedented state cuts in public education, shall the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District levy a qualified special tax of \$225 per parcel each year for 6 years exempting property owned and occupied by persons age 65 and older? Mandatory resident taxpayer oversight and independent annual audits will ensure that these revenues are used to preserve the core curriculum in all grades and prevent deterioration in quality caused by reduced state funding.~~

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FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE R (Continued)

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE

1. ~~TITLE AND PURPOSE~~

~~The revenues raised by this Measure, the “Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Quality Public Education Preservation Act of 2003,” shall be used to prevent serious deterioration in the quality of public education in Santa Monica and Malibu in the face of large and sweeping state cuts in funding for public schools, and to promote continued student achievement in the core curriculum.~~

2. ~~SPECIFIC PURPOSES~~

~~The revenues raised by this Measure shall be used by the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (the “District”) exclusively for the following purposes:~~

~~A. To restore programs and replace funds lost or reduced due to state budget cuts (including state budget reductions that are the result of reduced federal funding of state programs);~~

~~B. To sustain achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics for all students at all grade levels and to fulfill the District’s core curriculum which includes music, arts, and athletics; and~~

~~C. To protect the taxpayers’ investment in education and ensure District accountability by providing for resident taxpayer oversight and independent annual audits of revenues and expenditures.~~

3. ~~SEPARATE ACCOUNT~~

~~The revenues raised by this Measure shall be deposited in a separate account in accordance with Government Code section 50075.1 (or applicable successor law) and shall be expended solely for the specific purposes identified above.~~

4. ~~THE TAX LEVY~~

~~A. Tax Base. The qualified special tax shall be levied annually on each parcel of land within the boundaries of the District in an amount not to exceed \$225 per parcel. An exemption to the qualified special tax is available for a person 65 years or older who owns and occupies a parcel as a principal residence and applies for an exemption in accordance with guidelines established by the Board of Education of the District (the “Board”). The Board may set the amount of the qualified special tax at a lesser amount per parcel than is authorized hereunder.~~

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FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE R (Continued)

~~B. Term. This qualified special tax shall be authorized to be levied each year for six (6) years, beginning in the tax year commencing on July 1, 2003.~~

~~C. Constitutional Appropriations Limit. The Board may increase the appropriations limit for the District in accordance with Section 4 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution and Section 7902.1 of the Government Code (or applicable successor law).~~

~~D. Collection. The District may request that the qualified special tax be collected by the County of Los Angeles, or other lawfully designated agency. The collection of taxes under this Measure, including the imposition of penalties, additional fees, and interest upon persons who fail to remit the qualified special tax imposed by this Measure, or who fail to remit any delinquent remittance, shall be subject to and governed by the rules, regulations, and procedures authorized by law. Every penalty imposed and such interest as accrues under the provisions of this Measure shall become a part of the tax herein required to be paid.~~

~~E. Savings Clause. The provisions of this Measure shall not apply to any person, association, or corporation or to any property as to whom or which it is beyond the power of the District to impose a qualified special tax. If any part of this Measure, as written or as applied to any person, is finally determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such determination shall affect only such part of this Measure and shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections, or other parts of this Measure. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board and of the electorate that this Measure would have been adopted had such part thereof not been included.~~

~~**5. ACCOUNTABILITY, PLANNING, PUBLIC INFORMATION, AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW PROVISIONS**~~

~~A. Resident Taxpayer Oversight. The Board shall appoint a resident taxpayer financial oversight committee that is exclusively charged to review the District's administration of and compliance with the terms of this Measure. The committee so charged by the Board is referred to in this Measure as the "Resident Taxpayer Oversight Committee."~~

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FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE R (Continued)

~~B.—Annual Plan. An expenditure plan (the “Annual Plan”) shall be developed annually for the succeeding fiscal year by the District staff in consultation with the Resident Taxpayer Oversight Committee. The Annual Plan will recommend expenditures of the tax proceeds that are consistent with the intent of the Measure. The assumptions associated with the recommended expenditures shall be included in the Annual Plan. The Annual Plan shall be presented for Board action each fiscal year in conjunction with the District’s annual budget adoption process for the following fiscal year. To facilitate public discussion, the recommended Annual Plan shall be made available for public review two weeks prior to Board action. The Annual Plan together with regular financial and audit reports shall be promptly distributed to the Resident Taxpayer Oversight Committee.~~

~~C.—Public Comment Process. Members of the public may comment on the plans, reports, and conditions of the Measure during the public comment period of any meeting of the Taxpayer Oversight Committee or any meeting of the Board.~~

