



Local Ballot Measure: A

Measure A

Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District

Measure Question

2/3 (Two-Thirds) Needed to Pass

To renew locally controlled funding without increasing tax rates to maintain reading, writing, math/science programs; attract/retain qualified teachers; keep school libraries open; and prepare students for college/careers, shall Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District's measure be adopted renewing the existing \$89 educational parcel tax at a fixed rate for eight years, raising \$1,300,000 annually, with exemptions for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries, an independent citizens' oversight committee and all funds staying local?

What Your Vote Means

YES	NO
A "yes" vote on Measure A is a vote to renew the previously approved educational parcel tax of \$89 per year per parcel at a fixed rate for another eight years, commencing July 1, 2025.	A "no" vote on Measure A is a vote against renewal of the educational parcel tax of \$89 per year per parcel at a fixed rate for another eight years. The current tax would expire on June 30, 2025, and the District would lose the additional annual revenue.

For and Against Measure A

FOR	AGAINST
Susan Adams Rohnert Park Mayor Darlene Sandoval Rohnert Park Chamber Chair Joshua Cutler CRPUSD Teacher Laura Sparks Cotati Mayor Michelle Wing CRPUSD Board Member	No argument was submitted against Measure A



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Arguments and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors. They are printed exactly as submitted, including errors.

County Counsel's Impartial Analysis of Measure A	Argument in Favor of Measure A
<p>The Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District ("District") has called a special election to ask voters to renew an educational parcel tax ("special tax") previously approved by District voters. If approved by two-thirds (2/3) of those voting, Measure A would permit the District to continue raising revenue for academic programs, school libraries and teacher positions for another eight years. Measure A was placed on the ballot by the Governing Board of the District.</p> <p>Currently, the District imposes a special tax of \$89 per year per parcel, raising approximately \$1,300,000 annually, to fund educational programs. This special tax expires on June 30, 2025. The measure now before the voters would continue this special tax, at the same fixed rate, for another eight years, commencing July 1, 2025.</p> <p>Proceeds of the special tax would be placed in a special fund and could only be used for the purposes set out in the measure, which include improving quality core academic programs, attracting and retaining qualified teachers, limiting increases in class sizes, providing career and job training, and protecting school libraries, art, music and technical career instructions. All funds from the special tax would stay local to benefit District schools only. None of the funds could be used for administrator's salaries or pensions.</p> <p>The proposed measure would continue existing fiscal accountability requirements, including an Independent Oversight Committee and mandatory annual audits to ensure that funds are spent appropriately.</p> <p>The special tax would be applied to each unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for property taxes. Multiple parcels that are contiguous and are part of one economic unit under the same name and ownership would be charged as one parcel. Exempted from this special tax are parcels which are exempt from property tax, or on which no property tax is otherwise levied, as determined by the Sonoma County Tax Collector. In addition, exemptions from payment of the special tax may be granted for parcels owned and occupied as a principal residence by persons 65 years of age or older, or parcels owned and occupied as a principal residence by persons with qualifying low-income or disabilities as specified in the proposed measure. Persons claiming exemptions based on senior, low-income or disability status would need to apply to the District for approval of an exemption.</p> <p>A "yes" vote on Measure A is a vote to renew the previously approved educational parcel tax of \$89 per year per parcel at a fixed rate for another eight years, commencing July 1, 2025.</p> <p>A "no" vote on Measure A is a vote against renewal of the educational parcel tax of \$89 per year per parcel at a fixed rate for another eight years. The current tax would expire on June 30, 2025, and the District would lose the additional annual revenue.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ROBERT PITTMAN County Counsel</p> <p style="text-align: right;">By: s/ Petra Bruggisser Deputy County Counsel</p>	<p>Vote Yes on A: Maintain quality education in Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District schools without increasing taxes.</p> <p>Having a great teacher in the classroom is the most important element of providing a quality education. Nationally, California ranks 46th out of 50 states in education funding. Right now, our local schools are struggling to recruit and retain the best teachers in our classrooms.</p> <p>For over a decade, our neighborhood schools have benefited from dedicated locally controlled funding that is critical to attracting and retaining qualified teachers in local schools. This funding will expire unless we vote Yes on A.</p> <p>If locally controlled school funding expires, our Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District schools will lose approximately \$1.3 million annually, which will lead to teacher layoffs, class size increases and cutting academic programs. Measure A will renew the local funding our schools rely on without increasing taxes.</p> <p>Vote Yes on A to renew local funding for Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified schools. Measure A will improve quality core academic programs including science, technology, engineering, and math; attract and retain qualified teachers; limit increases to class sizes, keep school libraries open; and protect career training programs, art and music instruction.</p> <p>Measure A requires strict accountability measures to keep funds local. All funds go to local schools and cannot be taken by Sacramento. An independent citizens' oversight committee and annual audits ensure funds are spent as promised. By law, no funds can be spent on administrators' salaries or pensions and senior citizens continue to be eligible for an exemption.</p> <p>Measure A will keep great teachers in local classrooms and support the quality academic programs that students in Rohnert Park and Cotati deserve and need to succeed in college and their careers.</p> <p>Please join us in voting Yes on A to renew local education funding and protect quality schools in Rohnert Park and Cotati without increasing taxes by one penny!</p> <p>s/ Susan Adams Rohnert Park Mayor</p> <p>s/ Darlene Sandoval Rohnert Park Chamber Chair</p> <p>s/ Joshua Cutler CRPUSD Teacher</p> <p>s/ Laura Sparks Cotati Mayor</p> <p>s/ Michelle Wing CRPUSD Board Member</p> <p style="text-align: center;">No Argument Was Submitted Against Measure A</p>



