



Facts about Measure W

On Tuesday, November 4, voters in the Davis Joint Unified School District will be asked to preserve classroom and educational programs by authorizing a District parcel tax. The amount per homeowner funded by this measure is \$120 per year. Apartment owners will be assessed \$50 per unit per year. The tax will last for three years, provides a voluntary exemption for those who are 65 or older, and requires review by a Citizen Oversight Committee. The parcel tax requires a two-thirds Davis voters majority for approval.

State Funds Will Not Support Existing Funding for Classroom Programs Available to Davis Students

For years, DJUSD has had less to spend on each child's education than either the national or the state average. The state has continued to under-fund education and has reduced district funding in the current year budget. The District has stretched every dollar so that the District ranks among the best in the state in minimizing overhead. Recent actions by the DJUSD Board of Education will result in significant administrative cost savings in the future. To achieve success, DJUSD relies on extraordinary staff and parent support, an emphasis on efficient and cost-effective operations, and local taxes

Davis: A Unique Tradition of Local Support

Davis has supported education through local parcel taxes since 1984. Prior measures in Davis have passed with 71% to 75% of the vote. This is a record shared with only a handful of districts in California.

Local Parcel Tax Money Supports Excellence in Davis Schools

Each school's API score summarizes the accomplishment for its students, and all our schools are above the 800 score that signifies the statewide goal. Many of the classroom programs that make Davis schools unique are at risk without a funding source. Davis schools benefit from the availability of an additional 27 teachers to the district programs that support the academic experience of all our students. Approval of the parcel tax will allow the District to:

- ✓ Preserve elementary science instruction;
- ✓ Preserve availability of class periods core science, math, English, and social sciences;
- ✓ Preserve elementary music;
- ✓ Preserve librarians at elementary and secondary schools;
- ✓ Preserve secondary class size reduction for 9th and 10th grade English and math;
- ✓ Preserve availability of class periods for foreign language, music and physical education and
- ✓ Preserve athletics and co-curricular programs including drama, debate and journalism programs.

Measure W simply maintains and preserves existing academic programs. Many of these programs were rescued in the past year by a private community-wide fundraising drive led by the Davis Schools Foundation. This one-time fundraising effort provided funds directly to Davis schools to avert deep program cuts and teacher lay-offs. The funds raised in this one-time effort were for the 2008-09 academic year only. By contrast, Measure W would preserve school programs in the face of continued state funding cuts over the next three years. Without the funds that would be provided by Measure W, there will be both program and staff cuts next year.

A Senior Exemption Is Available

We welcome and appreciate the participation of our seniors, but we don't want to place a burden on seniors on a limited income. A full exemption is available upon application to anyone 65 or older. Download a form at www.djUSD.k12.ca.us/district/MeasureW/

Oversight Committee

The current Measure Q Citizen Oversight Committee will provide fiscal oversight of all funds raised by this measure. See the DJSUD website for a complete list.



2008 MEASURE W – Instructional Parcel tax

The Davis Joint Unified School District relies on continued state funding to maintain our classroom and educational programs. The state has continued to under fund education and has reduced our available funding. Our current funding from the state includes a \$2.8 million shortfall. Our schools benefit from the availability of more than 26 additional teachers to the district's programs that support the academic experience of all our students. The current state funding deficit does not allow us to maintain the support for all of these programs. The Board of Education has placed this Measure on the November 2008 ballot to preserve classroom and educational programs. The proposed components of this Measure include:

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Science Teachers: Specialized science instruction for grades 4-6 (8 science teachers)

Music Teachers: Instrumental music instruction (4 music teachers)

Librarians: Support student learning and coordinate the school library program with the instructional programs of the district (4 Librarians)

SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

Classroom Teachers: Preserve existing classroom programs including math and science, English, music, physical education, class size reduction for English and math (12 teachers)

Librarians: Support student learning and coordinate the school library program with the instructional programs of the district (1.5 Librarians)

Athletics programs & Co-curricular programs: After school athletic program offerings and teacher support for drama, debate and journalism programs (\$325,000)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The measure would levy \$120 per parcel (less for apartments/multi-unit housing) and requires overview by an Oversight Committee to assure a thorough annual review of expenditures.

Source: Davis Joint Unified School District



Measure W: Your Questions Answered

When is Measure W on the ballot?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4, 2008.

Why do we need this parcel tax?

Davis Schools need Measure W to preserve existing classroom programs, including math, science, English, music, librarians, class size reduction, and athletics. School districts are faced with decreased funding from the current state budget, which this year included no cost of living adjustment. This lack of funding severely limits the district's ability to maintain existing classroom programs. The Board of Education therefore recommended a parcel tax to fund these programs over the next three years.

What will happen if Measure W does not pass on November 4, 2008?

If voters do not authorize the parcel tax, the school district will be forced to cut \$2.4 million from its annual budget. Every student in our schools will feel the impact of these cuts in reduction to programs, services and teaching staff.

Does this Measure fund new programs?

This Measure maintains and preserves programs currently funded by one-time funds raised by the community. It DOES NOT fund new programs.

How much will it cost?

The amount per homeowner assessed by Measure W is \$120 per year. Put another way, it would amount to \$10 per month per household.

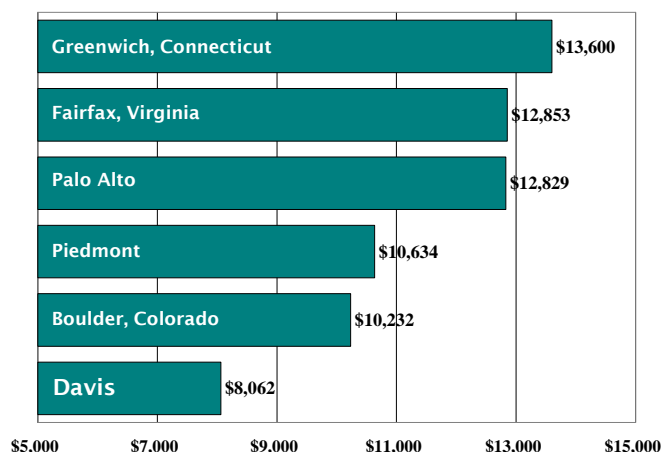
I live in an apartment. Will I pay the tax?

You will not receive a bill for the parcel tax. Owners, not residents, of multi-unit dwellings will be levied \$50 per unit annually.

Are all senior citizens exempt from the tax?

Yes. An exemption is available to anyone 65 and older when you fill out a brief application. We welcome and appreciate the participation of our seniors, but we don't want to be a burden to seniors on a limited, fixed income. A full exemption is available to anyone 65 or older. Applications will be available at the district office and on our website.

Is it true that DJUSD spends less per student than the state average?



For years, DJUSD has had less to spend on each child's education than either the national or the state average. If the Davis Joint Unified School District received the same state revenue-limit funding as the Palo Alto school district, it could afford to hire approximately 310 extra teachers. The District has stretched every dollar so that our schools rank among the best in the state. To achieve success on its smaller budget, DJUSD relies on extraordinary staff and parent support, an emphasis on efficient and cost-effective operations and local parcel taxes.