



Alum Rock Union School District
June 2022 School Parcel Tax Measure

School Parcel Tax Fact Sheet

Background: Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD) is committed to providing students with high quality twenty first century learning that builds upon our culturally diverse community to prepare our students to be life long learners and compete for the careers of the future. ARUSD’s goal is to continue that proud tradition.

However, the level of school funding provided by the State of California is one of the lowest in the nation, and the ARUSD is one of the lowest funded in the State and in Santa Clara County. ARUSD is currently below the state median of spending and revenue per pupil. Local funding helps to fill in the gap. Without the renewal of the Measure O funding through Measure I on the June 7th ballot, existing local school funding, about \$4.5M, will expire resulting in budget cuts for Alum Rock Union School District.

Measure I DEFINED: Measure I is a local annual parcel tax measure on the June 7, 2022 ballot which would renew Measure O at the current rate of \$214.10 per/parcel for 7 years with annual adjustments based on the consumer price index. Measure I funding could be used to support reading, writing, math, science, technology and arts programs; retain and attract qualified teachers and counselors; ensure that schools meet children's essential social, emotional and academic needs and prepare students for college and 21st century careers. Measure I requires 66.7% support to pass. All Alum Rock Union School District voters registered by May 23, 2022 will be eligible to participate in the election on Measure I.

Measure I Ballot Question: “Without increasing current rates, to help protect schools from budget cuts, to continue improving local elementary/middle schools by protecting reading, writing, math, science, technology and arts/music, recruiting/retaining qualified teachers and counselors, extending student support, shall Alum Rock Union Elementary School District’s measure renewing its existing \$214.10 parcel tax for 7 years, adjusted annually, providing \$4,500,000 yearly, be adopted, with senior exemptions, independent citizens oversight, no funds for administrator salaries, and all funds staying local to benefit students?”

Measure I Funds: Pursuant to the language of Measure I, proceeds are authorized to be used only for the following purposes in accordance with priorities established by the Board and to the extent of available funds:

- Protecting reading and writing programs
- Retaining and attracting qualified teachers and counselors
- Protecting math, science, technology and arts programs
- Ensuring that schools meet children's essential social, emotional and academic needs
- Preparing students for college and 21st century careers

Accountability Measures: Measure I contains the following provisions:

- By law, all funds from Measure I stay local, dedicated to Alum Rock Union SD schools only.
- The State cannot take Measure I funding away.
- Measure I funding is only for school instructional and educational needs. No funds are allowed for administrators' salaries or pensions.
- An Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee and audits are required.
- An exemption from the tax is available for senior property owners 65 years and older and persons with disabilities.

For more information:

Visit ARUSD's website at: www.arusd.org OR contact: Kolvira Chheng, Assistant Superintendent by phone: (408) 928-6400 OR by email: kolvira.chheng@arusd.org.

Measure I Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is Measure I?

Measure I is a local annual parcel tax measure on the June 7, 2022 ballot which would renew Measure O at the current rate of \$214.10 per/parcel for 7 years with annual adjustments based on the consumer price index. Measure I funding could be used to support reading, writing, math, science, technology and arts programs; retain and attract qualified teachers and counselors; ensure that schools meet children's essential social, emotional and academic needs and prepare students for college and 21st century careers. Measure I requires 66.7% support to pass. All Alum Rock Union School District voters registered by May 23, 2022 will be eligible to participate in the election on Measure I.

Why has the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District (ARUSD) placed Measure I on the ballot?

Alum Rock Union School District (ARUSD) currently received \$4.5 million in funding from Measure O. That funding will expire at the end of the 2021-22 school year. Measure I would extend the same tax for seven years.

What is the actual question that will be on the ballot in June?

"Without increasing current rates, to help protect schools from budget cuts, to continue improving local elementary/middle schools by protecting reading, writing, math, science, technology and arts/music, recruiting/retaining qualified teachers and counselors, extending student support, shall Alum Rock Union Elementary School District's measure renewing its existing \$214.10 parcel tax for 7 years, adjusted annually, providing \$4,500,000 yearly, be adopted, with senior exemptions, independent citizens oversight, no funds for administrator salaries, and all funds staying local to benefit students?"

How will proceeds from Measure I be used?

Pursuant to the language of Measure I, proceeds are authorized to be used only for the following purposes in accordance with priorities established by the Board and to the extent of available funds:

- Protecting reading and writing programs
- Retaining and attracting qualified teachers and counselors
- Protecting math, science, technology and arts programs
- Ensuring that schools meet children's essential social, emotional and academic needs
- Preparing students for college and 21st century careers

By law, ALL Measure I funds MUST stay local, dedicated to Alum Rock SD TK-8 schools.

Why did Alum Rock Union School District place Measure I on the ballot?