Local Ballot Measure: A

Full Text of Measure A

COTATI-ROHNERT PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

COTATI-ROHNERT PARK UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE MEASURE

Measure A

RECITALS

Thanks to outstanding teachers, challenging academic programs and strong support from the community, Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District ("District") provides a quality education for local students that prepares graduates for college and the workforce.

For over a decade, District schools have benefited from locally controlled parcel tax funding that cannot be taken away by the State. Voter-approved parcel tax funding helps to attract and retain qualified teachers and support quality academic programs.

Unless renewed by local voters, local parcel tax funding is set to expire and the District will lose approximately \$1.3 million in annual funding.

If local parcel tax funding expires and the District loses approximately \$1.3 million in annual funding, cuts to teaching and instructional programs in local schools will be required.

The District's Board of Education believes that local parcel tax funding is important for protecting the quality of education in local schools and is putting forth a ballot measure for local voters to consider renewing the current parcel tax at the existing \$89 per parcel rate for eight years, without increasing taxes.

If approved by local voters, funds from a potential parcel tax renewal measure could continue to be used to improve quality core academic programs including science, technology, engineering and math instruction; attract and retain qualified teachers; limit increases to class sizes; provide career and job training; and protect career technical education programs, school librarians and libraries and art and music instruction.

The measure to renewal local school parcel tax funding would continue existing fiscal accountability requirements, including an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and mandatory annual audits to ensure funds are spent as promised.

None of the money raised by the parcel tax renewal measure could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions.

All funds from a renewed parcel tax must stay local to benefit schools in the District only and no funds could be taken by the State or used for other purposes.

Homeowners age 65 and over and qualifying low-income people and individuals with disabilities as described below would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure.

The District's Board of Education believes that even if you do not have school-age children, investing in quality local schools supports a strong community and strong property values.

TERMS

To renew locally controlled funding without increasing tax rates to maintain reading, writing, math/ science programs; attract/ retain qualified teachers; keep school libraries open; and prepare students for college/ careers, shall Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District's measure be adopted renewing the existing \$89 educational parcel tax at a fixed rate for eight years, raising \$1,300,000 annually, with exemptions for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries, an independent citizens' oversight committee and all funds staying local?

Moneys raised under this Measure shall be authorized to be used only for the following purposes in accordance with priorities established by the Board and to the extent of available funds:

- Preserve reading and writing programs
- Preserve math and science programs
- Keep school libraries open and available for students
- Attract and retain qualified and experienced teachers
- Protect art and music instruction for a well-rounded education
- Provide programs to prepare students for success in college and careers
- Minimize class size increases to ensure students receive individual attention from teachers
- Minimize further budget cuts resulting from reductions in state funding for local schools

No parcel tax funds will be spent on administrative salaries.

