



Petaluma City Schools
200 Douglas Street
Petaluma, CA 94952

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT VOTING

Petaluma City Schools Board of Education Votes to Place Parcel Tax Measures on March 5, 2024 Ballot

When can I vote on the measures?

The parcel tax measures will appear on the March 5, 2024 ballot.

Who can vote on the measures?

All registered voters in the Petaluma City Schools boundaries will have the opportunity to vote on the measures.

When will ballots be mailed?

All voters should receive a ballot in the mail the week of February 5, 2024.

When is the last day to register to vote in this election?

The last day to register is February 19, 2024. After this date, voters wishing to vote in the election must vote with Conditional Voter Registration at the county elections office.

When is the last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot?

The last day to request a vote-by-mail ballot is February 27, 2024.

How do I register to vote?

Visit www.registertovote.ca.gov or call (800) 345-8683 if you are not registered to vote or need to update your registration information.

What level of support is required for passage?

In order to pass, these measures must be supported by two-thirds of those who vote on it.

What if I have more questions about voting?

Contact the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters at (707) 565-6800 or visit their website at tinyurl.com/SonomaCoROV for more information.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Petaluma City Elementary School District

To provide locally controlled funding for local elementary schools that cannot be taken away by the state to attract/retain excellent teachers; expand art and music programs; enhance math, science, engineering, technology, reading and writing programs; and maintain smaller class sizes, shall Petaluma City (Elementary) School District's measure be adopted levying an \$89 educational parcel tax, raising \$1,400,000 annually for 8 years, with exemptions for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries and independent citizen oversight?

YES NO

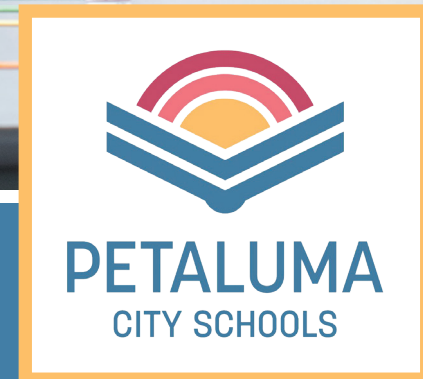
SAMPLE BALLOT

Petaluma Joint Union High School District

To provide locally controlled funding for local junior high/high schools that cannot be taken away by the state to attract/retain excellent teachers; enhance math, science, engineering, technology, writing programs; maintain smaller class sizes; and prepare students for college/careers, shall Petaluma Joint Union High School District's measure be adopted levying an \$89 educational parcel tax, raising \$2,200,000 annually, for 8 years, with exemptions for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries and independent citizen oversight?

YES NO

NOTICE TO VOTERS



Information About the Upcoming Parcel Tax Measures for Petaluma City Schools

UPCOMING BALLOT MEASURES FOR PARCEL TAX FUNDING COULD HELP ATTRACT & RETAIN TEACHERS

BOARD VOTES TO PLACE MEASURES ON MARCH 5, 2024 BALLOT

On November 14, the Petaluma City Schools (PCS) Board of Education voted to place a pair of parcel tax measures on the March 5, 2024 ballot. If passed by local voters, these measures will raise approximately \$2.2 million for our high schools and \$1.4 million for our elementary schools, assessed at annual rate of \$89 per year.

Community input helped inform the Board's decision to move forward. Earlier this month, PCS sent a notice to invite community members to a PCS Board of Education meeting to discuss placing the education funding measures on the ballot. Thank you to everyone who attended and provided feedback.

SCHOOL FUNDING CHALLENGES

Nationally, California ranks among the lowest in per student public school funding. Even more challenging, PCS receives far less funding than many school districts in the North Bay. As a result, PCS is losing teachers to other nearby school districts that are able to offer higher compensation.

If approved, the measures could protect the quality of education in our community and allow us to continue providing high-quality education to our students.

To learn more about the measures adopted by the Board, visit www.PetalumaCitySchools.org/localfunding.



RETAINING QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND SUPPORTING INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

Having a great teacher in the classroom is the most important element of providing a quality education for students. Qualified and experienced teachers support high-quality instruction in science, technology, engineering, math, writing, arts and music.

LOCAL FUNDING FOR TEACHERS AND ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

If approved by 66.7% of voters, funds could be used in local elementary, junior high and high schools to:

- 🏆 Attract and retain excellent teachers
- 🎵 Expand art, music and language programs
- 🔧 Enhance science, technology, engineering, math and writing opportunities for students
- 👥 Maintain smaller class sizes
- 📖 Provide counseling to support students
- 📚 Provide school librarians and keep school libraries open



FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND LOCAL CONTROL

Any local education parcel tax measure would include fiscal accountability protections, including:

- ◆ Funding would be controlled locally and could not be taken away by the State
- ◆ None of the money raised could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions
- ◆ Public disclosure of all spending, independent citizens' oversight and mandatory annual audits would ensure funds are spent as promised
- ◆ Homeowners age 65 and over and low income homeowners with disabilities would be eligible for an exemption