

REPORT

To the Honorable Mayor and City Council
From the City Manager

March 28, 2005

Subject

Resolution supporting Measure V, the "Redwood City School District Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Act of 2005."

Recommendation

Adopt a resolution supporting Measure V, which will be placed before the voters as a mail-in only ballot, with the election to be held on May 3, 2005.

Background

Over the last four years, the Redwood City School District has been forced to cut approximately \$8 million from its budget, to offset funding losses and take-aways from the State. Despite these cuts, the District has so far been able to preserve teaching and librarian positions. However, with a \$3.5 million budget deficit projected for next fiscal year, layoffs of teachers and librarians are imminent.

In order to forestall such layoffs and maintain the high standards of quality education provided by the Redwood City School District (illustrated by its Countywide fastest-rising test scores), the District has put on the ballot a special tax requiring a two-thirds majority for passage.

Without this \$85-per-year, five-year parcel tax, the Redwood City School District has noted that it will be forced to impose these budget cuts:

- Elimination of 57 teachers and the small class-size program (forcing an increase in class size from 20 to 29 students for all K-3 classes)
- Elimination of 50% of all librarians and reducing library hours by one-half
- Elimination of all District music programs and teachers
- Reduction in reading and math program specialists, who focus on struggling students
- Reduction in programs for gifted students
- Reduction in middle school intervention programs

If passed by the voters, funds from this measure will provide an estimated \$3.3 million annually to the School District. This parcel tax cannot be spent on facilities, salary increases, or administrators. The language of the measure specifies that the funds will be used to maintain small class sizes, fund school library programs and music programs, retain reading and math intervention specialists, and fund programs for advanced teacher development, gifted and talented students, and middle school intervention.

This measure proposes a parcel tax, so only property owners within the Redwood City School District boundaries would pay the special tax. With some exemptions, all owners of residential and vacant parcels would pay \$85 per year. Owners of commercial properties will pay an amount, as defined in the measure's language, depending on the size of the parcel (generally ranging from \$200 to \$2,500 annually).

The measure also includes the provision that an independent oversight committee made up of community leaders and qualified volunteers would be created to monitor and audit parcel tax funds to ensure they are spent only in voter approved funding categories.

California State law provides that a school district may call for an election by mail-only ballot. These ballots will be mailed to every eligible registered voter within the District's boundaries on or about April 4th, 2005 and must be filled out and returned to the San Mateo County Elections Office no later than 8:00 pm, Tuesday May 3rd, 2005.

"Youth and Education" is one of the City Council's key priorities, and support of this measure will clearly demonstrate this priority to the greater community. A well-funded local school district results in a multitude of benefits for the local city as well as the community at-large, not the least of which are proper preparation for higher education, reduced costs for remedial and special education, less youth entering the criminal justice system, better preparation to enter the work force, and a reduced need for future welfare benefits.

Alternative

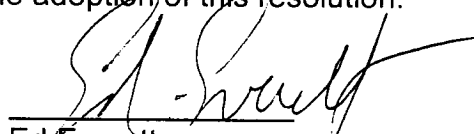
The Council could choose not to adopt this resolution and therefore not go on record in support of a special five-year parcel tax to fund the Redwood City School District.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the City associated with the adoption of this resolution.



Malcolm Smith
Public Communications Manager



Ed Everett
City Manager

Attachments

Draft Resolution

Official Voter Information Pamphlet for the Special Mail Ballot Election, including:

- Full text of Measure V
- San Mateo County's impartial analysis of the measure
- Arguments and rebuttals for and against the measure
- Explanation of the Mail Ballot Election process

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEASURE V, REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT FUNDING FOR CLASSROOM EDUCATION EXCELLENCE ACT OF 2005

WHEREAS, youth and education comprise one of the City Council's key priorities, and a high-quality education for our community's youth carries with it a multitude of both short- and long-term community-wide benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Redwood City School District has shown dramatic improvement in its API (Academic Performance Index) test scores over the last five years, despite the fact that the District has been forced to cut its budget by approximately \$8 million in that same time period; and

WHEREAS, the District's performance illustrates its commitment to providing a high-quality education to all of its students, nearly half of whom are English learners, highlights its ability to allocate its funding where it will have the most impact, and clearly shows that it is doing a superb job even with the drastically reduced budget forced on it by State funding cuts and take-aways; and

