

**MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS
SCHOOL**

**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOND ELECTION
MEASURE A**

A To enhance the quality of education through facility modernization and technology upgrades; ensure safety for students, staff, and community users; remove asbestos; renovate and build classrooms and student facilities; replace inadequate electrical, roofing, heating/ventilation and plumbing; improve disabled access and earthquake safety; and rehabilitate athletic facilities, shall Tamalpais Union High School District issue \$121 million of bonds, at interest rates within legal limits, with a Citizens' Oversight Committee to monitor and audit bond expenditures?

**TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOND ELECTION
IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY COUNTY COUNSEL
MEASURE A**

This measure, if approved by two-thirds of those voting thereon, would authorize the sale of general obligation bonds of the Tamalpais Union High School District (the "District") in the amount of \$121,000,000.

The proceeds of the bonds would be used to provide safe and healthy classrooms in the District through facility modernization and technology upgrades, removal of asbestos, renovation and building classrooms and student facilities, replacing inadequate electrical, roofing, heating/ventilation and plumbing, improving disabled access and earthquake safety, rehabilitation of athletic facilities and providing other critical repairs. The measure requires the appointment of a Citizens' Oversight Committee to guarantee funds are spent only on school improvements.

At the discretion of the Board of Trustees of the District, all or any part of the bonds could be sold. Principal and interest on the bonds would be paid by revenue derived from an annual tax levied upon the taxable property within the District. The Tax Rate Statement of the District, which has been mailed with the sample ballot for this election, presents the District's best estimates of the property tax rates required to be levied to pay debt service on the bonds, as required by Elections Code §9401.

Dated: December 8, 2000

PATRICK K. FAULKNER
County Counsel

**TAX RATE STATEMENT
MEASURE A**

An election will be held in the Tamalpais Union High School District (the "District") on March 6, 2001, to authorize the sale of up to \$121,000,000 in general obligation bonds. If such bonds are authorized and sold, the principal thereof and interest thereon will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with Sections 9400-9404 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

1. The best estimate of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue during the first year after the sale of the first series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of this statement, is \$0.0099 per \$100 (\$9.90 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in year 2001-02.

2. The best estimate of the tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue during the first year after the sale of the last series of bonds, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of this statement, is \$0.0503 per \$100 (\$50.30 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in year 2005-06.

3. The best estimate of the highest tax rate which would be required to be levied to fund this bond issue, based on estimated assessed valuations available at the time of this statement, is \$0.0503 per \$100 (\$50.30 per \$100,000) of assessed valuation in year 2005-06.

The average tax rate over the repayment period of all of the bonds (2001-02 through 2029-30) is estimated to be \$0.0328 (\$32.80 per \$100,000 of assessed value).

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold at any given sale, market interest rates at the time of each bond sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds.

Dated: November 28, 2000

WILLIAM J. LEVINSON
Superintendent

MEASURE A CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

The Tamalpais Union High School District is recognized as one of the best districts in the state. Student achievement is high and strong support from parents and community members ensure that our schools offer excellent educational programs.

Our schools have a wonderful history, with some of the buildings dating back to the era of Theodore Roosevelt. The schools are well maintained but ongoing maintenance does not address the major infrastructure needs of these deteriorating high schools that are 40 to 90 years old. No bond issue for a major facilities upgrade has been approved for more than 40 years.

The District's Facilities Planning Committee studied the physical condition of the District's five high schools. With the collective expertise of structural, electrical, seismic and soils engineers, architects, cost estimators, teachers and community members, a master plan was developed for the repair and renovation of the schools' facilities. After careful consideration, the Board of Trustees voted to place a measure on the March ballot to provide the funds needed to repair and modernize the high schools to better serve our students and communities.

Measure A includes:

- ◆ Renovating facilities to address deterioration and structural, seismic, and safety problems
- ◆ Upgrading classrooms to accommodate current and future computer technology
- ◆ Building new science labs to provide high-quality science instruction
- ◆ Repairing or replacing antiquated plumbing, electrical and heating systems
- ◆ Meeting disability access requirements

By law, bond funds can only be spent on capital improvements. A Citizens' Oversight Committee will be established to monitor and audit bond expenditures.

Please join us in voting for Measure A. We must provide students, teachers and the community with the safe and modern facilities needed to maintain our excellent education for students and to keep community property values strong.

s/ Martha Allen
Marin County Teacher of the Year, 1997

s/ Hal Brown
Marin County Supervisor

s/ Bob Canepa
Business Owner

s/ Charles H. Curley
Councilmember and Twice Mayor of Larkspur

s/ Ellen Rosen, Trustee
Tamalpais Union High School District, 1989-2001

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A

The three schools reach peak enrollment in 2, 4 and 6 years, respectively. Thereafter enrollment is projected to drop 7 - 15%. **NOT A SINGLE NEW CLASSROOM WILL BE IN PLACE UNTIL AFTER THEY ARE NOT NEEDED**, see Construction Schedules.

