

## Ravenswood City School District Frequently Asked Questions

### How are students in our Ravenswood schools performing?

Our Ravenswood schools are improving. Student test scores in reading and math are on the rise. We strive to provide our students with the foundation they need to go to college and get good jobs.

### How are budget cuts impacting our schools?

This will be the fourth year in a row the State has cut funding for Ravenswood schools. This year, our schools are facing a \$5.3 million reduction in State funding. Every effort has been made to keep cuts away from classrooms, but this is no longer possible. Administration, office staff, transportation, supplies, equipment and library services have all been cut severely. District reserves are at the minimum required by law. Nothing is left to cut but teachers and academic instructional program for students.

### Without local funding, what cuts could be required at our schools?

- Layoffs for dozens of teachers
- Increased class sizes in all grades
- Reduced instructional time for students and a shorter school year
- Elimination of specialized programs like art and music
- Elimination of afterschool programs and tutoring
- Closing neighborhood schools

### What is Measure B?

Measure B is a local funding measure for Ravenswood schools that will be voted on by your community in a mail-in ballot election in April and May. Measure B would provide stable, local funding that cannot be taken by the State. Measure B would not prevent all cuts, but it would protect essential core instructional programs.

### How would Measure B support improving student achievement?

Measure B will provide local funding that cannot be taken by the State to:

- Maintain reading, writing and math programs
- Preserve after-school programs that keep kids off the streets and focused on academics
- Minimize the impact on the length of the school day and instructional time for students
- Provide training and support for teachers
- Provide programs that get parents involved in their child's education
- Minimize class size increases

### Won't Measure B funds just be taken away by the State?

No. By law, Measure B funds cannot be taken away by Sacramento. All funds must stay locally to benefit schools in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park.

### How much will Measure B cost?

Measure B will add \$98 per parcel per year to our existing local funding measure. Senior citizens are eligible for an exemption.

#### How can I be sure these funds will be used as promised?

- All funds from Measure B will go directly to our Ravenswood schools and cannot be taken by the State
- Independent annual audits are mandatory
- Seniors are eligible for an exemption
- Measure B will extend our local funding measure, adds \$98 per parcel per year and cannot be increased without voter approval
- Measure B will expire in seven years and cannot be renewed without voter approval

#### Does Measure B contain exemptions from the parcel tax?

Yes. Any property owner aged 65 or older may qualify for an exemption from the parcel tax.

#### Doesn't the District already have a local funding measure?

Yes, in 2004, over 74% of voters approved a local funding measure to support our schools. Voters renewed this measure in 2008 and approval of Measure B would renew it once again. In addition, Measure B would increase the parcel tax by \$98 to help offset state funding reductions and cuts to classroom instruction.

#### What schools will benefit from Measure B?

All schools in the Ravenswood City School District currently receiving funding from the 2004 local funding measure will receive funding from Measure B. These schools include: Belle Haven Elementary, Brentwood Academy, Cesar Chavez Academy, Costano Elementary, Green Oaks Academy, James Flood Academy, Ronald McNair Academy and Willow Oaks Academy.

#### Who can vote on Measure B?

All registered voters residing in Ravenswood City School District may vote on Measure B. You will likely receive a ballot in the mail in early April.

#### What level of support is required for Measure B to pass?

For Measure B to pass, it must receive yes votes from at least 66.7% of those who cast ballots in this election.

#### I am not registered to vote. Can I still register to vote for this election?

You may register to vote in this election until April 18. To register to vote, call (650) 312-5222 or visit [www.shapethefuture.com](http://www.shapethefuture.com).

#### How do I vote in this mail-in ballot election?

This is a mail-in ballot election. There are NO polling places. You will receive a ballot in the mail at the beginning of April. You must return your completed ballot so that it is received

by May 3. Postmarks don't count. The last day to register to vote in this election is April 18.

**Where can I get more information?**

For more information, please visit <http://www.ravenswood.k12.ca.us> or call (650) 329 – 2800 ext. 60121.