WHEREAS, despite its best efforts, the District is faced with an estimated \$3.5 million budget deficit for the next fiscal year, and without additional funding will be forced to lay off 57 teachers (forcing an increase in class size from 20 to 29 students for all K-3 classes), eliminate 50% of its librarian positions and reduce library hours by one-half, eliminate all District music programs and teaching positions, reduce the availability of reading and math program specialists, who focus on struggling students, reduce programs for gifted students, and reduce programs for middle school intervention; and

WHEREAS, in light of the reality of these devastating reductions and their likely impact on students, the District has placed on the May 3, 2005 ballot a funding measure in the form of a five-year, \$85 per year parcel tax; and

WHEREAS, if passed by the voters, these funds (approximately \$3.3 million annually) will be used only to maintain small class sizes, fund school library programs and music programs, retain reading and math intervention specialists, and fund programs for advanced teacher development, gifted and talented students, and middle school intervention; and

WHEREAS, the language of Measure V specifies that an independent oversight committee made up of community leaders and qualified volunteers would be created to monitor and audit parcel tax funds to ensure they are spent only in voter approved funding categories; and

WHEREAS, passage of this measure will have a widespread and significant positive impact in maintaining and improving the quality of education in the Redwood City School District, which in turn will provide community-wide benefits to Redwood City including proper preparation for higher education, reduced costs for remedial and special education, less youth entering the criminal justice system, better preparation to enter the work force, and a reduced need for future welfare benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Redwood City that we hereby express strong support for Measure V, the Redwood City School District Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Act of 2005, on the May 3 Special Mail Ballot Election.

* * *



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Voter Information Pamphlet

SPECIAL MAIL BALLOT ELECTION REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2005

Si usted desea recibir su boleta electoral
y el Folleto de Información para el
Votante en español, por favor llame a
nuestra oficina al
1.888.SMC.VOTE (1.888.762.8583)

如果你希望收到中文的選票和選民
資料手冊，請致電我們的辦公室：
1.888.SMC.VOTE (1.888.762.8583)

How To Contact Us

Telephone: 650.312.5222
Fax: 650.312.5348
TTY: 650.522.8905

E-mail: registrar@smcare.org
Website: www.shapethefuture.org

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REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
MAY 3, 2005

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Printed on
Recycled Paper

ALL-MAIL BALLOT ELECTIONS: How they work

All-Mail Ballot Elections:

The election will be wholly conducted by mail. Every eligible registered voter in the Redwood City School District will receive a packet in the mail, beginning April 5, to include a voter information pamphlet, the official ballot, voting instructions and a postage-paid return envelope to vote by mail. Voters may also drop off their voted ballots at the Election Section of 555 County Center (1st floor of the Assessor/Clerk/Recorder & Chief Elections Officer) in Redwood City or at the main Elections Division Office at 40 Tower Road in San Mateo. No polling places will be open on Election Day. All votes will come through the mail or at the drop off boxes in the Elections Offices from April 4 until 8:00 pm Election Day, Tuesday, May 3, 2005.

Background:

State law permits school districts to call for a special election to be conducted by all-mail ballots. The turnout for all-mail elections is typically greater. In San Mateo County, the turnout rates for absentee voters (those who choose to always vote by mail every election) is 87%. The State of Oregon has adopted all-mail elections for every election and their turnout rates are 85%, among the highest in the nation.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

**THIS IS AN ALL-MAIL BALLOT ELECTION
THERE WILL BE NO POLLING PLACES**

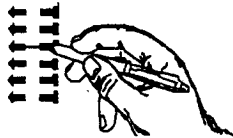
To vote, mark your choice on the enclosed ballot and return it using the return/identification envelope provided or drop it off in person at one of the locations listed below.

VOTE EARLY! Your ballot must be received by 8:00 p.m. on May 3, 2005 to be counted.

How To Mark Your Ballot

1. Using a black or blue ink pen (not a felt pen), complete the arrow pointing to your selection.
2. If you make an error on your ballot and need a new one sent to you, put the ballot in the return envelope, mark an X in the box on the upper left hand side on the flap of your return envelope and return it to the Elections Office as early as possible to allow enough time for postal delivery.
3. DO NOT sign or initial your ballot.