ALL YOUR CHILD GETS IS CONSTRUCTION NOISE/DISTRACTION FOR YEARS. Can your teenager afford to "lose" several School years?

Construction will place an enormous management burden on an already dismally performing Superintendent. **CAN WE AFFORD ADMINISTRATION'S "CONSTRUCTION DISTRACTION" FROM TEACHING AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE FOCUS?**

THERE'S NO REQUIRED APPORTIONMENT BETWEEN THE THREE SCHOOLS. What if one gets 3/4ths of the money? The potential "plan" already severely shortchanges Redwood and Drake.

\$121 Million is a mid-1999 estimate. **WITH MINIMUM INFLATION THE BOND TOTALS \$146 MILLION -- ALL LOCAL TAXPAYER FINANCED.** Remember, we are entering times of severe economic stress. Instead, **STATE** school construction money should be used.

A hasty **MARCH BALLOT WASTES \$250,000.** This money is supposedly for capital improvements - there's no "urgency". Expect more "waste" with **NO ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIRED BY THE MEASURE.**

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNERS CAN BE LIABLE FOR OVER \$30,000 ADDITIONAL TAXES with this Bond measure.

SENIORS and fixed income disabled are NOT EXEMPT, creating severe hardship.

No tax measure should proceed until the Superintendent explains **why we haven't obtained funds from THE BILLIONS OF STATE BOND MONEY** available for school construction.

Vote NO, demand accountability.

s/ Fielding L. Greaves, Secretary
Marin United Taxpayers Association

MEASURE A CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

This measure **DOESN'T EXCLUDE SENIOR CITIZENS** and those on fixed incomes; and could cause the loss of their homes by tax sale when added to existing taxes. The huge tax will last 30 years.

The projected taxes described by the Superintendent appear wildly understated, and are admittedly "**estimates only . . . not binding on the District.**" In fact – the taxes could be far higher than proponent's low-ball figures.

Frighteningly, the person "in charge" of the \$121 million of prospective bond/tax money, will be the same superintendent (Levinson) who so badly mismanaged Tam Union High School District's budget: he first learned he was **\$2 million "short"** well into the school year. It's hard to believe that he remains employed.

There are no details provided for use of this tax money. Vague language in the measure allows money to be used for virtually anything. Nothing in the measure will improve the education our children receive. The only "overview" of enormous expenditures will be by "Citizens' Committee," with no standards, no requirements for professional qualifications, and no assurance that the "Committee" will have any financial expertise or liability for mismanagement of funds. **No independent management audits are mandated.**

Billions of dollars\$\$ are sitting in Sacramento waiting for school building projects – yet Marin makes no effective effort to get that money. Instead, the District seeks to over-tax its residents; it's easier.

\$250,000 extra will be wasted by proponents for this special election, when it could have been decided by regular ballot; an outrageous waste of money.

If the schools need improvements, the plan should have detailed itemizations; accountability must be built in, and reasons given for failure to get State financing, when billions are pledged for schools. **When are we going to demand accountability BEFORE taxation? Please vote NO.**

s/ Fielding L Greaves, Secretary
Marin United Taxpayers Association

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A

While MUTA is entitled to its on-going opposition to local school funding, it does have a responsibility to get the facts straight:

- State law prohibits senior exemptions for general obligation bonds. Most senior homeowners enjoy Proposition 13 benefits in the form of low assessed home values. Eligible low-income seniors can receive tax relief.
- The projected average tax of \$32.80 per \$100,000 assessed value is based on a conservative estimate of 3% annual tax base growth. Southern Marin County has not experienced such low growth rates in more than ten years. Growth rates greater than 3% mean lower tax rates.
- In 1998, the Superintendent took immediate action to implement aggressive internal controls to ensure sound financial practices. The District has had a balanced budget the last two years. During Dr. Levinson 's tenure, Tamalpais, Redwood and Drake High Schools have been recognized as California Distinguished Schools. In 2000, Dr. Levinson was recognized as Marin County Educator of the Year.
- The District's detailed Long-Range Facilities Plan has been available to the public at numerous public hearings and on the District's website. A Board Resolution guarantees a Citizens' Oversight Committee will be established to monitor and provide independent audits of bond expenditures.
- No money is currently available from the state for school modernization or renovation. When state money becomes available, the District will pursue the \$14 million for which the District is eligible.
- Delaying until a November election will add approximately \$4 million in inflationary bond costs.

Measure A: Good for Students, Teachers, and the Community.
Let's Fix Our Aging High Schools!

s/ Ruth Dell, President, Board of Trustees
Tamalpais Union High School District

s/ John D. Wright, Former Trustee
Ross Valley School District (1994-1999)

s/ George Cagwin, President/Owner
Cagwin, Seymour & Hamilton Realty

s/ Dennis P. Fisco
Councilman and Former Mayor of Mill Valley

s/ Douglas Huneke, Pastor

END OF MEASURE A

