



COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

**Sample Ballot and
Voter Information Pamphlet**

**ALAMEDA UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Special Vote by Mail
Election**

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2010



~ Instructions On How To Make Your Vote Count ~

Follow These Easy Steps To Ensure Your Vote Counts:

- Use black or blue ballpoint pen **Only**
- To vote on the measure, **Completely** connect the arrow pointing to your “YES” or “No” choice
- Make sure you clearly mark your ballot

TO VOTE: Completely connect the arrow pointing to your choice.

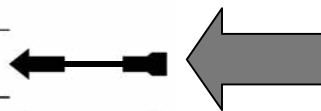
**MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE
VOTERS**

DISTRICT

1 Shall the District
increase the total
number of Governing
Board Members from
five to seven?

YES

NO

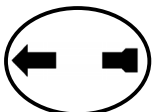
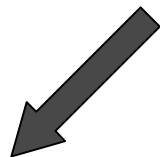


Right Way:
Connect the
arrow as
shown



Below are examples of errors in marking the ballot.

Wrong Way



**On Tuesday, June 22, 2010 Alameda Unified School District
will hold a Special Vote by Mail Election**

- No polling places will be utilized for this Election.
- First day of mailing the vote by mail ballot is May 24, 2010.
- Deadline to register to vote for this Election is June 7, 2010.
- All Vote by Mail ballots must be returned to the Registrar of Voters Office or Alameda City Clerk's Office no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. Postmarks do not count.

VOTER'S PAMPHLET

The following pages contain

MEASURE INFORMATION

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION
TO THE PROPOSED LAWS ARE THE
OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS.

Sample Ballot

OFFICIAL BALLOT
ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
JUNE 22, 2010 ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL VOTE BY MAIL ELECTION

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: USE BLACK OR BLUE BALLPOINT PEN ONLY. To vote on any measure,



complete the arrow  after the word "Yes" or "No."

MEASURES SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

SCHOOL

E To maintain high quality Alameda public schools by protecting strong core academic programs that promote science, math, and language arts, attracting and retaining excellent teachers, and supporting art, music and small class size, shall Alameda Unified School District replace two existing parcel taxes with one annual parcel tax for 8 years in the amounts described in the voter pamphlet, with an exemption for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries, and every dollar staying in Alameda schools?

YES	
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NO	
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Sample Ballot

CA01-1--0001300000-1

BT:1

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT MEASURE E

<p>E To maintain high quality Alameda public schools by protecting strong core academic programs that promote science, math, and language arts, attracting and retraining excellent teachers, and supporting art, music and small class size, shall Alameda Unified School District replace two existing parcel taxes with one annual parcel tax for 8 years in the amounts described in the voter pamphlet, with an exemption for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries, and every dollar staying in Alameda schools?</p>	YES
	NO

izens' oversight committee will advise the Board and public annually about proper expenditure of the proceeds of the special tax.

If two-thirds of the qualified electors voting on this measure do not vote for approval, the measure will fail, the District will not be authorized to levy the special tax outlined above, and Measures A and H will remain in effect.

s/RICHARD E. WINNIE
County Counsel

The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure E, which measure is printed in full in this sample ballot pamphlet. If you desire an additional copy of the measure, please call the Elections Official's office at (510) 272-6933 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you.

COUNTY COUNSEL'S IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE E

ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL OF AN ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SPECIAL PARCEL TAX MEASURE

Measure E, an Alameda Unified School District ("District") special parcel tax measure, seeks voter approval to authorize the District to levy an annual special parcel tax on each parcel of taxable real property for a period of eight years, beginning July 1, 2010.

School districts have the authority to levy special taxes upon approval by two-thirds of the votes cast on the special tax proposals pursuant to Article XIII A, Section 4 and Section 2 of Article XIII C of the California Constitution and sections 50075-50077, 50079, and 53722 of the California Government Code.

If two-thirds of the qualified electors voting on this measure vote for approval, a special tax will be imposed annually for eight years at the following annual rates: (1) \$659.00 per parcel of taxable residential real property and taxable institutional real property; and (2) \$0.13 per square foot of lot or \$9,500.00 per parcel, whichever is less, of taxable non-residential real property. The tax will be collected by the Alameda County Treasurer-Tax Collector at the same time and in the same manner as *ad valorem* property taxes are collected. Upon application to the District, an exemption may be granted to each property owner who is 65 years of age or older who occupies the parcel as his or her principal place of residence and to each property owner who receives Supplemental Social Security Income for a disability regardless of age. If passed, this special parcel tax shall replace two existing special tax measures (Measure A and Measure H) in their entirety.