Example:



Preparing Your Return Envelope

1. Sign your name in the signature box under the flap of the return envelope.
2. Print your San Mateo County residence address and today's date.
3. Fold your voted ballot and insert it into the return envelope.
4. Peel both strips and seal the envelope. This will keep your information confidential.

Reminder: Your return voted ballot envelope is postage paid - No stamp is necessary.

Returning Your Voted Ballot

Mail your voted ballot using the postage paid envelope enclosed or hand deliver it no later than 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3rd, Election Day, to one of the following locations:

**San Mateo County Elections
40 Tower Road
San Mateo**

**Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder
555 County Center, 1st Floor
Redwood City**

A voter who, because of illness or other physical disability, is unable to return his/her ballot, may designate his/her spouse, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, or sister, or a person residing in the same household to return the ballot to one of the locations listed above.

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF OR IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED LAWS ARE THE OPINIONS OF THE AUTHORS
REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

MEASURE V

"In order to maintain and improve quality educational programs; attract and retain quality teachers; maintain library programs; improve math and science programs; maintain music classes; preserve small class size; and provide special needs programs; shall the Redwood City School District levy a parcel tax for 5 years on commercial/industrial property square footage; and on residences of \$85 per parcel with an exemption for seniors 65 years and older, with mandatory citizen oversight?"

FULL TEXT

**REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FUNDING FOR CLASSROOM EDUCATION EXCELLENCE ACT OF
2005**

This Proposition may be known and referred to as the "Redwood City School District Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Act of 2005" or as "Measure V."

TERMS OF THE

FUNDING FOR CLASSROOM EDUCATION EXCELLENCE ACT

Terms and Purposes. Upon approval of two-thirds of those voting on this measure, the District shall be authorized to levy a qualified special tax of:

- i) \$85 per year for five (5) years on each parcel of taxable residential real property in the District containing less than five dwelling units, commencing July 1, 2005;
- ii) \$85 per year for five (5) years on each parcel of taxable vacant real property in the District, commencing July 1, 2005;
- iii) \$200 per year for five (5) years on each parcel of taxable commercial or industrial real property in the District whose area is 14,999 square feet or less, commencing July 1, 2005;
- iv) \$750 per year for five (5) years on each parcel of taxable commercial or industrial real property in the District whose area is greater than 14,999 square feet but less than 25,000 square feet, commencing July 1, 2005;
- v) \$1,000 per year for five (5) years on each parcel of taxable commercial or industrial real property in the District whose area is equal to or greater than 25,000 square feet but less than 45,000 square feet, commencing July 1, 2005;
- vi) \$2,500 per year for five (5) years on each parcel of taxable commercial or industrial real property in the District whose area is equal to or greater than 45,000 square feet, commencing July 1, 2005.

The qualified special tax shall be known and referred to as the "Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax". Proceeds of the tax shall be authorized to be used for District uses as follows:

<u>PURPOSE</u>		<u>ANTICIPATED PROCEEDS</u>
Maintain School Library Programs	(23.71%)	\$ 793,000
Maintain Reading and Math Intervention Programs	(8.85%)	296,000
Maintain Music Programs	(14.66%)	490,000
Preserve Small Class Size	(31.46%)	1,052,000
Re-institute Advanced Teacher Development Programs	(11.60%)	388,000
Maintain Gifted and Talented Program and Middle Years Intervention Program	(9.72%)	325,000
TOTAL	(100%)	\$3,344,000

Should the proceeds of the tax be a total sum that is different than the anticipated \$3,344,000, then the amounts expended for each of the

purposes listed shall be proportionate to the actual sum by applying the percentages shown.

Senior Citizen Exemption. In order to provide tax relief to senior citizens in the community, any residential parcel owned and occupied by a person 65 years of age or older shall be exempt from the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax upon proper application to the District. The exemption shall be available pursuant to procedures to be prescribed by the Board of Education or otherwise as required by law or by the San Mateo County Tax Collector.