The level of school funding provided by the State of California is one of the lowest in the nation, and the ARUSD is one of the lowest funded in the State and in Santa Clara County. ARUSD is currently below the state median of spending and revenue per pupil. Local funding helps to fill in the gap.

What will happen if Measure I does not pass?

Without the renewal of the Measure O funding through Measure I on the June 7th ballot, existing local school funding, about \$4.5M, will expire resulting in budget cuts for Alum Rock Union School District.

How will Measure I proceeds impact instruction?

Continuing our locally funded parcel tax will help the ARUSD to replace the reduced or non-existent state funding and maintain the high quality of education at all ARUSD schools. Teaching and learning benefit by maintaining these programs.

What about the Lottery? Wasn't the Lottery supposed to fix schools?

The funding Alum Rock Union School District receives from the Lottery each year comprises about 1% of its annual General Fund Budget. Thus, Lottery funds alone are not enough to fund ARUSD programs.

Who is the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District?

Schools include: Adelante II Academy, A.J. Dorsa Elementary, Ben Painter Elementary, Cesar Chavez Elementary, Donal Meyer Elementary, Horace Cureton Elementary, Learning in an Urban Community with High Achievement (LUCHA), Linda Vista Elementary, Lyndale Elementary, Millard McCollam Elementary, Russo/McEntee Elementary, Ryan STEAM Academy, San Antonio Elementary, Sylvia Cassell Elementary, Joseph George Middle, Ocala STEAM Academy, Renaissance Academy at Mathson, Renaissance Academy at Fischer, William Sheppard Middle, Adelante Dual Language Academy, Aptitud Academy, and Hubbard Media Arts Academy. ARUSD is a TK-8th grade school district with twenty-two schools including thirteen elementary schools, five middle schools, and four TK-8 schools.

I am a senior citizen; do I have to pay the tax?

Senior citizen homeowners 65 years or older are eligible for an exemption through an application process. Those currently exempt from Measure O would continue to be exempt from Measure I. To find out more about how to apply, please contact Kolvira Chheng, in the Business Office at: 408-928-6400 or email: Kolvira.Chheng@arUSD.org.

What accountability measures are part of Measure I?

Measure I funding is only for school instructional and educational needs. No funds are allowed for administrators' salaries or pensions. Additionally, Independent Citizens' Oversight and mandatory audits are required by the Measure. By law, all funds from Measure I must stay local, dedicated to ARUSD schools only. The State cannot take Measure I funding away.

What was Measure O?

Measure O – Measure O is the current \$214.10 per-parcel/year tax currently supporting grades TK-8 and helps by protecting reading, writing, math, science, technology and arts programs; retaining and attracting qualified teachers and counselors; ensuring that schools meet children's essential social, emotional and academic needs and preparing students for college and 21st century careers. Measure O, approved for 7 years, will expire after the 2021-22 school year. Measure O cannot be extended without the approval of Alum Rock Union School District voters.

How much will Measure I cost?

Measure will I cost property owners \$17.84 a month or \$214.10 a year, per parcel, to provide a source of funding for Alum Rock schools that cannot be taken away by the State. The cost of Measure I will adjust each year by an amount equivalent to the change in the San Jose Statistical Area Consumer Price Index from the prior year. Senior citizen homeowners 65 years or older are eligible for an exemption through an application process. To find out more about how to apply, please contact Kolvira Chheng, in the Business Office at: 408-928-6400 or email: Kolvira.Chheng@arUSD.org.

Will all property owners share in the cost of Measure I?

Yes, commercial, industrial, and residential property owners will be subject to the same rate per parcel.

Who is eligible to vote on Measure I?

All registered voters living within the jurisdiction of the Alum Rock Union School District registered by May 23rd will be eligible to participate in the June 7th Primary Election.

What's required for Measure I to pass?

Measure I is approved if it receives at least two-thirds or 66.67% of the votes in the June 7th Primary Election.

Who makes the final decision on a local parcel tax measure?

The locally elected Board of Education of Alum Rock Union School District is the legal entity that has called for the Measure I election. Ultimately, Alum Rock Union School District REGISTERED VOTERS will have the final say whether or not to authorize levy of the parcel tax.

What is the difference between a school bond measure and a parcel tax?

A parcel tax is a flat assessment on each parcel of land. Unlike school bond measures, which can only be used to fund school facility improvements, parcel tax revenues can be used to fund programs and services. A parcel tax measure requires approval by two-thirds (66.7%) of registered voters who vote on the parcel tax measure. A Proposition 39 school bond only required 55% plus one to pass.

Where can I get more information?

Visit ARUSD's website at: www.arusd.org OR contact Kolvira Chheng, Assistant Superintendent by phone: (408) 928-6400 OR by email: kolvira.chheng@arusd.org.