



# Official Voter Information Guide

## March 28, 2017

### San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District Special Mail Ballot Election

To request a copy of this pamphlet in an accessible format or for voting assistance, call 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) or email registrar@smcare.org.

Para solicitar una copia en Español de este folleto de información para el votante en formato accesible o asistencia para votar, llame 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) o envíe un correo electrónico a registrar@smcare.org.

要索取這一份無障礙格式手冊或需投票協助，請致電888.SMC.VOTE(888.762.8683)或電郵registrar@smcare.org。

This official election information is compiled and distributed by the  
**Office of Chief Elections Officer & Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder**

**1E** 40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402 | phone 650.312.5222 | www.shapethefuture.org



### 3 Easy Steps to Vote by Mail

#### ① Vote



Mark your ballot. Remove the ballot stub. This is your receipt. Put your ballot in the envelope.

**Make a mistake on your ballot?** We will send another one to you if we receive your request by March 21.

Check the box on the back of the return envelope and put the ballot in the envelope to return to us.

You can also call 650.312.5222, email registrar@smcare.org or exchange your ballot in person at the Voting Center listed below.

#### ② Sign Your Envelope

1. Sign next to the **X** in the box and write the date.

The signature will be compared with your signature when you registered to vote.

Power of Attorney Not Accepted. Signature will be compared with signature on file. Disabled voters may use a "mark" but must include witness signature.

**VOTER'S SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR VERIFICATION**

X *Jane Doe* Date  
3/20/2017

2. Seal the envelope.

#### ③ Return Your Ballot



Mail your voted ballot in the POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE postmarked by **March 28** and it will be counted if it is received by **April 3**.



**February 27 through March 28**  
Drop off your voted ballot during regular business hours at the Foster City and San Mateo City Halls or at the 24-hour drop box at the Voting Center listed below.



**Election Day, March 28**  
Drop your voted ballot on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Voting Center below.

#### Voting Center

Registration & Elections Division — **40 Tower Road, San Mateo, CA 94402**  
Office of the San Mateo County Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Chief Elections Officer  
Monday through Friday, open from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m.  
**On Election Day, March 28, 2017, open from 7 a.m. through 8 p.m.**

# San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District

## Measure Y

San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District Quality Education Renewal Measure. To protect local schools from substantial program cuts by renewing local funding that cannot be taken by the State, protect math/science/reading/writing programs, attract/retain qualified teachers/educational staff, keep school libraries open and support art/drama/music programs, shall San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District renew without increasing, its expiring voter approved education tax at \$209.92 per parcel annually for 9 years, with CPI adjustments, senior exemptions, annual audits, and citizens' oversight?

### Full Text

#### SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT Measure Y

#### INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To continue funding to attract and retain qualified teachers, protect reading and writing programs, and math and science programs, maintain core academic programs in science, technology and math instruction, provide local reliable funding for local schools that cannot be taken by the State, keep school libraries open, and support art, drama and music programs, with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, benefits and pensions, the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District ("District") proposes to renew and extend its existing quality education parcel tax for a period of nine years from its current expiration date (June 30, 2017), starting on July 1, 2017 at the current rate of \$209.92, as annually adjusted by changes in the adjusted annually by the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Metropolitan Area Consumer Price Index, per parcel per year, with an exemption available for senior citizens and certain disabled persons, and to implement accountability measures, including citizen oversight, to ensure the funds are used to help:

- Attract and retain quality teachers and educational staff;
- Protect reading, writing, math and science programs;
- Maintain quality core academic programs including science, technology, engineering and math instruction;
- Keep school libraries open and accessible to students; and
- Support art, drama and music programs.

The proceeds of the parcel tax shall be deposited into a separate account created by the District.

#### DEFINITION OF "PARCEL"

For purposes of the quality education renewal parcel tax, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District, that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the San Mateo County Assessor/Tax Collector, as applicable. All property that is otherwise exempt from or upon which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall also be exempt from the quality education renewal parcel tax in such year.