ACCOUNTABILITY PROVISIONS

Annual Audit. Upon the levy and collection of the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax, the Board of Education shall cause an account to be established for deposit of the proceeds. For so long as any proceeds of the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax remain unexpended, the Superintendent or chief financial officer of the District shall cause a report to be filed with the Board of Education no later than December 31 of each year, commencing December 31, 2005, stating (1) the amount of Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax received and expended in such year, and (2) the description and status of the programs funded from proceeds of the tax. The report may relate to the calendar year, fiscal year, or other appropriate annual period, as the Superintendent shall determine, and may be incorporated into or filed with the annual budget, audit, or other appropriate routine report to the Board of Education.

Specific Purposes. All of the purposes named in the measure shall constitute the specific purposes of the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax, and proceeds of the tax shall be applied only for such purposes.

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee. If this proposition is approved by the voters, then within 60 days of the date when the results of the election appear in the minutes of the Board of Education, the Board of Education shall establish an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure that the proceeds of the tax are expended only for the purposes named in the measure.

Appropriations Limit. The Board of Education shall provide in each year (pursuant to Section 7902.1 of the Government Code or any successor provision of law) for any increase in the District's appropriations limit as shall be necessary to ensure that proceeds of the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax, and of all qualified special taxes levied by the District, may be spent for the authorized purposes, and an election shall be conducted by the District for such purpose only if required by the general laws of the State applicable to school district qualified special taxes.

LEVY AND COLLECTION

The Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax shall be collected by the San Mateo County tax collection officials at the same time and in the same manner, and shall be subject to the same penalties, as *ad valorem* property taxes collected by the San Mateo County tax collection officials. Unpaid taxes shall bear interest at the same rate as the rate for unpaid *ad valorem* property taxes until paid. The collection of the Funding

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REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

for Classroom Education Excellence Tax shall not decrease the funds available from other sources of the District in any period from the effective date hereof.

"Parcel of taxable real property" 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. All property, which is otherwise exempt from or on which are levied no *ad valorem* property taxes in any year shall also be exempt from the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax in such year. Parcels of residential real property owned and occupied by persons 65 years of age or older may be exempt from the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax as described above by request.

"Except that a parcel of residential real property containing 5 or more dwelling units shall, for purposes of this tax, be considered commercial property, whether a parcel of taxable real property is residential real property, vacant real property, or commercial or industrial real property, and the square footage thereof, shall in the first instance be as indicated on the rolls of the San Mateo County Assessor. If no such indication is so provided, then such status and size shall be determined pursuant to procedures to be prescribed by the Board of Education or otherwise as required by law.

The District shall annually provide a list of parcels, which the District has approved, for a Senior Citizen Exemption from the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax as described above, to the San Mateo County tax collection officials. The San Mateo County Assessor's determination of exemption or relief for any reason of any parcel from taxation, other than through the Senior Citizen Exemption, shall be final and binding for the purposes of the Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Tax. Taxpayers wishing to challenge the County Assessor's determination must do so under the procedures for correcting a misclassification of property pursuant to Section 4876.5 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code or other applicable procedures. Taxpayers seeking a refund of Funding for Classroom Education Excellence Taxes paid, shall follow the procedures applicable to property tax refunds pursuant to the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

SEVERABILITY

The Board of Education hereby declares, and the voters by approving this measure concur, that every section, paragraph, sentence and clause of this measure has independent value, and the Board of Education and the voters would have adopted each provision hereof regardless of every other provision hereof. Upon approval of this measure by the voters, should any part be found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, all remaining parts hereof shall remain in full force and effect to the fullest extent allowed by law.

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE V

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.

By this measure, the Board of Trustees of the Redwood City School District propose to levy a special tax for a period of five years beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010. This tax shall not exceed the annual rates on each taxable parcel in the District as follows: \$85 residential containing less than five dwelling units, \$85 vacant, \$200 commercial or industrial whose area is 14,999 square feet or less, \$750 commercial or industrial whose area is greater than 14,999 square feet but less than 25,000 square feet, \$1,000 commercial or industrial whose area is equal to or greater than 25,000 square feet but less than 45,000 square feet and \$2,500 commercial or industrial whose area is equal to or greater than 45,000 square feet. Residential parcels containing five or more dwelling units will be considered as commercial properties.

A parcel shall be defined as any unit of land in the District which receives a separate tax bill for *ad valorem* property taxes from the San Mateo County tax collection officials. All property which would otherwise be exempt from property taxes will also be exempt from the imposition of the tax. Any property owner aged 65 years or older may qualify for an exemption from the special tax if that property owner occupies the parcel.