If the measure passes, the allocation of the funding revenue is to be used for the specific purposes set forth in the full text of the measure printed in this sample ballot, including supporting small class sizes, computer and classroom technology, programs to help students qualify for college, etc. The measure further provides that the monies collected shall be accounted for separately and shall be expended only for those specified purposes. A cit-

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

Alameda has excellent schools. Our test scores are high and getting better every year, with 13 schools already exceeding the state's target scores. Many of our graduates attend top colleges and universities across the state and country, and our high schools are named among the best in the nation. Our quality schools make Alameda a desirable place to live.

However, Alameda Unified School District is facing unprecedented funding cuts from the State. The District has already cut millions from its budget and will implement additional efficiencies resulting in further savings. Although AUSD's administrative costs are already among the lowest in the country, the District has launched an extensive streamlining effort using business principles to lower administrative costs even more.

Even with savings from increased efficiencies, cuts from the State are impacting our classrooms with teachers layoffs and program cuts.

Measure E would immediately replace the existing school parcel taxes and preserve quality education by:

- **Protecting core academic programs such as math, science and language arts**
- **Attracting and retaining excellent teachers**
- **Supporting art, music and AP programs**
- **Supporting small class size**
- **Supporting high school sports programs**

Under no circumstances will funds go to pay administrators' salaries. Every cent from Measure E stays in Alameda. An Independent Advisory Committee and mandatory annual audits ensure funds are spent as promised. Seniors are eligible for an exemption.

Without Measure E, neighborhood schools will close, the school year will be shortened, teacher layoffs will increase and programs such as music, sports and AP will be cut to the detriment of our students and our community.

With Measure E, our community will continue to benefit from excellent schools, which help maintain property values and Alameda's unique small town quality of life.

Please Vote Yes on Measure E.

s/Alice Lai-Bitker

President, Alameda County Board of Supervisors

s/Beverly Johnson

Mayor, City of Alameda

s/Tracy L. Jensen

Member, Alameda Unified School District, Board of Trustees

s/Niel Tam

Member, Alameda Unified School District, Board of Trustees

s/Dennis G. Pagonis

Business Owner

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE E

What AUSD isn't telling us:

It is possible to balance the budget without imposing a parcel tax, or eliminating important programs like class-size reduction, math and reading support, and elementary band and strings.

Measure E will not protect property values. Alameda homes will still retain their appeal to buyers comparing schools.

AUSD has overstated the shortfall. An exaggerated number of teacher termination notices were distributed prematurely, creating unnecessary panic.

The advisory committee is chosen and their duties are set by the very board that they are supposedly overseeing.

Seniors and disabled citizens will have to pay the tax unless exempted, but many do not qualify; for those that do, the time period to apply is unadvertised and very short.

This tax has the same questionable structure that caused AUSD to be sued twice before. The lawsuits have cost us over \$200,000 so far.

How much taxation is enough? California, especially Alameda, already have income and sales taxes that are among the highest in the nation. Although Measure E would replace A and H, the taxes you would pay will be twice the amount for 8 years instead of the current amount, ending in 2012.

A replacement tax levied in these turbulent economic times is fiscally irresponsible. Measure E is a regressive tax that continues to put greater stress on our neighbors who have already experienced pay cuts and layoffs, and those on fixed incomes. The fact is, AUSD needs to tighten its belt this can be accomplished with responsible management.

s/Dennis H. Green

Past President Alameda Chamber of Commerce

s/George J. Borikas

Prop. Owner

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

Measure E is a huge property tax increase. Vote NO! Mail your ballot in!

Last year the State raised income taxes, sales taxes, and car taxes. It was the largest tax increase in California history. Now Alameda Unified School District wants to raise property taxes too.

Public education already costs taxpayers over \$283,000 PER CLASSROOM. Included in that are two property taxes that local voters approved in recent years.

This measure would more than DOUBLE those property taxes on homeowners, from \$309/year to \$659/year!

This tax has the same questionable structure that caused AUSD to be sued twice before. Those lawsuits cost us over \$100,000 so far. Reject a third lawsuit!

They say this tax won't go to salaries. But the measure itself says it's needed for "retaining excellent teachers." How? By freeing up other money which can go to salaries.

They say they'll appoint a citizen oversight committee. But it's hand-picked by the tax spenders, and advisory only. It would be powerless to stop wasteful spending.

New charter schools, which are cheaper, perform better, and represent the future of public education, are DENIED any of this tax by the entrenched establishment that wrote this measure.

Seniors, don't rely on the "senior exemption." Lawyers believe the exemption is barred by state law. If a court agrees, you'll pay too.