A. Amount and Basis of Tax

The parcel tax shall be \$89 per Parcel of Taxable Real Property and shall be placed on the tax roll immediately following the adoption of the Measure and shall be levied for a period of eight (8) years. The District shall provide the County of Sonoma Treasurer-Tax Collector ("County Tax Collector") a report indicating the parcel number and amount of tax for each Parcel of Taxable Real Property.

"Parcel of Taxable Real Property" is defined as any unit of real property in the District that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the County Tax Collector's Office. All public property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which no *ad valorem* property taxes are levied in any year shall also be exempt from the special tax in such year.

Multiple parcels which are contiguous, under common ownership, and that constitute one economic unit, meaning that they have the same primary purpose as the principal parcel and are not separate and distinct properties that may be independently developed or sold, shall comprise a single Parcel of Taxable Real Property for purposes of the parcel tax.

B. Exemptions for Seniors, Low-Income Individuals and People with Disabilities

An exemption from payment of the special tax may be granted on any parcel owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or over who occupies said parcel as a principal residence, upon application for exemption and on any parcel owned by one or more persons receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age, who occupies said parcel as a principal residence ("SSI Exemption"). An exemption also may be granted upon application on any parcel which is (a) owned by one or more persons 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 and (b) which is the owner's principal place of residence ("SSDI Exemption").

C. Claims / Exemption Procedures

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the County Tax Collector or other appropriate County tax official shall make all final determinations of tax exemption or relief for any reason, and that decision shall be final and binding. With respect to matters specific to the levy of the tax, including the Senior Citizen Exemption and the SSI and SSDI Exemptions and the appropriate tax classification, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding. The procedures described herein, and any additional procedures established by the Board shall be the exclusive claims procedure for claimants seeking



Local Ballot Measure: A

Full Text of Measure A (Continued)

an exemption, refund, reduction, or re-computation of the special tax by the District. Whether any particular claim is to be resolved by the District or by the County shall be determined by the District, in coordination with the County as necessary. Taxpayers wishing to challenge any determination of the County Tax Collector must do so under the procedures for correcting a misclassification of property pursuant to Part 9 of Division 1 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or other applicable procedures. Taxpayers seeking a refund of any tax paid shall follow the procedures applicable to property tax refunds pursuant to the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

D. Appropriations Limit

Pursuant to California Constitution article XIII B and applicable laws, the appropriations limit for the District will be adjusted periodically by the aggregate sum collected by levy of this special tax.

E. Mandatory Accountability Protections

1. **Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee.** The Board shall provide for the creation of an independent citizens' oversight committee to oversee the special taxes collected pursuant to the Measure to ensure that moneys raised under this Measure are spent only for the purposes described in this Measure. The Board shall provide by resolution for the composition, duties, funding, and other necessary information regarding the committee's formation and operation.

2. **Annual Audits.** Upon the levy and collection of the education parcel tax, the Board shall cause an account to be established for deposit of the proceeds, pursuant to Government Code Section 50075.1. For so long as the tax is in effect, the Superintendent or the chief financial officer of the District shall cause a report to be filed with the Board each year, commencing 2024-2025, stating (1) the amount collected and expended in such year, and (2) the status of any projects or description of any programs funded. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period, as said officer shall determine, and may be incorporated into or filed with the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board.

3. **Specific Purposes.** All of the purposes named in the Measure shall constitute the specific purposes of the education parcel tax, and proceeds thereof shall be applied only for such purposes.

F. Protection of Funding

Current law forbids any decrease in State or federal funding to the District resulting from the adoption of an education parcel tax. However, if any such funding is reduced or affected because of the adoption of this local funding measure, then the Board may reduce the amount of the special taxes levied as necessary in order to restore such State or federal funding and/or maximize the District's fiscal position for the benefit of the educational program. As a result, whether directly or indirectly, no funding from this measure may be taken away by the State or federal governments.

G. Severability

The Board hereby declares, and the voters by approving this Measure concur, that every section and part of this Measure has independent value, and the Board and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this Measure by the voters, should any part of the Measure or taxing formula be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts of the Measure or taxing formula hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law.