

## NOTICE OF UPCOMING ELECTION

### LOCAL EDUCATION FUNDING ELECTION FOR PALO ALTO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**When will the measure appear on the ballot?**

The measure will appear on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

**Who is eligible to vote on the measure?**

All registered voters who live within the boundaries of the Palo Alto Unified School District are eligible to vote on the measure.

**How can I register to vote or learn more about voting?**

You can register to vote at [www.registertovote.ca.gov](http://www.registertovote.ca.gov). To find out more about voting in this election, please contact the Santa Clara Registrar of Voters at (408) 299-8683 or visit [www.sccvote.org](http://www.sccvote.org).

**Will this election be conducted by mail?**

All registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail, even if they normally vote at the polls. You should receive a ballot in the mail in early October. Ballots must be postmarked by November 3, 2020 in order to count.

### SAMPLE BALLOT

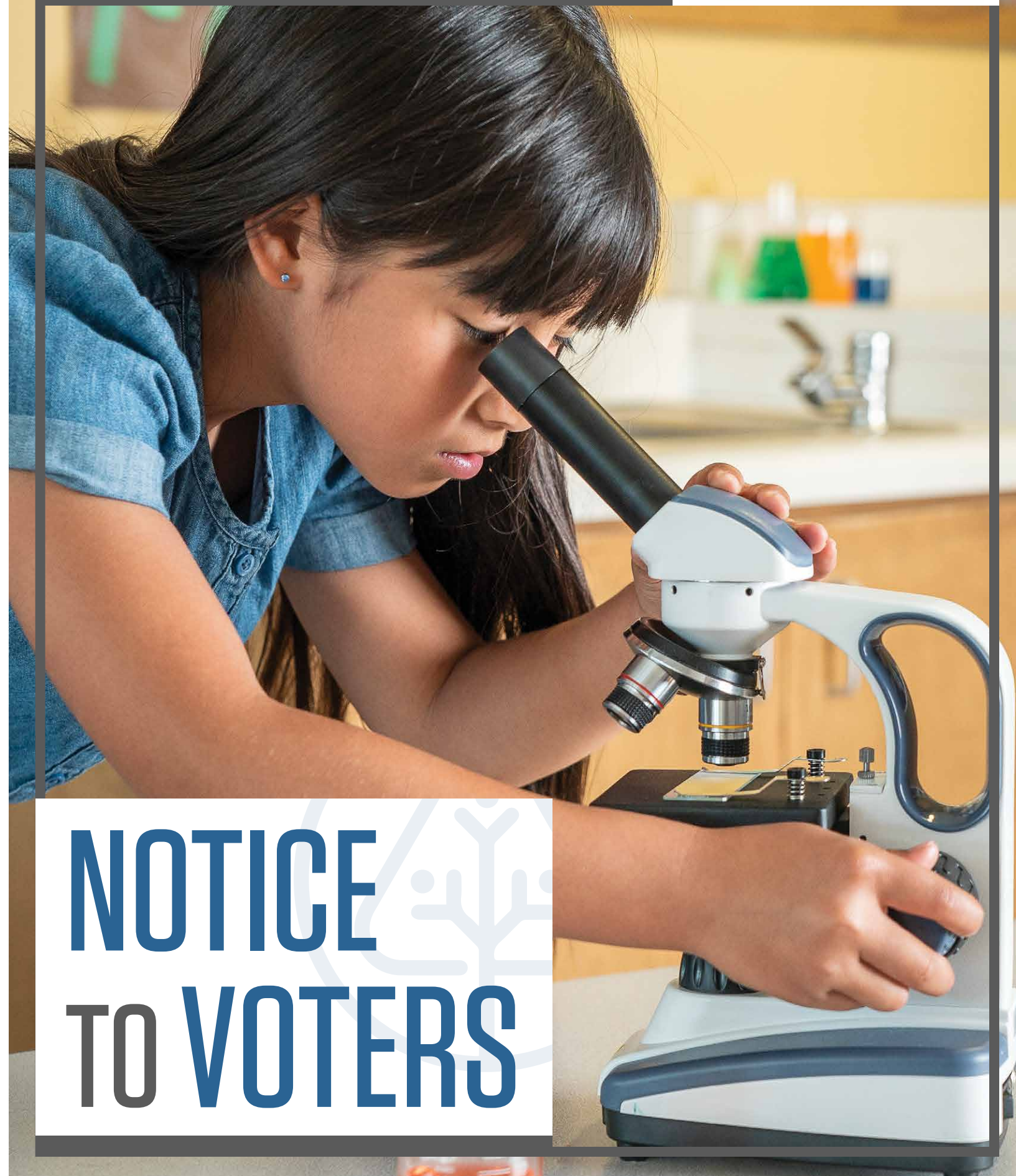
#### Palo Alto Unified School District Local Education Funding Measure