~~D.—Financial Reports. The District shall make available to the public and to the Resident Taxpayer Oversight Committee updated budget and financial expenditure reports concerning the special account holding the proceeds of this qualified special tax in conjunction with the regular interim budget reporting required by the State. As part of this reporting, at least once per fiscal year, the chief fiscal officer of the District shall file a report with the Board and the Resident Taxpayer Oversight Committee identifying the amount of the funds collected and expended pursuant to this Measure, together with the status of any project required or authorized to be funded hereunder. All of the foregoing reports shall be organized to display clearly how the expenditures relate to the Annual Plan approved by the Board.~~

~~E.—Independent Auditors’ Annual Report. Each year, an independent auditor retained by the District shall review District records to determine that funds generated by this Measure have been maintained and expended in compliance with the Annual Plan and that other conditions of this Measure have been satisfied. Said audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the Standards and Procedures for Audits of K-12 Local Educational Agencies, and this Measure. The independent auditor shall transmit a “Finding of Violation” to the Board if: (1) the funds raised by this Measure have been spent for purposes other than those specified in section 2; or (2) other conditions of this Measure have not been satisfied.~~

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FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE R (Continued)

~~F. Civil Remedies Available At Law. The provisions of this section are in addition to civil remedies available at law for assuring compliance with the terms of this Measure.~~

Measure "Y"

**(Continuation of Special Tax for
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District)**

~~To continue special programs to attract outstanding teachers and improve instruction and counseling, to enhance athletics, music, and arts programs, and to purchase science materials and computer technology for schools, shall the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District be authorized to continue a special tax limited to \$98 per parcel, adjusted annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U) for no longer than ten years, which will help protect the taxpayers' investment in education and a safe learning environment.~~

The full text of the ballot measure shall read as follows:

~~"Shall the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, serving the City of Santa Monica, the City of Malibu, and the county territory of Malibu continue a special tax for under-funded programs to:~~

- ~~- attract outstanding teachers;~~
- ~~- improve instruction and counseling;~~
- ~~- enhance athletic, music, and arts programs;~~
- ~~- purchase science materials and computer technology for schools;~~
- ~~- protect the taxpayers' investment in education and a safe learning environment.~~

~~Such a special tax to be up to the rate of \$98 per parcel of land, adjusted annually for inflation in accordance with the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for All Urban Consumers (Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange area), base year 1982-84=100, not otherwise exempted by law for a period not to exceed ten (10) years;"~~

~~Pursuant to California Constitution Article XIII B, the appropriations limit for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District will be increased by the aggregate sum collected by the levy of this special tax in each of the years for which this special tax is authorized. The annual CPI-U adjusted shall be the 12 month change in such index over the most recently available 12 month period preceding the date on which the adjustment needs to be calculated for assessment purposes.~~

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FULL TEXT OF BALLOT MEASURE R (Continued)

9.—This measure shall be submitted to the voters of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District at the general election to be held on November 7, 2000, and shall take effect immediately upon its confirmation by two thirds (2/3rds) of the voters voting upon the proposition at said election;

10.—This Board requests that the district election be consolidated with any and all elections to be held on the date as specified above;

11.—This Board requests that the Los Angeles County Registrar/Recorder carry out all necessary duties in connection with the consolidated election, including printing and mailing sample ballots, arguments and applications for absentee ballots; providing adequate polling places; canvassing returns and certifying the results to this Board; and all other election duties prescribed by law;

12.—The Secretary of the Board of Education is ordered and directed to cause notice of the holding of said election to be given by publishing a copy of the resolution in the LOS ANGELES TIMES (OUR TIMES), SURFSIDE NEWS, and MALIBU TIMES, newspapers of general circulation within the District, once a week for two (2) successive weeks, the first publication to be made not less than fifteen (15) days before the time so fixed for said election;

13.—The Secretary of the Board of Education is further ordered and directed to cause further notice of the holding of said election to be given by posting a copy of this Resolution of or near the doors of the District's office in three (3) public places within the District for at least two (2) weeks before the time fixed for the election; and

14.—The Secretary of the Board of Education is further ordered and directed to cause a copy of this Resolution to be published in the LOS ANGELES TIMES (OUR TIMES), SURFSIDE NEWS, and MALIBU TIMES, once in accordance with applicable laws;

15.—The officers of the District are, and each of them acting alone is, hereby directed to take such other actions and execute such other documents as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Education of the Santa Monica – Malibu Unified School District, Los Angeles County, State of California.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Education of the Santa Monica – Malibu Unified School District at a meeting thereof held on the 25th day of October 2007.