For purposes of this quality education renewal parcel tax, any such "Parcels" which are (i) contiguous, and (ii) used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and (iii) held under identical ownership may, by submitting to the District an application of the owners thereof by June 15 of any year, be treated as a single "parcel" for purposes of the levy of the high quality education renewal parcel tax.

#### EXEMPTION FOR SENIORS AND SSI RECIPIENTS

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 50079 (b)(1), any owner of a Parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and who are either (a) 65 years of age or older on or before June 30 of the fiscal year immediately preceding the year in which the tax would apply, or (b) persons 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 parcel tax by submitting an application therefore, by June 15 of any year, to the District.

Persons who are owners of Parcels used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and currently exempted from the District's expiring Measure A parcel tax shall automatically be exempted from this Measure without having to file a new application.

The District may establish administrative procedures to periodically verify the continuance of any previously granted exemption.

With respect to all general property tax matters within its jurisdiction, the San Mateo County Treasurer and Tax Collector or other appropriate county tax officials, 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 high quality education renewal parcel tax, including any exemptions and the classification of property for purposes of calculating the tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding.

#### REDUCTION IN TAX IF RESULT IS LESS OTHER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The collection of the quality education renewal parcel tax is not intended to decrease or offset any increase in local, state or federal government revenue sources that would otherwise be available to the District during the period of the parcel tax. In the event that the levy and collection does have such an effect, the District may cease the levy or shall reduce the parcel tax to the extent that such action would restore the amount of the decrease or offset in other revenues.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES

In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Sections 50075.1 and 50075.3, the following accountability measures, among others, shall apply to the parcel tax levied in accordance with this Measure: (a) the specific purposes of the parcel tax shall be those purposes identified above; (b) the proceeds of the parcel tax shall be applied only to those specific purposes identified above; (c) a separate, special account shall be created into which the proceeds of the quality education renewal parcel tax must be deposited; and (d) an annual written report shall be made to the Board of Trustees of the District showing (i) the amount of funds collected and expended from the proceeds of the high quality education renewal parcel tax and (ii) the status of any projects or programs required or authorized to be funded from the proceeds of the parcel tax, as identified above. In addition to the accountability measures required by law, the District will maintain its existing Citizens' Oversight Committee to provide oversight as to the expenditure of parcel tax revenues.

# San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District

## Impartial Analysis of Measure Y

The California Constitution and state law authorize school districts to levy qualified special taxes for specified purposes. Government Code Sections 50077 and 50079 provide that such a tax measure passes if two-thirds of those voting on it vote to approve the measure.

The San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District (the "District") currently has an annual parcel tax of \$209.92 per parcel adopted in 2010 that will expire June 30, 2017. By this measure, the District's Board of Trustees proposes to renew and extend a special tax on parcels in the District that would raise funds to support various educational purposes outlined below. If this measure is approved, an annual tax of \$209.92 per parcel, adjusted annually for inflation, would be imposed starting on July 1, 2017, for a period of nine years, with the tax ending June 30, 2026.

The proposed tax applies to any unit of real property which lies wholly or partially in the District that receives a separate property tax bill from San Mateo County tax collection officials. Parcels otherwise exempt from such property taxes will be exempt from this proposed tax. Any individual who owns and occupies a parcel as a single-family residence may apply for an exemption to the tax if they also: 1) are age 65 years or older; 2) receive Supplemental Security Income for a disability, regardless of age; or 3) receive Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, regardless of age, and have an annual income not exceeding 250% of the 2012 federal poverty guidelines. Parcels that already obtained exemption from the expiring tax are automatically exempt from this tax.

The stated purposes of the parcel tax are to: attract and retain quality teachers and staff; protect reading, writing, math, and science programs; maintain quality core academic programs including science, technology, engineering, and math; keep school libraries open and available; and support art, music, and drama programs. No proceeds may be spent on administrator salaries, benefits, or pensions.