Renters, if you vote to increase your landlord's property taxes, it will be passed on to you.

Now is not the time for more taxes. Thousands of employees are laid off or furloughed. Self-employed business owners have less work, or have closed altogether. Yet their property taxes are still due. Have pity. Anyone who can't afford this new tax will lose his home.

We need EVERY NO VOTE to stop this tax! Please mail your ballot in.

s/Jon Coupal
President, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association

s/Terrence D. Gossett
President, Californians for Property Rights

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE E

The opposition comes from people outside Alameda who don't understand that our great schools are the cornerstone of Alameda's family-friendly community and our small-town quality of life.

FACT: Alameda has excellent schools, rising test scores, and graduates attending colleges and universities nationwide.

FACT: Measure E will IMMEDIATELY REPLACE the existing AUSD school parcel taxes. Homeowners will pay less than \$1 per day more than they currently pay to keep excellent schools.

FACT: Alameda Unified School District is facing unprecedented cuts in state funding. Without Measure E, AUSD will be forced to make \$7 million in cuts that will directly impact students this fall.

FACT: Measure E will create a reliable, locally controlled funding source for our schools.

FACT: AUSD continues to streamline operations and lower administrative costs, which are already among the lowest in Alameda County.

FACT: Without Measure E, AUSD will have to close at least 3 elementary schools, 1 middle school and 1 high school, shorten the school year, increase teacher layoffs, and cut critical programs such as music, sports and Advanced Placement.

FACT: Measure E will help our schools preserve core academic programs that are preparing our students for college and career, keep class sizes small, and attract and retain excellent teachers.

FACT: No funds will go to pay administrators.

FACT: Seniors are clearly eligible for an exemption.

Don't let outside interests sacrifice our kids just to further their own political agenda.

Vote YES on Measure E to protect high quality education for our community.

s/Ron Matthews
President Alameda Little League

s/Marie Gilmore
Councilmember

s/William A. Sonnemen
Retired Principal Encinal High School

s/Michael J. Robles-Wong
President, Community of Harbor Bay Isle

s/Paul Bentz
Executive Director, CLCS

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE E

ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT PROTECTION OF QUALITY LOCAL EDUCATION MEASURE OF 2010

This Proposition may be known and referred to as the “Alameda Unified School District Protection of Quality Local Education Measure of 2010” or as Measure “E”.

To maintain high quality Alameda public schools by protecting strong core academic programs that promote science, math, and language arts, attracting and retaining excellent teachers, and supporting art, music and small class size, shall Alameda Unified School District replace two existing parcel taxes with one annual parcel tax for 8 years in the amounts described in the voter pamphlet, with an exemption for seniors, no funds for administrators’ salaries, and every dollar staying in Alameda schools?”

FINDINGS

A superior and comprehensive K-12 education program delivers many long-lasting benefits and advantages to all the children and residents of a community and the Alameda Unified School District (“District”) is committed to offering a high-quality educational program to all students in the District.

However, perpetual California State budget problems threaten the District’s many successful educational programs with an increasingly uncertain fiscal future that does not provide adequate state funding.

The District is already operating on a very lean budget and every effort has been made to keep cuts as far away from the classroom as possible by streamlining the District Office to maximize efficiencies, reducing administrators and non-teaching staff to a minimum, and maximizing parent/community donations.

Increased local revenues are necessary to ensure the maintenance of high-quality education in Alameda and local voters and taxpayers have provided strong support of the District’s schools with parcel tax measures since 2001.

The Board of Education (“Board”) desires to replace both existing parcel taxes with a new tax which more fairly distributes the tax burden between small business parcels and residential properties.

By replacing both existing parcel taxes, local voters can ensure that our schools will receive a stable, reliable, local source of funding.

PURPOSES

Moneys raised under this Protection of Quality Local Education Measure of 2010 are authorized to be used only to provide financial support to local school programs in accordance with priorities annually established by the Board and to the extent of available funds, including but not limited to:

- Maintaining highly qualified and experienced teachers and minimizing layoffs for teachers and school employees

- Supporting small class sizes
- Maintaining outstanding core instructional programs that help students succeed and keep test scores high, such as competitive science, math and language arts programs
- Supporting computers and classroom technology
- Keeping school media centers and libraries open and staffed
- Supporting programs and services that help students qualify for college, such as AP programs, and prepare students for careers
- Supporting Alameda students in Alameda’s existing public charter schools
- Supporting music, arts and athletics programs that provide a well-rounded education for Alameda kids

AMOUNT AND BASIS OF TAX

Upon approval of two-thirds of those voting on this Measure, the District shall be authorized to levy an annual qualified special tax (education parcel tax) on all Parcels of Taxable Real Property, commencing on July 1, 2010 for a period of 8 years at the following annual rates:

<u>Property Type</u>	<u>Annual Rate of Tax</u>
Taxable Residential Real Property	\$659 per parcel
Taxable Non-Residential Real Property	The lesser of \$0.13 per square foot of total lot or \$9,500 per parcel
Taxable Institutional Real Property	\$659 per parcel

For purposes of the tax levy, the following definitions shall apply:

“Parcel of Taxable Real Property,” regardless of use code classification, is defined as any unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the County Treasurer-Tax Collector’s Office. All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which no *ad valorem* property taxes are levied in any year shall also be exempt from the special tax in such year.

“Taxable Residential Real Property” is any Parcel of Taxable Real Property which is classified by the Alameda County Assessor as any of the following: (a) a single family residential unit; or (b) a multiple residential unit comprised of 2 to 4 dwelling units; or (c) a multiple residential unit comprised of a condominium whether or not such parcels are then inhabited, developed or improved.

“Taxable Institutional Real Property” is any Parcel of Taxable Real Property which is classified by the Alameda County Assessor as “Institutional” for taxation purposes as Use Code 6800, consisting of Club Houses and Lodge Halls.

“Taxable Non-Residential Real Property” is any other Parcel of Taxable Real Property not specifically defined as Taxable Residential Real Property or Taxable Institutional Real Property above, whether or not such parcel is then

inhabited, developed or improved. In addition to other properties, Taxable Non-Residential Real Property specifically includes multiple residential property consisting of 5 or more dwelling units.

The District annually shall provide the Alameda County Tax Collector a report indicating the parcel number and amount of tax for each Parcel of Taxable Real Property.

This parcel tax shall replace Measures A and H, the two education parcel tax measures currently in effect. In the event that this Measure is not approved by the requisite two-thirds vote, the existing parcel taxes shall continue in effect until their scheduled expiration. Under no circumstances shall the education parcel tax approved in this Measure and any of the existing two parcel taxes be collected in the same year.

CLAIM / EXEMPTION PROCEDURES

Upon application, an exemption may be granted on any Parcel of Taxable Residential Real Property which is (a) owned by one or more persons aged 65 years or older, and (b) which is the owner's principal place of residence ("Senior Citizen Exemption"). Upon application, an exemption may be granted on any Parcel of Taxable Residential Real Property which is (a) owned by one or more persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, and (b) which is the owner's principal place of residence ("SSI Exemption").

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the Alameda County Tax Assessor or other appropriate County tax official shall make all final determinations of tax exemption or relief for any reason, and that decision shall be final and binding.

With respect to matters specific to the levy of the special tax, including the Senior Citizen and SSI Exemptions, owners must submit applications to the District in the manner and at the time set forth in procedures established by the District. Application forms shall be available from the Office of the Chief Financial Officer. Any one application from a qualified applicant for an exemption will provide an exemption for the parcel for that assessment year only, and exemptions must be renewed annually with the District. In determining whether a parcel is taxable as Residential Real Property, Institutional Real Property, or Non-Residential Real Property, the District shall refer to the manner in which the County classified the property on June 22, 2010, except in extraordinary circumstances, in which case the property owner may file a claim with the District for re-computation of the tax in accordance with the procedures established by the District. The decisions of the District regarding exemptions, refunds, reductions, or re-computations shall be final and binding. The procedures described herein, and any additional procedures established by the Board shall be the exclusive claims procedure for claimants seeking an exemption, refund, reduction, or re-computation of the special tax. Whether any particular claim is to be resolved by the District or by the County shall be determined by the District, in coordination with the County as necessary.

Appropriations Limit

Pursuant to California Constitution article XIII B and applicable laws, the appropriations limit for the District will be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of this special tax.

Accountability Measures

The proceeds of the special tax shall be applied only to the specific purposes identified above. The proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited into a fund, which shall be kept separate and apart from other funds of the District. No later than January 1 of each year while the tax is in effect, the District shall prepare and file with the Board a report detailing the amount of funds collected and expended, and the status of any project authorized to be funded by this measure.

In addition, an advisory committee of citizen stakeholders shall be appointed or designated by the Board to ensure that the special tax proceeds are spent for their authorized purposes, and to report annually to the Board and the public regarding the expenditure of such funds. The size, structure and scope of duties of the advisory committee shall be set by the Board.

Severability

The Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this Measure concur, that every section and part of this Measure has independent value, and the Board and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this Measure by the voters, should any part of the Measure or taxing formula be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts of the Measure or taxing formula hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law.



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