

Kentfield School District Frequently Asked Questions

How are our Kentfield schools performing?

In the Kentfield School District, we provide an environment that challenges all students to live, learn, and lead to their fullest potential. Kentfield schools equip our children with the tools they need to succeed in high school, college, and beyond. The excellent education our students receive helps keep our community and property values strong. Our community has supported Kentfield schools for over 30 years by providing local parcel tax funding, which is now set to expire.

What would happen if local parcel tax funding expires?

Kentfield schools rely on local parcel tax funding to support specialized math and technology programs as well as to maintain art, music, and elective programs. If local parcel tax funding expires, class sizes could increase, school libraries could close, and teachers and staff could be laid off.

How does the Kentfield School District plan to address expiring local funding?

The Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place a measure on the upcoming March 6, 2018 all-mail ballot to renew the existing KSD parcel tax rate of \$1,143 per parcel, add \$355 per parcel, and bring current local education funding into compliance with recent changes in state law.

What educational programs do parcel tax funding support?

Locally controlled funding from the Kentfield School District's parcel tax is used to:

- Maintain core academic programs, including math, science, reading, and writing
- Attract and retain highly-qualified teachers
- Maintain hands-on science and technology instruction
- Keep school libraries open and retain school librarians
- Support art, music, and PE programs
- Prevent class sizes from increasing to 30 or more students

What protections ensure funds from a local funding renewal measure would be spent wisely?

This measure would have strict fiscal accountability provisions. These provisions include:

- All money raised by this measure would go to Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School in the Kentfield School District and could not be taken away by Sacramento
- None of the money raised by the measure would be used for administrators' salaries
- An independent oversight committee comprised of local community members would ensure funds are spent as promised
- Senior citizens would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure

Would all funds benefit our KSD schools?

Yes. All funds would be locally controlled and would benefit Kentfield schools. No funding could be taken away by the State or used for other purposes.

How long would the renewal measure last?

If approved, this measure would continue parcel tax funding for 10 years and could not be extended without voter approval.

Would any exemptions be available?

Yes, senior citizens and low-income homeowners with disabilities would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure. To learn more about the exemption process, please visit the district website at www.tinyurl.com/KSDExemption.

I don't have children in Kentfield schools; how will this measure benefit me?

Kentfield is a highly desirable place for families to live partly because of our strong local schools. Local funding keeps our schools strong, keeping our property values high and enhancing our quality of life.

How does the renewal measure account for inflation?

The renewal measure allows for funding to be adjusted by up to 3% per year to account for inflation and other increases in the cost of providing programs. This is a decrease from the current parcel tax that allows for 5% annual adjustments.

Didn't we just vote on a parcel tax measure for Kentfield schools?

In 2016, Kentfield residents voted on Measure B, a parcel tax measure that would have extended local funding for Kentfield schools to pay for essential academic programs. This measure did not reach the 66.7% support level required for approval and this funding is now set to expire. If local parcel tax funding expires, class sizes could increase, school libraries could close, and school staff, including teachers, aides, librarians, and counselors, could be laid off. Our schools rely on local funding to support specialized math and technology programs as well as to maintain the outstanding art, music, and elective programs critical to a well-rounded education.

How is this measure different from the Kentfield schools measure passed in 2014?

In 2014, Kentfield voters approved Measure D, a bond measure to improve educational facilities in KSD schools. However, this funding can only be used to upgrade physical infrastructure in our schools, and will not offset the losses in funding to teachers and programs that would result from an expiration of local education parcel tax.

What's the difference between parcel taxes and bond measures?

Bond measures and parcel tax measures are used for different purposes — bond measures can *only* fund facility upgrades and improvements, and cannot be used for operating costs or programs. Parcel taxes may be used for teachers and academic programs.

Why are we changing the rate structure of the current parcel tax?

Since the last time our local parcel tax was renewed by voters, State law governing how parcel tax measures may be structured has changed due to several court decisions. Parcel taxes must be applied uniformly across all taxable parcels of land within the district's boundaries and cannot have different rates for different types of properties. This measure would bring KSD's parcel tax into compliance with State law to protect this funding against potential challenges.

Does this parcel tax renewal measure generate additional funding for Kentfield schools?

No. The renewal measure simply continues funding at current levels to prevent cuts. This measure does not add new money to the budget. Due to changes in state law, Kentfield may no longer levy

different parcel tax rates for different types of property. The increase in the tax rate ensures funding remains stable despite this change.

Didn't we just pass a statewide measure for education?

The recent passage of Proposition 55 continues existing K-12 education funding that voters approved in 2012. However, it does not provide additional revenue for our schools, and would not offset the cuts to teachers and programs that would result from the expiration of local education funding.

Will funding from this measure be used to fund public employee pensions?

No. Funds from the parcel tax renewal measure may only be used to fund the specific programs and services identified in the measure. This measure continues current parcel tax funding that is set to expire but does not generate new funding. School districts do not set retirement benefits for their employees, they are set at the state level. Any increases in contributions to state teacher and school employee retirement systems will have to be funded from other sources.

How much would the cost of a renewal measure be for renters?

Only property owners who pay property taxes will pay the cost. However, landlords may pass all or a portion of the cost of the measure on to their tenants.

When will I be able to vote on this measure?

The KSD Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place this measure on the upcoming March 6, 2018 all-mail ballot. All registered voters in the Kentfield School District would be eligible to vote on the measure, which would need 66.7% support to pass.

How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?

You can register to vote at www.registertovote.ca.gov. To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Marin County Registrar of Voters at (415) 473-6456 or visit www.marincounty.org/depts/rv.

How can I learn more about our schools?

As we continue planning for the future of KSD schools, we welcome your input. Please visit www.kentfieldschools.org for more information.