



## **Measure EE: Quality Teacher, Class Size Reduction, and School Safety Parcel Tax Measure Special Local School Funding Parcel Tax Election Date: June 4, 2019**

### **Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What would Measure EE fund?**

If approved by two-thirds of voters, Measure EE funds would be used to:

- Attract and retain high-quality teachers and school employees.
- Reduce class sizes.
- Provide quality instructional programs such as science, technology, English and math, as well as school resources and materials.
- Expand arts and music programs, enabling more students to participate.
- Enhance vocational and career training to prepare students for good jobs.
- Provide preschool programs to help the youngest students with a strong start in school.
- Provide school nursing, library, and counseling services, and other health and human services for student support.
- Provide safe, secure, clean, well-maintained, supportive, and welcoming schools.
- Provide school support services for students with disabilities, low-income students, homeless and foster youth, or otherwise disadvantaged students.

#### **How would Measure EE work?**

Measure EE would levy 16 cents per square foot of buildings located on properties within Los Angeles Unified boundaries for 12 years. Among those who use their property as their primary residence, senior citizens (age 65+) and certain low-income residents with disabilities are eligible for a full exemption from the cost of the measure. All funds would be controlled locally and cannot be taken by the state or federal governments. Funds must be spent on specifically identified programs listed in the measure, including retaining and attracting quality teachers, reducing class sizes, and supporting instructional programs for a well-rounded education.



### **Why did the Los Angeles Unified Board of Education place Measure EE on the ballot?**

The Los Angeles Unified Board of Education placed Measure EE on the ballot this year because if it is approved by voters Los Angeles Unified would begin receiving funds in the 2019-2020 school year (likely in January 2020). Waiting for the next general election would delay the receipt of additional funding, if approved by voters, by approximately one year. In ordering a special local school funding parcel tax election on June 4, 2019, the Board of Education made three major findings in their resolution:

- “California has gone from the top of the charts in education funding and student achievement to near the bottom. Despite being the wealthiest state in the country and the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world, California ranks 44<sup>th</sup> in per-student funding. This failure of the State to adequately fund public education dramatically impacts L.A. Unified’s ability to provide high-quality educational programs for all students and retain and attract quality teachers and employees.”
- “Without additional funding, a major shortfall and reductions are anticipated in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and beyond. If not addressed, it will be necessary to implement harmful cuts to L.A. Unified programs, schools and employees, including possible teacher and employee lay-offs and increased class sizes.”
- “The communities of L.A. Unified have made it clear that we need to invest in teachers, school nurses, librarians, and other important support staff; and to provide safe, secure, healthy, clean, well-maintained, and supportive schools for all students.”

### **How much would Measure EE cost homeowners?**

Measure EE, if approved by voters, would levy 16 cents per square foot of buildings located on properties within Los Angeles Unified boundaries. The cost of Measure EE is based on the size of the building(s) on a property. Owners of larger homes and businesses would pay more than owners of smaller homes or businesses. For a 1,500 square foot house, the cost of Measure EE would equate to \$240 annually or \$20 per month. If approved, Measure EE will automatically expire after 12 years and cannot be extended without voter approval.

### **Would businesses pay for Measure EE or just homeowners?**

Yes. All property owners located within Los Angeles Unified boundaries, including businesses that are not otherwise exempt from paying property taxes, would pay for Measure EE. The cost to each property owner is based on the size of the buildings on the property they own and the uniform rate of 16 cents per building square foot. This means large commercial and industrial property owners would pay more than the average single-family homeowner to support local schools.

### **What protections exist to help ensure Measure EE funds are spent as promised?**

By law, all Measure EE funds must be kept in a separate account and used to support Los Angeles public schools and cannot be taken away by the state or federal governments. Also, by law, funds may only be spent on the specific programs and services identified in the language of the measure, as authorized by voters, such as lowering class sizes and retaining and attracting high-quality teachers and school employees. All Measure EE funds are subject to independent oversight, annual independent audits, and public reports detailing the use of funds.



### **How long would Measure EE last?**

If approved, Measure EE will automatically expire after 12 years and cannot be extended without voter approval.

### **Are senior citizens eligible for an exemption from the cost of Measure EE?**

Yes. All homeowners 65 or older who occupy their property as their principal residence would be eligible to receive a full exemption from Measure EE. In addition, certain low-income homeowners with disabilities are eligible for an exemption from the cost.

### **Can the State take Measure EE funds away?**

No, all Measure EE funds are required to stay local and may only be used to benefit Los Angeles public schools. By law, the state and federal governments cannot touch Measure EE funds.

