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**OAKLAND UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Community Schools. Thriving Students

BOARD OF EDUCATION 2016

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OUSD Information on Measure G1

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Measure G1?

A: Measure G1 is the Oakland Unified School District's Districtwide Teacher Retention and Middle School Improvement Act. Measure G1 is asking voters to consider an annual tax of \$120 per parcel. The resulting revenue would provide critical, temporary local revenue to:

- Provide more educational enrichment opportunities for District and charter middle school students such as music, art, and world language
- Pay teachers and educational staff of District schools and charter schools more so they can better afford to live in Oakland, where they work

Measure G1 includes exemptions for seniors and low-income taxpayers. Measure G1 expires in 12 years unless renewed by voters. It will be on the November 8, 2016 ballot and no opposition was filed.

Q: Why did the Board put Measure G1 on the ballot?

A: The Board made the following findings supporting the need for Measure G1: Oakland's teachers are among the lowest paid in the Bay Area, and the District is committed to paying its teachers competitively. Also, the District is committed to teaching its middle school students in a positive, safe and supportive environment and providing more time for activities such as music, art, and world-languages. State and federal funding has been insufficient to meet these goals.

Q: Why does the Measure provide for a portion of the tax revenues to go to charter schools?

A: By law, charter schools are California public schools but, unlike the District, charter schools cannot place a parcel tax on a ballot. As a result, recent legal challenges have contended that charter schools are legally entitled to a portion of parcel tax revenues. Those legal issues remain unsettled. However, a number of property owners and voters who would be assessed the parcel tax have students in charter schools. Also, some research indicates that investment in public education for all students benefits the overall community.

Q: How much money will go to charter schools?

A: To remain flexible to changing circumstances and account for changes in enrollment, Measure G1 describes a formula to proportionally allocate the money between the District and charter schools which can be further defined through implementing regulations. Measure G1 tax money would not begin until the 2017-18 fiscal year so the precise enrollment numbers that would apply at that future date are not yet determinable. However, based on estimates using 2015-16 enrollment data of district students in charters, the proportional split of the parcel tax monies would be about 72% to the District and about 28% to charters.

Q: How much money will go towards employee salaries and middle school grants?

A: After the proportionate split of revenues between the District and Charter Schools, the District will use 65% of its revenues for school site educator salaries and 35% of its revenues for middle school improvement. The money for middle schools will be allocated to middle schools based on their Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) which will provide additional dollars to schools with higher percentages of English Language Learners, Foster Youth, and students receiving Free and Reduced Lunch. Charter schools are required to use their funds in the same manner: 65% for school site educator salaries and 35% for middle school improvement.

Q: What are the key goals of Measure G1?

A: Money from Measure G1 will go directly toward compensation for teachers and educational staff, as well as enriching middle school curriculum that better prepares students for high school and beyond. The key goals are to: (1) attract and retain school-site educators; (2) increase access to courses in arts, music, and world languages in grades 6-8; (3) improve student retention during the transition from elementary to middle school; and (4) create a more positive and safe middle-school learning environment.

Q: If I am a renter in Oakland, can I still vote on Measure G1?

A: Yes. Any resident of Oakland can vote on Measure G1 whether they are property owners or not. If you are a renter, the owner of the property where you live would be assessed the parcel tax.

Q: Is the parcel tax also assessed on for-profit commercial properties?

A: Yes. For-profit commercial properties would be assessed the same \$120 parcel tax as residential property owners.

Q: Is Measure G1 fiscally accountable?

A: By law, Measure G1 includes fiscal accountability provisions including mandatory review of spending of all parcel tax monies, both the charter allocation and the District allocation, by a 5-member volunteer Independent Citizens' Oversight Commission. The Commission will review independent audit reports and other related public records and make recommendations to the Board regarding any new or modified policies or regulations to ensure compliance with the requirements and intent of this Measure. Also, all middle schools that receive Measure G1 money will submit annual plans identifying the accountability measures for tracking the progress towards the goals of Measure G1. Measure G1 provides that the stipends will go directly to middle schools so the funding will be closest to the school site decision-making to best achieve the goals of the Measure. These fiscal safeguards ensure funds are used efficiently and effectively. In addition, this funding ends in 12 years unless renewed by voters. Seniors and low-income residents are exempt from Measure G1.

Q: When is the election?

A: Tuesday, November 8, 2016. For more election information and to register to vote visit the Alameda County Register of Voters: www.acgov.org/rov/

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: If you have any questions, please contact John Sasaki at john.sasaki@ousd.org or (510) 214-2080.