



**AUSD – Measure A
66 ²/₃% Required to Pass**

Measure A: Alameda Unified School District Special Parcel Tax Election Yes

Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) teachers and employees are among the lowest paid in the county. Teachers frequently need a second job to support themselves and every year 20% move to districts with higher salaries. To raise teacher and staff salaries AUSD cut its budget in 2018 eliminating programs and services and laying off teachers.

AUSD is asking Alameda voters to approve a parcel tax dedicated solely to teacher and staff salaries. The tax would raise an estimated \$10,500,000 annually for 7 years with exemptions for seniors and individuals receiving SSDI.

If this measure is approved, property owners will pay \$0.265 per building square foot with a cap of \$7,999 per parcel. Parcels without buildings will pay \$299. It will cost an average homeowner \$424 a year.

Measure A contains strong accountability provisions, requiring a citizen’s advisory committee to review expenditures plus an independent auditor to report on revenues and expenditures to the Board of Education and the community.

The League endorses Measure A because a quality education is an investment in our children’s future and an essential component for a democracy. Measure A will help to provide students with highly qualified, experienced teachers. Without adequate pay those teachers will leave. The League recognizes that parcel taxes in general are regressive. But we believe that the revenues from Measure A are critical and further budget reductions would lead to an overall decline from which our district might not be able to recover.

The League’s endorsement is qualified. In California, the state funds education. In recent years, the state has underfunded education so school districts have little recourse outside of bonds and parcel taxes to raise sufficient funds. If Districts are successful in raising local funds, the legislature is released from its duty to appropriate adequate support. Continually going back to the voters is not sustainable and very short term. Additionally, the March 2020 ballot will include three education measures so voters are continually bombarded with more and more ballot initiatives.

The Board supports the concerns but decided that the benefits of the parcel tax are essential to retain teachers and staff to provide a quality education to Alameda students.

Support for Measure A is based upon the 2005 [League of Women Voters of California’s Position on Education: Pre-Kindergarten through 12](#), which calls for the League to “Support a system of public education that is adequate, flexible, equitable and sustainable: derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students.”

Measure A deserves a YES vote on 3 March 2020.