The proceeds of the parcel tax will be placed into a special account. An annual report accounting for parcel tax revenues collected and expended and the status of projects or programs funded by the tax will be filed with the Board of Trustees. An independent citizens' oversight committee will be maintained to review the expenditures of the parcel tax. The tax will be decreased if any increase in local, state, or federal funding is put in jeopardy based on the existence of the tax. The District's appropriations limit shall be increased annually if necessary to ensure the revenue from the tax may be spent for the listed purposes.

A "yes" vote on this measure would impose an annual tax of \$209.92 per taxable parcel, adjusted annually, on property within the District for a period of nine years beginning July 1, 2017, for the purposes listed above.

A "no" vote on this measure would not allow the parcel tax to be levied, with the existing annual parcel tax of \$209.92 per parcel expiring without replacement on June 30, 2017.

This measure passes if two-thirds of those voting on the measure vote "yes."

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# San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District

Arguments in support of or in opposition to the proposed laws are the opinions of the authors.

## Argument in Favor of Measure Y

Join Us! YES for Schools: Protect & Maintain Quality Education!

Quality San Mateo and Foster City schools need your YES vote for Schools – vote YES on Y!

**Measure Y is NOT a new tax. It simply continues existing, voter-approved education funding for another 9 years. Measure Y won't increase the tax rate you currently pay.**

Measure Y funds will continue to be locally-controlled. Every penny benefits local elementary and middle school students. The State can't touch any of this money.

When current voter-approved funds expire in June, our elementary and middle schools will lose \$7,000,000 annually—reducing our ability to maintain academic programs and attract and retain quality teachers – vote YES for schools and teachers!

- ✓ **YES on Y** maintains and protects quality, core academic programs including science, technology, math, reading and writing programs that help prepare students for high school and future success.
- ✓ **YES on Y** renews funding to attract and retain high-quality teachers and educational staff by supporting critical educational programs.
- ✓ **YES on Y** supports art, drama, music and other specialized programs and maintains school library hours, keeping them open and accessible to all students.
- ✓ **YES on Y** continues strong fiscal accountability guarantees, including Independent Citizen's oversight and annual audits. By law, NO money can be used for administrator salaries, benefits, or pensions.
- ✓ **YES on Y** continues senior exemptions. Currently exempt seniors who are 65+ will continue to be exempt. Seniors without a current exemption who qualify can receive an exemption.

**YES on Y doesn't increase anyone's existing tax rate.**

Join Supervisor Carole Groom, a unanimous School Board, teachers, parents, PTA leaders, education advocates, San Mateo and Foster City taxpayers -- vote **YES for Schools: Protect & Maintain Quality Education!**

For information about Measure Y, visit [www.smfcsd.net/MeasureY](http://www.smfcsd.net/MeasureY). For Mail Ballot information: [www.shapethefuture.org](http://www.shapethefuture.org).

- /s/ **Jerry Hill** January 6, 2017  
State Senator
- /s/ **Chelsea Bonini** January 5, 2017  
School Board President
- /s/ **Remee (Remedios) Vargas** January 5, 2017  
PTA Council President
- /s/ **George Trubow** January 5, 2017  
44 year San Mateo Taxpayer
- /s/ **Audrey Ng** January 6, 2017  
School Board Member

## Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure Y

Proponents say “*Measure Y is NOT a new tax*”.

Here are the facts:

A NO vote means your total parcel taxes would be \$104.42 with no expiration date. A YES vote would raise those taxes to \$314.34 for the next 9 years with CPI adjustments on the \$209.92 increase. That's almost \$2,000 in added tax.

California average expense per student is \$9,633 per year. San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District spends \$9,573 or 99% of the statewide average. That does not include service on bond debt of \$200,992,942, accumulated by the District, which is paid from property taxes. This year it was \$273 for a \$500,000 home. Then there is “on behalf” debt service for state bonds issued for matching funds obtained by the District.

The District also gets a percentage of the 1% ad-valorem General Property Tax. That \$500,000 homeowner pays an additional \$1,300 for that.

The District is already funded at the level voters established with the Gann Expenditure Limit. Measure Y would raise that limit!