The stated purposes of the special tax are to reinstitute advanced teacher development programs, maintain small class sizes and to maintain the following programs: school library, reading, math, music, gifted and talented, and middle years intervention.

The proceeds of the special tax will be placed into a special account. An annual report is required that accounts for the parcel tax revenues collected and the manner in which they have been spent.

This measure would also increase the District's appropriations limit in an amount equal to the levy of the special tax for that year, as permitted by Article XIIB, section 4 of the California Constitution.

A "yes" vote on this measure would allow a special tax to be levied on property within the boundaries of the Redwood City School District for a period of five years beginning July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2010 at rates per parcel of \$85 for residential and vacant property and from \$200 to \$2,500 for commercial or industrial property depending on the square footage. The tax would be used for small class sizes, school library programs, reading, math, music, gifted and talented, middle years intervention and advanced teacher development. It would also allow the appropriations (spending) limit to be raised.

A "no" vote on this measure would not allow the special tax to be levied and would not allow the appropriations limit to be raised.

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

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REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V

On going State fiscal problems and state raids on local school tax dollars have sharply reduced funding to the Redwood City School District. In the past four years, the District has been forced to cut \$8 million from its budget. So far those cuts have not resulted in one classroom teacher or librarian losing their job. Unfortunately, \$3.5 million must be cut in the next school year and layoffs of teachers and librarians cannot be avoided.

There is nothing else left to cut but teachers and classroom programs.

To meet this crisis, we are asking District residents to pass Measure V and approve an \$85 tax per residential parcel per year. Commercial properties will pay based on the size of their parcel. A special exemption for senior homeowners will be available to all those 65 or older. And, the tax will expire after 5 years.

Measure V funds will be strictly allocated to fund valuable academic programs and services in order to:

- Attract and retain quality teachers and staff
- Maintain small class size
- Maintain school library programs
- Continue all music programs
- Maintain intensive reading and math programs

This money will be controlled locally- so the State can't take it away. No funds may be spent on facilities or administrators' salaries.

An Independent Oversight Committee, made up of community and business leaders, will monitor funds to be sure they are spent in strict compliance with the ballot measure funding categories. **Annual audits will be conducted** and published for public review.

Local funding is the best and most direct way to provide the 8,600 children in our local schools with a quality education without State interference. Please join us to **support educational excellence** in our Redwood City schools with a **Yes vote on Measure V**.

- /s/ Don Horsley February 9, 2005
San Mateo County Sheriff
- /s/ Barbara Pierce February 7, 2005
Redwood City Vice Mayor
- /s/ Geary Lloyd February 8, 2005
Former Redwood City Senior Affairs Commissioner
- /s/ Maria Diaz-Slocum February 9, 2005
Redwood City School Board President
- /s/ Keith Bautista February 9, 2005
Redwood City/San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce Past Chairman

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE V

- They have it backwards: Schools soak up revenues that once funded other agencies, and now schools consume 46% of California's state budget.
- Their "fiscal crisis" is like Bush's "weapons of mass destruction". They seek to instill fear, but the facts refute the hype:

	Revenue per <u>Student</u>	Students (<u>ADA</u>)	Teachers (<u>FTE</u>)	Students per <u>Teacher</u>
1992-1993	\$ 3958	8,259	368.1	22.4
-1994	4118	8,249	374.7	22.0
-1995	4416	8,383	385.2	21.8
-1996	5197	8,770	416.0	21.1
-1997	5274	9,106	466.6	19.5
-1998	5913	9,191	535.4	17.2
-1999	6133	8,929	537.9	16.6
-2000	6921	9,105	553.0	16.5
-2001	7864	8,914	551.3	16.2
-2002	8648	7,950	544.0	14.6
-2003	8630	7,885	532.2	14.8

- Flush with money, the District went on a spending spree, hiring >150 teachers (many outside the classroom) beyond those needed for a 23:1 student/teacher ratio. We have a payroll-padding problem, not a "fiscal crisis".
- Higher taxes on apartment buildings and businesses mean higher rents and less money to pay employees.
- There is nothing so permanent as a "temporary tax". —And we're already paying for 2 bond issues in this district; another for the College of San Mateo; and 3 more for the Sequoia Union High School District.
- Any "citizen's oversight committee" appointed by the selfsame school board is meaningless.
- Parents would be better off spending the \$425 (5 * \$85) on their own children.

