

MEASURE O: PAUSD PARCEL TAX

Measure O will renew a parcel tax for Palo Alto schools, beginning July 1 and increasing annually by 2% for six years. According to the Measure, the parcel tax will raise approximately \$16 million per year with citizens taxed \$836 per parcel.

IN FAVOR

Proponents say funding will attract and retain qualified teachers, support technology for distance learning and preserve the quality of math, science, reading, writing, arts and music programs. Additionally, the parcel tax would add support staff to help at-risk students, maintain teaching specialists and help keep class sizes small.

REBUTTAL

Those against this measure claim that significant taxpayer money can be saved by decreasing school funding due to school closures caused by COVID-19. Many are also concerned that California is already under a large tax burden, and funding schools that likely won't open soon is not a priority when spending taxpayer money.

MEASURE RR: CALTRAIN FUNDING

If passed with a two-thirds majority vote across Santa Clara, San Mateo and San Francisco counties, Measure RR would levy a 30-year one-eighth cent sales tax, raising approximately \$100 million annually for the Caltrain service.

IN FAVOR

Supporters say funding would save Caltrain from shut-down and preserve the service for thousands of essential workers. Additionally, money generated by the tax would provide roughly \$60–70 million per year for Caltrain to develop infrastructure that will reduce traffic congestion. It would also allow Caltrain to invest in cleaner and quieter electric trains and increase train frequency and capacity.

REBUTTAL

Opponents are concerned that Caltrain ridership will not recover after the pandemic due to a heightened risk of transmission. Also, even though a majority of Caltrain riders are higher income, the extra 30-year sales tax will be most detrimental for many low- and middle-income individuals, especially for those who are still recovering from the financial burden of COVID-19.

MEASURE S: WATER DISTRICT TAX

Measure S is the renewal of a parcel tax to fund the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program. The tax averages \$0.006 per square foot annually and is estimated to raise \$45.5 million every year.

IN FAVOR

Supporters claim that the measure does not add a new tax and simply renews an old tax, meaning that there is no new tax burden to citizens. Measure S also works to help the environment, which includes creek restoration, shoreline protection, environmental cleanup and habitat restoration.

REBUTTAL

Opponents say that the pay-as-you-go system of funding has resulted in delays for the project, creating the need to borrow money and causing over \$331 million in debt. Additionally, if passed, the parcel tax would have no sunset provision — no definitive end date — as opposed to the 15-year sunset on the 2012 parcel tax up for renewal.