### **Does Measure EE address the issues raised in this year's teachers' strike?**

Yes. A primary purpose of Measure EE is to retain and attract quality teachers in Los Angeles public schools. Measure EE would also provide funding so that teachers and school support staff have smaller, more manageable class sizes, and students are provided with quality instructional programs for a well-rounded education.

### **I don't have any school-aged children. How does Measure EE affect me?**

Studies show that improving the quality of local schools increases property values. Measure EE provides local funding to strengthen local schools, which could have positive impacts on property values for local residents, whether or not you have children in school. If you own improved property within Los Angeles Unified boundaries, your property will be subject to the 16 cents per building-square-foot levy unless exempted. For example, homeowners age 65 and older are eligible for a full exemption from the cost of the measure.

### **Would charter schools receive money from Measure EE?**

Measure EE would increase per-pupil spending equally per pupil, at traditional and non-profit, lawfully authorized, charter schools, based on in-District Average Daily Attendance (ADA).

### **Hasn't Los Angeles Unified passed similar funding measures previously?**

No. Unlike many surrounding districts, Los Angeles Unified does not receive parcel tax funding to support school operating costs like teachers, class size reductions and instructional programs. Los Angeles Unified voters have approved local school construction and modernization bond measures in the past two decades. However, bond measures and parcel tax measures are used for different purposes — bond measures can only fund school construction and other facility upgrades and improvements, and cannot be used for teachers, instructional programs or other operating costs. If approved, Measure EE would provide locally controlled funding for these purposes.



### **How have previous bond measure funds been spent?**

Voter-approved bond measures have funded important upgrades and repairs to aging school facilities, built new schools to reduce student overcrowding, and eliminated the need for a multi-track calendar and involuntary busing of students to campuses outside of their neighborhoods.

### **Can we rely on the State to solve this funding problem?**

Los Angeles Unified aggressively lobbies state legislators for additional funding every year. However, state funding is unreliable and outside of our local control. Measure EE was placed on the ballot to provide a dedicated source of funding that Los Angeles public schools could rely on to support quality academic programs and teachers and prevent deep cuts to our schools.

### **Will Measure EE increase taxes for renters?**

No. Only property owners who pay property taxes will be assessed under Measure EE. Measure EE will not interfere with existing or new rent stabilization ordinances.

### **When is Election Day?**

Election Day is Tuesday, June 4, 2019.

### **If I am an absentee voter, when do ballots mail?**

If you vote by mail, you will receive your ballot the week of May 6. Your ballot must be postmarked on or before Election Day, June 4, in order to be counted.

### **What level of support does Measure EE need to pass?**

To pass, Measure EE must be supported by two-thirds of those who vote on the measure. All registered voters residing within Los Angeles Unified boundaries are eligible to vote on Measure EE.

### **When and where can I vote?**

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, June 4. To find your polling place, visit [www.LAVote.net/locator](http://www.LAVote.net/locator).

### **How can I request an absentee ballot to vote on Measure EE?**

Visit [www.LAVote.net](http://www.LAVote.net) or call (800) 815-2666 to request a ballot to vote by mail. Absentee ballots can be requested until May 28.

### **How can I register to vote?**

You can register to vote at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov) or call the LA County Registrar of Voters at (800) 815-2666, option 2. The last day to register to vote in this election is May 20.



### **To what extent can campuses engage in voter registration efforts?**

Campuses may engage in and partner with non-partisan civic organizations for voter registration on campus provided students are not coerced or required to register, are not required to register as members of a specific party, and are not offered any item, service, or compensation in exchange for registering to vote. Visit [MeasureEELAUSD.org](http://MeasureEELAUSD.org) to contact your Measure EE coordinator about voter registration.

### **How can I get connected with either of the Measure EE campaigns?**

Yes on Measure EE can be reached at: [www.yesonee.org](http://www.yesonee.org), and No on Measure EE can be reached at: [www.bizfedlacounty.org/blog/alerts/action-alert-vote-no-on-measure-ee-laUSD-needs-reform-more-than-new-money/](http://www.bizfedlacounty.org/blog/alerts/action-alert-vote-no-on-measure-ee-laUSD-needs-reform-more-than-new-money/).

### **How can I learn more about Los Angeles Unified schools or voting in this election?**

To learn more about Los Angeles Unified schools visit [www.LAUSD.net](http://www.LAUSD.net), and to learn more about Measure EE visit [www.MeasureEELAUSD.org](http://www.MeasureEELAUSD.org). To learn more about voting visit [www.LAVote.net](http://www.LAVote.net) or call (800) 815-2666.