*"To renew expiring local school funding that cannot be taken by the State; preserve excellence in academic programs, including science, math, reading, writing, arts/music; attract/retain qualified teachers and minimize layoffs; support at-risk students; shall Palo Alto Unified School District's measure be adopted, extending its current \$836 parcel tax for six years, raising approximately \$16,000,000 annually with senior exemptions, 2% annual inflation adjustment, independent citizen oversight, all funds benefiting local students?"*

YES  
 NO

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[www.pausd.org](http://www.pausd.org) [@PaloAltoUnified](https://twitter.com/PaloAltoUnified) (650) 329-3700



**NOTICE  
TO VOTERS**

# INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING ELECTION: RENEWING EXPIRING SCHOOL FUNDING WITHOUT INCREASING THE TAX RATE



## DEAR NEIGHBORS AND PARENTS,

As we plan for the upcoming school year, we recognize the challenges that our current environment and distance learning place on our families and students. Even with the many difficulties and unknowns, we strive to provide the best education possible to all students, and we value your continued feedback and participation during this time.

Our schools rank among the best in the state and the nation thanks to our excellent academic programs and highly qualified staff. Since 2001, this community has provided a local parcel tax that maintains qualified teachers and strong academic programs. Today this funding provides \$16 million each year, which is 7% of the District's annual budget. This funding is set to expire next year.

If the parcel tax expires, the District would lose \$16 million per year in funding, which would come at a time when the District has also lost about \$6 million due to effects of the coronavirus. Additional cuts of this magnitude would require laying off at least 100 of our outstanding teachers, as well as counselors and other educational personnel.

To help avoid these cuts, the PAUSD Board of Education recently voted unanimously to place a measure on the November 2020 ballot to renew current parcel tax funding. This measure simply extends the current tax rate already paid but does not increase the rate beyond the modest 2% annual inflation adjustments currently allowed.

More information regarding the parcel tax measure can be found in this brochure and on the district website at [www.pausd.org/ParcelTaxRenewal](http://www.pausd.org/ParcelTaxRenewal). Thank you for your ongoing support of Palo Alto schools.

Sincerely,

**Donald Austin, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools



## LOCAL MEASURE TO MAINTAIN HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

To renew existing local funding and prevent cuts equivalent to laying off 100 teachers, the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education unanimously voted to place a parcel tax renewal measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot. If approved, this measure will renew the existing parcel tax at the rate of \$836 per parcel, with annual 2% inflation adjustments, for six years. By law, funds from the measure may only be used for voter approved purposes, including:

- 🌳 Attracting and retaining qualified teachers
- 🌳 Preserving excellence in academic programs, including reading, writing, arts, science and math
- 🌳 Offering competitive compensation and professional development, so talented teachers can continue working in this high cost-of-living area
- 🌳 Supporting technology for distance learning if students cannot attend school
- 🌳 Maintaining mental health/guidance counselors and support staff to help at-risk and struggling students



## ACCOUNTABILITY PROTECTIONS

- ✓ All money raised by the measure must benefit schools in Palo Alto and cannot be taken away by Sacramento
- ✓ None of the money raised by the measure would be used for administrators' salaries
- ✓ An independent oversight committee comprised of local community members would continue to ensure funds are spent as promised
- ✓ Seniors and low-income individuals with disabilities would continue to be eligible for an exemption from the cost