

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE D

The California Constitution and state law authorize a school district, upon approval of two-thirds of the voting electorate, to levy a qualified special tax for specified purposes.

Presently, the Portola Valley Elementary School District annually levies a special tax totaling approximately \$290 per parcel, which tax will expire on June 30, 2014. By this measure, the Board of Trustees of the Portola Valley Elementary School District proposes to levy an additional special tax for a period of four years beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2014. This additional tax shall be at a rate of \$168 per year per parcel on all taxable parcels in the District. The Board of Trustees could lower the rate if it determines that a reduced amount is sufficient to meet the District's budgetary needs.

A parcel shall be defined as any unit of real property in the District which receives a separate tax bill for ad valorem property taxes from the San Mateo County tax collection officials, except that only one tax will be assessed to owners whose property include one or more contiguous parcels. Any property owner aged 65 years or older may qualify for an exemption from the special tax if that property owner occupies the parcel. All property which would otherwise be exempt from ad valorem property taxes will also be exempt from the imposition of the tax.

The stated purposes of the special tax are: instruction in science, math, reading and writing, attract and retain teachers, minimize class increases, programs in art, music and to enhance student achievement. None of the funds shall be used for administrator salaries.

The proceeds of the special tax will be placed into a special account. An independent citizens' oversight committee will be established to monitor the expenditures of the parcel tax revenues. An annual report is required that accounts for the parcel tax revenues collected and the manner in which they have been spent.

A "yes" vote on this measure would allow an additional special tax to be levied on property within the boundaries of the Portola Valley Elementary School District for a period of four years beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2014 in an amount of \$168 per year per taxable parcel. The special tax would be used for: instruction in science, math, reading and writing, attracting and retaining teachers, minimizing class increases, programs in art, music and to enhance student achievement.

A "no" vote on this measure would not allow the additional special tax to be levied.

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