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NOTICE TO VOTERS

NOTICE OF MARCH 6, 2018 ALL-MAIL ELECTION

Local Education Funding Election for the Kentfield School District

Election Date: March 6, 2018

Look for Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot: Week of February 5, 2018

Last Day to Register to Vote in this Election: February 19, 2018

Not Registered to Vote? Register Here: www.registertovote.ca.gov
or call (415) 473-6456

**Important note: This election will be conducted entirely by mail ballot. All registered voters in the Kentfield School District will receive a ballot in the mail, even if you normally vote at the polls. Completed ballots must be mailed back by March 6, 2018.*

SAMPLE BALLOT

The Kentfield School District Local Education Funding Measure

"To ensure quality education and protect \$4.5 million in expiring annual local funding that cannot be taken by the State, shall Kentfield School District maintain core academics, including math, science, reading and writing; attract and retain exceptional teachers; and preserve small classes by adding \$355 to the current \$1,143 per parcel rate and continuing local school funding for 10 years, with senior exemptions, annual inflation adjustments, independent citizens oversight, and all funds for Kentfield students?"

- YES
 NO



Upcoming Election in the Kentfield School District

INFORMATION ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTION IN THE KENTFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT



High-Quality Education in Kentfield Schools

In the Kentfield School District, we are proud to provide an excellent education for local students. Our community has supported Bacich Elementary School and Kent Middle School with parcel tax funding for over 30 years, which has helped keep our schools among the best in the state. Now this funding is set to expire and our schools stand to lose \$4.5 million per year in funding, which is 25% of the Kentfield School District's annual budget.

March 6, 2018 All-Mail Election

In order to prevent teacher layoffs and cuts to academic programs, the Kentfield School District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place a parcel tax measure on the March 6, 2018 all-mail ballot to renew the current level of funding for local schools. If passed, this local education measure would renew funding at the current rate of \$1,143 per parcel, add \$355 per parcel, and bring our parcel tax into compliance with recent changes in state law.

Funding from this measure would continue to be 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



Continuing Strict Fiscal Accountability

- 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

Frequently Asked Questions About Local Funding in Kentfield Schools

How are our Kentfield schools doing?

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?

If this funding expires, our Kentfield schools would require \$4.5 million in annual cuts, which means class sizes could increase, school libraries could close, and teachers and staff could be laid off. Local parcel tax funding makes up approximately 25% of the Kentfield School District's budget and supports specialized math and technology programs and maintains art, music, and elective programs.

Would all funds from a parcel tax renewal measure benefit our Kentfield schools?

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

Would any exemptions be available?

Yes, senior citizens and low-income homeowners with disabilities would be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure. To learn more about

the exemption process, please visit the Kentfield School District website.

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

Kentfield is a highly desirable place for families to live partly because of our great local schools. Local funding keeps our schools strong, which maintains high property values and enhances 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, which allows for 5% annual adjustments.

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

In 2014, local voters approved Measure D, a bond measure to improve educational facilities in the Kentfield schools. By law, Measure D 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 the local education parcel tax.

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 been changed by the courts. 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 the Kentfield School District's parcel tax into compliance with state law.

Is this parcel tax renewal measure designed to 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, but restructures funding due to the legal change discussed above. 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.

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.