

RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Talking Points for Measure B

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

Now our schools are facing \$5.3 million in state funding cuts. This will be the fourth year in a row the State has cut funding for Ravenswood schools. 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 programs for students.

Without stable local funding, deep cuts will be unavoidable.

These types of cuts could include:

- 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

Measure B would provide stable, local funding that could not be taken away by the State. Voter approval of Measure B will not prevent all of the cuts but will protect essential core instructional programs, including:

- 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

Measure B requires strict taxpayer protections to ensure funds are spent as promised.

- All funds from Measure B would 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 expire in seven years and cannot be renewed without voter approval

To vote on Measure B, return your mail-in ballot before May 3. 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. The county must receive your completed ballot before May 3. Postmarks don't count. The last day to register to vote in this election is April 18.