

Dear Davis voter:

Thank you for visiting this website and considering why we are urging a NO vote on measure G. We appreciate your taking the time to review the facts necessary to make an informed decision about Measure G.

No question about it. Our excellent Davis teachers deserve higher salaries!

However, Measure G is NOT the best way to ensure this pay increase. Teacher salaries can and should be increased by other means readily available to the DJUSD. Raising parcel taxes, as spelled out in Measure G, is UNFAIR and EXCESSIVE; it hurts the residents and community of Davis.

Measure G taxes are UNFAIR

1) Measure G parcel taxes are regressive. A regressive tax takes a higher percentage of earnings from lower-income earners than from higher-income earners. The flat rate parcel tax proposed by Measure G places a disproportionate burden on homeowners, especially owners of smaller, modest homes. Under Measure G, a 900-square-foot affordable housing home would be taxed the same amount as a 50-unit apartment complex or a 10,000-square-foot commercial building. Homeowners, especially lower-income homeowners, already bear an unfair share of school parcel taxes and Measure G only adds to this discrepancy.

A more equitable approach would be to base parcel taxes on the actual square footage of the structure on the parcel. Forward-thinking school districts using this approach include, for example, Berkeley Unified School District.

Why are we being asked to vote for a regressive tax that targets Davis homeowners, particularly lower-income homeowners, when more equitable solutions are readily available?

2) Measure G parcel taxes offset the benefits of Proposition 13—designed to keep property taxes at reasonable levels. Were Measure G to pass, the owner of a home with an assessed value of \$391,000 would pay \$1,400/year in added school taxes alone. Given that the median household income of a Davis resident is \$57,000/year, \$1,400/year (or more) is a huge burden.

In addition, rising parcel taxes lead to rent increases which disproportionately impact seniors on fixed incomes, lower-income residents and UC Davis students

and their families. Increased housing costs are a well-documented cause of homelessness.

3) Measure G raises taxes on thousands of acres of farmland thereby endangering the farming community so vital to our Davis heritage. The Williamson Act, also termed the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, provides tax relief to owners of farm and open-space lands in California so as to encourage farmers to continue to cultivate, rather than develop, their land.

However, added parcel taxes, such as proposed in Measure G, offset the benefits of the Williamson Act. Under Measure G's regressive, flat rate parcel tax, an unimproved 20-acre piece of land used for cultivating row crops would be taxed the same as a 100-room hotel. Parcel tax increases are putting pressure on farmers to abandon farming and sell their lands to developers.

4) Measure G educates interdistrict transfer students with funds paid for by Davis residents. This school year, approximately 650 students from other districts received interdistrict transfers to attend Davis schools. The DJUSD receives about \$8,900/year from the State for each of these students. The district also receives about \$8,900/year from the State for each student who resides in Davis and attends Davis schools.

However, these State funds are not enough to educate a student in the DJUSD. That is why (we have been told) additional parcel taxes, such as Measure G, are necessary. The added school taxes we have voted for are subsidizing not only our own Davis-resident students, but also students from other districts.

As the K-12 student population of Davis continues to decline and more and more interdistrict transfer students are accommodated, this practice becomes increasingly unfair to Davis-resident students and our community.

Measure G taxes are EXCESSIVE.

1) Our district receives four times more voter-levied tax dollars/student than any other district in our region.

In addition to receiving more **voter-levied** tax dollars/student, the Davis school district receives more **total** funds/student than all other districts in our region except for one. Even though our district receives less **State** funds/student, this

shortfall is more than compensated for by school tax increases we have voted on ourselves.

How is it that other districts with less **total** funds/student are able to pay their teachers more?

2) The DJUSD currently receives funds from four separate tax increases voted for by Davis residents. Since 2010, the amount of additional voter-levied tax a Davis homeowner pays to support Davis schools has increased by more than 100%.

In 2016 we approved Measure H, a \$620/year parcel tax (with yearly increases) to be used for instructional purposes including teacher salaries. The Measure currently raises approximately \$9.5 million annually.

Two years later in 2018, we approved Measure M, giving the DJUSD \$11 million annually for 30 years. Now, we are being asked to increase parcel taxes yet again.

Shouldn't the school taxes we have voted in over the last 10 years be more than enough to increase teacher salaries?

3) Measure G never expires. Unlike other parcel taxes we have voted for in the past, Measure G does not expire in 6, 12 or even 30 years; **it has no sunset.** Furthermore, it increases taxes each year according to the inflation index. The tax does not decrease in years of recession, if property values fall or if funding from other sources is more than enough to cover teacher salary increases.

In the last five years (2015-2019), California voters passed 70 school parcel tax measures. Only two of these measures have no expiration date. And both of these measures combined add up to less than Measure G's \$198/year.

Is it fair to burden future generations of Davis residents with Measure G?

In addition to the facts pointed out above, please also consider:

1) Measure G exempts school district employees from paying the taxes imposed on other Davis homeowners. Why should district employees, including administrators who make over \$200,000/year, be exempt from Measure G taxes?

2) Two statewide initiatives, designed to increase funding of K-12 schools will be put before the voters in 2020. On March 3, voters will decide on a bond

measure authorizing \$15 billion to schools and colleges, including \$9 billion for preschool and K-12 schools.

On November 3, an initiative to amend Proposition 13 (1978) will be set before the voters. This initiative termed the “Tax on Commercial and Industrial Properties for Education and Local Government Funding Initiative,” will seek to increase taxes on certain properties in California with 40% of all monies raised (estimated to be \$2.4 to 4 billion/year) going to support school districts and community colleges.

Shouldn't we wait for the voters' response to these initiatives before permanently increasing school parcel taxes?

3) The DJUSD is spending considerable tax dollars to support Measure G.

Emotional appeals using selective reasoning and lacking full disclosure appear in our mailboxes. The website's colorful graphs, pictures and pretzel logic present a one-sided view of the issue. The DJUSD would have us believe that without Measure G our teachers and educational programs will suffer. That is simply not true. Better sources of funding (including monies such as spent on this campaign) are readily available.

Thank you for considering these facts. We advocate increasing teacher salaries while considering the needs of the whole Davis community.

Our Davis schools are part of our Davis community. When the community suffers our schools also suffer. When the community thrives our schools also thrive. Measure G hurts our Davis community by placing an UNFAIR, EXCESSIVE AND COMPLETELY UNNECESSARY burden on its residents—especially including homeowners, farmers, seniors, UC Davis students, lower-income families and future generations.

Give the school board a chance to re-think Measure G and propose a more equitable tax, if needed. Vote for increasing teacher salaries through responsible school funding. VOTE NO ON MEASURE G.