

# Local Funding for Los Gatos and Saratoga High Schools

In 2011, voters in Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District approved a local funding measure to help support top-quality education and prevent cuts to our schools. This funding is set to expire.

The Board of Trustees is considering placing a measure on an upcoming ballot to renew this funding – which is locally controlled and cannot be taken by the State – to protect our outstanding science, math, technology, engineering and core academic programs, attract and retain highly qualified teachers and more. Please see below for questions and answers about this critical, local funding for our schools.

## Questions & Answers

### **How are Los Gatos and Saratoga schools doing?**

We are proud of exceptional student achievement in Los Gatos and Saratoga schools. With a strong foundation in science, math, technology and English, 98% of our graduates go on to attend colleges and universities and compete for 21st-century careers, well-equipped with the education they receive at our local high schools. Our excellent schools help keep our Los Gatos and Saratoga communities highly desirable places to live.

### **What is Measure A?**

Measure A is a local education funding measure that Los Gatos and Saratoga voters passed in 2011 to support top-quality education and protect our students from State budget cuts. Measure A serves to maintain core academic programs in math, science and English. It also helps attract and retain highly qualified teachers while making sure classrooms have the materials they need.

To renew this critical source of local funding, the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District Board of Trustees is considering placing a renewal measure on the ballot in the spring of 2016.

### **How does local education funding impact quality academics in our schools?**

In 2011, Los Gatos and Saratoga voters passed Measure A to provide stable, local funding for the top-quality programs our students count on. Measure A allows for more stability in our schools' budgets by providing a source of funding that can't be taken by the State.

With this funding, the Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District is able to maintain high-quality courses in science, math, technology, engineering and other core academics, as well as provide programs to prepare students for college and careers. Measure A funds also help attract and retain qualified teachers and provide them with needed classroom materials.

**Specifically, what would a renewal measure do?**

Renewing local funding for our schools would continue to provide funds to:

- Provide high-quality science, math, technology and engineering courses
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers
- Maintain outstanding core academic programs
- Provide programs to prepare students for college and careers
- Provide classroom materials such as books and laboratory equipment

**How much would this renewal measure cost?**

The renewal amount has not been determined yet.

**How do we know funds from a renewal measure would be spent wisely?**

An independent Citizens' Oversight Committee has consistently verified that all Measure A funds have been spent only for voter-approved purposes. To view the reports, please visit [www.lgsuhd.org](http://www.lgsuhd.org) and click on "Parcel Tax Oversight Committee" under the "District Information" tab.

As with the original measure, a Measure A renewal would include strict fiscal accountability provisions:

- All funds would be spent in our local schools and could not be taken away by the State
- Independent citizen oversight and annual audits would continue to ensure that funds are spent as promised
- By law, money would only be spent in the classroom, not on administration

**Could funds from a local education funding renewal measure be taken away by the State?**

No. By law, all funds generated by a renewal measure will stay in Los Gatos and Saratoga High Schools, the State could not take away one dime.

**Could senior citizens receive an exemption from the cost? Are other exemptions available.**

Section 1. Yes. Senior citizen homeowners, aged 65 and older, could apply for an exemption for their primary residence. Additionally, any persons who are the owner of a Parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and either (a) 65 years of age or older on or before June 30 of the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the tax should apply, or (b) receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability regardless of age, or (c) receiving Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, whose yearly income does not exceed 250 percent of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines issued by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, may obtain an exemption from the levy of the core academic programs parcel tax, by submitting to the District an application of such owners or persons, prior to June 15 of any year.

To learn more about the process, please call the District at (408) 402-6320 or visit click [here](#).

**I don't have children in school; how would a local funding measure benefit me?**

We know our high schools are among the best in California, making our community a desirable place to live. Renewing local funding will ensure our high schools continue to offer an excellent education, which helps keep our property values high and our neighborhoods strong.

**How can I find out more?**

For more information about local education funding, or to learn more about our schools, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (408) 354-5980.