

## COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

On Thursday, February 28, 2019, the Los Angeles Unified School District's Board voted unanimously to place a 16 cents per square foot property tax on the June 4<sup>th</sup> special election ballot. While the Arleta Neighborhood Council wants an effective public education system for our children, it sees this as a temporary fix to a budget deficit asking taxpayers to bail out a school district with a history of red ink, appalling education results, declining enrollment, and runaway administration hiring.

At Arleta Neighborhood Council General Board meeting held April 16, 2019, the board voted \_\_\_\_ For, \_\_\_\_ Against, \_\_\_\_ No Position, \_\_\_\_ Neutral Position regarding the Los Angeles Unified School District's Parcel tax increase that goes to the voters in a special election to be held on June 4, 2019.

For the above stated reasons, we urge our elected officials to join us in opposing measure EE on the June 4, 2019 special election for the following reasons:

1. The special election is costing the taxpayers millions of dollars (\$12.5 million).
2. This parcel tax will add hundreds of dollars to tax bills and rents without considering income of property owners.
3. Measure EE claims to exempt the principal homeowner seniors 65 or older, however, it does not guarantee this exemption nor does it cover renters. "An exemption from payment of the special tax **may** be granted on any parcel owned by one or more persons 65 years of age or over who occupies the parcel as a principal in residence, **upon application for exemption** ("Senior Citizen Exemption")." This could require the elderly to apply every year to maintain an exemption that could allow them to keep their homes and does not guarantee it.
4. Property owners will be forced to bail out the school district's mismanagement, making irresponsible contract promises to the teacher's union without the funds to pay for them.
5. Instead of heeding L.A. County's warnings for budget reform, LAUSD requests a massive tax increase. It is unfair to expect property owners to pay for LAUSD's decisions to fund a contract they could not afford. Without serious budget reform, there will likely be more tax increases in the future to compensate for LAUSD's mismanagement of funds.
6. Measure EE lacks serious oversight. To claim the money will be used for the "support" of schools is vague and does not guarantee the money will be spent wisely or for the children.
7. Just last November, a stormwater parcel tax was inflicted on homeowners by Los Angeles County (Measure W). We predict future ballot measures to place even more financial burden on property owners.





## PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2019

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sherman Oaks, CA - The United Chambers of Commerce Government Affairs Committee took the following position.

The United Chambers of Commerce has taken a position against the LAUSD Measure EE parcel tax. At the April Government Affairs Committee meeting, both the YES and NO campaigns presented their sides of the issue with plenty of passionate dialogue and rebuttal along with questions and diplomatic answers.

No one disputes the fact that education is vitally important for the health of our city as today's students are our future workforce. The school district is continually asking for more and more resources while the student population in LAUSD is shrinking. Facts and figures are telling. Is the district really structured for the students? With a total payroll of 63,576 employees, only 25,430 are K-12 teachers for the 571,855 students in those grades. The entire restricted and unrestricted LAUSD budget for 2018-1019, as stated on their website, is \$13.681 billion.

Mayor Garcetti just proposed a \$10.6 billion budget for the entire city of Los Angeles, with 45 departments and bureaus and 4 million people. That strongly suggests that LAUSD has a spending problem, not a revenue problem. It is irresponsible to ask for smaller class sizes, hire more non-teaching positions, be under fiscal watch by the LA County Board of

Education, promise raises and incur additional costs, and then ask property owners for more money.

We all agree that we want to provide a solid, quality education for our children, however, the policies, programs and spending of LAUSD are not getting us there. Taxing us more is not the answer. United Chambers of Commerce, serving the San Fernando Valley, says NO to Measure EE parcel tax on this June 4th ballot.

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