- /s/ John J. "Jack" Hickey February 22, 2005
Chair, Libertarian Party of San Mateo County
- /s/ Reino I. Wantin February 22, 2005
Retiree
- /s/ Laura Oliphant February 18, 2005
Parent
- /s/ Margret Buckley Schmidt February 21, 2005
Parent
- /s/ Christopher VA Schmidt February 18, 2005
Redwood City resident of 22 years

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REDWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE V

"Buy This Magazine or We Kill This Dog"

When *Harvard Lampoon* put that headline on its cover, it was a good-natured joke. Similar threats by school officials, however, are just bad taste—and deceitful besides.

There is no chance whatsoever that district officials would actually fire the best teachers, adopt an inferior math curriculum, or throw special needs students out on the street if you didn't vote for this parcel tax.

Our schools are extremely well funded.

The Redwood City School District receives approximately \$180,000 per classroom of 23 students per year, funded primarily by steadily increasing property tax receipts.

That's enough to pay teachers *very good* wages (averaging roughly \$60,000 in salary and benefits for a 10-month year), with *plenty* left over (roughly \$120,000 per classroom) for overhead, building maintenance, and other goodies.

We don't lie. Check the data yourself at
<http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/dev/District.asp>

The District's shifting allocations of revenue demonstrate spending preferences—not a shortage of money! Drive by our schools, and you'll see by the luxuriant lawns and expensive curved rooflines, that the board's priorities are those of a country club—not a struggling school system.

We already rejected this tax...

The District tried before, in 1993, making similar claims of impending spending cuts. That parcel tax measure failed by a wide margin.

...but revenue more than doubled without it!

Subsequently, revenue grew from \$33 million to \$68 million (a 71% increase, adjusted for inflation).

While the number of students attending District schools fell by 5%, the number of teachers was increased by 37%.

Put another way, spending could be reduced 30%, and the District would still have a budget larger than a decade earlier, even *without* a parcel tax!

Unnecessary.

Please vote against this greedy money grab!

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| /s/ John J. "Jack" Hickey
Chair, Libertarian Party of San Mateo County | February 11, 2005 |
| /s/ Jo Lene Hickey
Great Grandmother | February 11, 2005 |
| /s/ Margret Schmidt
Redwood City Parent | February 11, 2005 |
| /s/ Christopher VA Schmidt
Retired Computer Professional | February 11, 2005 |

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE V

Measure V will provide the funds needed to save the teachers and quality educational programs our children need and deserve. State funding for education continues to decrease annually.

Please join us and vote YES on Measure V.

Because of State fiscal problems, the district has cut its budget in each of the last five years. Next year's cuts will total \$3.5 million. Teachers will be eliminated, class sizes will be increased, school library hours will be reduced, music programs eliminated, and math, science, and reading programs cut.

We are asking Redwood City School District residents to approve an annual \$85 per residential parcel tax that will expire in 5 years. Senior citizens can apply for an exemption. Commercial property will pay more, based on a sliding scale. Churches, hospitals and non-profits are exempt.

By law, Measure V funds will only pay for:

- Hiring and retaining quality teachers.
- Keeping class sizes small.
- Funding music programs.
- Maintaining school library hours.
- Keeping math, science, and reading programs.

Measure V is the only school parcel tax in San Mateo County history that mandates specific funding categories and voluntarily requires a Citizens Oversight Committee be formed to guarantee funds are spent appropriately.

Libertarian Party members signed the argument against Measure V. Their arguments are grossly inaccurate and purposely misleading.

Please join our broad-based community coalition of homeowners, seniors, business owners, parents, and community leaders and vote Yes on Measure V for our community's children.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| /s/ Jeff Ira
Redwood City Mayor | February 16, 2005 |
| /s/ Georgi LaBerge
Redwood City Library Foundation Past President | February 17, 2005 |
| /s/ Brenton Britschgi
Former Redwood City Mayor | February 17, 2005 |
| /s/ Janet Borgens
Past Redwood City "Citizen of the Year" | February 17, 2005 |
| /s/ Dennis Logie
Lifelong Redwood City Resident | February 20, 2005 |