

RESOLUTION 2324-13

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE PETALUMA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF THE COUNTIES OF SONOMA AND MARIN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
CALLING AN ELECTION FOR APPROVAL OF AN EDUCATION PARCEL TAX,
ESTABLISHING SPECIFICATIONS OF THE ELECTION ORDER, AND REQUESTING
CONSOLIDATION WITH OTHER ELECTIONS OCCURRING ON MARCH 5, 2024**

WHEREAS, Petaluma Joint Union High School District ("District") and Petaluma City Elementary School District (together "Petaluma City Schools") provide a high-quality education for approximately 7,200 students attending seven elementary schools, nine secondary schools and an adult education school serving the greater Petaluma area; and

WHEREAS, thanks to excellent teachers and strong support for local junior high and high schools from parents and the community, local students graduate prepared for college and in-demand careers; and

WHEREAS, nationally, the State ranks among the lowest in funding per student provided to public schools and Petaluma City Schools receives far less funding than many school districts in the North Bay; and

WHEREAS, over the last three years, Petaluma City Schools has lost close to 40% of local teachers, with many leaving to work in other nearby school districts that offer higher compensation; and

WHEREAS, many Petaluma teachers and school employees have had to take on second and even third jobs in order to support themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, having a great teacher in the classroom is the most important element of providing a quality education for students and experienced teachers support high-quality instruction in science, technology, engineering, math, writing, arts and music; and

WHEREAS, due to inadequate state funding, this Board of Education ("Board") believes that locally controlled funding from a school parcel tax is important for keeping great teachers in local classrooms and protecting quality academic programs in local schools and is putting forth a ballot measure for local voters to consider enhanced funding for local junior high schools and high schools that cannot be taken away by the State; and

WHEREAS, if approved by local voters, funds from the local school parcel tax measure would be used to attract and retain excellent teachers; enhance science, technology, engineering, math and writing opportunities for students; maintain smaller class sizes; provide school librarians and keep school libraries open; and prepare students for college and careers; and

WHEREAS, the measure would require fiscal accountability protections, including an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and mandatory annual audits to ensure funds are spent as promised; and

WHEREAS, none of the money raised by the parcel tax measure could be used for administrators' salaries or pensions; and

WHEREAS, all funds from the measure must stay local to benefit local junior high schools and high schools only and no funds could be taken by the State or used for other purposes; and

WHEREAS, homeowners age 65 and over and certain low-income people with disabilities would be eligible for an exemption from the cost of the measure; and

WHEREAS, the Board believes that, even if you do not have school-age children, investing in quality local schools supports a strong community and strong property values; and

WHEREAS, California Constitution, Article XIII A, section 4 and Government Code sections 50075 et seq. authorizes the District, upon approval of two-thirds of the electorate, to levy qualified special taxes on real property in the District for the purpose of providing quality educational programs in the District and other lawful purposes of the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Education Code section 5303, with respect to school districts, such as the District, which are situated in two or more counties, the county elections officials in the counties in which any part of the District territory is situated, shall, by mutual agreement, provide for the performance of those duties; and

WHEREAS, in the judgment of this Board, following a public hearing and comment, it is advisable to request that the Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools and Marin County Superintendent of Schools ("County Superintendents") call an election and submit to the voters of the District the question of whether the District shall levy a qualified special tax within the District, for the purpose of raising revenue for the District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Education Code and Elections Code such election may be completely or partially consolidated with any other election held on the same day and in the same territory or territory that is in part the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DETERMINED AND ORDERED as follows:

Section 1. Recitals. The Board hereby finds and determines that the foregoing recitals are true and correct.

Section 2. Resolution Constitutes Order of Election. This resolution shall constitute an order of election pursuant to the Education Code to the Sonoma County Superintendent of Schools and Marin County Superintendent of Schools ("County Superintendents") to call an election within the boundaries of the District on March 5, 2024. The Sonoma County Registrar of Voters and Marin County Registrar of Voters ("County Registrars") are hereby requested to determine which of the County Registrars shall conduct the election on behalf of the District in accordance with Education Code section 5303.

Section 3. Date and Purpose of Measure. Pursuant to the California Constitution and Government Code, an election shall be held within the boundaries of the District on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, for the purpose of voting on a measure ("Measure") which will be presented to voters in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit A**, containing the question of whether the District shall impose a qualified special tax for the educational purposes stated therein. In addition, the full text of the Measure ("Full Ballot Text") shall appear in the ballot pamphlet in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

Section 4. Collection of the Tax. Beginning July 1, 2024, if adopted by voters, the qualified special tax shall be collected by the County Tax Collectors of each of Sonoma County and Marin County ("County Tax Collectors"), at the same time, in the same manner, and subject to the same penalties as *ad valorem* property taxes collected by the County Tax Collectors for their respective jurisdictions. Unpaid special taxes shall bear interest at the same rate as the rate for unpaid *ad valorem* property taxes until paid. With respect to all general property tax matters within their respective jurisdictions, the County Tax Collectors 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 special tax, including the exemptions, the application of the definition of "Parcel of Taxable Real Property" to any parcel(s), the legality or validity of the special tax, or any other disputed matter specific to the application of the special tax, the decisions of the District shall be final and binding.