The District has 21 schools. A look at district employee compensation in 2015 shows; 19 Principals with average annual compensation of \$169,179; 8 Assistant Principals at \$160,396; and, 6 Principals on special assignment at \$179,067.

The top 200 teachers receive an average annual compensation of \$112,326. And, they are guaranteed a defined benefit pension plan with a huge unfunded liability left to be financed by taxpayers.

<http://transparentcalifornia.com/salaries/2015/school-districts/san-mateo/san-mateo-foster-city/?page=2>

Tell the San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District to be fiscally responsible by voting **NO on Measure Y.**

<http://svtaxpayers.org/2017-san-mateo-foster-city-school-parcel-tax>

- /s/ **Mark W. A. Hinkle** January 17, 2017  
President, Silicon Valley Taxpayers Association
- /s/ **John J. “Jack” Hickey** January 17, 2017  
Healthcare District Director





# Accessible Voting

## in San Mateo County

In order to ensure that every citizen can vote privately, securely and independently, the San Mateo County Registration & Elections Division offers many options for people to cast their vote. Voters may Vote by Mail, Vote In Person or vote via our Mobile Voting Center.

### Voter Information

Information regarding this election is available here in print, electronically as a PDF and through a screen readable link at [www.shapethefuture.org/MyElectionMaterials](http://www.shapethefuture.org/MyElectionMaterials).

### Vote by Mail

Voters must sign the return envelope so it can be compared to the voter's signature on file in accordance with state law. Voters who currently cannot sign the return envelope have three alternatives:

1. The voter can use his or her authorized signature stamp;
2. The voter can make his or her "mark" or print an "X". Then, a witness must write "Witnessed by:" and sign near the mark; or
3. The voter can re-register with their new signature or mark so that the voter registration record has the voter's most recent signature.

### Assistance Available in Person

Voters have access to English, Chinese and Spanish language ballots on all eSlate Voting Machines. The eSlate Disabled Access Unit has an integrated audio ballot reader, accessibility buttons (tactile input switches) and an input jack which may be used for a personal sip-and-puff device. Voters may bring up to two people, including Elections Division staff into the voting booth for assistance. Voters may not bring an employer or union agent.



#### **Voting Center at the Registration & Elections Division** at 40 Tower Road, San Mateo

- Accessible for voting under federal and state regulations and guidelines.
- February 27 to March 27, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Election Day: March 28, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.



#### **Mobile Voting Center** – For voters who are unable to vote at the Voting Center nor on a Vote by Mail ballot

- We can help arrange a ride to a voting location or set up an accessible eSlate voting machine at a convenient location inside or outside a home.
- Service is available February 27 to March 28, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.
- Service is by appointment only. Voters who contact us Monday through Thursday will receive service the following day or sooner. Voters who contact us on Fridays can schedule an appointment for the following Monday or sooner if possible.

\*Special accommodations can be made for service outside established hours.

- To schedule an appointment, call 888.SMC.VOTE (888.762.8683) or email us at [registrar@smcare.org](mailto:registrar@smcare.org) no later than the day before the desired voting date.



Sample Ballot 12000010100011



**SAMPLE BALLOT  
SPECIAL ELECTION  
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
March 28, 2017**

1

**INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:**

Use a black or blue ink pen to mark your choice on the ballot. To vote for your choice in this contest, completely fill in the box provided to the left of your choice.

**MEASURE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS  
SCHOOL**

**SAN MATEO-FOSTER CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
MEASURE Y**

"San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District Quality Education Renewal Measure. To protect local schools from substantial program cuts by renewing local funding that cannot be taken by the State, protect math/science/reading/writing programs, attract/retain qualified teachers/educational staff, keep school libraries open and support art/drama/music programs, shall San Mateo-Foster City Elementary School District renew without increasing, its expiring voter approved education tax at \$209.92 per parcel annually for 9 years, with CPI adjustments, senior exemptions, annual audits, and citizens' oversight?"

- YES
- NO

Sample Ballot

2623031127





**Sample Ballot**12000010200018



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2623031127

**Sample Ballot**