

2020-21 Parcel Tax Oversight Committee Report

In 2011, Alameda voters approved Measure A, a \$12 million per year parcel tax designed to support core values and programs in the Alameda Unified School District. This parcel tax ended on June 30, 2018, at which point Measure B1, an extension of Measure A that was passed by 74% of Alameda voters in November 2016, went into effect.

In 2020, Alameda voters approved Measure A, a \$10 million per year parcel tax designed to help AUSD attract and retain excellent employees by providing a salary increase.

Pursuant to the terms of both measures, an Oversight Committee is required to review the District's compliance with the terms of the measures. In October of 2020, the Board approved a policy that allows for one unified committee to oversee revenues, expenditures, and administration of both parcel tax programs.

This is the first report of that combined committee. It is a companion piece to the 2020-21 Staff Annual Parcel Tax Program Report, which summarizes the revenues and expenditures of both Measure A and Measure B1 in the 2020-21 school year.

The Oversight Committee met four times to review and ensure that parcel tax revenues and expenditures were consistent and complied with the measures' language. Agendas and minutes of those meetings can be found on AUSD's [Parcel Tax Oversight Committee web page](#).

The work of the 2020-21 Committee included:

- Reviewing Measure B1 revenues and expenditures throughout the school year
- Reviewing Measure A revenues and expenditures throughout the school year
- Asking for additional data on how Measure B1 revenues are being spent across and within each category, including for the "Closing the Achievement Gap" category
- Asking for additional data on how Measure A is helping to attract and retain employees
- Development of the annual staff and committee reports
- Discussion and approval of creating the new Parcel Tax Oversight Committee to monitor the revenues, expenditures, and reporting of both Measure B1 and Measure A.

It is important to note that the Measure B1 Oversight Committee is not responsible for auditing the financial statements of AUSD. As per Board Policy 3221, an audit is performed by an independent, professional accounting firm annually. A sample of that audit is included in the Staff Annual Report.

Recommendations made by the current Parcel Tax Oversight Committee are reflected in the attached AUSD Staff Annual Report. The Committee concludes that the attached staff report properly represents AUSD's expenditures of parcel tax revenues for the 2020-21 fiscal year and that AUSD has complied with the funding priorities established by the voting citizens of Alameda and as approved by the Board of Education.

AUSD's parcel tax program does not solve all the issues caused by deficient state funding for public education. As members of this Oversight Committee, however, we remain cognizant of the very valuable impact it has on our school district, and we thank the voters for continuing to support education in Alameda by approving it. We recognize that we're fortunate to have these additional revenues and the many programs our parcel taxes support, such as enrichment, athletics, technology, small class sizes, neighborhood schools, and program choice.

We're also pleased that AUSD employees benefit from the increased compensation provided by Measure A. While we realize AUSD salaries are not yet at the county average, we know Measure A has funded considerable growth towards that target.

We encourage interested community members to consider volunteering to serve on the Parcel Tax Oversight Committee in future years, and we recommend that the community remains engaged in the discussion around additional sources of funding for public education.

The Committee also appreciates the efforts of AUSD staff Susan Davis, Shariq Khan, and Steve Chonel in support of our work as a committee.

2020-2021 Measure B1 Oversight Committee

- Doug Biggs
- Roxanne Clement
- Carrie Hahnel (chair)
- Robert Kreitz
- Chris McCaslin
- Mark Ouimet
- Steven Smith

