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Resolution # 2015/16-13

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE LIVE OAK SCHOOL DISTRICT CALLING FOR A JUNE 7, 2016 ELECTION TO RENEW EDUCATION AND LOCAL CONTROL PARCEL TAX

WHEREAS, the Live Oak School District (the "District") is devoted to quality, well-rounded public education; and

WHEREAS, the District believes schools with programs in math, science, reading, writing, art and music will attract qualified teachers, make our neighborhoods desirable, attract families and keep our property values strong; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the voters of the District approved an education and local control parcel tax (the "Measure A") for a period of nine years; and

WHEREAS, revenues from the Measure A provide a stable source of funding that support local schools and cannot be taken by the State; and

WHEREAS, stable local funding is needed to maintain our core programs in math, science, reading and writing, to maintain hands-on science classes, such as Life Lab, and to attract and retain highly qualified teachers; and

WHEREAS, unless Measure A is extended by voters, the loss of funding will result in a substantial reduction of educational programs; and

WHEREAS, Article XIII A, Section 4 of the California Constitution and Sections 50075 et seq., of the California Government Code permit a school district to renew a parcel tax for specified purposes and to levy such tax following approval by at least two-thirds of the voters voting upon the proposition; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the District proposes to place a measure on the June 7, 2016 ballot to continue its quality education and local control parcel tax upon parcels of land within the District for the purposes set forth in this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, such renewal will maintain and preserve all existing exemptions to Measure A, without any further application being required from those eligible persons;

WHEREAS, the Board will apply all the proceeds of the parcel tax to support high achieving core academic programs in math, science, reading, writing, music and art, and for uses as set forth in this Resolution, and will not use any of said proceeds for administrator's salaries, benefits or pensions; and

WHEREAS, all expenditures of the parcel tax will continue to be subject to citizen oversight and annual reports to ensure funds are spent appropriately; and

WHEREAS, the Board proposes to continue the parcel tax because the revenues will benefit only the District's schools and cannot be taken by the State of California or by other school districts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Live Oak School District as follows:

Section 1. This Board finds and determines that the foregoing recitals are true and correct.

Section 2. This Board hereby proposes to renew and extend the levy of the quality education and local control parcel tax to provide stable local funding the State cannot take away to help:

- Protect math, science, reading and writing programs;
- Preserve art and music programs;
- Maintain hands-on science classes, such as Life Lab;
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers;
- Support after-school programs to keep children safe; and
- Protect the taxpayers' investment in education and ensure District accountability by providing for taxpayer oversight and independent financial audits of revenues and expenditures.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL ANY OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE QUALITY EDUCATION AND LOCAL CONTROL PARCEL TAX BE USED FOR ADMINISTRATORS' SALARIES, BENEFITS OR PENSIONS.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 50075.1 the Board determines that the proceeds of the quality education and local control parcel tax shall only be applied for the purposes stated above.

Section 3. Subject to voter approval, the existing Measure A parcel tax be continued with a new \$98 per parcel per year quality education and local control parcel tax which will commence on July 1, 2018 shall be continued for twelve years from that date.

As used herein, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the District, for which the applicable Santa Cruz County Assessor/Tax Collector (together, "Tax Collector"), issues a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes; provided, however, that 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 an application of the owners thereof by June 15 of any year to the District be treated as a single parcel for purposes of the levy of this high quality education parcel tax.

Section 4. Subject to voter approval as set forth below, the parcel tax shall be levied commencing with the 2018-2019 (starting on July 1, 2018 upon the expiration of Measure A) fiscal year of the District, and shall be collected with, and in the same manner and subject to the same interest and penalties as, general *ad valorem* taxes collected by the Santa Cruz County Treasurer and Tax Collector. In accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 50075.1(c), the District shall create a separate account into which the proceeds of the special tax shall be deposited.

Section 5. The levy and collection of the parcel tax is not intended to decrease or offset any increase in local, state or federal government funding sources that would otherwise be available to the District at any time during which the parcel tax may be levied. In the event that the levy and collection of the parcel tax does have such an effect, the District shall reduce the parcel tax levy to the extent of any such decrease or offset. Additionally, any persons who are the owner of a Parcel used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes, and either (a) 65 years of age or older on or before June 30 of the fiscal year immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the tax should apply, or (b) 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 levy of the high quality education and local control parcel tax, by submitting to the District an application of such owners or persons, prior to June 15 of any year.

Persons who are owners of Parcels used solely for owner-occupied, single-family residential purposes and who currently receive an exemption from the District's Measure A parcel tax, shall automatically qualify for an exemption from this renewal without needing to file a new application for that exemption.

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

Section 6. The Board shall provide in each year (pursuant to Section 7902.1 of the Government Code) for any increase in the District's appropriation limit as shall be necessary to ensure that proceeds of the parcel tax may be spent for the authorized purposes set forth in Section 2 above and Section 7 below.

Section 7. The Board hereby requests that the Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters submit the measure attached hereto as Exhibit B to the voters of the District and to print the entire Full Ballot Text in the ballot pamphlet to be published and mailed for the election scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

The abbreviated text of the ballot proposition with respect to the foregoing measure shall read as shown in Exhibit A hereto.

The District's Superintendent, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to make any changes to the text of the measure, or to the abbreviated form of the measure, as

may be convenient or necessary to comply with the intent of this Resolution, the requirements of elections officials, and requirements of law.

