

Vote No on the ~~School~~ City Parcel Tax Measure ES

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This is a Santa Monica City Tax Disguised as a School Tax

- ▶ It does not increase school funding
- ▶ The City gets \$12 million freed up by **you permanently paying** the City's decades-long commitment to the District for after-school access and programming
- ▶ The City would benefit by not being "reliable"
- ▶ There are no restrictions on how the City uses the \$12 million, including \$650,000 for a Rose Parade float
- ▶ Malibu schools benefit (\$1.5 million) without Malibu residents paying

“Citizens” Initiative

- ▶ “Citizens” are the school board president, a school board past president, and the chair of the school’s PAC
- ▶ Citizens’ initiative to get around 2/3 vote requirement when the City survey showed it didn’t have the votes for a City measure
- ▶ Prop 43 on November’s ballot gets rid of this loophole
- ▶ \$300,000 raised to get signatures
 - ▶ 36% from City and District vendors and tech bro’s
 - ▶ 54% from 24 individual donors
- ▶ Opponents of this measure are residents of Santa Monica, who are tired of our government being only concerned about affordability for developer concessions and not against increasing residents’ taxes and fees

What You Pay

- ▶ \$495 per year, increasing every year, FOREVER
- ▶ It makes housing less affordable
- ▶ It's a regressive tax that disproportionately affects lower-income residents
- ▶ Condo owners pay the same as the Water Garden
- ▶ Renters are affected, as they can pay up to \$420 per year for school taxes - \$124 per year 4 unit complex
- ▶ \$1.36/day on top of the \$530 existing parcel tax and District bond payments that increased by 58% last year
- ▶ A \$1 million condo would pay \$6.05/day - \$2200 per year

The City Will Not Need to Cut Services

- ▶ Despite declaring fiscal distress last year, the City announced a \$9 million surplus after projecting a \$11 million deficit
- ▶ The Realignment plan is increasing revenues faster than expected
 - ▶ 60% of the new income, \$13.5 million, comes from fees paid by residents: increased parking rates, user fees, and new credit card fees
- ▶ The City's statement that services may need to be cut if this tax doesn't pass doesn't make sense.
 - ▶ If this doesn't pass and the City decides to continue the District payments, it's the status quo. Why would cuts need to be made?

School District Finances are in Great Shape

- ▶ Revenues increased by 53% in the last 10 years
- ▶ Enrollment decreased by 23% in the last 10 years
- ▶ Per-pupil spending moved from 23rd to 8th place in the County in 10 years
- ▶ The District averaged a \$13 million surplus over the last 5 years while predicting an average \$5 million deficit
- ▶ Just released numbers for last year: \$8 million surplus after predicting a \$10 million deficit
- ▶ There is no structural deficit, just strategically bad budgets
- ▶ \$89 million in reserves - \$14 million more than the 33% target

Threats of Cuts of 72 Teachers is Fearmongering

- ▶ If the measure doesn't pass, the City may continue the payment
- ▶ Why would only teachers be cut when they are only 39% of the total staff of 1262?
- ▶ 60 teachers weren't hired when they started getting \$10 million from the City 3 years ago from Measure GS
- ▶ Staffing has remained level over the last 10 years despite increased revenues and decreased enrollment
- ▶ Surpluses and reserves could cover the potential reduction in revenues

City and School District Partnership

- ▶ If the City lets the Joint Use Agreement expire in June of 2027, over 100 City-run programs and access to the elementary and middle school facilities are in jeopardy. This is critical for park-poor areas
- ▶ The District's resolution only says access will continue with no specifics. Will they charge the City to continue running programs?
- ▶ Sign another long-term Joint Use Agreement for the elementary and middle school facilities
- ▶ That provides reliable and stable funding to the District and ensures City programming and access continues

NoOnParcelTaxES.org

