

MEASURE H - PARCEL TAX EXTENSION OF N

THE QUESTION

To continue to:

- reduce dropout rates
- prepare Oakland students for college and 21st century careers
- attract and retain highly qualified teachers
- and provide mentoring, tutoring, and counseling

shall the Oakland Unified School District measure renewing the \$120 parcel tax for 14 years

- without increasing the initial tax rate,
- adding annual cost-of-living adjustments,
- with exemptions for seniors and specified low-income individuals,
- and independent oversight and audits,

generating at least \$11.5 million annually that the State cannot take away be adopted?



THE SITUATION

- In 2014 Oakland voters approved Measure N, the Oakland College and Career Readiness Act, which authorized a \$120 parcel tax to fund a comprehensive approach to high school education.
- The approach integrates challenging academics with career-based learning, real-world work experiences and technical training. Personalized academic, social, and emotional support services – all with strong emphasis on equity -- are part of the program.
- Participating high schools submit annual plans to the College and Career Readiness Commission. The Commission's experts in education and public finance evaluate the plans to ensure that funds are being used appropriately and that the plans are meeting their programmatic goals.
- Measure N has provided approximately \$11.5 million a year as a source of funding for the program.
- From 2013-14 when the program started until 2019, OUSD reports that overall graduation rates increased by 12% and that graduation rates among black students increased by 15.4%. Dropout rates for all students have decreased 11%, for Black male students by 17.9%.

THE PROPOSAL

Measure H will extend the College and Career Readiness Act for 14 years through June 2037.

FISCAL EFFECT

The parcel tax for 2023-24 will remain \$120 for each taxable real estate parcel in the Oakland Unified School District. The tax may be increased in subsequent years by a cost-of-living index that may not exceed 5% annually.

Measure H provides exemptions for owners or joint owners and residents of single-family parcels who are 65 years of age or older, who receive Supplemental Security Income for a disability, or who receive Social Security Disability Insurance benefits.

The Measure requires an independent auditor to issue an annual report and audit.



REASONS TO SUPPORT

This approach to high school education has been effective in improving academic achievement and providing career pathways to many impacted groups within the high school population. In the absence of changes to Prop 13, a parcel tax is one of limited ways to ensure consistent funding and secure the program in the participating high schools.



REASONS TO OPPOSE

Funding should come from the OUSD budget now that the approach has proven its effectiveness.



A YES VOTE MEANS

Measure N will be renewed and the parcel tax will be authorized for another 14 years

A NO VOTE MEANS

Measure N will expire June 2025 and not be renewed.