Section 8. The measure set forth in Exhibits A and B shall be submitted to the voters of the District at an election to be held on June 7, 2016. If approved by at least two-thirds of the voters voting on the measure, the measure shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

Section 9. This Resolution shall stand as the order to the Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters, respectively, to call an election within the boundaries of the District on June 7, 2016. This Board requests that the District election be consolidated with any and all elections to be held within the boundaries of the District on June 7, 2016.

Section 10. The Board hereby requests that the Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters or other appropriate election officials of Santa Cruz County, take all actions which are necessary or appropriate in connection with the election, including, but not limited to, printing and mailing sample ballots, arguments and applications for absentee ballots, canvassing election returns and certifying the results of the election to the Board. The Board hereby agrees to reimburse each of Santa Cruz County in full for any services performed by each for the District upon presentation of an invoice to the District.

Section 11. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools by March 8, 2016 and the Registrars of Voters/Elections Department of Santa Cruz County, as well as the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Santa Cruz County, not later than March 11, 2016, and to give notice of the election by causing the Registrar of Voters/Elections Department to publish the text of the measure and other items, not later than 15 days before the date of the election. The Secretary of the Board is hereby further authorized and directed to post a copy of this Resolution on or near the doors of the District Office and in three public places within the District for at least two weeks before the date of the election.

Section 12. If any section, subsection, phrase or clause of this Resolution is for any reason found to be invalid, such section, subsection, phrase or clause shall be severed from, and shall not affect the validity of, all remaining portions of this Resolution which can be given effect without the severed portion.

Section 13. The members of the Board are hereby authorized, but not directed, to prepare and file with the Santa Cruz County Registrar of Voters/Election Department, respectively, a ballot argument in favor of the proposition contained in Section 7 hereof, within the time established by such Department.

Section 14. Subject to two-thirds approval of the District's voters, the parcel tax shall be collected by the Santa Cruz County Tax Collector, at the same time and manner and shall be subject to the same penalties as *ad valorem* property taxes collected by the Tax Collector. The Parcel Tax shall bear interest at the same rate for unpaid *ad valorem* property taxes until paid.

Section 15. The chief fiscal officer of the District shall, pursuant to Government Code Section 50075.3, file an annual report to the Board of Trustees as provided herein

accounting for the high quality education and local control tax revenues collected and the manner in which they have been spent.

Section 16. The officers of the District are, and each of them acting alone is, hereby directed to take such other actions and to execute such other documents as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

Section 17. Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10400 the Board requests the governing body of any such other political subdivision, or any officer otherwise authorized by law, to partially or completely consolidate such election and to further provide that the canvass be made by anybody or official authorized by law to canvass the returns of the election, and that the Board consents to such consolidation.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Live Oak School District at a regular meeting held on February 23, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES: Clerk Larry Perlin, James Henrikson, Phyllis Greenleaf
and Paul Garcia

NOES: None

ABSTAIN None

:

ABSENT: One

/s/ [Signature]
President, Board of Trustees
Live Oak School District

ATTEST:

/s/ [Signature]
Clerk, Board of Trustees
Live Oak School District

EXHIBIT A

ABBREVIATED BALLOT TEXT

“To protect quality education with funds that cannot be taken by the State, including science, art, music, reading, math and tutoring programs, attract and retain qualified teachers, support library services, and preserve small class sizes and after school programs to keep children safe, shall Live Oak School District renew its existing annual education parcel tax at \$98, for twelve years, with exemptions for senior citizens, citizen oversight, mandatory audits and no money for administrative salaries?”

Yes _____

No _____

EXHIBIT B

START OF FULL BALLOT TEXT

LIVE OAK SCHOOL DISTRICT Education and Local Control Funding Measure __

INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

To continue funding for core programs in math, science and technology, provide local reliable funding for local schools that cannot be taken by the State, attract and retain highly qualified teachers, maintain science programs, such as Life Lab, a hands-on science class, maintain libraries, preserve programs in art and music, with no proceeds used for administrators' salaries, benefits and pensions, the Live Oak School District ("District") proposes to renew and extend its existing education and local control parcel tax for a period of twelve years from its current expiration date (June 30, 2018), starting on July 1, 2018 at a rate of \$98 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:

- Protect math, science, reading and writing programs;
- Preserve art and music programs;
- Maintain hands-on science classes, such as Life Lab;
- Attract and retain highly qualified teachers;
- Support after-school programs to keep children safe; and
- Protect the taxpayers' investment in education and ensure District accountability by providing for taxpayer oversight and independent financial audits of revenues and expenditures.

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

DEFINITION OF "PARCEL"

For purposes of the education and local control parcel tax, the term "Parcel" means any parcel of land which lies wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Live Oak School District, that receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the Santa Cruz 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 education and local control parcel tax in such year.

For purposes of this education and local control 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 and local control 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 Santa Cruz 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 and local control 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 education and local control 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 education and local control 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 and local control 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.

End of Full Ballot Text of Measure

EXHIBIT C

FORMAL NOTICE OF PARCEL TAX ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the qualified electors of the Live Oak School District that in accordance with the provisions of the Government Code of the State of California, an election will be held on June 7, 2016, at which election the following proposition shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the District and voted upon:

"To protect quality education with funds that cannot be taken by the State, including science, art, music, reading, math and tutoring programs, attract and retain qualified teachers, support library services, and preserve small class sizes and after school programs to keep children safe, shall Live Oak School District renew its existing annual education parcel tax at \$98, for twelve years, with exemptions for senior citizens, citizen oversight, mandatory audits and no money for administrative salaries?"

The Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools, by this Notice of Election, has called the election pursuant to a Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Live Oak School District, adopted on February 23, 2016.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of February 2016.



Michael C. Watkins
Santa Cruz County Superintendent of
Schools