DIANNE TALARICO
Superintendent and Secretary
to the Board of Education

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IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE R

By Raymond G. Fortner Jr., County Counsel

Approval of Measure R would authorize the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District ("District") to levy a special tax of up to \$346 per year on each parcel of land located within the District. Prior to levying the special tax each fiscal year, the Board of Education of the District ("Board") shall conduct a public hearing on the matter. Following said hearing each year, the Board shall adopt a resolution establishing the rate per parcel for that year. The tax would combine two existing qualified special taxes measures presently levied by the District and would commence on July 1, 2008. Because this measure combines and renews two existing parcel tax measures, Measure S and Y are repealed. The tax shall be adjusted annually for inflation in accordance with the specified Consumer Price Index. An exemption to the tax is available for a person age 65 and older who owns and occupies a parcel as a principal residence and applies for an exemption in accordance with guidelines established by the Board.

The tax revenues shall be used to preserve programs and replace funds lost or reduced due to inadequate State funding, sustain achievement in reading, writing, and mathematics for students at all grade levels, fulfill the District's core curriculum which includes music, arts, and athletics, attract and retain highly qualified teachers, protect the taxpayers' investment in education, and ensure District accountability by providing for special citizen financial oversight and independent annual audits of revenue and expenditures.

The Board shall appoint a special citizen financial oversight committee ("committee") that is charged to review the District's administration of and compliance with terms of this Measure. An expenditure plan shall be developed annually for the succeeding fiscal year by District staff in consultation with the committee. The annual plan will recommend expenditures of the tax proceeds that are consistent with the intent of this Measure, include expenditure assumptions, and be presented for Board action each fiscal year in conjunction with the District's annual budget adoption process. The recommended annual plan shall be made available for public review ninety (90) calendar days prior to Board adoption of the annual budget.

The District shall make available to the public and to the Committee updated budget and financial expenditure reports concerning the account holding the proceeds of the tax. As part of this reporting, the chief fiscal officer of the District shall file a report with the Board and the committee identifying the amount of the funds collected and expended, together with the status of any project required or authorized to be funded. Each year an independent auditor shall review the District records to determine that funds generated by this Measure have been maintained and expended in compliance with the annual plan.

The special tax levied shall be collected by the Los Angeles County Tax Collector, and shall be subject to the same interest, penalty, and penalty rate as for general ad valorem taxes.

This Measure requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote for passage.

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE R

Our kids, our teachers, and our schools need you to vote Yes on Measure R.

Measure R preserves high quality education in our local schools – with no new taxes.

Great schools are part of what make Santa Monica and Malibu great places to live and help protect property values.

But the State doesn't provide enough funding for the high-quality schools our students deserve and our community expects. That's why Santa Monica and Malibu voters have approved additional school funding. That local support will expire if it is not renewed now.

Measure R is not a new tax. It simply renews existing local funding our schools need.

Without Measure R, neighborhood schools face serious cuts. Local schools would be forced to layoff more than 70 teachers, increase class sizes, and cut important education programs.

No other source of funding exists to prevent these cuts if Measure R fails.

Measure R includes strict taxpayer accountability:

- Annual audits by Independent Citizens Oversight Committee will ensure funds are properly spent.
- Every penny of Measure R spending will be tracked and reported annually to taxpayers.
- No Measure R funds can be taken by the State.
- No funds can be used for administrator salaries.
- An exemption is available for senior homeowners.

Measure R will allow our schools to:

- Retain excellent teachers.
- Support reading and literacy instruction.
- Protect smaller class sizes (20 students instead of 30 in Grades K-3).
- Continue programs to improve student skills in math.
- Preserve science and technology instruction.
- Support elementary school libraries.
- Keep music and art in our schools.

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE R (Continued)

Renew critical local school funding – with no new taxes! Support our community, our kids and our schools.

Please join us: VOTE YES ON MEASURE R.

HARRY M. KEILEY

President - Santa Monica Malibu Classroom Teachers Assoc.

REBECCA KENNERLY

President - Santa Monica Malibu PTA Council

AMY BISHOP

President League of Women Voters of Santa Monica

PAUL J. SILVERN

Chair, Financial Oversight Committee

DR. MICHAEL E. GRUNING

Past Chair Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE R

REASONS TO VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION R

The District has short changed Malibu residents once again. Malibu voters were promised a fair share of last year's bond money. Some warned that the bond money would be diverted from Malibu schools. Guess what? That turned out to be true! Should Malibu voters entrust the District with even more money? We think not.

The Board entered into contracts they could not fund. The District wants to combine, extend, and tack on additions to the existing parcel taxes to cover this mess. The District's Financial Officer quit over this very issue. The Board is hoping you did not notice. Call this tax what it is... a bail out to cover their mismanagement.