Section 5. Authority for Ordering Election. The authority for ordering the election is contained in the Education Code, Elections Code, Government Code, and California Constitution.

Section 6. Authority for Specifications. The authority for the specification of this election order is contained in the Education Code.

Section 7. Resolution to County Officials. The Secretary to the Board is hereby directed to cause certified copies of this Resolution and order to be delivered no later than December 6, 2023, to the County Superintendents, the Sonoma County Registrar of Voters and Marin County Registrar of Voters ("Registrars"), and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County and the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Marin County ("County Boards").

Section 8. Formal Notice. The County Superintendents are hereby requested to prepare and execute a Formal Notice of Parcel Tax Election and consolidation order in substantially the forms attached hereto as **Exhibit C** and **Exhibit D** (the "Formal Notices"), and to call the election by causing the respective Formal Notices to be posted in accordance with the applicable law no later than December 6, 2023, or to otherwise cause the notice to be published as permitted by law. The Secretary to the Board, on behalf of and as may be requested by the County Superintendents, is authorized to cause all notices required by law in connection herewith to be published and posted, as the case may be.

Section 9. Conduct of Election.

- (a) *Request to Registrar.* Pursuant to State law, the Registrars are requested to take all steps to hold the election on March 5, 2024, in accordance with law and these specifications, including the determination of whether the Sonoma County or Marin County Registrar will act as the elections official. The election may be consolidated with another election as specified below, if such consolidation is feasible and appropriate.
- (b) *Voter Pamphlet.* The Registrars are hereby requested to reprint the Full Ballot Text in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B** in the voter information pamphlet to be distributed to voters pursuant to the Elections Code. In the event the Full Ballot Text will not be reprinted in the voter information pamphlet in its entirety, the Registrars are hereby requested to

print, immediately below the impartial analysis of the Measure, in no less than 10-point boldface type, a legend substantially as follows:

"The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure ____. If you desire a copy of the Measure, please call the County Registrar of Voters at {phone number} and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you."

- (c) *Consolidation.* The County Superintendents and the County Boards are hereby requested to consolidate the election ordered hereby with any and all other elections as may be held on the same day in the same territory or in territory that is in part the same.
- (d) *Canvass and Declaration of Results.* The County Boards are authorized to canvass the returns of the election and declare the result pursuant to the Elections Code.
- (e) *Cost of Election.* The District will reimburse the Registrars and the Counties for costs associated with the election as required by law.

Section 10. Appropriations Limit. The Board shall provide in each year for an increase in the District's appropriations limit as shall be necessary to ensure that the proceeds of the special tax may be spent for the authorized purposes.

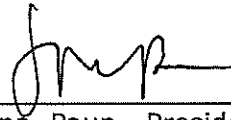
Section 11. Ballot Arguments. The Board President and/or their designees are hereby authorized to prepare and file with the Registrars any ballot argument prepared in connection with the election, including a rebuttal argument, each within the time established by the Registrars, which shall be considered the official ballot arguments of the Board as sponsor of the Measure and to take all necessary action to prevent inclusion of false and/or misleading information in ballot materials related to the Measure.

Section 12. Official Actions. The District Superintendent, Board President, or their designees are hereby authorized to execute any other document and to perform all acts necessary to place the Measure on the ballot, including making alterations to the Measure and Full Ballot Text stated in **Exhibits A and B** hereto, and to this Resolution, to comply with requirements of law and election officials or which are, in the judgment of the Superintendent and/or Board President, in the best interests of the District.

Section 13. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption.

The foregoing resolution was introduced by QUINN, who moved its adoption, seconded by CLOUD, and adopted on November 14, 2023 by the following vote:

CLOUD:AYE GEN:AYE PAUN:AYE QUINN:AYE WEBSTER: AYE



Joanna Paun, President of the Board of
Education of the Petaluma Joint Union
High School District

ATTEST:



Matthew Harris, Secretary of the Board of
Education of the Petaluma Joint Union
High School District

EXHIBIT A

Summary of Measure

The Measure shall be summarized in the following form, and the County of Sonoma Registrar of Voters and County of Marin Registrar of Voters are requested to cause this summary of the Measure to appear on the ballot:

***** Begin Summary Text *****

Petaluma Joint Union High School District Educational Excellence Measure. To provide locally controlled funding for local junior high/ high schools that cannot be taken away by the state to attract/ retain excellent teachers; enhance math, science, engineering, technology, writing programs; maintain smaller class sizes; and prepare students for college/ careers, shall Petaluma Joint Union High School District's measure be adopted levying an \$89 educational parcel tax, raising \$2,200,000 annually, for 8 years, with exemptions for seniors, no funds for administrators' salaries and independent citizen oversight?

***** End Summary Text *****