The proponents contend no other funds exist to replace the expiring taxes. The City of Santa Monica could easily replace these funds from their half-billion dollar budget. The families of the large number of students who don't live in the district should be asked to contribute towards school expenses. Other districts make such requests.

What is true about this tax?

- A. Malibu residents will pay and Malibu schools will not get their fair share
- B. This extends expiring taxes that will go up every year
- C. This rewards financial mismanagement
- D. Non-residents are not asked to contribute
- E. A homeowner pays the same as a multi-million dollar commercial project
- F. Landlords will pass the tax onto the tenants and raise rents

All of the above... Final answer!

Vote No on R

www.VoteNoR.com

DOUGLAS R. O'BRIEN
City of Malibu Parks & Recreation Commissioner

ED NILES
Malibu Home Owner

THOMAS FAKEHANY
Investments Manager

PATRICIA O. GREENWOOD
Malibu Parks & Recreation Commissioner

ART CASILLAS
Santa Monica Homeowner

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ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE R

More money doesn't cure bad management. Are you willing to reward District incompetence with a continued stream of your money?

We're tired of secret agreements and back-room deals. Recent criticism by the Santa Monica City Council is justified. Unfunded secret pay hikes, non-disclosure before elections, silencing of the District's Financial Officer who resigned and gag orders issued to parents are not the way a School District should operate.

The School Board promised Malibu residents revenue sharing of last year's school bond for needed improvements. They broke their promise and diverted millions of dollars from the Malibu Schools. The Board Plans to spend the money for a new school where nearly half the students are non-district residents.

Are you aware that more than 20% of SMMUSD students do not live in the district? This causes overcrowded classes and deprives our kids of a quality education. Yet we are asked to pay ever-increasing taxes!?

Of all the ways to raise money, the district chose the regressive parcel tax. This tax hurts the poor. A modest house pays the same as a multi-million dollar commercial project. Renters of condos will pay the full \$350+ per year, a renter, including senior renters, in an apartment will pay what the landlord passes through!

The City Councils of Santa Monica and Malibu must prioritize our kids. Santa Monica's annual budget has increased from \$370 million to almost half a billion in 5 years. Yet their contribution to local schools has not reflected their newfound wealth.

All school districts contend with budget realities, but few fail as badly as ours. We generously pass bonds and taxes, yet problems persist. The blame belongs to district management not to students and teachers who deserve credit for their achievements. Rewarding the administration's mismanagement endangers our schools' good reputation.

Vote NO on R

MATHEW MILLEN
Former Chair SAMOHI Bilingual Advisory Committee

DONNA DAILEY ALVAREZ
Former Chair Santa Monica Commission on Older Americans

CLARA BENRAY
Public School Teacher

POLLY BENSON-BROWN
Former Board Member, Concerned Homeowners of Santa Monica

JUNE J. COLEMAN
Former Santa Monica Recreation and Parks Commissioner

PR-900064-14

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REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE R

Measure R opponents—the same handful of people who oppose all local education measures—have never understood the importance of high quality schools to our community.

We have good local schools with high-achieving students. The Santa Monica-Malibu School District maximizes the dollars going directly into classrooms and is among the most efficient and fiscally accountable in California. No California district has a higher credit rating.

However, state funding alone isn't enough to sustain this performance. That's why we ALL agree that our schools deserve our continued support through the irreplaceable local funding provided by Measure R.

Simply put, the State has under-funded our local public schools for decades. Santa Monica and Malibu voters understand that, and have demonstrated consistent support for our schools.

Without this support, the quality of our schools will significantly deteriorate.

Measure R simply renews the existing support that will soon expire – with no new taxes. And Measure R exempts senior homeowners, many of whom have low or fixed incomes.

We need to protect local school funding. Without Measure R, our schools face damaging cuts: teacher layoffs; cuts in reading, math and science instruction; larger class sizes; and elimination of music and art programs.

We're fortunate to live in a community where people care about schools and believe our children are our future. No matter where we see ourselves on the political spectrum—whether we rent or own, whether we live in Malibu or Santa Monica, whether we're retired, single, or part of a young family—we ALL agree:

VOTE YES ON MEASURE R.

BARRY SEID

AARP Tax Counseling for the Elderly – District Coordinator

DENNIS ZANE

Founder & Co-Chair, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR)

TOM LARMORE

Founder, Concerned Homeowners of Santa Monica

CYNTHIA TORRES

Vice Chair, Financial Oversight Committee

JEFF JENNINGS

Mayor of the City of Malibu

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